

face of Pico Abanico, which looks impressive from the top of the cable-lift. Although the route takes a more or less direct line up the 600-foot face, skirting the overhangs, it is surprisingly not more than class III. Finally Nat Davis was able to indulge his peak-bagging instincts to gain the Award of the Five White Eagles. This is presented by the Venezuelan Alpine Club to climbers of the five peaks formerly clad with eternal snow, Bolívar, Humboldt, Bonpland, Toro and León. Apparently a white eagle used to live on each summit, and the woodland sprite, Carabay, coveted their white feathers for her breast plate. But as she reached out for them, the birds flew away scattering snow on the peaks below. Today, only three remain snow-covered, but the winds howling across their summits are the mournful lament of Carabay lying frozen without her feather breast plate.

GEORGE BAND

Ecuador

British Expedition. Bill Goodfellow, Peter Pollard, David Winstanley and I climbed in Ecuador from January 3 to February 12. Still unacclimatized, we floundered in soft snow which threatened to avalanche on the steep north face of Illiniza Sur until we turned back with our two Ecuadorian companions 300 feet below the 17,278-foot summit. We four then made an ascent of Illiniza Norte (16,733 feet) and possibly the first descent over the big gendarme of the southeast ridge, a rock climb. Our first attempt on Cotopaxi failed 800 feet below the 19,350-foot peak, and our try on Cotacachi (16,205 feet) up the east ridge and north face was halted 200 feet short in appalling weather during a 17-hour day. Winstanley and I then climbed Cotopaxi though bothered by soft snow melted by the heat of the volcano. Joined by the American Harold Kramer and an Ecuadorian, the two of us finally climbed Chimborazo (20,563 feet).

THOMAS HARDMAN, *Army Mountaineering Association*

Peru

Chacaraju Este, Cordillera Blanca. The eastern summit of Chacaraju (19,685 feet) remained the last unclimbed 6000-meter summit in the range until 1962 because of its forbidding difficulty. It had attracted the attention of the French since their ascent on July 31, 1956 of the western summit, which is connected to Chacaraju Este by a fantastically sharp ridge, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long. A strong French expedition led by Claude Maillard reached the summit of Chacaraju Este this year only 16 days after it had arrived at Base Camp. This was established on July 20 high in the Llanganuco Valley at 15,250 feet. The climbers rejected the idea of the