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MARK YOUR COLOURING WITH AN X	
HAIR	COMPLEXION
Blonde or Golden Brown	Fair or Creamy
Medium Brown	Medium
Dark Brown	Olive
Auburn or Reddish	Dark
If also Grey mark here	Ruddy or Freckles



## NAMES ABOVE THE SNOW-LINE

*THERE is a Bill before the House to give statutory authority to a National Geographic Board, whose members will have power to revise existing place names in New Zealand. This article considers the effect of such legislation on the Southern Alps.*

*Written and Illustrated for "The Listener" by JOHN PASCOE*

THE story of the naming of alpine features in the South Island of New Zealand is one that began before the time of our ancestors, and that even now is a continuing one. It reveals some Maori travels, the hardships of exploration, the exploitation of personal vanities, the objective play of imagination, the memory of brave men, local history and incident, and underlines contrasts as violent as the country they concern. From one valley rises Moonraker, from others Mounts Percy Smith, Jukes, Chudleigh or B'Limit.

### An Answer Became a Query

The Honorary Geographic Board was an advisory one. Its ideals were sound. It was to control new names and straighten out past mistakes. But it was not the answer. It combined a singular passion for the deletion of apostrophes, with the maintenance of controversy about the correct spelling of some Maori place names such as Lake Kanieri. Its meetings were infrequent, and its decisions not always consistent with its own rulings. Mountaineers came to regard it with a cynical tolerance as though to say "we wonder what the old boys will be up to next."

Yet the future of the new Board is bright. With the weight of authority, and new blood, it may become a body that will blend taste and scholarship with diligence.

Consider the past legacies. In the Bad Old Days it was the fashion for explorers, or their echoes, to call new

features after themselves, their friends, celebrities of their homeland, their wives, maiden aunts on the paternal side, or the fathers who begat them. Occasionally good descriptive or classical names were given. And though climbers in later years have been sensible, the original legacies remain. Any revision must take into account names of local origin. Must-ers in the back-country rarely use map names, and "Gentle Annes" and "Jack's Creeks" abound. The Upper Hokitika, for example, became "Siberia," and not without reason.

For the new Board to have its authority taken seriously it should refuse to accept new names that are the personal ones of those making the first ascent of a virgin unnamed peak. This could make it possible to remedy some of the horrors of the past. And the quality of its research should be such that its members can recognise a reduplication of names when they see one. And here comes a crisis.

### Repetition is Confusion

Casual glances over survey maps will disclose that some quite famous mountains have names that are scattered on other mountains. These never confuse postmen in the way that several streets of the same name do. Nor does any central authority have the ticklish job of seating peaks of the Southern Alps in order of precedence at a State function. Though mountains are inanimate, climbers like to cherish their little illusion that peaks and ranges have some human characteristics. And imagine the feelings of the father of the Mounts

# TIME MARCHES ON

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