

EXCURSIONS AND NOTES.

THERE has just been erected in the cemetery at Bowness-on-Windermere a headstone to the memory of the late Mr. Mountford J. B. Baddeley, author of many guide-books. The headstone, which takes

THE LATE MR. the form of a Ruic Cross, is hewn out of two M. J. B. BADDELEY. large boulders of granite from the summit of the famous Scawfell mountain. Great difficulty was experienced in getting the granite down the mountain side; sometimes it was carried, and sometimes rolled. Several times the task was given up in despair, as often the men who were getting the granite had to stand in as much as twelve inches of water to get the stone out of the bogs.

A PARTY of four left Ballater at 8.30 p.m., on 6th June, driving as far as Corndavan Lodge, (11.10 p.m.). The night was dull and gloomy and Ben Avon was buried in mist almost to its base.

NIGHT ASCENT Leaving the trap, we walked along the road on the
OF north side of the Gairn to a point where it crosses
BEN AVON the water by a dilapidated bridge. Here we struck off
AND sharply to the right, crossing a deer fence and
BEINN A' BHUIRD. stumbling in the dusk over the rough peaty ground.

An Alpine lantern served to light our way and to accentuate the gloom around us. No sound could be heard except the occasional whirr of a startled grouse, and, once, the soft patter of a herd of deer which scudded away on our approach. Darkness increased as we mounted into the mist, but there was of course always a fair amount of dim twilight. We mounted steadily in a north-westerly direction, stumbling occasionally upon a path, and losing it as quickly again. A few patches of snow were met with low down, but soon we came upon wide stretches of recent snow which had fallen the night before.

At 1.50 a.m. we reached the first tor or natural cairn, then continuing our journey along rising ground, using the compass to keep in a north-westerly direction. We reached a second tor at 2.10. This tor is a double one, consisting of two separate and enormous rock masses. At 2.35 we reached a third cairn, and we now extinguished the lantern as the light was getting better, although we were still in dense mist. The rocks on this cairn were coated thickly with very large fog crystals. A fourth cairn was reached at 2.45, a fifth at 3 o'clock, a sixth at 3.7, a seventh at 3.20, an eight at 3.25, and a ninth which proved to be the main top, at 2.45. The mist was still very dense, and our caps, coats, and moustaches were covered with ice crystals. The ice coating of the rocks was particularly thick on the main top.

From the top a course was set to the "Sneck," which was reached at 4.45 and we at last emerged from the mist. Tea was made and proved very refreshing, after which a snow gully was ascended on Beinn a' Bhuid. At least two of the members finished the climb on snow, the

other two traversing to the right on some rocks half-way up the gully. The sun was now breaking through the mist, and we had a superb view. Beinn a' Bhuird was clear and all its corries were bathed in the sunlight. The cairn of Cnap-a'-Cheirlich was reached at 6.15, the North Top of Beinn a' Bhuird at 7 o'clock, and the South Top at 7.55. The descent was made by the snow corrie, and the Quoich was crossed at 9.40, Braemar being reached *via* the Sluggan at 11.45.—JOHN R. LEVACK.

THE "Times," in a review of "Rock Climbing in Skye" by Mr. Ashley P. Abraham, says—It is difficult to distinguish logically between a mountain

MOUNTAIN
VERSUS
HILL.

and a hill. Mere height above the sea-level is no test; height above the general level from which a system rises is a better one, and it is one by which the Cambrian and Cumbrian systems as well as the Coolins would not come off badly. There is something to be said for the doctrine that a true mountain should carry perpetual snow, or even glaciers; but it would only apply strictly to the temperate zone; in the tropics it would exclude mountain ranges of real geographical importance. Magnitude, however, should count for something in the list of attributes of a mountain system. Ranges like the Alps and the Pyrenees, the existence of which has helped, in virtue of their size, to shape the history of Europe, are more properly termed mountains than systems that are too low to have any permanent influence on history. From the standpoint of the pure mountaineer, we are inclined to frame a definition according to which a mountain must have rock (or snow) on its summit; any elevation whose top is grassy would then be classed as a hill; but even this definition would have to be read to some extent by the light of considerations as to shape and structure, and the extent to which it is equipped with ridges. That a mountain system should be complex, furnished with real ridges and respectable precipices, is essential.

THE Twentieth Annual Meeting of the Club was held on 22nd December, 1908, the Chairman, Mr. James A. Hadden, presiding. The office-bearers were re-elected and the following Committee was

OUR TWENTIETH
ANNUAL MEETING.

constituted for the current year:—John Clarke, James Conner, John R. Levack, John McGregor, R. W. Mackie, George McIntyre, W. M. McPherson, Alexander Simpson, William Porter, and George Wood. The Excursions for the current year were fixed as follows:—Spring Holiday, Cromdale Hills: Summer (26th June), Cairngorm: Saturday afternoons, Ben Rinnes (June), and Carmaferg (July). It was remitted to the Committee to report on a proposal for widening the scope and increasing the membership of the Club.

New members—Howard G. Drummond and W. L. Marr.