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## REVIEWS.

ROCK-CLIMBING IN THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT. By OWEN GLYNNE JONES, Member of the Alpine Club. Second edition. With a Memoir and Portrait of the Author. 31 full page illustrations in collotype, nine outline plates of the chief routes, and an Appendix by George and Ashley Abraham. (Keswick: G. P. Abraham & Sons. 1900. 20/- net.)

THIS new edition will certainly meet with a warm welcome. Mr. Crook's introductory chapters are a valuable feature of Jones's book. They give clearly the main features of his career, and (with the aid of Mr. Spender) tell in a dramatic manner the story of the final disaster. It was a capital idea to append the list of ascents, for in no other way could the indomitable energy of the man be brought more clearly home to the reader.

The book has been brought up to date by useful additions and omissions, though some small errors noticed in the reviews of the first edition have been allowed to remain. There were also certain descriptions with which he had told me he was dissatisfied, and certain doubts which we had planned to clear up in company, but—*Dis aliter visum*. The story of the author's very remarkable climb in Walker's Gully, and of another fine performance on Iron Crag, is told with great spirit and clearness by one of the Messrs. Abraham, and altogether the second edition, though not quite as good as the author himself, had he been spared to us, would have made it, is greatly improved.

The titlepage, curiously enough, does not give any indication that the author is not living, and is disfigured by a quotation which, even if it were not grotesquely inappropriate, would be in very questionable taste. It may have been selected by the

author himself, but it strikes a jarring note now when we are all grieving over his untimely death.

Untimely it was in many ways; not only because it cut short a useful and perhaps brilliant career, not only because his Alpine experience was maturing while his physical powers were still in their prime, but because he was beginning to be better understood by climbing men, and therefore of necessity better liked.

The temptation is strong to throw the book aside and to talk about the author as I knew him.

I do not know whether the famous character of the Athenian people has ever been applied to mountaineers as a class, but certainly many of the words of Thucydides are curiously applicable to climbers in general, and to Jones in particular.

“They are fond of doing new things, keen in forming plans and swift in carrying them out . . . They are enterprising beyond their strength, adventurous against their better judgment, and sanguine in the midst of perils. They are energetic and constantly travelling, thinking that their absence may be of advantage to them. None make more of a victory; none recoil less after a defeat. For the credit of their country they treat their bodies as if they were the bodies of other men, and husband their intellectual powers as if they had a monopoly of them. When they fail to carry out a scheme, they hold themselves robbed of their own property; when they succeed in an enterprise, they regard it as a mere nothing in comparison with what they mean to do. For the casual miscarriage of an expedition they indemnify themselves by forming larger hopes, and, owing to the rapidity of their attack, none bring hope and fruition so close together. In this way they pass their whole lives in toil, hardship and danger. Incessantly pushing on, without leisure for a moment's indulgence, they look upon a holiday as simply an opportunity for exertion, and think indolent repose a worse affliction than laborious activity. To sum up their character it may be truly said, that they were born neither to enjoy peace and tranquillity themselves, nor to allow others to enjoy them.”

Surely no one ever treated his body more completely “as if it were another's” than poor Jones. He kept it always in the severest training, and forced it to do the utmost of which it was capable. One great secret of his success lay in the fact that he was generally in harder condition at the beginning of a Swiss trip than most men are at the end of it.

His conversation, too, which often struck a stranger as somewhat self-absorbed, treated himself in reality with an amusing aloofness and impartiality. His attitude towards himself was precisely that of a marine engineer towards his engines. He quite admits that the machinery is high-class, but his modest pride centres in the fact that he knows how to make the most of it, and can get more work out of it than another man would. He is great on the relative values of different sorts of fuel and different lubricants, and can tell you exactly what his beloved engines have done under "forced draught" or "all-day-steam," with a leading wind or against head-seas. He knows, too, the value of a pilot, but frankly admits that he is content to leave navigation to him. This was Jones's attitude towards guiding. He knew that he could not dispense with it, but he took comparatively little interest in it, possibly because he had no experience of first-rate guides, and very little of first-rate amateurs. The soul of mountaineering did not appeal to him so much as its physical charms, and though he talked from time to time of making an expedition into new and unexplored countries, such as the Himalaya, it may be doubted whether that kind of thing would have suited his special talents half as well as the more familiar Alps. The fact is that his originality preferred to work within narrow limits. He took more pleasure in improvement than in discovery. The book before us gives many hints of this tendency, and also of his extraordinary faculty for climbing under unfavourable conditions. Cold and wet seemed to stimulate him, and the worse the weather the better he climbed. In Wales and Cumberland this gave him a great advantage, but in the Alps it led him to under-estimate the importance of weather, and brought him a reputation for imprudence. Mr. Crook's estimate of his powers as a rock climber will probably meet with general approval. For what is called "style," he perhaps trusted rather too much to his unusually powerful grip; but, in all-round effectiveness, he had scarcely a superior among amateurs.

MOUNTAINEERING. (The Badminton Library.) 3rd edition.  
1900.

THAT excellent volume of the Badminton Series which relates to mountaineering has just reached a third edition. The Alps are proverbially unchanging, and so no doubt is the art of scaling them. No great changes are therefore to be expected in a work of this kind when it goes through a new edition. However, a new chapter by the President of the Alpine Club has been added on "Mountaineering in Far-away Countries," in which there is an interesting summary of what has been done lately in exploring the Cordillera and Himalaya ranges. The statements of the times taken to ascend various great heights, and the effect on the muscles and lungs of the climber have been brought up to date, and include McVine's ascent of Aconcagua. The Alpine distress signal (nothsignal), full instructions for making which are to be found in most Alpine huts, is fully described, and some remarks are made on heliographic communication: this presupposes a knowledge of the Morse, or some equivalent code, in both the sender and receiver, which probably only a small percentage of climbers possess. Signalling with a looking-glass is also recommended, but anyone who has tried to heliograph without a proper instrument will appreciate the difficulties of this method of communication.

Mr. Dent's inexhaustible supply of humour finds vent in a new piece of advice given to the unhappy climber, which is that he is to treat himself as a photographic plate, screen himself from actinic rays, and wrap himself up in red flannel. In looking through this new edition, one is amazed at the quantity of good advice contained in its pages which one has systematically neglected. The book, however, is great fun, and every member of the Climbers' Club must have laughed at the various comic drawings.

If there is one quality which all climbers possess in common it is a disposition to be funny about their various climbs, and the volume is full of the same spirit. And yet the

book contains a statement that in mountaineering it is better to take things too seriously than too lightly. The caution is perhaps not unnecessary.

Some of the pictorial jokes have now become classical, and, as an instance of this there is the picture opposite p. 242 in the new edition, called "Crack Climbers." The art of climbing, as practised by the common housefly, is also well illustrated on p. 256. The illustrations will always remain one of the great features of the book, but some of them are drawn more to teach the art of mountaineering than to represent things as they are. No one ever found ledges to put the rope over occurring in just the right place, as they do in the picture called "Backing Up." One feels that it would have been a pity not to have had a slip under the circumstances there depicted.

The Badminton "Mountaineering" is to be recommended to everyone, but it has an especial value to members of the Climbers' Club, as it gives valuable assistance in determining what a climber really is. To quote from p. 132:—"On no occasion is the distinction between the climber and the mountaineer brought into more marked prominence. The climber urges, 'Go on because it is possible to do so;' the mountaineer says, 'It is possible, but it is unwise and imprudent, therefore we will turn back.'" Who, after that, would be a mere mountaineer?

E. R. C.