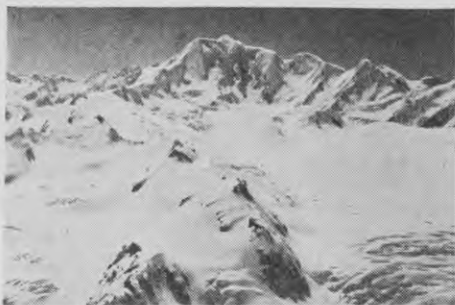


In spite of the handicaps which present conditions impose, ski-ing has made remarkable progress in New Zealand over the last fifteen years. It is a sport which is growing in popularity all over the world. In this country there have been many obstacles. Most good ski-ing snow lies above 6,000 ft. Most mechanical transport ends at 3,000 ft. or less. The difference has been enough to take the edge off all but the hardest enthusiasts. In many districts, especially in the North Island, the sport is restricted to winter-time, when days are short and temperatures chilly. Yet, in spite of these obstacles, the game has gone ahead. There is no doubt that it will continue to do so. Even war itself has added to the numbers—many of our servicemen overseas have been taught to ski as part of their training, and others who have been in places like Canada have picked up a rudimentary knowledge of the art during their stay there.

Weather has been a difficulty always, and there is no way of changing that.



Mount Elie de Beaumont.

Storms come and go—if they didn't, there would be no snow to ski on. The only thing that can be done about the weather is to make any enforced idleness bearable with counter-attractions. A hotel has several advantages in this respect over a hut. More rapid

transport, however, and a keen eye for weather forecasts, would assist weekenders to select the right time for a couple of days with the "sticks."

The day may yet come when the high snows of the Southern Alps see hundreds of mountaineers, skiers, and tourists climbing, playing, or just drinking in the scenery among the incomparable peaks and on the broad snows of this fascinating region, for a week-end or a week. It's a healthy life, and a grand holiday. With ski on your feet, say the experts, you can enjoy the most thrilling form of locomotion known to man. Personally, we're not experts. The most thrilling manoeuvre we can do is the *sitzmark*, if you know what that is. But there will be time to learn in the days to come.



Looking up the Tasman Glacier towards the Minarets.