

comparison with earlier records. Samples of soil were collected in the valleys for subsequent bacteriological analysis.

J. DURBIN, *London School of Economics Mountaineering Club*

U. S. S. R.

Pic Pobeda, Tien Shan. The second highest peak of the Soviet Union, Pic Pobeda (Peak of Victory), 24,407 feet, is reported to have been climbed in 1956. This peak was discovered in 1937, attempted in 1938, and surveyed in 1943.

Mustagh Ata, Sinkiang. The Russians also report the ascent of 24,383-foot Mustagh Ata, July 31, 1956, by an expedition under leadership of E. Beletsky, made up of 19 Russians and 12 Chinese. Our honorary members, H. W. Tilman and E. E. Shipton, reached within a few hundred feet of the summit in an attempt in September 1947.

Africa

Punta Margherita, Ruwenzori. The first ascent of the west face of the Punta Margherita, the highest summit of the Ruwenzori group, was made by the 73-year-old Piero Ghiglione and three other Italians (ethnologist Giorgio Gualco, cameraman Giorgio Brigatta, and guide Ernesto Franchez) on March 25, 1956. The difficult, extremely steep ice face below the 16,923-foot summit is 2000 feet high. Our French member, Bernard Pierre, in 1956, also reached the summit of this peak as well as the Punta Alberto.

