A New Zealand man has become the first double amputee to climb Mount Everest, / the highest peak in the world at nearly nine thousand metres. / The mountaineer, Mark Inglis, lost both his legs below the knee twenty years ago / when trapped in a snow storm on Mount Cook. / Inglis sheltered in an ice cave for fourteen days before being rescued, / but suffered from severe frost bite. / Inglis was fitted with carbon fibre limbs, / but refused to give up the outdoor life, / and later won a silver medal for cycling at the Sydney Paralympics. / Inglis's Everest achievement has been criticised, however, / because it appears that, during the ascent, / his team had come across, but had not helped, / another climber who had got into difficulties during his descent. / The climber subsequently died, / but experts suggest there was little that could have been done. / In Inglis's defence, a fellow climber said that / it's hard enough keeping yourself alive at that kind of height, / let alone helping someone else, / adding that the lack of oxygen at higher altitudes / has a marked affect on behaviour, / especially in the way it clouds our judgement.