

# Sino-Indian Borderland

**HIMALAYAN WONDERLAND: TRAVELS  
IN LAHAUL SPITI:** M. S. Gill with a  
forward by Mrs. Indira Gandhi;  
Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd.,  
Delhi; Pages 179; Price Rs. 25-00

Lahaul-Spiti is a remote Himalayan district of Himachal Pradesh along with Sino-Indian border. It is wedged between Tibet in the east, Ladakh in the north and Kulu in the south. It is a land of peaks and passes with romantic aura but the lives of those who inhabit these areas are far from romantic. The people are simple, sincere and primitive. Rudyard Kipling speaks of the region, "Surely the gods live here.... This is no place for men! These are the Hills of my delight!... there I found Enlightenment; and there I girt my loins for my search."

The author was given charge of the administration of the border district, where he found life harsh and primitive but exciting. Shri Gill is to be congratulated on producing such a readable account of Lahaul and Spiti. He captures something of the majestic beauty of the region and highlightens the lives and customs of the people and the difficulties of administration there. There can be few, who will not find the contents of the book of absorbing interest.

Although the book has a few photographs but the absence of the map of the area makes it rather incomplete.

—P. S. BHAKUNI