

Médecine et Montagne, by Jean Rivolier. *Collection Sempervivum*. Paris:

Arthaud, Masson et Cie., 1956. 204 pages; ill. Price 960 Fr. francs.

Dr. Rivolier, the physician with the 1951-1953 French expedition to the Adélie Coast of Antarctica and on the reconnaissance of Makalu in the fall of 1954, has gathered together a wealth of information, both useful and academic. While much of the book is devoted to a rather synoptic treatment of such basic topics as elementary human physiology, nutritional principles, first aid, and the physics of the atmosphere, the persistent mountaineer can find also a lucid discussion of the physiology of high altitude acclimatization and exposure to cold, of individual requirements for oxygen at various altitudes and levels of physical activity, of the characteristic physiological difficulties encountered high, and of the treatment and prevention of mountain maladies. Most of the material is technical, but it is also thoroughly practical. The reviewer is not aware of a comparable compilation in English. For anyone contemplating extended mountaineering ventures above 13,000 feet, *Médecine et Montagne* will prove rewarding.

NELLO PACE

The Ascent of Rum Doodle. By W. E. Bowman. New York: Vanguard Press, 1957. 141 pages; ill. Price \$2.95.

This is the antidote for the indigestion that follows reading too many mountaineering books. It is the account of the conquest of the great Rum Doodle, 40,000 feet high, lying beyond the ranges, five hundred miles away in Yogistan. It has everything: a foreword by Sir Hugely Havering, A.I.S.C., M.P.L., an introduction by O. Totter, and a day-by-day account of the Expedition to end all Expeditions. It describes the frightful sufferings on the way, analyzes the innermost psychological reactions of the team of famous mountaineers and gives the antecedent histories that explain their reactions, and pays a touching tribute to the 3000 porters who accompanied the climbing party. It incorporates verbatim the courageous messages that the inspired Leader sent to the Committee, even when the situation looked darkest. Altogether, it is a book that this reviewer recommends to all serious mountaineers, and to those not so serious.

OSCAR R. HOUSTON

Alpine Ski Tour. By Robin Fedden. London: Putnam, 1956. 93 pages, ill.; map. Price 30 s.

Anyone contemplating a ski traverse of the Haute Route would certainly find much of interest and practical value in this glorified guidebook to one of the finest and most popular of the big Alpine ski tours. There is much