

FIRST-AID IN MOUNTAIN ACCIDENTS.

(The following notes, by Dr. C. P. Lapage, are here reproduced, by permission, from the Rucksack Club Journal, 1937).

The Combined First-aid Committee referred to in our last Journal now includes representatives from nine Clubs; namely, the Alpine, the Climbers, the Fell and Rock, the Gritstone, the Midland Association of Mountaineers, the Rucksack, the Scottish Mountaineers, the Wayfarers, and the Yorkshire Ramblers.

The efforts of this Committee will be directed to promoting co-operation and co-ordination between these Clubs so that: (1) there is no duplication of equipment at any one point; (2) all important points in climbing areas are supplied; (3) replacements and repairs can be carried out; (4) arrangements are made for periodic inspections and for care of the first-aid equipment and stretchers; and (5) the preparation of uniform instructions for handbooks and (in indestructible form) for use with first-aid equipment is effected.

Finance: It will be necessary to collect funds from the various clubs. The Committee will attempt to allocate these funds so that they can be best utilised over the whole area of British mountaineering. It is obvious of course that the clubs in the more widely scattered areas may be in need of help from clubs in the more closely grouped areas.

Funds will be needed not only for the initial outfitting of the centres but also for the replacements, renewals, and maintenance. Replacement expenses may be recovered in many instances from friends of the injured.

It is possible that other clubs may have to be approached to help with funds, and it will also have to be considered later whether associations other than mountaineering clubs should be brought into the scheme. For the present, however, the Committee is working as constituted. They have already had donations from other clubs and will welcome any similar gifts.

The Committee write to point out that individual members of the clubs can help in the following ways:

- (1) by supporting the scheme in their own club;
- (2) by making themselves acquainted with the stretcher points of their club, with the instructions issued, and with the nature of the first-aid equipment supplied (actually it consists of one medical appliance rucksack and leg splint, one warmth apparatus rucksack, and a Eustace Thomas stretcher);
- (3) by discussing the scheme and making other members acquainted with it;
- (4) by forwarding reports of accidents in connection with which they have been helpers or spectators. These reports can be sent to the club secretary. The Committee wish to emphasise the importance of their receiving all available information and criticisms, with suggestions for improvement, from all interested, be they expert or novice.

The Committee fully realise that too great a proportion of the club funds should not be spent on first-aid by clubs whose main object is the active pursuit of mountaineering, but since the number of mountaineering accidents is increasing, it is felt that a really efficient first-aid and stretcher service is of the greatest importance. The scheme is, therefore, well worth support.

Up to the present, the clubs represented in the above Committee have established first-aid posts in mountaineering centres as follow:

Lake District—Fell and Rock Club at Wasdale Hotel; at Thornythwaite Farm, Borrowdale; and at Dow Crag Climbers' Hut, Coniston: in conjunction with the Wayfarers', at the Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotel, Langdale.

North Wales—Climbers' Club at Helyg Hut; Rucksack Club at the Ogwen Youth Hostel; Midland Mountaineers' Association at Pen-y-Gwryd Hotel.

Scotland—The Scottish Mountaineering Club at the C.I.C. Hut*, Ben Nevis; at Clachaig Hotel, Glencoe; and with Mr. MacCrae, Glen Brittle Lodge, Isle of Skye.

The Secretary and Treasurer of the Committee is A. S. Pigott, Hill House, Tenement Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport.

C.P.L.

*The police have authority to obtain the key in emergencies: it is kept by Mrs. Burgess, Grand Hotel, Fort William.

REVIEWS.

CLIMBERS' CLUB GUIDES. CWM IDWAL GROUP.

By J. M. Edwards.

This is the first of a new series of guides to the climbs in North Wales, published by the Climbers' Club.

Dr. Edwards' descriptions of the various climbs are well written, clear and easily understood. Clearness, indeed, is a marked feature throughout. The Guide deals with the climbs on the Idwal Slabs, the Glyder Fawr face, and the Clogwyn y Geifr cliffs, including the Devil's Kitchen, etc. Some short outlying climbs have been omitted to avoid over-largeness, but it is rather surprising to find that no mention is made of the routes on the Gribin Facet. On the other hand, the book shows a perfect network of routes on the Idwal Slabs, and the Holly Tree Wall is fast filling up. Very little new work is recorded on the Glyder Fawr face. Away to the right, the immediate neighbourhood of Twll Du is, of course, classic ground, but Dr. Edwards' explorations of the cliffs on either side opens up an entirely new field. Much of the rock here is rotten, but due warning is given. These climbs should not be treated lightly, but are good practice for those who wish to acquire the art—so useful on many Swiss climbs—of negotiating doubtful rocks with safety.

There are a number of good illustrations and diagrams, but we should have liked to see in addition a few drawings of a type which could more easily be compared with the photographs, to enable the routes to be identified from below. The descriptions are so good, however, that no difficulty should be experienced. Dr. Edwards is to be congratulated on producing a book which fills a long-felt want.

CLIMBERS' CLUB GUIDES—TRYFAN GROUP.

J. M. Edwards and C. W. F. Noyce.

This also is a thoroughly well-written book. The sound knowledge of the district shown by the authors, and the number of new ascents they have to their credit, make them peculiarly fitted to their task. These new ascents are chiefly severe, but the older and more moderate routes receive due consideration.

A short section describing the Heather Terrace is instructive. The many openings at the foot of the buttresses (though not the *total* number of ribs and grooves, which is colossal) are noted. A newcomer to the