

## EXCURSIONS AND NOTES.

OUR venerable honorary member celebrated his diamond jubilee as a parish minister in October last. The reverend gentleman was presented with a very handsome cheque, and Mrs. Forsyth with a silver kettle as a memorial of the occasion.

THE most important event in connection with this club, which was inaugurated 1st February, 1906, was the climbing of Cairngorm on the May holiday. The Club drove to Glenmore Lodge from Boat of Garten where the company partook of refreshment previous to starting on the journey—most of whom were shortly to be initiated in the art of mountaineering. Mr. James

Cran Hendry, one of the Vice-Presidents, who has climbed several peaks in the district, acted as guide, the face being climbed under a burning sun. As we neared the summit the cold was intense, and after ten minutes our number was augmented by the appearance of Dr. Levack and Mr. Walter A. Reid, C.A., the former gentleman taking a photograph (which I regret to say got broken and proved worthless) before descending. The ascent from Glenmore Lodge was made in three hours and a half, and the descent in an hour less.

At some parts the snow was a few feet deep, and during the greater portion of the day a heavy mist hung over the mountain tops.

Mr. Edward Alexander is president of the club; and the writer is hon. secretary.—ROBERT MURDOCH-LAWRANCE, 71 Bon-Accord Street, Aberdeen.

THE first of these rambles was by a trio (J.J.W., W.P.S., and the writer.) We left Edinburgh on the 17th September by a forenoon train, with cycles.

Arriving at Ballater about 6.0 we crossed by the Gairn to Corgarff and slept there. Next day we climbed Ben Avon, having much trouble to find the top in the mist. We ought to have "done" Beinn a' Bhuird also, but did not. Descending by An Sluichd, we returned by Inchroory to Corgarff. The following day we cycled down Donside to Aberdeen.

The second expedition was made on 5th October by W.P.S. and the writer from Edinburgh. We ought to have been at Broomhill at 4 a.m. the following morning, but a railway breakdown made it 7. We breakfasted at Nethy Bridge, then up the Strath to Loch Avon. We rounded the upper end, and after a bath in the loch made for Loch Etchachan with the intention of climbing Cairngorm of Derry. Unfortunately, however, we mistook for it the top (unnamed) immediately south of the loch, and between it



and the true Derry Cairngorm. To climb the latter would have added little, but time was important. We descended to the Luibeg burn between the slopes of Ben Muich Dhui and Derry Cairngorm. Prudence would have counselled a turn to the left to Derry Lodge, where we should have had a good road. We preferred, however, to keep to our plan, which would have been all right if we had not lost the three hours in the morning. Accordingly we turned right towards the Dee by Carn a' Mhain reaching the river half a mile south of the Geusachan confluence when it was dark. From that point to the road at White Bridge may be about four or five miles, but in a dark moonless and starless night going is slow. Vestas lent some aid. Finally about 9 p.m. we reached our destination. Next day to Blair Atholl by Glen Tilt. Two very enjoyable days, but no real top.—J.B.

WE went to Coylum Bridge on August 7th last, and stayed at the cottage close to the bridge, a few yards below where the Druie is formed by the junction of two streams, the Luineag from Glen

A "CLOUD-BURST" IN MORE, and the Bennie from Glen Eunach. On the following afternoon a thunder-storm visited the district, and the rainfall was heavy. In the evening we were sitting chatting, not having yet risen from the supper table, when we heard a sound of an unusual kind, but not much unlike the rush of an approaching motor-car. "Hark! what's that? Surely its not another car." Scarcely had we begun to listen when loud cries from the other inmates of the house called us out to look at the river. The mysterious sound had rapidly grown in volume, and now declared itself as the wild rush of the greatly swollen Druie, foaming in full spate but a few yards from the door. Our hostess had heard the noise, had gone at once to the door and so had seen the front rush of the flood, and had called us. We hastily ran out, and looking at my watch I noted that it was 8.35 p.m. The Druie was big with dark water, and, swirling and foaming, was as impressive to the eye as it was insistent to the ear. Logs and tree branches were surging along, and what looked like the carcass of a sheep or deer.

