

GEORGE BORROW, the author of "Lavengro" and "The Romany Rye," was a noted pedestrian, and several specimens of his walking powers are mentioned in an article on "George Borrow in GEORGE BORROW Scotland," by Mr. Clement Shorter, which appeared in the April number of the "Fortnightly Review." He wound up a tour in Scotland in the autumn of 1858 by saying—"I have now seen the whole of Scotland that is worth seeing, and have walked 600 miles." On his homeward journey, he was obliged to go from Aberdeen to Inverness for his luggage, but, "rather than return again to Aberdeen," he sent on his things to Dunkeld and walked the 100 miles thither through the Highlands. He had made the same walk (or a similar one) at an earlier stage in his tour, describing it thus in a letter to his wife, written from Fort Augustus—

"Before leaving the Highlands I thought I would see a little more about me. So last week I set out on a four days' task, a walk of 100 miles. I returned here late last Thursday night. I walked that day forty-five miles; during the first twenty rain poured in torrents and the wind blew in my face. The last seventeen miles were in the dark. The first day I passed over Corryarrick, a mountain 3,000 feet high. I was nearly up to my middle in snow. As soon as I had passed it I was in Badenoch. The road on the farther side was horrible and I was obliged to wade several rivulets, one of which was very boisterous and nearly threw me down. I wandered through a wonderful country and picked up a great many strange legends from the people I met, but they were very few, the country being almost a desert, chiefly inhabited by deer. When amidst the lower mountains I frequently heard them blaring in the woods above me."

REVIEWS.

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS: THEIR MEANING AND USE. By Marion I. Newbigin, D.Sc. (London: W. & A. K. Johnston, Limited—1/- net).—

To the average mountaineer, we suspect, just as to the average man, a map is mainly a route indicator, a guide to the roads to be taken to get to a contemplated destination or the direction to be followed when the roads fail. Even for this apparently simple purpose a map requires careful study—has, in fact, to be interpreted with some skill, as may be realised by a perusal of the article on "Map-Reading" in last July's number of the *C. C. J.* The purely utilitarian conception of maps as indicating routes, distances, nature of ground, etc., however, has been superseded by the "newer geography" of which Dr. Newbigin is so able an exponent—or let us preferably say that now-a-days more stress is laid on the fact that maps serve other and higher purposes than to act merely as guides to travellers. As our author puts it, they "give a careful and detailed picture of country, with the facts of human occupation in their natural relations to the physical features." As a consequence, they have to be studied in an entirely new fashion, and instruction in maps and the mode of understanding them proceeds on quite different lines from those that formerly prevailed. How different is this other aspect of map-reading will be most readily realised by contrasting the chapter on "Methods of Studying the Maps" in this little book with our "Map-

Reading" article. The pupil—for the work seems designed principally for schools—has to determine the physical features of the region delineated in the map, classify them, and state the causes by which they have been produced, and then proceed to outline the "human geography" disclosed—to specify the probable nature of the land surface, the means of communication, the reason for the presence or absence of habitations, and so on. To make all these deductions from the examination of a map may appear, at first sight, a formidable task, for which only an expert of the highest capacity is fitted. The method, however, may be acquired by due and diligent study; and its acquisition and pursuit will necessarily invest the map with a new significance and add immensely to the interest with which any perambulation of the region delineated is conducted. The book thus becomes much more than a manual for students. It appeals to all mountaineers imbued with the scientific spirit or taking an intelligent concern in the evolution of the world. Even those accustomed to regard maps as simply route guides cannot fail, by studying the newer interpretation and noting the wider field of observation opened up, to have their knowledge enlarged and possibly their walking zest stimulated.

Dr. Newbiggin's "booklet"—her own term—consists of two parts. The first deals with the difficulties of map-reading, the use of Ordnance Survey maps, and the methods of studying them. In the second part, the general principles laid down are worked out in detail by descriptions of several maps on the one-inch scale, selected as representative of the principal features of landscape in this country. Scotland is remarkably well treated by the selection of the Balmoral, Oban, and Ullapool sheets, which represent respectively the Eastern Grampians, the Western Grampians and the Sea Lochs, and the North-West Highlands, and illustrate most of the phenomena found in the Highlands generally. In addition, the Midland Valley of Scotland (Haddingtonshire, with parts of Berwick and Edinburgh) is also described, in order to illustrate the general character of the east coast. The treatment of the Balmoral sheet (No. 65) is typical of the system pursued. The geological structure is first dealt with; then the general topography, the effects of ice and post-glacial modifications; and, finally, we have a section on "human geography"—necessarily brief, as the only features under this head are the extreme scantiness of the population (virtually limited to the Dee valley), the paucity of habitations, and the high mean elevation, suggesting that cultivation, if carried on at all, can only be on a very small scale. "Human geography" is a somewhat novel phase of scientific investigation, and is occasionally worked out here with very illuminative results. Take, for instance, the deduction for the Midland Valley—"Note the small size of the parishes, the abundant roads, the many farmsteads, all points suggestive of agricultural wealth. The numerous small ports suggest also the presence of a rich fishing industry, while we have already noted the collieries to the east." Map-reading, as thus conducted, becomes exceedingly fascinating; and we can heartily commend this instructive manual on the method of prosecuting it.

