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## REVIEW.

THE CLIMBS ON LLIWEDD. By J. M. ARCHER THOMSON and A. W. ANDREWS, members of the Alpine Club. With Illustrations and Diagrams. Issued by the Climbers' Club. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1909. Price 5/-.

WHEN it was rumoured some years ago that the Climbers' Club was contemplating the official issue of a series of guide books to the mountain climbs in these islands, speculation became not unnaturally rife as to what form the project would assume when its incarnation had been accomplished.

The first volume has now appeared, and the names of J. M. A. Thomson and A. W. Andrews on the title-page are a guarantee of the excellent character of the first offspring of the scheme. The volume deals with a cliff that is second to none in Great Britain.

To some of us it seems but a few years ago since Lliwedd was invested with the mysterious and awful sanctity that is ever apt to enshroud the unknown. But as the veil has been gradually drawn aside, as crag after crag lost its reputation for impregnability, the feeling of superstitious reverence has given way to a more rational one of admiration and the precipice itself has become resolved into a number of geographical problems, none the less interesting because many of them are hard to define. The elusiveness of the mountain remains, only our own attitude has undergone a change. Lliwedd can never sink to the commonplace—it will ever retain its charm for the lover of mountains, and will hardly lose its impressiveness even for the mere capricornic gymnast. It abounds in spots where the "Romantic environment

conveys to the mind an impression of isolation at a great height" (p. 35), while the "super-excellent" climbing on many of the East Peak routes will probably continue to inspire respect, even after dinner, and in the smoking-room.

The guide book, as befits its subject, is no mere finger post to indicate with verbal red paint where the climbs are, and how they may be ascended. Lliwedd does not lend itself to this kind of treatment, for many of the most interesting routes are by no means entirely obvious. Thus, even with the book in hand, and aided by the excellent plans and diagrams it contains, a party may not always find themselves at or on the route they desire. Of course the naturally well-marked climbs are easily recognised, but it is hardly possible—perhaps it is quite impossible with a complex face like that of the great Snowdon cliff—so to indicate every route that he who reads may easily run. This is not said by way of disparagement of the book—far from it—but it is a tribute to the character of the mountain itself, and it may serve as an indication to those who have its acquaintance still to make, of the interest which there awaits them.

We think the authors are to be congratulated on the way in which they have discharged their difficult task. They have steered a course which clears them alike from the charge of dullness and of unnecessary verbosity. The descriptive notes of the several routes are valuable, and ought to enable any party to judge how far any particular climb is for them a safe or prudent one to attempt. At times, perhaps, there is a tendency to expand into something like journalism, and we may not at all times precisely agree with the estimations given of the relative difficulty of some of what we might term the advanced climbs. But taking the descriptions as a whole, and judging them from the standpoint of a personal acquaintance with most of the routes, they are very well and carefully rendered as far as the difficulties and other qualities of the climbs that are of real importance are concerned.

Sometimes, however, we think additional details might well have been given. Thus no mention is made, in the short

account of the Crack and Slanting Wall climb, of the two chimneys which lie immediately above the Crack, both interesting and neither easy. But it must be remembered that some of the routes have been very seldom climbed, and details which subsequently become well known easily escape observation during the excitement of a first ascent.

The book is admirably illustrated by plans and photographs, whilst the less serious parts of the text find their analogies in drawings, some good and others amusing. In our judgment, however, the work would have been better for the omission, at anyrate, of two of them (facing pp. 22 and 54), which appear to be more suitable for a monthly magazine than for a serious book on climbing.

The book is attractively got up and nicely bound, but experience must show whether the artistic brown cover will stand the ordeal of a wet gully as well as a more waterproof if less elegant, one would do.

J. B. F.



T H E  
**CLIMBS ON LLIWEDD.**

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By J. J. M. ARTHUR THOMSON  
and A. W. ANDREWS . . .

Issued by the Climbers' Club. With Numerous Diagrams  
and Illustrations. Edward Arnold, London.

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**T**HE first of a series of Climbers' Guides undertaken by the  
Climbers' Club. Lliwedd is unequalled in the variety of  
climbing which it offers to experienced mountaineers. The  
Guide describes an almost entirely new field, and should be  
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