A little examination of the streams at the junction, in full view from the bridge, showed that the spate was entirely on the Bennie, and not on the Luineag. I went up the Bennie just beyond the junction, to a frail suspension bridge that swung across the stream. Here by 8.55 p.m. the water had risen so high that the broken billows were shooting across the middle of the bridge. This indicated a rise in twenty minutes of more than three feet. Numerous logs and snags struck against the bridge, and we expected at every stroke to see it break, but its elasticity saved it, and it seemed to suffer no damage. All through the evening could be heard not only the rush and roar of the water, but also the bumping of the floating timber, and the dull, hard thuds of big stones rolled along the bed of the stream.

The generally accepted explanation of the spate was that the thunder-storm rain had overflowed Loch Eunach and broken its sluice gates; this however proved not to be the case. The keepers went up the glen the following morning, and found the sluice all right. The spate was due to a somewhat local but unusually heavy rainfall.



I visited the glen myself, and went all round the upper region of it to see what evidence it bore of the rain-storm. There was nothing noticeable below the lower bothy except that the Allt Ruigh na Sroine had been running full. But beyond the bothy the drainage from the west face of Braeriach crosses the driving road, and here there was abundant evidence of the heaviness of the downpour. Some hundreds of yards of the driving road had been completely torn away by the rush of the water, and where had been a road was a gully in the ground, the material previously constituting the road bed having been carried across into the heather and bog of the lower ground. I was struck by the value of the coating of the vegetable growth as a protection against such denudation; the bare road had been torn up, but the adjoining plant-covered ground was comparatively uninjured.

In Coire Dhondail there were no special marks of heavy rain, but on the other side of Loch Eunach, nearly all along the northern or lower section of Ross's Path, was evidence of a striking kind, more marked even than that on the driving road. Numerous burns come down from the crags and slopes of Sgoran Dubh Mor and Sgor Gaoith, and across the path on their way to the Loch. Each of these had been temporarily converted into a fiercely raging torrent. At each such crossing the path had entirely disappeared, and the deeply scored gully of the stream was bordered by great banks of rocks, gravel, and sand, which seamed the hill-side for hundreds of yards, and showed themselves far into the waters of the Loch.

From the relative positions of these two areas of destruction, the one on the driving road and the other on Ross's Path, it seems that the line of "cloud burst" crossed the glen obliquely from south-west to north-east, from the neighbourhood of Sgor Gaoith to that of the lower bothy. The condition of the hill-sides in the affected parts reminded me forcibly of the condition of Glen Dee near the Corrou Bothy after the cloud-burst of July, 1901.—C. G. CASH.

THE Club made excursions to these hills on, respectively, 21st July and 10th September last, both exceedingly successful and interesting events.

Ben Uarn, as the former is best known, is situated at the head of Glen Ey, and was reached *via* Inverey, the conveyances being left at Allt-anodhar Shieling. Carn Eachie (2316) was the Cromdale summit selected, the ascent being made from Inverchabet in Strathavon. This was quite a new district for most of the members, and was so much appreciated that doubtless the Hills of Cromdale will soon be re-visited by the Club.

THE Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Club was held on 21st December 1906, the Chairman, Mr. John McGregor, presiding. The President and Vice-Presidents were re-elected. Mr. James A.

OUR EIGHTEENTH Hadden was elected Chairman, and the Secretary  
ANNUAL MEETING. and Treasurer were re-elected. The following  
gentlemen were elected members of Committee—

Messrs John Clarke, Robert Cumming, Robert Harvey, John McGregor, R. W. Mackie, William Porter, James A. Ross, James Smith, Alexander



Troup and George Wood. The Spring Excursion was fixed for Ben Ledi or Morven, and the Summer for Glas Maol. It was also resolved to have three Saturday afternoon Excursions. The following addition was made to Rule VIII. :—Members may compound future Annual Subscriptions by payments as follows :—Members entered before 20th February, 1890, £1 1s. ; members of fifteen years and over, £1 11s. 6d. ; ten years and over, £2 2s. ; five years and over, £3 3s. ; and new members, £5 5s., including entry money.

The meeting approved of a subscription of £1 11s. 6d. to the Scottish Rights of Way and Recreation Society, Limited, towards the repair of the Allt Bennie foot-bridge.

The following new members have been admitted :—Dr. A. R. Galloway Messrs. David Levack, Edward H. Marshall, George Murray, J.P., John A.S. Cameron, William Barclay and Hugh S. Ingram.

The retiring chairman, Mr. John McGregor, was thanked for his valuable services during his term of office.