

## BOOK REVIEWS

accident which is worth noting. A guide rope was stretched across the river and anchored to either bank. Poincenot was attached to the rope by a carabiner. He lost his footing, pulled loose one end of the rope, was swept downstream and down to the loose end of the rope. He could not unsnap the carabiner in time, and drowned.

From a climber's point of view, the "official" account of the expedition is Terray's account, "Die Eroberung des Cerro Fitz-Roy," which appears in *Berge der Welt* for 1952 and contains a straightforward presentation of the relevant facts. Dr. Azéma's book is intended for a wider audience but is more difficult to read because of its rather patchwork style. There are also some minor manuscript and printing errors. Whether or not one has read Terray's account, the effort of reading Dr. Azéma's book is well worthwhile, chiefly for frequent passages of very beautiful writing, some where the beauty is due to the French language and some where it arises from Dr. Azéma's own gifted expression. The general description of Patagonia is a masterpiece of style. The account of the summit climb is both exciting and free from the distressing clichés of understatement or overstatement which mar so many accounts in the first person. There are some post-Everest apologetics addressed to the lay public. Not much detail is found regarding personalities involved, but there is some interesting content about matters to which mountaineering literature has yet to do justice, a candid report of the thoughts of a climber frustrated in his desire to be one of the summit party. The reader is made to feel how complex some apparently simple decisions are and how morale can fluctuate radically even among good climbers.

In general, Dr. Azéma makes the reader feel that, though Fitz-Roy is less than half as high as Everest, men were pushing some sort of limit before "Pour la première fois, les harpes du Fitz-Roy ont vibré sous les doigts des grimpeurs."

DAVID HARRAH

*Manaslu 1952-3*, by members of the Japanese Manaslu Expeditions. 217 pages in Japanese, 17 pages in English, with 124 photographs, 4 sketch maps, and 13 illustrations. Tokyo: The Mainichi Newspapers, 1954.

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During the past three years, Manaslu has quickly gained the status of a "Japanese" mountain: Japan's bid for an eight-thousand meter peak. This year, with a bigger, more experienced, and better equipped expedition, Japanese climbers would most certainly have claimed Manaslu's summit but for the belligerence of local Nepalese tribes, which forced the expedition's diversion to Genesh Himal. The stories of the first two expeditions, the 1952 reconnaissance and the 1953 assault, are now recounted in diary form by members of the two teams. Three men of the 1953 assault party succeeded in pushing their way to 7,750 meters, only 350 meters from the top, before they were forced back by weather conditions and exhaustion. Judging from translations given the reviewer by Japanese friends, the subjective approach of the Japanese to mountaineering, as expressed here, possesses a lyric quality characteristic of their art and literature and somewhat resembles European accounts at about the beginning of the century.

The appendix will particularly interest devotees of Himalayan expeditions. It comprises more than half the text and describes in detail their equipment, food, planning, and botanical collections. It also includes a complete chart of movements of men on the mountain, several maps, and lists of equipment and food—complete to "Japanese fan" and "salted squid." The 124 photographs are good in any language, but the reader will need a command of Japanese for the rest of the book. English is used only in a brief account of the two expeditions, a list of photographic captions, and the food and equipment lists.

WILLIAM SIRI

*The Mountain World 1954*, edited by Marcel Kurz for the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research. 224 pages, with 64 illustrations, 9 maps, and three sketches. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1954. Price, \$6.00.

*The Mountain World* is a most interesting and useful summary of articles on mountaineering done recently in various parts of the world, principally in 1953. In a year so notable for climbing on the earth's highest peaks, it is only natural that three-quarters of the volume is devoted to Himalayan mountaineering, with