

answer this wish . . . Each mountain and each route would be the object of a general description based not on its acrobatic values but on its Alpine or even quite other interest. The difficulties would be presented with tact and discretion: for the artist . . . for the business man . . . for the audacious . . . for the brave . . . Who knows if in the last analysis, the best guidebook would be one in which all the pages are blank?"

This is no book for the acrobatic climber—pitons are hardly mentioned. But it is good reading for all that.

URSULA CORNING

Alpes et Neige 100 Sommets à Ski by Philippe and Claude Traynard.

Paris: B. Arthaud, 1965. About 220 pages; 101 full-page photographs about 7½" x 9". No price stated.

This book by the Traynards contains 101 one-page descriptions of winter ascents in the French Alps, from Faucigny to Vésubie. Each page is in the style of a climbers' guide, and each is faced by a splendid photograph of the region that is being described, usually including the summit. The routes, of course, are by skis wherever the terrain is skiable. The authors dedicate their work to all skiers. The photographs, many of which are by Félix Germain, are sufficient to justify the book. Most of them arouse our longing to escape to a place that is free from atmospheric pollution.

THOMAS H. JUKES

High Country Names. Rocky Mountain National Park, by Louisa Ward

Arps and Elinor Eppich Kingery, assisted by Hugh E. Kingery. Denver: The Colorado Mountain Club, 1966. Illustrations, maps; paper cover. Price, \$4.95.

Although the Rocky Mountain National Park includes only a part of the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, it is the portion most frequently visited and is perhaps the most interesting historically. *High Country Names* is much more than a mere gazetter; it gives a lively account of how peaks, passes, and other topographical features came by their names, their significance, and, in the case of personal names, what is known of those for whom the names were given. Although the authors disclaim "scholarship," the evidences of their research would clearly justify that appellation. They are professional librarians, wise in the ways of documentary materials both printed and manuscript; moreover, they have consulted living authorities; and above all, they have drawn upon their own very considerable knowledge of the region. The thoroughness of research and the excellence of presentation lead one to hope that the team of Arps and Kingery will carry on and cover in a similar way the rest of Colorado's High Country. It should be added that this place-name book makes good

reading for any lover of mountains, even if he has never visited the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Moreover, it might even induce him to go there.

FRANCIS P. FARQUHAR

A Climber's Guide to Pinnacles National Monument, by Steve Roper. Berkeley, California: The Ski Hut, 1966. 69 pages, 7 photographs, 5 maps. Price: \$2.75.

This is the second climber's guide to be published on this compact and pleasant area in California. The original guide by David Hammack in 1953 is now out of print but some of its material reappears even though a new author and publisher have produced this book.

Pinnacles is a small National Monument in the Coast Range about 125 miles south of San Francisco. Steve Roper has called upon his own personal knowledge of the area (50 trips in 10 years) and described routes on nearly 150 pinnacles. In addition to the seven photographs that illustrate the general type of climbing, five detailed maps of Robert Swanson and Allen Steck add to the *Guide's* usefulness. These maps attempt to pinpoint each important named pinnacle in relation to main hiking trails. As the author indicates however, finding the route on the rock is often easier than finding the pinnacle. Climbing equipment usually required is discussed, including Roper's recommendation that a bolt kit be carried at all times since pitons are of little use. Climbing is usually on high angle faces on knobs of various sizes. The rock is often loose and soft but fortunately holds are plentiful. An interesting feature of this *Guide* is a section on recommended "Tours." Six itineraries are suggested ranging in difficulty from an easy day of hiking and climbing to a tour involving cross country bush whacking and a number of "nightmare" rock climbs.

The *Guide* also covers some climbing history, trails, campgrounds, safety, route upkeep, and rating systems. And even if you don't really plan to rock climb at the Pinnacles, a copy of the Guide might be handy to help understand some of the thought processes of rock climbers while undertaking an ascent, since most of the names of the pinnacles are unofficial and often are decided upon during the climb. Much can be learned from such names as: Burgundy Dome, Crud and Mud, The Flimsy Flume, The Heffalump, The Trauma, Long's Folly, The Shaft, The Teeter-Tower, The Terse, and The Unmentionable. This book is a welcome addition to the growing number of climber's guides available in the United States and will certainly make any visit to the Pinnacles more enjoyable and worthwhile.

RICHARD C. HOUSTON