

Eye on Everest; A Sketch Book from the Great Everest Expedition, by Charles Evans. 123 pages of black and white sketches with brief explanatory notes. London: Dennis Dobson, Ltd. Price 12s. 6d.

Everest has been climbed only once actually, but it seems at the present time that we will be allowed to climb it vicariously many times. One of the more recent opportunities comes in Dr. Evans' sketch book. In attitude his efforts are more a supplement to Wilfred Noyce's book, *South Col*, than to Sir John Hunt's treatise on mountaineering. He does not attempt "to tell a full consecutive story," but rather to note the high points and give his personal impressions, pictorially.

His view is a unique one. The sketches are not so true as a photograph, but are more immediately understandable. There is humor, and pride, and dignity in these drawings, qualities hard to capture in a camera's lens, and they have a professional polish. Another aspect of this book which pleased me was the quality that let me feel that this was familiar, and at the same time exotically new. This feeling of intimacy is rare in expedition literature.

As the book cover makes immediately apparent, Charles Evans sees things in his own way, but the subtlety here is that there is no distortion or falsehood, but merely a removal of superfluous details and a cast given to the resulting portrait which is indicative of character and approach. This book gives the impression of a fine sense of humor and an alert grasp of essentials. It is certainly a necessary addition to the Everest shelf of the library.

DAVID A. SOWLES

The Abominable Snowman, by Ralph Izzard. 250 pages, 26 photographs. New York: Doubleday & Co., 1955. Price \$4.00.

The Abominable Snowman (Yeti) has a warm place in my heart because of a story my son told me. Some years ago he and some Sherpa porters were traversing a great snow slope in the Karakoram, where he heard piercing shrieks high above—"a woman wailing for her demon lover." The Sherpas at once said: "It is a Yeti warning us to escape from this snow slope." They put on all speed and as they reached the safety of the rocks the snow slope came away behind them in a great avalanche.

Yetis also have their bad side as well as their good, according to the stories of the Sherpas.

It is quite natural that we should want to know more about this existent or imaginary man or animal, sometimes a giant, sometimes a pygmy, some-

times beneficent, sometimes horrific, unseen by man—at least by any man who survived—living where nothing else can live and known only by tracks which may run forward or backward, and which, when followed, have led nowhere.

Mr. Izzard set out to find the facts. Under the auspices of the Daily Mail, he organized a full dress expedition, of nine members and nearly 300 porters, and spent four months, February to May, in and around Namche Bazar, and the area about Everest. The accomplishments? He saw many tracks which the Sherpas identified as Yeti tracks, accumulated many more stories (often contradictory) and saw two fur ceremonial caps, said to be 300-year-old Yeti scalps.

It is a merry book, full of humanity and may be recommended for a pleasant evening's reading.

It is open to two criticisms: the two pictures of Yeti tracks are worthless, which is surprising as the expedition included a professional photographer and two assistants. There is no map, so it is impossible to understand the topography or follow the route unless one is personally familiar with the country or has access to a map in some other book.

OSCAR R. HOUSTON

The Sherpa and the Snowman, by Chas. Stonor, with a foreword by Sir John Hunt. 206 pages, 38 pictures. Hollis & Carter: London, 1955. Price, 18 s.

To those serious students of the Himalayan mystery this book may not contain much that is new. Many of us have regarded reports about the Yeti (as the Sherpas call it) as not very subtle spoofing. Even the appellation "Abominable Snowman" suggests an attempt to be other than serious. However, the Tibetan name "Metoh Kangmi" literally translates as "a repellent manlike creature whose home lies in the higher snow ranges"; hence the popular name is really not an effort to be funny.

In the winter of 1953/4 an expedition was sent from London to investigate the abominable gentleman in his own stamping ground which fringes and overlaps the habitat of the Sherpas on the approaches to Everest. It is in the environs of the Sherpa villages and above their yak grazing alplands that the Yeti has most often been reported. The author is a biologist and anthropologist, the party included a zoologist, a doctor and an American naturalist-traveler. Their approach to the verification or disproval of the snowman seems at all times to have been open-minded and scientifically sound. As one who was a complete skeptic, this reviewer underwent a