

of the climb is a 25-foot-high vertical to overhanging "waterfall" which traverses a rock band halfway up the couloir. I took a 65-foot free leader fall on this pitch, which was just above our bivouac spot. I ripped out two pitons (a soft-iron one in rock and a wart-hog in rotten ice) and put a 40° bend in the end of a solidly placed 25cm tube screw. I suffered a sprained ankle, broken ribs, facial lacerations and a bruised psyche. The difficult mixed climbing of the crux led to a broken area. We then had to traverse right into the upper part of the adjacent couloir. From there a pitch and a half of steep ice led to the corniced west ridge. The last four pitches took seven hours to climb, including the fall.

JOHN SHERVAIS

AFRICA

Kenya

Batian, Mount Kenya, Diamond Face. Miguel Angel Gallego and Miguel Gómez made a new route with three bivouacs on the Diamond Face of Batian in February.

JORDI PONS, *Club Montañés Barcelonés, Spain*

ASIA

Nepal

Kanchenjunga, North Face Direct. Our expedition, led by Masatsugu Konishi, without oxygen climbed a new route on the north face of Kanchenjunga to the right of the British route of 1971. The face rises for 11,500 feet above the head of the Kanchenjunga Glacier with two huge rock bands and the summit rock face sandwiching three snowfields or hanging glaciers. After a long approach march, we reached Base Camp at Pang Pema (18,050 feet) on March 19. We spent ten days arranging food and gear and acclimatizing. Three pairs started on March 29 to rotate pushing the route upwards, with the leader assisting any pair. Led by Ang Phurba, eleven Sherpas carried loads. Camp I at 19,000 feet was established on April 1 at the site of British Camp II. Camp II at 21,325 feet was placed on the first snowfield on April 7. Between Camps I and II there were potential threats of avalanches and collapsing hanging glaciers. It took ten days to fix rope on the 1500-foot-high rock band to reach Camp III at 24,000 feet on the second icefield. This was the most crucial section of the route. Camp IV at 25,925 feet was made on May 1 by four aggressive Sherpas while all the Japanese descended to Base Camp because of heavy snowfall. Each summit team went to Camp IV for acclimatization and then descended to Base Camp, the first group on