

EXCURSIONS AND NOTES.

—o—o—o—
was held on 28th February—the Chairman, Rev. OUR SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING Professor Cameron, D.D., presiding. The President (the Right Hon. James Bryce, D.C.L., M.P.) and the Vice-Presidents (Alexander Cruickshank, LL.D., and the Rev. Robert Lippe) were re-elected; Mr. Robert Anderson was appointed Chairman; and the Secretary (Mr. A. I. M'Connochie) and Treasurer (Mr. T. R. Gillies) were re-elected. The following were appointed members of Committee:—Rev. Dr. Cameron, Messrs. Copland, Harvey, C. M'Hardy, J. A. M'Hardy, Macphail, M'Gregor, Porter, Scott, and Semple. The excursions for the current year were fixed as follows:—Spring—Sockaugh; Summer—Cairn Toul; Autumn—Mor Shron (Morrone), the latter at the discretion of the Committee.

The Rules were altered as *per* print issued with the circular calling the meeting. The only alterations on the print are:—Rule II., add, after "Scotland", 2nd line, "with special reference to the Cairngorm group of mountains"; Rule V., for "season", 5th line, read "year". The Rules, as finally adjusted, appear at page 339.

The following new members have been admitted:—J. H. Duthie, J. G. Murray, John Rae, James W. Davidson, George Duncan, Robert Adamson, LL.D., Alexander Knox, John Crombie, Jun., Alexander Walker, William A. Brown, Sir William Wedderburn, Bart., M.P., Thomas Walker Hector, Henry Kellas, James S. Butchart, William H. Shepherd, James Smith, Alexander Troup, Jun., William M. Sellar, Walter A. Reid, C. D. Lumsden, A. J. C. Fyfe, William Milne, and William Thomson.

was visited by the Club on 6th May last, the party numbering over fifty. The route was:—Rail to Lumphanan; drive to Oldtown, visiting Corse Castle *en route*; ascent from Burnside; descent to Bog; whence the carriages were resumed to Aboyne. The Club dined at the Huntly Arms Hotel, Aboyne—Mr. Anderson, Chairman, presiding. The Rev. J. G. Michie, Dinnet, Mr. Henry Williams, Leochel-Cushnie, and the Rev. Mr. MacDonald, Towie, who had accompanied the party by invitation, were thanked for the information and assistance they had afforded. The Excursion was extremely successful in every way.

Through the courtesy of the Ordnance Survey, the Director-General of which is a Cromar man, I am now able (*vide* p. 291) to supply the authorities given in the O.S. documents for the name. They were Mr. Andrew Ross and the Rev. Mr. Watson, Tarland; and Mr. H. Thomson, Mosstown, Leochel-Cushnie, also a Cromar man,

recently deceased. The late Dr. Taylor (*vide* p. 290) also wrote :—
 “The west boundary [of Leochel-Cushnie] is the Soccoch or Hill of Cushnie, rising to an altitude of 2000 feet”. The Towie writer in the *New Statistical Account* says :—“Towie is almost surrounded by hills; those on the S.E., called the Soccoch, are about 2000 feet high”. Next to Dr. Taylor, Mr. Ross would rank as an authority, being a man of education who had lived all his life within sight of the hill. Fifty years ago, therefore, the hill was known as “the Soccoch” by the ministers of Towie, Tarland, and Leochel-Cushnie, and by the late “Factor Ross”, all men of position and capability. Whatever comes out of this discussion, it must be seen that the Surveyors had ample authority for calling the hill Sockaugh.—GEORGE WILLIAMS.

ON 22nd April last, in company with two friends, I
 BRAERIACH made the ascent of Braeriach from Aviemore. Driving
 IN up Glen Eunach to the foot of the Little Bennie, we
 APRIL. took the ridge that runs down between that burn and
 its tributary Allt Coire an Lochain, and onward by
 an easy ascent to the shores of Loch Coire an Lochain—which was
 still solidly frozen over and covered with a thick coating of snow.
 From the east end of the loch our route lay up a steep snow slope to
 the ridge leading down from the summit. The snow was very soft and
 no step-cutting was required. Hardly had we reached the sky line
 when a driving mist came on, and a compass course had to be steered
 to the summit cairn (which was completely buried in snow), and
 thence across the plateau to An Garbh-choire. The mist, however,
 lifted before we reached the head of the corrie, giving us a splendid
 view of the black snow-draped precipices that surround the sources of
 the Dee. Recrossing the plateau, we made an easy descent by the
 ridge on the east side of Coire an Lochain, expedited by a glissade of
 several hundred feet down the snow-filled channel of the Allt Coire an
 Lochain. We found the snow, which was at least 3 feet deep on the
 summit plateau, soft throughout and in bad condition. The ascent of
 the mountain from this side is a mere easy walk with no climbing
 whatever. On the way down we prospected a ridge that runs up the
 face of the cliffs on the western horn of Coire an Lochain, which, if the
 lower part is practicable, should afford a sporting climb, the upper
 portion being very narrow and in places quite perpendicular.—LIONEL
 W. HINXMAN.

