

(continued from previous page)

is aroused by a following chapter describing Harper's reactions to the new fields ahead of him and his associates.

IN 1889 Harper made his first visit to the Tasman Valley, where all the great mountains, including Cook, were unclimbed. He realised that the absence of huts, tracks and guides made the Southern Alps vastly different from Switzerland, and that our lower snow line and looser rock would make some conditions strange. The transport delays of those days underline the pertinacity of the men who braved them. His visits with Mannering to Glacier Dome and the Murchison glacier were the first but important steps of enterprising young New Zealanders. And a first ascent of the icy saddle at the head of the Hooker Glacier in 1890 confirmed the topographical point that Mount Cook lay wholly in Canterbury.

As a corollary to this work Mannering and Harper formed the New Zealand Alpine Club in 1891, whose *Journal* is rightly sub-titled a "Record of Mountain Exploration and Adventure." Another visit to Switzerland in 1892 gave Harper experience in guideless climbing, and put him in touch with the Alpine Club, London. This link with the old world and the new has been of continuing value.

In 1893 Harper began his Westland explorations with Charles Douglas—a

man whose company must have been an inspiration. Usually alone, Douglas had explored more Westland rivers than any other man before or since. If published, his diaries would be of outstanding value. The incident of Harper's association with Douglas are the most interesting of his *Memories*, with recollections of the bush, the goldfields, and the West Coast road valuable as general background.

A MOVE to Wellington took Harper away from the mountains, though he was still active in the interests of the New Zealand Alpine Club; and the introduction of his daughter Rosamond to the Southern Alps in 1926 must raise hopes in keen mountaineers with families of their own. Two years later Harper, his daughter, and three men made a crossing of Fyfe's Pass to the Landsborough valley, and over a saddle and down the wild Karangarua river, which he had explored in 1894. This first-class expedition gave Rosamond experience for further good climbing.

In his last three chapters Harper gives a brief survey of New Zealand mountaineering, and an account of his holidays at camps organised by the New Zealand Alpine Club. The survey is reasonable, so far as it goes, and links names and dates with club influences that need not be disputed here. The influences, for instance, of tramping and skiing as sports goes far beyond mere

hut building, and there is no mention of the manner in which stalking and hunting have also added greatly to the numbers of men extremely competent in alpine climbing.

IN spite of present difficulties of paper and binding the printers have done well. The illustrations vary from poor blocks ("Looking Down the Karangarua River") to ones of historical value ("Douglas and A.P.H."), and a group of Otago men at the Rees Camp whose names are among the most honoured in New Zealand mountaineering. One omission I regret—a study of the author with G. E. Mannering. The frontispiece is a study of which any subject or photographer should be proud.

Memories is not a great book. But it is an honest one, simply written, and will give pleasure to all those who like memories and mountains. Its readers may well wish its author contentment that he has added his knowledge to their knowledge. He will be widely read and widely appreciated.

GEOGRAPHY

NEW ZEALAND GEOGRAPHER: Vol. 2. No. 1. Printed by Whitcombe & Tombs for the N.Z. Geographical Society.

THE *Geographer* has entered its second year without any modification of its high standards. For the general reader the chief feature of this issue is an article by Alan Mulgan on the associa-

tions of literature and landscape in New Zealand which, though long, is very easy to read; but it would have been interesting to see the author's face when he opened his copy and found that a printer had made him spell Housman with an "e." The Marlborough Coast route of the South Island Main Trunk railway fills 12 pages of not too technical geological notes by Professor G. Jobbarns, and Dr. H. H. Allan lets himself go on the tendency of humans (as he calls us) to "confuse issues by confusing terms" (in this case "tussock grassland" and "steppe"). The connection between geography and manufacturing is not very prominent in J. L. Hewland's long article, and there is more biology than geology in Dr. G. H. Cunningham's account of the introduction of plant diseases. But the issue as a whole is well balanced and again beautifully illustrated.

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