R. A.

In an article titled "Memories of the Hills," which appeared in the *Glasgow Herald* of 25th January, an anonymous writer furnished several mental pictures of a somewhat impressionistic character.

LOCH Here is a striking sample :—

ETCHACHAN "Up by Loch Etchachan, in the Cairngorms, one wet
IN GLOOM gloomy evening, I came on more hill magic. Loch
Etchachan lies on the lip of a brae in a shallow place—a

kind of common ground where the flanks of Ben Muich Dhui, Ben Mheadhoin, and Cairngorm of Derry meet all together. Around is a desolation of granite and pools of peaty water. And those cliffs that hang on the western end of the loch! Black, jagged, broken, deeply rent; and by a touch of awful artistry, in the crannies of them, white patches of snow. They are like cliffs from Dante's Hell. Here I stood for long in the rain, the heavy gray clouds looming down on all things, the black waters at my feet, and that precipice of death glaring at me. Here was the antithesis of life and man, and on this my first coming I felt like an intruder, one in the land of an enemy. Here might some bedevilled soul have consummated his tragedy, mad Lear have wandered in the thunder, some Faust paid his last debt to the Fiend. Or an evil spirit of the hills might have dwelled among those rocks, or a water bull have dragged his victims to death in the bottom of the loch, and the horror of the place been told beside the bothy fires."

Persons less imaginatively endowed may nevertheless concur in the writer's suggestion that Inverey is the place in which to found an artists' colony—"a Scottish Barbizon, where those who had the gift might live and paint and write."

MR. EDMUND GOSSE in his "Portraits and Sketches," makes the following allusion to Dr. Mandell Creighton, the late Bishop of London, who was a vigorous walker :—"He was a really pitiless pedestrian,

A PITILESS quite without mercy. I remember one breathless afternoon,
PEDESTRIAN after hours spent upon the march, throwing myself upon
the heather on the Alnwick Moor, and gasping for a

respite. Silhouetted high up against the sky, Creighton shouted 'Come on! Come on!' And it was then that anguish wrung from me a gibe which was always thereafter a joke between us. 'You ought to be a caryatid,' I cried, 'and support some public building! It's the only thing you're fit for!'"

The Times Literary Supplement (March 13), in a review of "In Praise of Switzerland: Being the Alps in Prose and Verse," by Harold Spender, had the following :—"A great deal has been omitted

EARLY WRITERS —chiefly from the earlier foreign literature on the
ON THE subject. We search the index in vain, for instance,
MOUNTAINS for the name of Conrad Gesner—he who climbed
Pilatus in the sixteenth century for the purpose of

ascertaining whether it was really true that the spirit of Pilate haunted the little lake near the summit and would take vengeance, if stones were thrown into that lake, by stirring up tremendous tempests. Conrad Gesner, though he never got so far as the glaciers, anticipated the modern spirit in the exuberance of his enthusiasm, and is a most quotable writer. Another name which we

looked up without success in the index is that of Schurhzer—the philosopher who devoted ten of the most active years of his life to the solution of the vexed question, are there dragons in the Alps? His works are in Latin; but that would have been no obstacle to Mr. Spender, who might have extracted a most picturesque contribution from him. Among early English travellers, John Evelyn has been—but should not have been—overlooked. The account in his Diary of the passage of the Simplon is far more graphic than anything in Horace Walpole, whom Mr. Spender does cite. We should have been glad, too, to encounter Dr. John Moore, the father of the hero of Corunna, whose pupil, the Duke of Hamilton, made a queer attempt, queerly described, to climb one of the Mont Blanc Aiguilles at a time when Mont Blanc itself was still a virgin summit; and Jean-Andre de Luc, subsequently Reader to Queen Charlotte, who got to the top of Buet in 1770, when Alpine peasants were still of an Arcadian simplicity, and blushed at the thought of accepting five-franc pieces in return for services rendered. . . . Still less can we think that Mr. Spender did well to pass over Bourrit, whose name, indeed, may not be very well remembered nowadays, but who was known to his contemporaries as the Historiographer of the Alps. He was the first of those who made a point of climbing snow mountains as a regular summer pastime; and he was also the first of those who have remarked the calming influence of mountain scenery upon human passions and ambitions. He observed that men who in Geneva were ready to fly at each other's throats on account of political differences lost sight of those differences at Montanvert and on the Mer de Glace, and conversed with serene affability on matters of higher than political import. It was on those heights, he wrote, that the rulers of the world should hold their councils; so doing, they would be able to evolve new codes of laws for the reconciliation of mankind. The Chamonix guides appeared to him, for that reason, in the light of priests of humanity; and he gathered them about him on the hillside and harangued them in the tones in which a bishop harangues the candidates for ordination.”