CAIRN TOUL ONE morning in the latter half of August, 1894,
 IN my wife and I left Loch an Eilein at 7.50 to ascend
 AUGUST. Cairn Toul, reaching the upper bothy in Glen Eunach
 at 9.57. About two miles above the Cross Roads, Glen
 Eunach affords some very fine scenery of river, tree, and rock, while
 for the rest of the walk the forward view of the Braeriach corries and
 the Sgòran Dubh precipices is very impressive. From the bothy we
 struck up the track leading into Coire Dhonndail. At this time mist

covered all above the 3000 feet line, but as we reached the top of the corrie and scrambled up that delightful last bit, it slowly rose and left the plateau clear. Following our pre-arranged plan, we struck slightly south of east from the top of the path, so rounding the southern side of the March Cairn (4149), and coming suddenly on to the edge of the southern scallop of An Garbh-choire. The effect of such a magnificent view so suddenly presented is very powerful; at the time of our visit (noon) the plateau was clear, though all the tops were still enshrouded. The corrie was nearly filled with eddying mist, giving now and again glimpses of its walls and bottom, and occasional peeps into Glen Dee. Skirting the corrie on our way to Sgòr an Lochain Uaine we looked down some of the gullies, and saw the soiled and shrunken remnants of the winter's snow, with great arches between it and the gully walls. The ascent of the Sgòr was very rough, some 250 feet over great blocks of granite, many of them not firmly placed and turning under foot. The top cleared as we approached, and at 12:35 we were on it, and had a glorious view of the whole corrie now free of mist, which, however, still hung round Braeriach and Cairn Toul. Lochan Uaine in its high-placed basin is a striking feature in this view. Pushing on still, we descended the south-east side of the Peak, and then attacked the final 400 feet of Cairn Toul. This was stiff work, for it is all over rough boulders, much as on Sgòr an Lochain Uaine, only more of it. At 1:20 we were at the cairn; the mist broke overhead, and we enjoyed the first clear sunshine of the day, which lasted as long as we stayed there, till two o'clock. The mist gradually disappeared from all the surrounding heights except Cairngorm, Braeriach being the last to clear, and we had the magnificent view that Cairn Toul affords on a perfectly clear day. Of course the supreme feature is the gigantic hollow of An Garbh-choire with its stupendous walls of crag still carrying large patches of snow. Another feature that struck us was the sharp outline of the Fife Lomonds, 57 miles distant. In descending to avoid the extreme roughness and the wind, we took about the 3500 feet contour level, and so regained the top of Coire Dhoindail. It would be well if a "leading cairn" were erected here. We reached Loch an Eilein at 7:20, after a day unequalled in my mountaineering experience for excellent weather, good performance of programme, and marvellous scenery.—C. G. CASH.

FOR many years the desirability of association among walking and climbing men had been felt in Leeds, and after several informal meetings and discussions the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club was established in October, 1892, with the objects of bringing together those interested in walking and mountaineering, and encouraging in them the studies of topography, natural history, archaeology, folk-lore, and kindred subjects. From the first its membership

has been restricted to those who have proved to the satisfaction of the Committee that they are in sympathy with these objects, and that they possess a creditable record of good work. No candidate is considered eligible without this qualification. Several prominent climbing men joined the Club upon its formation, and the majority of Yorkshire members of the Alpine Club are now included in its ranks. The mountaineering element is very strong although climbers have to go to the Lake District, North Wales, Scotland, and more distant places in order to indulge in their sport. Nevertheless the hills, moors, and crags which occupy so large a portion of Yorkshire are an admirable training ground for beginners, while they afford plenty of practice for the experienced. According to their tastes and time members are actively engaged all the year round making excursions and tours at home and abroad, accounts of which are often embodied in papers read before the Club—meetings for that purpose being held monthly in summer and twice a month in winter. The only Club of its kind in the North of England, it bids fair to become a useful and powerful organization.—H. H. BELLHOUSE.

