

## BOOK REVIEWS

complete history of Nanga Parbat, with an evaluation of its climbing problems and interesting discussions of its disasters and their causes. It is a very satisfactory little volume.

Reviewing again the tragic and sensational story of this fine mountain, one cannot help thinking of the observation—that the best planned and organized expeditions are the ones least likely to have spectacular adventures.

ELIZABETH KNOWLTON

*Une Montagne Nommée Nun-Kun*, by Bernard Pierre. Preface by Sir John Hunt. 199 pages, 15 photographs, 5 sketch maps. Paris: Amiot-Dumont, 1954.

This book describes the 1953 French expedition which effected the first ascent of the Nun-Kun, a handsome peak rising to 23,410 feet, some 60 miles east of Srinagar in Kashmir. Its ascent was a notable feat and Bernard Pierre's book is a worthy description of the adventure. The style is straightforward but always interesting. The five sketch maps are excellent and enable the reader to locate and follow the course of action with precision at all times. The photographs complement the story nicely and several are quite extraordinary.

The courage and perseverance of the party and their leader in the face of prolonged bad weather and even after having been carried nearly a thousand feet in an avalanche, are much to be admired. To learn that Claude Kogan was one of the two to reach the summit comes as no surprise to those who know her.

GEORGE I. BELL

*La Conquête du Fitz-Roy*, by M. A. Azéma. 8vo., 225 pages, with 16 photographs, maps, diagrams, and sketches. Paris: Flammarion, 1954. Price, 600 Fr. francs.

The ascent of Fitz-Roy in 1952 ranks with the great Alpine north-face climbs of the 1930's. The ascent is the more remarkable because of the remoteness of the area and the difficulty of the climbing involved. Fitz-Roy had been tried previously by various European parties; the successful French party was prepared for a difficult time and, in most respects, had one. One climber, Jacques Poincenot, was lost in a freak stream-crossing