

established Base Camp (13,500 feet) at Rajgher on October 19, Camp I (15,000 feet) on the 21st, Camp II (16,500 feet) on the 23rd, and Camp III (18,200 feet) at the foot of the north face of Ronti on October 27. The peak was climbed on the 28th by Miss Swapna Mitra and two Sherpas. This was the first ladies' expedition from West Bengal.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

Indian Mountaineering Institutes. The Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi, set up on November 14, 1965, has made considerable progress under the able guidance of its Principal Brigadier Gyan Singh. Last October and November they conducted their first ladies' course, which almost climbed Bhagirathi II as reported above. Students from Ceylon, Malaysia and Nepal are expected this year. They have conducted 12 Basic, 6 Advance and one Special Basic Intensive Course and have trained 300 students. The Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, completed its 35th Advance and 58th Basic Course. It was opened to foreigners for the first time in 1967. A group of 15 Australian students joined the 18th Adventure Course in December 1967 to January 1968. Its Principal is Lieutenant Colonel Narinder Kumar.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

India — Kumaon

Attempt on Hardeol. The Himalayan Association, Calcutta organized an expedition to Hardeol (23,460 feet) in September and October. The team comprised seven climbers, a doctor and two scientists. It was led by Chanchal Mitra. They established Base Camp at 14,000 feet and Camp IV (20,200 feet) on October 13. They had reached a height of 21,500 feet when the expedition was abandoned in the face of heavy snowfall, avalanches and blizzards.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

Bhutan

Drungso Ri. Our recent "expedition" to Bhutan involved crossing the country from Thimpu in the west to Tashigang in the east. We were doing a research project on endemic goitre and genetics studies. During the five months I reached the northern border with Tibet in the Monlakarchung region and climbed a new peak of 17,100 feet, which we called Drungso Ri (Doctor's Peak), with a Bhutanese boy Chhimi