

produced many an evening of keen scientific discussion around the camp-fire. It is a discussion the farther out aspects of which still go on.

“Dick, just how accurate was the method used in the determination of the height of Mount Kamet, or of Everest’s height for that matter?” To answer these questions Burdsall was by now well prepared. “More accurate than ours for Minya Konka, because 60 percent of our final figure will inevitably be tied up with the vagaries of barometric pressure and its relation to elevation above sea-level — though our success in bringing the delicate glass tube unbroken to set up a mercury column under vacuum, makes our measurement of the barometric pressure much more accurate than the Roosevelt brothers’ or Dr. Rock’s. But I’m sure that in the case of Mount Everest its altitude was obtained by triangulation all the way from the Indian Ocean with no barometric pressure involved.”

“Dick,” one of us said, “would you explain to us as your students exactly what it is that Everest’s summit is 29,000 feet directly above? Obviously it’s not the water of sea-level because the nearest ocean is 400 miles away,

Moore and Burdsall climbing at about 19,500 feet, about to gain the crest of the 20,000 northwest ridge.

