COLONEL BOGEY.

By James A. Parker.

A RECENT writer in the pages of this *Journal* (C.C.J., vii., 317) protested against the introduction of Colonel Bogey into the Cairngorm Club. Possibly he was right in a sense; but I think that he overlooked the fact that "Bogey" is not the record score for a golf course but is simply the par value of the green and is useful as giving an indication of the number of strokes that a good player should take to go round in. Beating Bogey and breaking the record are two very different things.

I plead that every mountain expedition should have, and, as a matter of fact actually has, a bogey time which it is important that every climber or hill walker should know beforehand, so that he can foretell with a fair degree of accuracy when he will arrive at his destination. Dr. McIntyre must know well from his own experience that the burning questions on the evening before any big expedition are "How long do you think it will take us?" and "At what hour should we start?"

Mr. W. W. Naismith was probably the first to state a rule by which one could determine beforehand how long a mountain expedition should take. His rule was given in the *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal*, Vol. II., p. 136; and as it is not so well known as it should be, I make no excuse for repeating it here, to which the Editor of that Journal has kindly consented. The rule is as follows :—

The time taken by men in fair condition for easy expeditions should be an hour for every three miles on the map with an additional hour for every two thousand feet of ascent.

The time calculated by the rule includes for necessary halts but assumes that the weather is not such as to delay the climbers. It does not allow for photography,

which is an extra; and it would not apply of course to long expeditions in which the endurance of the climbers was very severely tried. Personally, before starting out for any important trip I usually calculate the probable time by Mr. Naismith's rule and am seldom very far out. One or two recent instances taken at random, showing the application of the rule in actual practice may be of interest.

The case cited by Mr. Naismith himself was a climb over Cruach Ardran, Stobinian, and Ben More which took his party six and a half hours. The distance was ten miles and the total height ascended 6300 feet, so that the calculated time was three hours twenty minutes plus three hours ten minutes—total six hours thirty minutes which corresponds exactly with the time that his party took.

In 1913 Mr. George Duncan and I walked from the White Bridge, at the junction of the Geldie with the Dee, to Dalnavert on Speyside, the route being over the tops of Carn Cloich Mhuillin, Beinn Bhrotain, Monadh Mor, Meall Tional, and all intermediate tops to the 3635 feet top of Sgoran Dubh. The distance scaled off the map is twenty-three miles and the total height ascended about 5500 feet. According to the rule the time taken should have been seven hours forty minutes plus two hours forty-five minutes, total ten hours twenty-five minutes. We actually took ten hours forty-five minutes, a sufficiently close agreement as we were not "pressing."

In August, 1912, Mr. John Clarke walked from Loch Morlich to Loch Morlich over the tops of Braeriach, Cairn Toul, Ben Muich Dhui, and Cairngorm.[1] The distance scaled off the map is twenty-two miles and the total height ascended 7000 feet. According to the rule the expedition should have taken seven hours twenty minutes plus three hours thirty minutes, total ten hours fifty minutes. The actual time taken was

[1] Footnote, C.C.J., vii., 201.

ten hours forty-five minutes, or five minutes under Bogey.

. In July, 1913, Mr. Clarke did the trip again, but this time he went from Loch Morlich to the lower Bothy in Glen Eunach taking the peaks in the reverse order. The distance scaled off the map is seventeen miles, with 7000 feet of ascent as before. The calculated time is therefore five hours forty minutes plus three hours thirty minutes; total, nine hours ten minutes. The actual time taken was nine hours fifteen minutes. So that Bogey won on this occasion by five minutes and " squared."

A few years ago I walked from Nethy Bridge to the top of Cairngorm *via* the Fiacaill Ridge and back, a total distance of twenty-eight miles with 4250 feet of ascent. The calculated time is nine hours twenty minutes plus two hours ten minutes—total, eleven hours thirty minutes. I took twelve hours.

As above stated the rule cannot be held to apply to excessively long expeditions, such as the six Cairngorms in one day; but it is interesting to apply it to that historic walk.[2] The party walked from Loch Builg to the Lower Bothy in Glen Eunach over Ben Avon, Beinn a'Bhuird, Cairngorm, Ben Muich Dhui, Cairn Toul, and Braeriach. The total distance scaled off the map is twenty-eight miles with about 9000 feet of ascent, so that the time given by the rule is nine hours twenty minutes plus four hours thirty minutes—total, thirteen hours fifty minutes. The time actually taken by the party was nineteen hours; but it must be borne in mind that, in addition to the expedition being a very long one, the party started from Loch Builg at midnight after having put in a forenoon's work in Aberdeen and without having had any sleep. They kept very good time as far as the top of Cairngorm, but lost time after that, due, I understand, to one or two very long rests.

[1] C.C.J., vii., 316.
[2] C.C.J., vi.

The expedition now to be done is of course the *seven* Cairngorms in one day, beginning from Loch Builg as before and finishing up with Sgoran Dubh and descending to the Lower Bothy in Glen Eunach. The total distance scales thirty-two miles with about 9500 feet of ascent, Braeriach being taken before Cairn Toul. The calculated time is therefore ten hours forty minutes plus four hours forty-five minutes—total, fifteen hours twenty-five minutes. *Who will do it ?*