

many others who have been there did not see or feel so much. Mr. Slesser, a mountaineer and author of repute, has proved to us that the Andes mean more than climbing and for that we are indebted to him.

EVELIO A. ECHEVARRÍA

*At Grips with Jannu*, by Jean Franco and Lionel Terray. Translated by Hugh Merrick. London: Victor Gollancz Limited, 1967. 192 pages; 60 photographs.

"When Jannu huffs, nothing is left. That is why there are no longer any Yetis in the area. That is why the men of Khunza never go near him." Thus Tensing warned Jean Franco, the leader of the French expedition to Jannu in 1959. Jannu, at 25,300 feet, is one of the great peaks in the Himalaya: Franco describes it as looking like three first-class alpine faces, one on top of the other, set on a base 10,000 feet high. In the first half of the book, Franco tells the story of his expedition, of the journey to Jannu, and of the purification that took place as the expedition traveled from the squalid plains of India to pleasant Darjeeling, to the ice and rock and thin air of Jannu itself. The expedition encountered difficulties without letup above 18,700 feet, and Tensing's warning nearly came true as the expedition narrowly escaped an avalanche that swept the entire west face of the mountain. The 1959 expedition failed to reach the summit when Franco went snow blind, and Magnone and Paragot were forced to turn back 1000 feet beneath the summit by deep snow and bad weather.

Terray led the next French expedition to Jannu in 1962. Several months before the expedition was to leave, Terray fell thirty-five feet off a practice cliff near Paris and was injured so badly that his doctor said that it was unlikely that he could take an active part in the climb. Terray felt weak and depressed during the first part of the expedition, and he sensed that he was slowing down the rest of the team. But by the time he had reached Camp V he found himself regaining strength: ". . . to my great surprise . . . I was not only keeping up successfully with my younger team-mates, but was actually showing signs of wanting to move more quickly than they. After 25 years of wearing myself out on the high peaks of three continents, it was comforting to find myself 'still going strong'!"

The final summit ridge of Jannu was so narrow it had to be climbed *à cheval*, and every member of the expedition except one made it to the needle-sharp summit.

While Jannu was a remarkable climb, as the many photographs in the book testify, the book itself is not particularly outstanding. One has the

feeling of having traveled the route many times before in other books about Himalayan expeditions.

DENNIS EBERL

*Four Miles High*, by Josephine Scarr. London: Victor Gollancz, Ltd., 1966.

188 pages plus 32 pages of photographs. 5 sketch maps. 36 sh.

Two separate all-woman expeditions into the high Himalayas are intriguingly reported and dramatically pictured in this slim volume. Commendably clean-cut prose, unembellished except for flashes of humor, lead the reader only gradually to appreciate the scale of the achievements of these girls.

In the first climbing period in the Kulu Himalaya, two British girls accompanied by three Ladahki porters, surveyed and mapped the unexplored Lion Glacier, a tributary of the Bara Shigri Glacier, and climbed two peaks over 20,000 feet, plus two just under that figure. Before leaving England they had taken a course in surveying, and another on Land Rover mechanics. The latter helped to get them from London to Manali; the former was continuously used in their four weeks of trekking and climbing from Manali. The pictures disclose a horrifyingly jagged rock ridge that was the only route to the summit of the Spire, one of their climbs, plus steep snow and ice slopes, narrow ridges and cornices, and rugged ice-falls on their other peaks.

On the second mountain trip, the next spring, Josephine Scarr and Barbara Spark joined four other British women, led by Countess Dorothea Gravina in exploration and climbing in the Kanjiroba Himal in western Nepal. Four women, accompanied by four Sherpas, reached the top of Lha Shama, 21,035 feet, leading to the claim that "we were . . . the first women ever to climb a peak of that height." Though Josephine Scarr's claim does not specifically so state, it must be intended to refer to the first "all-woman" expedition to reach a peak of 21,000 feet, for Dorothea Gravina, who took the leadership of the all-woman Cho Oyu expedition of 1959 after Claude Kogan's death, would not have forgotten that Claude had climbed 23,400-foot Nun Kun with masculine companions. If this assumption is made, however, one wonders what the Sherpas, evidently as eager as the mem-sahibs to reach the peaks, would think of the ascent being considered "all-woman." They included such veterans of the high peaks as Dawa Tensing, Charles Evans' sirdar on Kanchenjunga, and Mingma Tsering. Mingma and Pemba Norbu, who with Barbara and Josephine were the first party to reach the summit, had in fact previously shown a tendency to sulk if the girls did too much of the leading.