

Mr. Tilman's lucid and amusing style of writing is refreshing in an age when the fashion in accounts tends to be purely factual. Frequent authoritative references to preceding voyages and to the historical backgrounds of many sailor's phrases which are commonly and indiscriminately used makes the book pleasant fare for the seagoing bibliophile. It would be rash to say that Mr. Tilman has produced his best book in *Mischief in Patagonia*, but it would seem reasonable to say that the adventure was worthy of the performer and that its chronicler has lost none of his cunning in its telling.

It is interesting that a climber in what now may seem to some to be the older tradition should add a new trick to his bag. Perhaps part of the answer is to be found in Mr. Tilman's statement that "the mountaineer usually accepts the challenge on his own terms, whereas once at sea the sailor has no say in the matter and in consequence may suffer more often the salutary and humbling emotion of fear."

It is exhilarating to read of an adventure such as this in which a relish for experiencing strong human emotion is more important than precisely measuring the degree of difference between a meticulously made plan and its consummation.

JOHN H. ROSS

*A Dictionary of Mountaineering*, by R. G. Collomb. Glasgow and London: Blackie & Son Ltd., 1957. 175 pages; 52 sketches. Price 12s 6d.

This is an interesting attempt at a dictionary of mountaineering terms. It is, however, by no means complete or authoritative. French and German terms are given, but not exhaustively, yet Italian, Spanish, and other languages are largely ignored. It is written from the standpoint of the English reader of current English climbing literature, with considerable attention to foreign importations such as "abseil," which no American or English writer of the older school would be guilty of using, except perhaps *in extremis* as a synonym. There appears to be a marked partiality towards words of foreign origins, most of which would rarely, if ever, be found in English literature.

There is no attempt at giving pronunciation; a lack very apparent in words of Gaelic or Cymric origin. There are various errors, principally omissions of certain meanings of words or alternate usages, but the insertion of C.A.C. as the initials of the Alpine Club of Canada will immediately strike any American or Canadian reader. There is a tendency to define climbing terms by examples taken from British rock climbs of the places where such technique is customarily used. This practice appears to this reviewer as completely defeating the object of the book, for anyone

unfamiliar with the term would hardly be expected to be familiar with the climb used as an example. In fact it would seem that there is too much of an attempt to include a climbing manual in the definition of terms, although the author specifically disclaims such an objective.

The author is unfamiliar with American usage, but his definitions of British usage, particularly that of the younger rock climber, will be helpful to the American reader. The book cannot be compared to Underhill's or Schmidkunz' work, but is an interesting addition.

K. A. HENDERSON

*A Century of Mountaineering. 1857-1957*, by Arnold Lunn. London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd., 1957. 263 pages; 8 plates in color; 16 plates from photographs. Price 25 s.

This handsome volume, uniform in size and style with "The Mountain World" series, was sent to all members of the Alpine Club as a "Centenary Tribute" to the Alpine Club from the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research. In a preface, Othmar Gunther, of the Foundation, says: "In our attempt to achieve a real understanding of mountaineering epochs and trends we should be guided by two prominent beacons: mountain and man." In the search for a writer, he continues, the Foundation decided upon one "who could combine the factual approach of the historian and the personal interpretation of the essayist." The choice of Arnold Lunn was a happy one, for he is an accomplished writer and his experience with mountains and the men who seek them has been life-long. As a youth he rejoiced in mountains, from the precincts of Oxford he led his fellow-students to them, and in maturity he has kept abreast of all that goes on in Britain and the Alps. Moreover, it has been his privilege to know many of the pioneers about whom he writes. We should expect to find, therefore, a book full of life and ideas rather than a mere chronology; and such indeed is the case. Throughout the book he seems to say: "I am writing from my own point of view, and when I have finished someone else may go on and tell the story in another way." If this is not a history, it is full of the material out of which histories may be written. The book is built around people and the people come to life.

As soon as we get into the body of the book we begin to meet people. First come the British pioneers: Forbes, Albert Smith, Tyndall, Alfred Wills, Kennedy, the Mathews clan, and John Ball—men of the Golden Age; then, Whympers, Leslie Stephen, Mummery, and Coolidge, of the Silver Age; later, "Four Great Mountain Explorers"—Freshfield, the Duke of the Abruzzi, Vittorio Sella, and Martin Conway. There is a chapter on