

here and there that show a sensitive, lyrical appreciation of the scenes and events which unfold before the author's eyes.

ALLEN STECK

The Siege of Nanga Parbat, by Paul Bauer. London: Rupert

Hart-Davis, 1956. 211 pages; 23 photographs; 2 maps. Price 25 s. Paul Bauer, famous for his climbs on Kangchenjunga, was also closely connected with Nanga Parbat. He considered it as a climbing possibility in 1929, headed the rescue party sent to it after the '37 disaster, and was leader of the 1938 expedition. His small book gives a complete, though necessarily condensed, survey of the attempts on the mountain, including everything from the mid-nineteenth-century explorations of Adolf Schlagintweit, the first European to see the peak, to Buhl's solo climb to the summit in 1953. The style is clear, simple, and pleasant, with interesting and valuable comments on the mountain and its problems. The two maps are unusually well drawn and detailed, and the photographs, apparently selected from those of all the expeditions, include some that are outstandingly beautiful. Regrettably, occasional little mistakes have been made in the translation, and there is no index.

ELIZABETH KNOWLTON

Lonely Challenge, by Hermann Buhl. Translated by Hugh Merrick. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1956. 318 pages; 19 ills.; 3 maps. Price \$5.00.

Reading about Buhl's amazing solo ascent of Nanga Parbat, many people have wondered what sort of person he is, and what was his previous training. Now he himself supplies the answer. Only a portion of the book deals with the Himalayan adventure. The rest contains Buhl's autobiography as a mountaineer, relating many of his more interesting European ascents—from the Austrian Alps, through the Dolomites, to the Western Alps, and Chamonix. These are tales of magnificent climbs. They also give a vivid portrait of the man himself—a man driven and possessed to an exceptional degree by that familiar spirit of the mountaineer, the urge toward something always more and more difficult. Rock climbs famous for requiring teamwork he must tackle alone; snow routes renowned for their severity in summer he must conquer in winter; in weather considered impossible for climbing he must push through to the highest summits. Always he must drive himself to his limit, test himself at the very edge of the humanly possible. And always he finds intense enjoyment among the mountains—a keen pleasure in their beauties, a