

Mont Blanc, and the original sketches made by von Gersdorf at Chamonix on the day of the first ascent.

J. MONROE THORINGTON

Premiers voyages au Mont-Blanc, par. H.-B. de Saussure, M.-T. Bourrit, et leurs contemporains, selected by Daniel May. Paris: Club des Libraires by André Wahl. Price 1950 fr.

In this, the 18th volume of a series *Découverte de la Terre*, an introduction of 39 pages precedes an anthology extracted from the works of de Saussure, Bourrit, and Deluc. The material is grouped under various headings: Chamonix, the Buet, The Tour of Mont Blanc (exploration and conquest of the mountain), and Col du Géant. While it brings under one cover portions of several narratives, all familiar to students of Alpine history, the book adds little to the knowledge of readers who have the original volumes available.

After the visit of Windham and Pococke to Chamonix in 1741, Mont Blanc came to be regarded much as Everest was a century and more afterward. The early confusion between the Buet and Mont Blanc has its parallel in mistaken identity of Himalayan peaks in modern days; while the caravans of guides and porters, impedimenta and provisions lists from the time of de Saussure to Albert Smith reflect in lesser scale the make-up of early expeditions to the Karakoram.

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Snowdon Biography, by Geoffrey Winthrop Young, Geoffrey Sutton, and Wilfrid Noyce. London: J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd., 1957, 194 pages; 24 ills.; end-paper map. Price \$3.64.

To the American who has climbed in the Welsh mountains, or who has read extensively in the literature of that lovely region, these three essays will provide unusual enjoyment. But most of us who do not fit into either of these two classes will find this little book rather dull. The reader needs an intimate knowledge of the cliffs and crags or, in lieu of that, a deep interest in the men and women climbers whose names parade through the pages.

The first two essays are a chronicle of rock climbing in Wales. This gives little scope for the fine writing for which the authors are so well known. Place names unpronounceable to us abound and the famous climbing figures file past too speedily for the reader here to gain any interest in them. Prior familiarity with the area or the mountaineers is needed.

The third essay, *The Writer in Snowdonia*, traces the literature of the region from the Welsh poets to Wordsworth and on to the rock-climbing

guide books. A student of Carr and Lister's "The Mountains of Snowdonia," 1925, will find this a readable supplement, bringing up to date the second edition (1948) of that major work.

BRADLEY B. GILMAN

The Everest-Lhotse Adventure, by Albert Eggler. Translated by Hugh Merrick. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1957. 222 pages; ill.; maps. Price \$4.50.

For the members of the American Alpine Club the Swiss expedition that in 1956 climbed to the highest yet unclimbed summit, Lhotse, the world's fourth peak, and twice reached the top of Mount Everest has a special interest. Many of us were fortunate enough to see the magnificent pictures and hear the thrilling story as told by our fellow member, Jürg Marmet. Even without this personal interest, Albert Eggler's fascinating and well written *The Everest-Lhotse Adventure* would be highly rewarding.

The account starts with a description of how the climbing team, and a real team it turned out to be, was picked and trained and of what they used in the way of food and equipment. It next carries us across India and Nepal to Namche Bazar and Base Camp. We feel the anguish the Swiss felt when first Luchsinger, then Pasang Dawa Lama, and finally Diehl fell seriously ill. We ascend the Khumbu icefall and the Western Cwm with the climbers, racing desperately to beat the oncoming monsoon. With them we live in the high camps and pack supplies, gasping for oxygen. We struggle up the Lhotse couloir and stand with Luchsinger and Reiss on its wind-swept summit. We ascend Mount Everest itself, first with Marmet and Schmied, then a second time with Reist and von Gunten. We get to know intimately those marvelous, cheerful, child-like and hard-working Sherpas, whose qualities the Swiss have always been so quick to appreciate.

This is a thrilling book of a thrilling and well-run expedition. It has not suffered by its translation from German to English and reads easily and well. The photographs were excellent to begin with and have been well reproduced. This is an outstanding addition to the long list of titles that have recounted the history of the world's highest mountain.

H. ADAMS CARTER

Cho Oyu; by Favor of the Gods, by Herbert Tichy. Translated from the German by Basil Creighton. Foreword by Sir John Hunt. London: Methuen & Co., 1957. 196 pages; ill.; maps. Price 25s.

In the evergrowing shelves of mountaineering books there is a small select group of volumes that will never exceed fourteen in number. These are