

Makalu. Unfortunately, Sir Edmund Hillary suffered a stroke while super-
vising the build-up on Makalu and was forced to retire to lower altitudes.
Thus the account of desperate days and heroism high on Makalu is second-
hand and lacks some of the impact of a more personal involvement. Need-
less to say, Sir Edmund gives us only a brief description of his own
tribulations as well.

The reviewer regrets that not even a brief summary of the expedition's
more conventional scientific findings is included in this book. Admittedly,
the volume is slim, but reports of "primarily scientific" expeditions which
include not even a popular summary of the principal scientific conclusions
nourish a skepticism concerning the substance of scientific research on
mountaineering cum science expeditions. The reviewer would expect that
this expedition would have much of general interest to report concerning
acclimatization ceilings, mechanisms of deterioration, and the like.

The book includes 88 photographs, mostly in color. The quality of the
photographic reproduction is perhaps somewhat better than one would
expect from an American book of moderate price with so many pictures.
In summary, *High in the Thin Cold Air* is an interesting account of much
of the Hillary Expedition. It is presumably a must for students of the *Yeti*.

GEORGE I. BELL

The Climb up to Hell, by Jack Olsen. New York: Harper and Row 1962.
212 pages, ills., Price \$4.95.

This is a well written account of the 1957 tragedy on the Eiger. In early
August two parties set out independently to climb the north wall. Over-
taken by the Germans Nothdurft and Mayer, the Italians Corti and Longhi
later joined forces with them. In the harrowing days that followed Longhi
was killed in a storm after nine days on the wall, Corti was taken off by a
rescue directed and composed of the finest climbers in Europe, and the
Germans completely disappeared. The author gives a good description of
the Eiger north wall, a brief history of the ascents and attempts upon it
that have cost at least 18 lives, and an analysis of the motivating factors
involved. The detailed description of the actual climb in 1957 is pre-
ceded by a recounting of the mountaineering experience of each of the
four men involved, together with the story of the circumstances that
brought them together on the Eiger. Having been introduced to the persons
in the drama, the reader is almost roped to them in the suspense of the
climb and the agony and heartbreak that follow. The account of Corti's
rescue and the risks so willingly undertaken by those who came to the aid
of their fellow mountaineers is equally well done. Following the tragedy

and its heroic alleviation in part by the rescue group, one is given a look at the impact of this upon valley minds. The climax is reached when Corti, like Edward Whymper on the Matterhorn, is accused of foul play in the death of his comrades. The final chapters deal with the recovery of Stefano Longhi's body, which had hung on the wall for two years in full view of the Kleine Scheidegg telescopes, and the finding of the bodies of the Germans in 1961.

Such a well written book will be read by many. It is hoped that the author's well balanced account will be kept in mind and that mountaineering in general will not be judged by a tragedy as this. "In mountaineering there is only one principle," wrote Geoffrey Winthrop Young, "that we should secure on any given day the highest form of mountain adventure consistent with our sense of proportion." The disproportion on the Eigerwand in 1957 is only too obvious, not only in the loss of three human lives but in the risk to which a courageous rescue group was put. Those who climb beyond the margin of safety imposed upon them by their own skill, the mountain, the weather and attendant circumstances endanger not only their own lives but those of others. "A rescuer in the mountains worthy of the name knows the risks he runs and does not demur," René Dittert pointed out some years ago. Finally it is well to remember that while observers and commentators from afar were passing judgment upon the four men who struggled on the wall and impugning motives to them, Günther Nothdurft and Franz Mayer lay dead in an avalanche near the Eiger summit, killed in an attempt to obtain help for the Italians they had met by chance. They *had* climbed the wall on the night of August 9 and despite their weakened condition attempted to descend during a storm. "Greater love than this no man hath, than he lay down his life for his friends."

ANDERSON BAKEWELL, S.J.

Airborne to the Mountains, by James Mills with foreword by Sir John Hunt.

London: Thomas Yoseloff Ltd.; New York: A. S. Barnes & Co., Inc., 1961. 212 pages, 22 illustrations, 2 sketch maps, 7 appendices.

Airborne to the Mountains is the record of an All-British expedition to the Traleika Glacier in Mount McKinley National Park, Alaska. For six weeks, during early summer, 1956, the group made the first detailed exploration of the glacier, plus two first ascents and two more unsuccessful tries of virgin peaks adjacent to the glacier.

The late Jimmie Mills, the organizer and leader, tells of his methods in obtaining finances for an Alaskan expedition: his success in convincing the British War Office that it should support the party of four—all British