

SPRING EXCURSION.

THE Spring Excursion this year was held on May-day, when the Buck was climbed by the Club.

The following were present:—

Members:—Mrs. Croll, Messrs. C. T. Christie, S. Cooper, Dr. Croll, H. G. Drummond, R. J. A. Dunn, William Malcolm, G. McIntyre, W. M. McPherson, James Rennie, John Rust, Alex. Simpson, A. C. Simpson, John Wallace, and Alex. M. Watt.

Guests:—Miss J. Dunn, Mr. McIntyre, Jr., Miss Mackenzie, Mrs. Rust, Miss Rust, Dr. Souttar, and Miss Wallace.

Brilliant sunshine favoured us as we disembarked from the morning train at Gartly. There was a nip in the wind, however, which caused us to don coats and wraps as we entered the vehicles which were to drive us to the base of the hill. Rhyrie was soon left behind, and we skirted the Tap o' Noth with its vitrified fort. Then a stretch of open moor with an isolated moss-litter factory showed that clouds were banking up, and some fears were expressed that rain would catch us before we were clear of the high ground.

The Buck showed a brown expanse of wet-looking heather and grass, with a solitary patch of snow on its eastern slope. Gone was its white raiment of six weeks before, gone were the deep drifts blocking the Cabrach turnpike, gone was the snowy mantle draping the craggy summit of the Tap. It was a somewhat cramped and cold party which commenced the ascent of the northern face, but the angle was steep, and, when half the ascent was accomplished and drier ground reached, there was a general agreement that lunch time had arrived. The Cairn was reached at 1.15 p.m. and an extensive view was enjoyed, embracing:—Tap o' Noth, Cook's Cairn, Corryhabbie, Ben Avon, Bienn a' Bhuid, Morven, and Mount Keen. Lochnagar was shrouded in mist, as also was Bennachie to the east. The temperature, though bracing, did not encourage us to linger, and when the photo-

graphers had been satisfied, the descent to Lumsden began in a direction slightly north of east, to the moss road, which joins the driving road at Todstown to the south of Clayhooter Hill.

At Todstown some rejoined the vehicles, others walked through the Clova woods direct to Lumsden, all arriving safely just in time to avoid the first heavy rain. The good things provided by Mrs. Smith in the old-fashioned hall were done ample justice to, and the time soon passed when we had to mount the conveyances and drive back to Gartly.