

## TELEVISION CRITIC, 1961.

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Last week's Sunday Telephoto Broadcast from the Heather Terrace, Ogwen, was marred by inartistic production and unnecessary cuts. The sound, however, was well reproduced; and there is no doubt that the system of suspending camera and recording apparatus from a captive but manoeuvrable balloon enabled much that might otherwise have been lost of the day's sport to be observed by millions of viewers. 'Glorious Telecolour' added immensely to the broadcast. In the Pinnacle Rib scene, for instance, no mere black-and-white picture could have given viewers the full beauty of tint of a Leader's face as he failed, for the third time, to surmount the Yellow Slab.

Excellencies such as this, however, cannot altogether compensate for inexplicable lapses on the producer's part. Take the Belle Vue Bastion episode, for example. Here was excellent 'theatre' provided by a rope of experts in boots. The dialogue was snappy and the situations tense. In an admirable close-up the Second is seen poised on an unsatisfactory stance, steadying himself with one hand on the rock. The leader, advancing, treads heavily on the Second's hand. So far this was beautifully televised and the sound was perfectly clear. Yet at this line the scene was hastily cut and viewers found themselves looking at the remains of an egg-sandwich on Second Ledge. Could anything have been more tantalisingly inartistic?

On the other hand, the 'documentary' on the original ascent of North Buttress in 1899 was well done, though it was unfortunate that a gust of wind removed one actor's deerstalker and side-whiskers on the Traverse. We must condemn, however, the misguided sense of humour that led to the televising of a very dead sheep lying in the stream-bed of North Gully, followed by a shot of some climbers drinking from the stream immediately below. This sequence, in the opinion of one critic at least, savoured of Bad Taste.

Let us hope that similar errors of production will be avoided in next Sunday's programme, for which a popular Meet in a well-known Club Hut in the Ogwen Valley is to be televised, including the mass preparation of the evening meal. Viewers who possess the new Radio-Smelling attachment, by which odours are transmitted, are advised to switch it off during this part of the broadcast.