THE finest mountain prospect within an hour's easy walk from Ballater is from the top of Pananich Hill, lying close to the old public path between Glen Tauner and Kirk of Glenmuick. It comprehends glorious views of the Mounth, especially Mount Keen and Lochnagar, the Cairngorm mountains, the Banffshire border hills, Morven, the Buck, Ben Rinnes, Tap o' Noth, Hill of Fare, Bennachie, &c. Craigendarroch and Craig na Cailleach, objects of admiration from the Ballater streets, lie so far below as to be insignificant. The valley of the Dee eastwards and Cromar with its lakes are seen to great advantage. *Route* :—(1) Leave the south Deeside turnpike opposite the curling pond gate, a little west of Ballater Bridge, and follow the road towards Braichlie House to the gate at the grieve's cottage, passing through which, ascend to the wicket in the plantation dyke, where a narrow path winds through thickly planted young firs to another wicket, from which it continues upward by the side of a dyke until the deer fence dividing Glen Muick and Glen Tana estates comes in sight, when it turns to the right through short heather. From a small cairn on the Glen Tana side of the fence the view is best in every direction. The whole ascent is easy, over good ground, the little Braichlie burn brawling along its rocky course many feet below, and the panorama expanding with every upward step. (2) By the old drove road from Bridge of Muick to Loch Lee, as far as the gate in the deer fence, thence to the left along the fence. (3) Over Craig na Cailleach. (4) Over the rocky scarp above Pananich Wells. (5) From Mill of Inchmarnoch up the Pollagach Burn to the deer fence, thence to the right. Nos. 3 and 4 are trackless, and only fit for cragsmen; Nos. 2 and 5 are long and rough, and, being through the centre of the moors, sport might be disturbed.—K. J.

THE CAIRNGORM CLUB.

RULES.

I.—The Club shall be called “THE CAIRNGORM CLUB”.

II.—The objects of the Club shall be: (1) to encourage mountain climbing in Scotland, with special reference to the Cairngorm group of mountains; (2) to procure and impart scientific, topographical, and historical information about the Scottish mountains, their superficial physical features, minerals, rocks, plants, animals, meteorology, ancient and modern public routes giving access to and across them, and the meaning of their local place names, literature, and legendary, or folk lore; (3) to consider the right of access to Scottish mountains, and to adopt such measures in regard thereto as the Club may deem advisable; and (4) to issue a Journal or such other publications as may be considered advantageous to the Club.

III.—Candidates for admission as members of the Club must have ascended at least 3000 feet above the sea level on a Scottish mountain.

IV.—The management of the Club shall be vested in a Committee, consisting of ten members, in addition to the following Office-Bearers—a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer—five being a quorum.

V.—The annual general meeting of the Club shall be held in December for the following business: (1) to receive the Treasurer's accounts for the year to 30th November; (2) to elect the Office-Bearers and Committee for the next year; (3) to fix the excursions for the ensuing year; and (4) to transact any other necessary business. Special general meetings shall be held whenever deemed necessary by the Chairman, or on a requisition by at least ten members of the Club. General meetings shall have power to deprive of membership of the Club any member who may, in the opinion of the Committee, have misconducted himself.

VI.—A Minute-Book shall be kept by the Secretary, in which all proceedings shall be duly entered.

VII.—The election of members of the Club shall be made by the Committee in such manner as they may determine.

VIII.—The entry money of members shall be 10s. 6d., and the annual subscription 5s. Members shall receive copies of all current issues of the Club publications.

IX.—The annual subscription shall be payable in January. Members not in arrear may retire from the Club at any time on sending notice in writing to the Secretary or Treasurer.

X.—The Committee shall have power to elect suitable persons to be Honorary Members of the Club. Honorary Members shall have no voice in the management of the Club, but otherwise shall have all the rights and benefits of ordinary members.

XI.—No change shall be made on the Rules except at a general meeting of the Members, called on seven days' notice. Intimation of any proposed change must be made in the notice calling such meeting, and any alteration proposed shall only be adopted if voted for by at least three-fourths of the Members present at the meeting.