IT is a pleasing reflection—which we may be pardoned for making, and making with some pride—that of the 830 individual lots of an extensive and valuable library, dispersed by public auction a few months ago, the six volumes of the *Cairngorm Club Journal*, handsomely bound, with the accompanying maps in a case, fetched the highest price obtained for any single lot—namely £2 10/. There was a good “run,” too, on bundles of the early numbers, the first eighteen numbers (one wanting) fetching 10/6. This demand for the *Journal* denotes an increasing interest in mountaineering.

CARN A' CHUILINN (2677 feet) is a noted height in the parish of Boleskine and Abertarff, overlooking the great Glen of Scotland. It may be said to stand on the water-parting between the head streams

CARN A' CHUILINN of the Doe and the Tarff, where the Glen of the latter is bounded on the north by the better known Corrieyairack (2922 feet). We made an ascent in early February when the upper slopes were snow-covered and the burns in flood; indeed, but for our

horses we should have been in frequent difficulties in fording torrential streams. At the start we had magnificent views of Loch Ness and of many of the mountains on the far side of the Great Glen, but soon after we had reached a height of 1000 feet we were enveloped in mist. Higher up deep and soft snow was encountered, which much tried both men and horses. Carn a' Chuilinn abounds with great craggy knolls and tarns, but the latter were not to be readily recognised; where even dimly seen, they were under ice and snow. We descended into Glen Tarff towards the eastern end of a chain of lochs, not without difficulty, leading the horses the while. The silence was profound, broken only here and there by linns dashing down narrow rocky gorges, some of them issuing from one snow tunnel only to disappear into another.

One of the most pleasant features of the day was a hot lunch at Srou-Gharbh Bothy (1550 feet), which then seemed even more desolate than the Glendel Hut. There were eagles' eyries to right and left of us, but not a bird was seen, not even ptarmigan. The bridle-path in Glen Tarff was in very bad condition, but the ride down the glen was positively refreshing after the toil we had experienced in entering it. Of mammals we saw white hares, deer, and foxes; and as we had expected such encounters we took a slight toll off each. Mr. Angus Chisholm, the distinguished regimental Sergeant-Major of the Lovat Scouts, was the leader of the party, so we were particularly fortunate. Such was the condition of the hills that the usual upward route could not be followed, and at various points particular care had to be taken. The round of twenty miles took us over nine hours.
A. I. M.

SUBSTANTIAL progress is now being made with the publication of the colour-printed sheets of the Geological Survey Map of Scotland, and we welcome the issue of the two mentioned in the rubric

GEOLOGICAL which include the district from Ballater to Newtonmore,
SURVEY OF and from Braeriach and Beinn a' Bhuid to Beinn a' Ghlo
SCOTLAND. and Glen Clova The colouring is excellent, and is quite
ONE-INCH MAP, as good as, if not better than, that of the older and very
SHEETS NOS. 64 expensive series of hand-coloured maps. The price of
AND 65. the colour-printed sheets (2/6 in sheet form and 3/6 cut
and folded) is very reasonable, and is only 1/- more than

the price of the ordinary surface maps of the Ordnance Survey. They should be in the hands of all members of the Club who take an interest in the structure of the Cairngorms as well as in their topographical features.

THE GEOLOGY OF UPPER STRATHSPEY, GAICK, AND THE FOREST OF
ATHOLL. By George Barrow and Others. Price 2/.—This is the Memoir

of the Geological Survey of Scotland, in explanation of
THE GEOLOGY Sheet No. 64. The bulk of the Memoir is of course
OF UPPER taken up with highly technical descriptions of the
STRATHSPEY, geological formation of the district, and appeals only to
&c. experts. The introductory chapters dealing with the
physical features of the district are, however, of great

interest to the general reader. The description of the capture of the headwaters of the Dee by the Feshie and the Tilt is especially interesting,

and evidence is given that the watershed of the River Dee once extended as far as Beinn a'Ghlo. The Memoir is illustrated with excellent photographs of Glen Tilt, Glen Feshie, Loch Coire and Lochain, and Loch Gynack.

THE GEOLOGY OF THE DISTRICTS OF BRAEMAR, BALLATER, AND GLEN CLOVA. By George Barrow and Others. Price 2/6.—This is the Memoir of the Geological Survey of Scotland in explanation of THE GEOLOGY Sheet No. 65. It is exceedingly technical throughout, OF THE and contains little to interest the general reader. It is DISTRICTS OF stated that Lochnagar and Mount Keen must have BRAEMAR, &c. possessed approximately their present form in Old Red Sandstone times. The Memoir contains a photograph of Loch Callater, and six excellent photographs of rock surfaces.