

cizes climbers and the climbing fraternity, and, in his attempt to depict an international mountain elite presided over by professional guides and a few "very serious amateurs," he glosses over some of the more bitter conflicts within the ranks of the guides and between guides and other climbers. One case in point is his description of the famous rescue in 1966 on the west face of the Dru engineered by Hemming and Desmason. Bernstein mentions the expulsion of Desmason from the Company of Chamonix Guides as a result of his role in the rescue, but he ignores the jealousy of many of the guides and their reluctance to enter the field officially until it appeared that outsiders might successfully bring off the rescue. Hemming, incidentally, is described as having a face with "the beauty of the paintings of the Christian saints," "a delightful smile, an air of inner strength, and great serenity." An appropriate description, perhaps, for a member of the climbing elite, but not one that fits well with his American reputation, or his death.

In these essays, Bernstein focuses on one of the great centers of Alpinism, and he touches on important questions for climbers, including the degradation of the mountain environment, the increasing frequency of highly publicized and costly rescues, and the threat of regulation. Unfortunately, he does so without the sureness and authority that mark his writings in science.

MATTHEW HALE, JR.

Tales of a Western Mountaineer, by C. E. Rusk. With a portrait of C. E. Rusk by Darryl Lloyd. Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1978. Offset reprint of the original edition of 1924, including title page and 41 photographs, 309 pages, plus 14 pages of introduction, 2 maps and 18 additional photographs. Paperbound. Price \$6.95.

Long out of print and virtually impossible to find, Rusk's *Tales of a Western Mountaineer* is one of the classics of American mountaineering. Now, thanks to Darryl Lloyd and The Mountaineers it is available in a well-produced yet inexpensive edition, together with supporting materials that enhance its present-day impact. Raised, like Rusk, in the magnificent country just southeast of Mount Adams, Lloyd, who now directs the Mount Adams Wilderness Institute, has long devoted himself to collecting biographical data and to retracing Rusk's pioneering ascents. The result is an illuminating memoir which supplies the sort of personal material about the author that is missing in the *Tales*, as well as annotations of Rusk's nomenclature and routes on a fine series of photographs by Austin Post.

Born in Illinois in 1871, but raised from the age of three in Klickitat County, Washington, Rusk belongs to the Pacific Northwest. In his variegated career as school teacher, newspaper editor, lawyer, gold miner, justice of the peace, conservationist, and author, Rusk's whole life was

deeply entwined in the unfolding history of the region. Throughout it all ran the thread of his great love affair with Mount Adams. His first ascent of the mountain was made in 1898, and the following year he persuaded his mother and sister to accompany him on a circuit of the mountain, no small feat. In 1901 he accompanied Harry Fielding Reid on his journey around Mount Adams as part of the eminent geologist's project of mapping the glaciers of the Cascade Range. It was on this trip that Reid named Rusk Glacier for him. In 1902 Rusk was invited to become one of the founding members of the American Alpine Club. His famous expedition to Mount McKinley in 1910, about which he wrote numerous articles, was not included in the *Tales*. There are, however, accounts of ascents of Mount Baker, Mount Rainier, Glacier Peak, Mount Hood, Mount Stuart, and Mount Shasta. Perhaps the most impressive of all Rusk's tales is his epic conquest in 1921 of Mount Adams' great east side. It was an audacious route for the time and, indeed, has seldom been repeated.

For those who have themselves climbed in these mountains Rusk's book will have special associations. For a wider audience, however, the greatest appeal may lie in Rusk's splendid prose. Here is an authentic American counterpart to the writing of English mountaineers such as Whymper and A. W. Moore. Its rhetorical fullness recalls the grand Victorian tradition of the public lecture, which lingered in the Pacific Northwest well into the twentieth century. Yet, while rich in descriptive passages, Rusk's prose is nonetheless disciplined by the author's personal stoicism, and by the strenuousness of the adventures it narrates. Time after time it evokes in vivid fashion elemental sensations of mountaineering—the apprehension before a major assault, the glacial flow of time during an icy bivouac, the sequence of thoughts during a fall. Indeed, Rusk's writing is a "Ridge of Wonders" of its own. We can be grateful to The Mountaineers for this reprint, and we wish them well in their continuing reprints of other hard-to-find classics.

T. C. PRICE ZIMMERMANN

Climb! Rock Climbing in Colorado, by Bob Godfrey and Dudley Chelton. Boulder: Alpine House, 1977. 275 pages, with photos and one map.

Climb! is an impressive book, and should be a welcome addition to any mountaineer's library. It contains a selective history of rock climbing in Colorado from 1820 to 1975, together with hundreds of black-and-white photographs and an interview with two famous climbers. The authors, Bob Godfrey and Dudley Chelton, are to be commended for their work in assembling the wealth of photographic and narrative materials.