

The professional consistency and meticulous research make this guide a pleasure to peruse. It's few faults seem to be inherent in all guidebooks and only prove that no number of words can ever substitute for sound mountaineering judgment.

GALEN A. ROWELL

A Climber's Guide to the Interior Ranges of British Columbia, by William Lowell Putnam. New York: American Alpine Club. 1971. 323 pages, 35 photos. \$7.00

The new revision of this guide has been updated with a see-through plastic-cover similar to many European guidebooks. It contains much new information and even the white spaces at the end of the chapters have been utilized for historical and often humorous quotations.

The simplest criticism of the book is that it covers too many mountains. Route descriptions are usually accurate, but brief. References such as (AAJ 10-421) are attached to most descriptions and have caused disgruntled climbers to mutter that in order to find necessary facts about routes in a certain area, they need hundreds of volumes of old journals and seventeen porters to carry them. Actually, the references can be of great help in the city when we wish to learn more about a certain climb or mountain. The book is as valuable for an index of information as it is for a guidebook. Dates, code numbers of pertinent maps, and information on geology are often more useful than F8's, obvious ceilings, and sixty-foot traverses that are actually only forty feet long and place the climber twenty feet in the wrong direction, trying to hold his guidebook and his temper.

The route descriptions are short and general enough so that climbers will not be lulled into false confidence by possession of the book; in fact they will wish that the book was a little longer and more comprehensive. As climbing and exploration continue, it will be necessary to have separate guidebooks for areas now contained in this work. That time may not be too far in the future.

GALEN A. ROWELL

A Climber's Guide To Seneca Rocks, West Virginia. Edited by F. R. Robinson, Potomac Appalachian Trail Mountaineering Section, 1971. \$2.50.

Finally there is an accurate assemblage of the routes on this fine crag in the Potomac Highlands of West Virginia. Mr. Robinson has compiled descriptions of eighty routes, and their variations, in this compact and easy-to-use guide. The written descriptions used in conjunction with the fifteen excellent line drawings of the crag by John Christian, make this book a thorough compendium without being a hold-by-hold

account of the climbs. The editor's introduction reflects not only his British origin but also the current trend to climb clean. In it he asks those who climb on Seneca "to consider artificial or natural chockstones or rock spikes or horns for protection, or even retreating, before pounding yet another nail in some of Seneca's delightful routes". Mr. Robinson does fail to mention that on many of Seneca's routes the possibilities of using or placing these types of protection are quite good.

One section of the book is, I feel, extremely valuable. In *Notes On The Climbs* excellent descriptions of the descent routes are given. For many new to this area and unfamiliar with the rocks, these are usually the cause for much confusion. For those interested in climbs of certain grades there is *Appendix A*. Here all of the routes are listed according to their difficulty by number but, unfortunately, not by name, making it necessary to refer back to the text to correlate the two. Interesting sections are also included dealing with the geology, history, and local traditions of the area. Here I should have liked to have seen a section devoted to the local flora and fauna, since in close proximity to the rocks are some areas of unique vegetation which are quite beautiful. The names of those who pioneered the routes are to be found at the rear of the book. The climbs are listed numerically followed by the names of those who made the first ascents. Here again only the numbers of the climbs are given. It is the best guide available to the Seneca Rocks and should be of great interest to climbers in the East.

JOHN H. MARKWELL

Give Me the Hills, by Miriam Underhill. Riverside, Connecticut: The Chatham Press, Inc., in association with the Appalachian Mountain Club, 1971. 271 pages, 72 pages of photographs. First American Edition.

This substantially enlarged edition of Mrs. Underhill's account of her Alpine experiences makes available to American readers who have been unable to secure the out-of-print 1956 English edition, a highly readable volume of mountaineering adventure. Climbing behind a guide in the 1920's rapidly progressed to lead sharing and manless climbing in the 1930's, followed by a "better arrangement", namely, mountaineering trips with her husband in both the European Alps and the more remote ranges of Idaho and Montana. A beautifully illustrated final chapter on winter climbing in the White Mountains has been added in this edition. The Underhills' many friends and admirers in the A.A.C. should be delighted to have available once more this refreshing story of their outstanding mountaineering achievement.

BRADLEY B. GILMAN