

THE HORIZON FROM BEN MUICH DHUI.—No. III.

BY ALEX. COPLAND.

THIS Number completes the outline of the horizon as viewed from the Cairn on the summit of the highest mountain of the Cairngorm range. In describing it we have to go back to due North 180° , and at 182° we have Scaraben in the far distance across the sea in Langwell Forest, Caithness, 80 miles away. Further away to the right at 187° Benacheilt, in the same county, 86 miles distant in a straight line, may be descried under favourable weather conditions. Then looking across the western shoulder of Cairngorm, in the direction of the protruding eastern portion of the coast of Caithness, we have between us and the sea the western portion of the "Laigh" of Moray, with its sea coast line at the mouth of the Findhorn, extending eastwards in the direction of Burghead, and westwards towards Nairn. In the middle distance we may distinguish the town of Grantown, and farther north-eastwards Forres by its smoke. The big dome of Cairngorm interrupts the sea view, as also do the Cromdale Hills, but between them the streak of salt water and coast line mark Spey Bay and its surroundings. The rift between Cairngorm and A'Choinneach discloses the south end or head of Strath Nethy, where the river Nethy leaves its cradle between these mountains, and whence it flows northwards through Abernethy Forest to the Spey. Over the summit of Ben Bynac, beyond A'Choinneach, the conspicuous sloping ridge of Ben Rinnes rises, and in the far distance, in the hollow between it and Meikle Conval, near Dufftown, the Bin Hill of Cullen may be descried. Farther to the right rises Corryhabbie, with his brother of Glen Fiddich deer forest, Cook's Cairn. Then over the stony crest of Beinn Mheadhoin, Letterach and the Threestone Hill carry the horizon still farther to the right, till the sky line is pierced by the conical summits of Tap o' Noth and the

Buck of the Cabrach. Keeping along the blue ridge of distant uplands, about midway between the Buck and Bennachie, the Hill of Dudwick, according to the Ordnance Surveyors, may be seen, its bearing being given by them as $247^{\circ} 9' 36''$. The well-known form of Bennachie cannot be mistaken, and in front of it we have Coillebhar of Alford. Coming back to our immediate foreground of Beinn Mheadhoin, we have Beinn a' Chaorruinn, between which and Beinn Mheadhoin lies the eastern Larig or mountain pass between Braemar and Strathspey—the Learg Laoigh. This pass, before the advent of railways, was the route of the post-runner between Braemar and Strathspey; but there was no parcel post in those days, nor postage at the rate of a penny per letter, so that the postman's budget was conformable to his route, which is none of the smoothest. In front of Beinn a' Chaorruinn on the sketch projects the frowning, yet picturesque, gothic-arched precipice of Beinn Mheadhoin, which forms the north side of Corrie Etchachan, and once seen lives in memory for ever. Eastwards, to the sky line rises the huge mass of Beinn a' Bhuird, its rocky culminating peak, the North Top, protruding over the extended ridge of that mountain. A little to the north of this peak, and farther to the east, Ben Avon's highest summit asserts its right to be seen.

These four sketches, completing the outline of the hill horizon as seen from the Cairn on the summit of Ben Muich Dhui, may be helpful to the hill climber, now that the occupation of the ancient guide to the mountains is gone. In their preparation persevering efforts were made, often under disappointing weather conditions, to make the outlines as accurate as an amateur at such work could fairly accomplish, but no claim is made to scientific delineation nor artistic treatment.

In connection with this section the Tabular List of Mountains and Hills observed within its radius is subjoined. As the bearings given are polar, allowance for deviation when using the magnetic compass must be made.

