Glidden); for a \$30 purchase one should not need to speculate on the full names of such alpinists as E. Cromwell, E. Grassman, and J. Jones.

My recommendation is definitely to purchase the book as an artistic tribute to some of the most compelling alpine creations on this planet.

FRED BECKEY

Mountain Climbing for Beginners, by Mike Banks. Edited for American readers by Andy Kauffmann, Stein and Day, 1978. Softback. 96 pages, 37 line drawings. Price \$3.95.

Here is a gem of a little book, the kind of climbing manual Americans have always wanted but never have quite been able to get. There are many books available on climbing techniques, but nowhere in English does there exist anything as basic, terse and at the same time complete as this American version of English climber Mike Banks' Mountain Climbing for Beginners.

The title is something of a misnomer. True, the text is intended primarily for novices, but it also provides a basic refresher course for those of us who have been too long away from the mountains and are preparing to return. Even better, the subject matter is presented in a simple, superb expository style rarely found except among the best professional writers. Not a word is wasted, yet nothing important is omitted. Clearly, Mr. Banks is not just a first-class mountaineer: he is a splendid writer as well.

The book, which has been edited for American readers, begins with as good a rationale as any as to why people are attracted to mountains. It takes the reader progressively through the stages of hill walking, rock-climbing equipment, rope work, rock techniques and thence to direct aid, snow and ice, and survival and rescue. There is a comprehensive though necessarily incomplete appendix by the American editor on where to climb in the United States and Canada, together with the names, addresses and telephone number of principal climbing organizations which can supply interested persons with more detailed local and regional information. The appendix also points to possible shortcomings in American professional services which leave the reader wondering whether corrective measures, when they come, will be the work of national climbing organizations or State and Federal authorities.

The section on hill walking is the best one known to this reviewer and contains a lucid description of map reading. The book's emphasis, however, is on rock climbing which, of course, is the sport's principal form in both the United States and Britain. But, as he proceeds, the author betrays his personal preference for ice and snow, mixed climbing and exploratory adventure. He is careful, however, to discipline his bias to serve his readers' needs.

From the outset Mr. Banks' tone is cautionary. He points out that mountain climbing is potentially a dangerous sport, not to be undertaken lightly, and then only with the assistance and under the supervision of qualified teachers and companions. This tone of caution is, if anything, the thread that weaves together this fine little work.

The illustrations by Tony Buchan are as clear as is Mr. Banks' writing, though to the practical eye one or two appear to contain errors which should be corrected in future editions.

The volume comes in a convenient size. It can be fitted easily into the flap of a rucksack for consultation in the field.

This book is a must, not only for the beginner, but for all of us.

SAMUEL H. GOODHUE

Cannon, Cathedral, Humphrey's and Whitehorse, A Rock Climber's Guide, by Paul Ross and Chris Ellms. International Mountain Climbing School, Inc., North Conway, N.H., 1978. 157 pages, 15 cliff photographs, 16 climbers-in-action photographs, and 2 sketch maps. \$9.95.

Paul Ross and Chris Ellms have finally done it. New England's best rock climbing has been captured in one complete volume. Sure they had a lot going for them. Joe Cote published in 1972 A Climber's Guide to the Mt. Washington Valley and Howard Peterson wrote Cannon, A Climber's Guide in 1975, but these books were not the only source from which the authors drew. Paul Ross, following a British tradition, kept a new route book in a local mountaineering store. The completeness of this guide and the authenticity of the route descriptions are owed to the thousands of entries in that "ego book." Everyone in the White Mountain rock climbing scene felt an obligation to set it straight for all to see in that book. Soon it became the sole source for the latest new route or hot aid elimination. The book fairly bulged with entries and cried out to be published.

The authors plunged into that new route book, fanatically editing and rewriting based on their extensive experience climbing on those cliffs. The result of these efforts produced route descriptions which are clear, concise, and easy to follow. The writing is never verbose, nor is it terse. I even found it enjoyable just to read about routes I'd never done and to be inspired to do them.

The other factor which makes this guide book so significant is the historical essay by Al Rubin. Al is the man with his finger on the pulse of New England climbing. He knows the people and the events. Simply put, the essay is factual and well written. But more importantly, it shows an interest in "the human aspect—the companionship and the competition, the legends and the laughs . . ." (p. 11). I like these local histories crowded into the fronts of so many tattered guide books across