

The book is enthralling to read. The most graphic chapter is the account of the winter ascent. It belongs in every library of mountaineering. I hope it will be translated into English.

THOMAS H. JUKES

Climbing Days by Dorothy Pilley (Mrs. I. A. Richards). London: Secker & Warburg, 1965. xxviii and 352 pages, with 32 pages of plates and an introduction to the second revised edition. Price 42 s.

All climbers will welcome this reissue of a mountaineering classic. Originally published in 1935, it brilliantly describes climbs and climbers in North Wales, the Lake District and various parts of the Alps. A new chapter, "Retrospection," in Mrs. Richards' delightful style discusses changes in climbing attitudes and skills, with reference to some of the more striking climbs now being done by women climbers. We welcome this old friend with its fine new cover picture by André Roch.

ROBERT H. BATES

History of the Sierra Nevada by Francis P. Farquhar. Berkeley, University of California Press, 1965. 262 pages, 1 color plate, 48 other illustrations, 5 maps. \$10.00.

Who but Francis Farquhar could, or should, write the story of the range that holds first place in the hearts of its devotees? He has done so with authenticity, thoroughness and eloquence, drawing on the matured knowledge of half a century. For twenty years he edited the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, in which appeared his first article on the subject "Place Names of the High Sierra" in 1923. He has roamed throughout the range; and he made the first ascent of the Middle Palisade in 1921, with Ansel Hall.

His *History* starts essentially at the beginning of the nineteenth century with the first records of white men. It describes the crossings by the early American pioneers and immigrants, the discoveries of Yosemite Valley and the giant Sequoias. Jedediah Smith, Joseph Walker, and John Frémont have their chapters. The descent in winter, by freeway, from the great snowfields of the main crest to the mild weather and flower gardens of Sacramento has long ago lost its primitive hardships, but beyond the roads the aspens still are buried in the lonely drifts.

He tells of the discovery of gold, followed in a few years by the construction of the railway and its snowsheds across Donner Summit in the 1860's; of the rescue of Yosemite Valley, led by John Muir, from the hotel-builders and sheepherders; and of the Whitney survey, which was enlivened by the dynamic activities and eloquence of Clarence King, who is commemorated on page 222 by one of the greatest of Ansel Adams'