

Book Section

By H. Bruce Carnall

ROUND MYSTERY MOUNTAIN, by Sir Norman Watson, Bart., and E. J. King, is not merely another travel-book recording the trials, tribulations, and results of an expedition; it is the story of "A Ski Adventure" telling in a most interesting manner of the joys and sorrows, the ecstasies and despairs, the difficulties and achievements of the Sir Norman Watson Expedition to The Coast Range, British Columbia. Through the Press and from *Across the Coast Range*, which appeared in the 1934 issue of this publication, most Canadian skiers are well acquainted with the general story of this Expedition but the many incidents, necessarily omitted from briefer accounts but included in the book, make it well worth while to read the complete story.

Exploring parties, such as the one led by Sir Norman Watson, assist greatly in opening up the magnificent ski country in the Canadian West and, it is understood, Sir Norman is now negotiating with various interests in the hope that it will soon be possible to establish regular winter resorts at recommended points.

Round Mystery Mountain is admirably illustrated with thirty-five reproductions of photographs and three sketch maps. The members of the Expedition are to be congratulated upon their photography and the reproductions certainly help one to appreciate the text.

(Published in England by LONGMANS, GREEN & Co., and obtainable in Canada from their branch at 480-486 University Avenue, Toronto, 2.)

This book should be read by every Canadian who is interested in ski-ing or mountaineering.

VERY few instructional books on ski-ing cover the subject as thoroughly as *The Art of Ski-ing* by Charles N. Proctor in collaboration with Rockwell R. Stephens. This book should certainly be very helpful to the novice and the less expert, because not only does it clearly explain the technique of each of the three divisions of ski-ing but also it gives sound advice on equipment, clothing, waxing and ski etiquette, as well as notes on slalom racing and the history of the sport. Unlike most writers, the authors have not scorned the works of others but have openly acknowledged and adopted many tenets of the various schools. The authors advise the beginner to learn all the different methods and suggest that an individual style will be developed as proficiency increases.

(Published in New York by HARCOURT, BRACE & Co., 383 Madison Avenue, at \$2.00.)

TO THOSE interested in foreign ski-ing terms, Carl J. Luther's *Ski Wörterbuch in fünf Sprachen* is a very useful little book because it gives the equivalent expressions in German, English, Norwegian, French and Italian. For example, we find: *Schnee*=*snow*=*sne-en*=*neige*=*neve*. The understanding of foreign catalogues is facilitated by the inclusion of such words as: *Kante, die*=*edge*=*kant*-*en*=*arête, l'*=*spigole, lo*. The 70 pages are divided into: General Terms, Equipment, Ground (Terrain), Snow, Parts of the Body, Technical Terms, Ski-racing Terms and Index. In all, this is a most useful little book and possibly we should all memorize: *Bahn-frei!*=*clear the course!*=*loipe!*=*piste libre!*=*pista!*

(Published by BERGVERLAG RUDOLF ROTHER, Munchen 19, Hindenburgstrasse 49, Germany, at RM 2.—postpaid.)

OFFICIALS and competitors alike have welcomed *Slalom* by A. H. d'Egville. Following an amusing introduction, the book opens with *Component Parts of a Slalom*, which is a lucid explanation of the various flag formations in general use. There follows a thorough discussion of the different methods of negotiating the formations and then *The Organization of the Slalom* which gives full instructions regarding course-setting, organizing the race, flagkeeping, etc. The FIS rules governing slalom are included and, as appendices, there are *Relay Racing* and *Downhill Cross-Country Racing*.

With the injunction *Learn this by heart*, we find "slalom" defined as *the artificial concentration on one hill of a number of the difficulties and obstacles which might reasonably be encountered in a cross-country or downhill race, tour or expedition*.

Those who attentively read the 159 pages of *Slalom* will learn a great deal about ski-ing in general and slalom racing in particular. Mr. d'Egville writes in a most authoritative yet entertaining way and his diagrams, which cleverly allow the reader to look down the course, i.e. up the page, make clear those points that are so difficult to explain.

(Published in England by EDWARD ARNOLD & Co. at 7s. 6d. and obtainable in Canada from LONGMANS, GREEN & Co., 480-486 University Avenue, Toronto.)