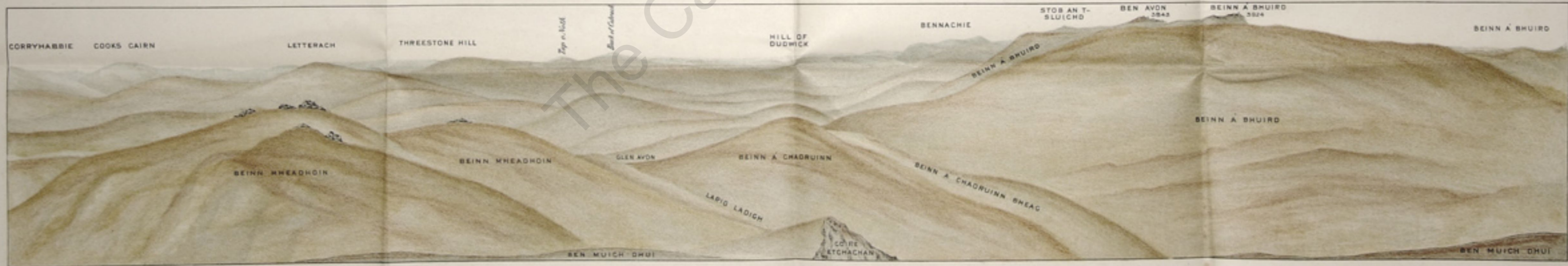
THE HORIZON FROM BEN MUICH DHUI.

SECTION 3.

FROM NORTH TO EAST 180° TO 270°.



OUTLINED BY ALEX. COPLAND.
THE CAIRNGORM CLUB, ABERDEEN.



TABULAR LIST No. III,

Of Mountains and Hills within the radius of 180° (North) and 270° (East), most of which may be seen from the Cairn on the summit of Ben Muich Dhui.

| Compass Direction | MOUNTAIN. | COUNTY. | LOCALITY. | Height, in Feet. | Distance, in Miles. |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 0 | Scaraben | Caithness | Langwell Forest . . | 2054 | 80 |
| 182 | Benacheilt | " | Latheron | 942 | 86 |
| 187 | Cairngorm | Inv.-Banff | Cairngorms | 4084 | 3 |
| 198 | Baddoch | " | Braes of Abernethy . | 1863 | 13 |
| 200 | Cairn Tuarneir | Inverness | Cromdale Hills . . . | 2250 | 16 |
| 202 | Carn Eachie | Elgin-Banff | " " | 2316 | 20 |
| 204 | Findlay's Seat | Elgin | Glen Rothes | 861 | 38 |
| 206 | Carn Bheur | Inverness | Abernethy Forest . . | 2636 | 9 |
| 214 | Ben Rinnes | Banff | Inveravon | 2755 | 28 |
| 215 | Ben Bynac | Inv.-Banff | Cairngorms | 3574 | 6 |
| 216 | Geal Charn | Inverness | Abernethy Forest . . | 2682 | 10 |
| 216 | Bin of Cullen | Banff | Cullen | 1050 | 50 |
| 223 | Corryhabbie | " | Glen Fiddich Forest . | 2563 | 26 |
| 227 | Cook's Cairn | " | " " | 2478 | 27 |
| 232 | Beinn Mheadhoin | " | Cairngorms | 3883 | 3 |
| 233 | Letterach | " | Glen Livet | 2583 | 23 |
| 236 | Carn Mor | Abd.-Banff | " | 2636 | 21 |
| 237 | Threestone Hill | " | Glen Bucket | 2065 | 27 |
| 239 | Tap o' Noth | Aberdeen | Rhynie | 1851 | 36 |
| 240 | Buck of Cabrach | " | Cabrach | 2368 | 30 |
| 241 | Beinn a' Chruinnach | Abd.-Banff | Kirkmichael | 2536 | 17 |
| 242 | Carn Ealasaid | " | Strathdon-Cockbrig . | 2600 | 17 |
| 247 | Hill of Dudwick | Aberdeen | Ellon | 572 | 66 |
| 248 | Beinn a Chaorruinn | Abd.-Banff | Cairngorms | 3553 | 4 |
| 250 | Coillebhar Hill | Aberdeen | Alford | 1747 | 33 |
| 252 | Bennachie | " | Garioch | 1733 | 45 |
| 254 | Stob an t-Sluichd | Banff | Cairngorms | 3621 | 8 |
| 259 | Ben Avon | Abd.-Banff | " | 3843 | 9 |
| 263 | Ben a' Bhuid (N. Top) | " | " | 3924 | 6 |