

sionally avalanches thunder down to the plateau. On a hot day the face glows wetly.

There are other valleys and other peaks, but we have seen the best. Perhaps by now you think you have seen enough. Perhaps you're worried about this magic-carpet business—certainly it would be too bad if it was to fade away and leave you here in the white wilderness. No comfortable hotels up here.

Sing of peaks that through the cloudlands burst,
And bars below for climbers with a thirst.

A visitor wrote this in one of the huts in the Tasman Valley, but the nearest bar is much farther away than the nearest peak.

At present, accommodation for those who come to this region is limited to hotels far below the snow-level, and a variety of huts built primarily to shelter mountaineers. The Haast Hut, at 6,800 ft., on the ridge close to the Hochstetter Icefall, is typical. It is perhaps 30 ft. by 12 ft., contains simple bunks for tired bodies, a rough table, a cupboard, and a kerosene cooker. It is difficult to reach, as are any of the high huts. In winter it is covered completely with snow. Every board and every sheet



Ice pinnacles on the Fox Glacier.

of iron for its construction was carried to the site on the sweating backs of men. Obviously the problem of adequate accommodation above the snowline cannot be solved until transport has received some attention.

Before the war, plans were under consideration for the construction of cable-car runways to the permanent snowfields above the Franz Josef Glacier and on the Sealy Range near the Hermitage, in the Hooker Valley at Mount Cook. These developments were to cater mainly for the growing popularity of ski-ing. Where the cable car stopped, no doubt a hotel would be built, and later a ski-hoist, that admirable contraption which takes the hard work out of ski-ing. It is reasonable to expect that these projects will be resumed as soon as possible after the war. The growth of air travel should place this remote area with a few hours of any part of New Zealand and within half a day of Australia, where, in spite of very definite limitations, ski-ing has many devotees. There are airfields already in the Tasman Valley and on the Coast. With the development of air transport, cable-car ways, ski-hoists, and modern hotels near the snow, this district would have everything required to make it the year-round mecca of those who take their recreation on wood along the snow.



Rock climbing above the Tasman Glacier.