

"I've seen the *Fortune* article [a remarkably apt venue for an article on this enterprise] about you and Dick and I wondered if I might ask how you two are planning to get to Antarctica?"

"Do you have \$200,000?" Frank asked.

"No."

"Well, that's what it takes."

That is, one gathers, what it took for starters. A fee of a mere \$90,000 is tossed off for rebuilding an airplane. A description of this is followed by a wonderful exchange:

"They were halfway through the task [of rebuilding the plane] when Frank called Dick with yet another hurdle."

"Just got a call from Chile. They're having trouble down there finding enough money to keep the country going. The price of copper is so low they may scrap their whole Antarctic program. If that goes, our fuel drop goes, and if the fuel drop goes, we don't go."

That's what I call getting one's priorities straight. The Chilean economy be swiggered; it's the *goddamn fuel drop!*

Not long ago, I saw a Richard Pryor special. In it, he describes the occasions when his daughter brings home a galaxy of her nubile teen-age girl friends. Pryor finds himself all but consumed by animal urges and then, he says, they start to talk. Horrible teen-age honking sounds come out of their mouths and his libido collapses like a punctured inner tube. "It's the only thing that saves them," Pryor added with a wistful look. That is a little how I feel about this book. I have great admiration for the feat. It was a crazy and wonderful idea and then they start to talk. Much of what they say makes me cringe—like reading Mozart's letters to his cousin Bäsle. It is wheeling and dealing; Dallas in the mountains. We all know that climbers—usually rather pathetically—try to wheel and deal. But these people have raised wheeling and dealing in the mountains to an art form. I find that while I am impressed, I cannot work up much affection. Reading this book was, for me, a little like watching one of those television sports broadcasts between two teams, when one doesn't care which team wins. For Bass, who seems to have gone back to his oil and ranching interests in Texas, and for Wells, who has gone back to the film industry as the president of Walt Disney, the mountains were an interlude in their lives. One wishes that what they did, had been done by people with a deep, lifetime commitment of our activity.

JEREMY BERNSTEIN

Hypothermia, Frostbite and Other Cold Injuries: Prevention, Recognition and Prehospital Treatment. James A. Wilkerson, Cameron C. Bangs, John S. Hayward. The Mountaineers, Seattle, 1986. 105 pages, illustrations, color photographs, charts, diagrams, glossary, bibliography. \$8.95 (paper).

The popularity of extreme climbing in winter or bad weather, and the increasing recognition that hypothermia can be as major a problem as hypoxia make this a

valuable and important book. The authors are experts in both theory and practice and have been active in search and rescue activities on mountains and in the Arctic, as well as management of badly injured patients in hospitals. Written in language easily understood by the nondoctor, this is an excellent update on what we know (and don't know) about cold injury today. This book is strongly recommended for anyone expecting to be out in the cold, at high altitude or low down, or on the water.

CHARLES S. HOUSTON, M.D.

Medicine For The Outdoors; A Guide to Emergency Medical Procedures and First Aid. Paul S. Auerbach. Little Brown, Boston, 1986. 345 pages, profusely illustrated with line drawings; glossary, bibliography. \$12.95 (paper).

This is a first-class paperback, an easy-to-carry handbook for the lay person, describing the signs, symptoms, cause, treatment and prevention of just about everything you might encounter away from (or even in) your backyard. Written in nontechnical language, with excellent illustrations, it's the simplified version of the comprehensive *Management of Wilderness and Outdoor Emergencies*, edited by Auerbach and Geehr in 1983 and designed for health professionals. An appendix on commonly used drugs, giving indications, dosage, and side effects and an excellent glossary defining medical terms add to the value of a brief chapter on ideal first aid kits. Problems encountered in scuba diving, climbing, eating wild plants, or being struck by lightning, bitten by snakes or spiders are well but simply discussed. This is an ideal companion on any trip of more than a few days—and good medical education for a lazy day in the sack.

CHARLES S. HOUSTON, M.D.

Avalanche Safety for Skiers & Climbers. Tony Daffern. Rocky Mountain Books, Calgary, 1983. 172 pages, black and white photographs, diagrams, glossary, bibliography. \$11.50 (Canada).

Daffern directs this book to the mountaineer or back-country skier facing various types of avalanche hazards along the way. Using well-chosen case histories of mountaineering and wilderness skiing accidents, Daffern discusses the risks—including implications of decision-making—without resorting to sensationalism or preaching.

Daffern has gathered his snow studies and resource material from several respected sources and the technical sections are generally very good and up to date. However, I found a few of his drawings a little obscure, particularly the one describing heat gain/heat loss in the snowpack on pages 39 and 40. On the plus side, the section on field snow observations is the most complete of any current avalanche handbook. It includes many casual observations that can be made, while on skis, in addition to the more formal tests and snow structure studies.