THE OFFICIALS' HANDBOOK of The Ski Club of Great Britain gives the British and the FIS rules for jumping, langlauf, downhill and slalom competitions and there are long articles on *The Judging of Style in Ski-jumping* by Alex. Keiller and *The Modern Slalom* by Arnold Lunn. In addition, there are many suggestions for officials and an article, complete with logarithm and conversion tables, on *Calculating Points*. Skiers are reminded that the fee for Canadian members of The Ski Club of Great Britain is only 10s. (about \$2.50) per year and that this entitles them to receive *The British Ski Year Book*, *Ski Notes & Queries* (published three times each year), *The Members' Handbook* and *The Officials' Handbook* without charge. Prospective members may receive full information from the Editor of this publication.

(Published by The Ski Club of Great Britain at 2s. and, on application to the Secretary, supplied to members without charge.)

DECK MORGAN'S *Winter Carnival* is one of the very few novels dealing with winter sports. The author is a licensed bobsled pilot and, as a journalist, covered the Olympic Winter Games at St. Moritz and Lake Placid.

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Winter Carnival is the story of people who are thrown into contact during their stay at a large winter sports resort. The plot centres around Gaynor Lord, director of The Grill, and Derrick Mann who is a ski jumper, bobsled pilot and sports director. How they fall in love, are separated by the maelstrom of life at a resort hotel and how they are brought together is best learned by reading the book itself.

(Published in New York by JULIAN MESSNER, INC. at \$2.00.)

MODERN SKI TECHNIQUE by Otto Schniebs and J. W. McCrillis now includes an additional chapter on the *High-Speed (Tempo) Turn* and the accompanying strip of photographs (presumably of Richard Durrance) is excellent.

The illustrations are mostly from motion pictures, probably the best way of illustrating an instructional book on ski-ing although good drawings may be preferable.

Modern Ski Technique takes one from the elementary stages through to the advanced technique. The instructions, however, are so brief they are rather difficult to follow by a person not well acquainted with the sport; the book seems to be a handbook rather than an instructional text. There are, however, many interesting points and it is felt that the book should be recommended to the second class runner rather than to the novice.

(Published by the STEPHEN DAYE PRESS, Brattleboro, Vermont at \$1.25.)

THOSE beginners whose first move is to thoroughly study *Learn to Ski!* will certainly *Start Right* if they follow the suggestions of the author, Hermann Bautzmann. The first chapter is devoted to advising exactly what the beginner should have and how to choose it, how to fit bindings to the ski and to the boots, how to take care of the equipment, etc.

Following, are chapters on *Gymnastics* and *How to Fall Right*. The first suggests some excellent conditioning exercises and the latter contains many valuable suggestions meriting careful study because of the beginner's propensity for the recumbent position.

Getting down to the real purpose of his book, Mr. Bautzmann then continues with clear, illustrated instruction on running on the level, climbing, downhill running, snowplowing, stemming, stick-riding and elementary turns. This portion of the book is especially good because it dispenses entirely with technicalities, and concentrates on teaching a sound technique. The chapter *The Higher Art of Ski-ing*, continues the instruction teaching the various turns and their application. The book closes with a few notes on dry ski-ing courses and on waxing. The attentive reader who has conscientiously followed the course of instruction step by step should be in a position to easily become an expert skier.

The author, Hermann Bautzmann, was born in Berlin, Germany, and has resided in Canada for a number of years. This year, he has successfully established dry ski-ing courses in Toronto where he is a ski-instructor.

(Published by THE MACMILLAN COMPANY OF CANADA LIMITED, Toronto, at \$1.00.)

IT IS interesting to note that Peter Lunn, the well-known British racer and son of Arnold Lunn, has written a book entitled *High Speed Ski-ing* and that it will be published this year by MESSRS. METHUEN & CO., at 3s. 6d. An extract from the book appears in *The British Ski Year Book for 1935* and we are looking forward to reading the entire text.

Anyone wishing to bring publications to the attention of the readers of the *YEAR BOOK* or desirous of submitting a review (hopefully suggested) is requested to inform the writer at 56 High Park Avenue, Toronto, 9, Ontario, Canada.

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