

officer with the American and Italian expeditions. Only 55 pages concern these expeditions, but they reflect intimately the courageous determination and warm humanity of this extraordinary man. His thoughts at the time of the accident to the American party for instance show depths of feeling rarely expressed.

*Citizen of Two Worlds* beautifully describes Ata-Ullah's life in India in the country and city, as civilian and officer, in peace and war. We accompany him to England, where he studies medicine, and later see the remarkable responsibilities he had in Iran in wartime when he ran a reception and rehabilitation center for hundreds of thousands of half-dead Polish refugees shipped to Pahlevi from Russia. He worked with both Russians and Americans in Iran and learned from each. We also share his experiences in Azad Kashmir after the Partition of the Subcontinent.

Ata-Ullah writes graphically and he learns from all his experiences. We see him gain technical skills from the West and deep spiritual contentment from the East. Like his father and his wife—the two strongest influences on his life—Ata-Ullah is a very religious man, one whose approach is intelligent, rational and yet deeply mystical. To him, a devout Muslim, the parts of Jerusalem, whether Christian, Jewish or Muslim, were all "of equal sanctity" and he tells of wandering through the streets of the holy city, "my soul aflame with the thought of the great happenings in this town that had so powerfully shaped the spiritual destinies of mankind." He is a man of courage and action, a man who understands Western accomplishments and Eastern attitudes, but above all a man with a soul. Although his is not primarily a mountaineering book, the author sees mountaineering as an example of man's divine destiny, his ceaseless urge to probe himself and his surroundings. Through such struggles, spiritual and physical, East and West can share our "inborn instincts" to "wander, seek and discover." Here East and West can "not only meet but fuse."

ROBERT H. BATES

*Sfingi di Ghiaccio*, by Alberto M. de Agostini, S.D.B. Turin: I.L.T.E., 1958. 235 pages. 104 photographs, of which 15 are color; 4 maps. Price 3,500 Italian lire.

Monte Italia, Monte Sarmiento are two ice sphinxes rising 7000 and 7900 feet out of the cold waters of the Tierra del Fuego, just 100 miles from Cape Horn. The account of their first ascent by an Italian expedition, led by de Agostini, is beautifully illustrated and written in a precise and elegant style. It is unfortunate, however, that de Agostini fills 100 pages of this book with a diary account of the attempted climb of Sarmiento from the

north. He never left Base Camp, and, therefore, this part of the book lacks the insight of first hand experience and reads very much like an operations order. The interest of this book lies chiefly in the discovery of an unknown and fascinating land—a land of fiords and mountains where the average daily rainfall is one-half inch and where tropically thick vegetation is cut through by glaciers which empty into the waters of the straits. Movement below timberline is restricted by the thickness of the vegetation and the sogginess of the turf; above timberline is the realm of rock and ice completely devoid of life. The eternal wind and snow above 3000 feet produces a thick coating of porous ice feathers which make climbing extremely hazardous and difficult. Out of 57 days spent in the area, five were without snowfall.

Base Camp was established in the forest at sea level. Camp I was situated on a rock spur above the Lovisato Glacier, south of Monte Sarmiento. From here the party spent a month trying to reach the north face. They rarely caught a glimpse of their objective through the clouds and to their great dismay, after thirty days of effort, and after reaching a point 1300 feet below the summit, a break in the clouds revealed an impossible ice cliff 1000 feet high. Here the attempt from the north was abandoned, and as time was running out, the expedition split up. One group remained to continue their assault on Sarmiento from the south, and the other group left for Monte Italia aboard the cutter "Chabunco." The vivid and interesting description of their trip among the fiords and across the Brecknock strait where they fought huge waves of the Pacific for fifteen miles, is in sharp contrast to the preceding pages. It is full of anecdotes on the life of the people of the Tierra del Fuego, among whom de Agostini has spent most of his life. De Agostini then lets Luigi Barmasse, one of the climbers, give the account of the ascent of Monte Italia. This, and the account of the ascent of Monte Sarmiento by the other group (Maffei), is a story of dedication and extreme will-power which enabled them to overcome technical difficulties of the highest order. The description of the climbs is given almost foot by foot and makes good reading. Italia was climbed from Beagle Canal with one intermediate camp; Sarmiento, with a sustained effort of 16 hours from Camp I, with a bivouac in the middle of the south face.

*Sfingi di Ghiaccio* is a well-illustrated book, of particular interest to anyone wanting to learn more about the unknown and fascinating mountains of the Tierra del Fuego.

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