

lanches, the feeling of remoteness from the rest of the earth, the fierce beauty of shadow and ice and rock. We sympathize with the exhausted climber who puts one leg in his sleeping bag and then must take a long rest before he can tuck in the other one. We understand the momentary panic of a tired, heavily loaded rope-leader on tricky snow when the lining of an oxygen mask suddenly shuts off the supply. We can even see Joe Brown and George Band, ready for the final attack next day, sleeping at Camp VI in a tent so "precariously perched" that they themselves are roped to a "spike of rock." Adding to the flavor are diagrams, many fine photographs, and excellent appendices. Danger and beauty, courage and pleasure in discovering the route are revealed with sensitivity and modesty. Again, this is a great mountain book.

ROBERT H. BATES

On Climbing, by Charles Evans. New York: A. S. Barnes & Company, 1957. 191 pages; 33 plates; 6 pages of maps; numerous pen-and-ink drawings. Price \$5.00.

"The mountains and the hills are there to be discovered; and whether they are the boys' crags of heather, or the great ranges untrodden since they were made, always they entice us to know them, to master all that bars the way; to them a part of us belongs." *On Climbing* shows that a considerable part of Charles Evans "belongs" to the mountains, and in this book he does his best to help us "master all that bars the way." *On Climbing* is an extremely readable, easy-to-understand book on mountaineering techniques and equipment. It is slanted at the young climber in the British Isles, but what it says is so sound and clearly presented that no veteran climber anywhere can fail to find useful lore in it. This is no mere textbook. Analysis of techniques and climbs are delightfully interspersed. In more or less chronological order we progress from scrambles in the Berwyn hills to the first ascent with Dawa Tensing of the Kang Cho Shar. Always there is modesty and companionship and deep happiness. Perhaps the book's best feature is the large number of Evans' own pen and ink sketches of techniques and routes. He is particularly good on step cutting and on the pleasures of bivouacs. Many Americans will be pleased with his praise of the Logan tent and interested in his comments on the Tarbuck knot, "approximately 30 per cent stronger than a bowline when tested to breaking point by slow loading."

Whether Charles Evans is climbing the north face of Snowdon in the winter, traversing the Täschhorn and Dom in the summer or reconnoitering the Chola Khola in the fall, one recognizes what a splendid mountain

companion he must be. His concluding words about hills and mountains speak to us all, ". . . once we have seriously played with them we can never let them be."

ROBERT H. BATES

La Montagne. (Published under the direction of Maurice Herzog, with the collaboration of Courthion, Couzy, Escarra, Franco, Grandpierre, Kempf, Languépin, Neltner, Samivel, de Ségogne, Stoupy, Veyret.) Paris: Larousse, 1956. 476 pages; ill.; maps; index. Price 6200 Fr. francs (approx. \$18.00).

Pursuing its course in the grand tradition set in the mid-nineteenth century, Librairie Larousse has produced one of the most comprehensive volumes on mountains and mountain environment to reach the public. By its very title, which implies treatment of the subject in its broadest sense, one could only expect collaboration by a carefully selected group of authorities in order to appraise the varied facets which, taken together, present the story of mountains and their impact on the human race. The effort has been well worth-while.

This is not a book to be read; rather, it is an encyclopedia to be consulted. It is a tool for the geographer, the historian, the economist, the physiologist, the artist, the philosopher—and the mountaineer. Compiled by French authors, it is natural that emphasis should be placed upon regions and regional characteristics best known to French observation, experience, and accomplishment. This being the case it is inevitable that the quality of text will suffer as intimacy with the subject declines. The North American consultant will be upset by misspellings of too many of the peaks of our western cordillera, confused by the inaccurate conversion of mountain heights to the metric system, and surprised at distortions of history. But it is our home ranges, perhaps, that will least interest American readers, and in so vast an undertaking, errors of this kind can be excused, if not overlooked.

The value of *La Montagne* lies not in the dotting of "i's" but in the assembly within one cover of such a spectrum of information, world-wide in scope and total as concerns the mountain environment. The publishers are to be warmly commended on this volume. The maps are numerous and adequate, the hundreds of photographs well selected and well reproduced, and the twenty-five full-page color plates are so beautiful that the book is worth having for their sake alone.

WALTER A. WOOD