

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

THE EASTER MEET.

THE Club made its headquarters for the Easter Week-end in the Invercauld Arms, Braemar.

There were present during the week-end:—Miss Angus, Miss Wilson, and three guests from Dundee, Dr. Crombie, Dr. McIntrye, Messrs. H. Alexander, Jr., E. W. H. Brander, H. C. Drummond, R. Forgan, G. C. Geddes, A. Jamieson, J. McCoss, W. B. Meff, A. P. Milne, J. A. Nicol, J. A. Parker, A. Simpson, A. C. Simpson, A. L. Thomson, R. M. Williamson, Mrs. Williamson, the two Masters Williamson, and J. B. Gillies, Secretary.

Most of the party arrived on Friday, one contingent by Loch Muick, the Dhu Loch and Loch Callater experienced the full force of a strong westerly gale which made progress on the plateau between Loch Muick and Loch Callater somewhat arduous. Another contingent, consisting of Dr. McIntyre, Messrs. McCoss, Meff and Milne, which took the Black Spout *en route* found progress even more difficult. The conditions were of the worst and their ascent was one of the best pieces of work during the week-end. The actual ascent of the Spout took three hours. Certain scoffers at these ultramontane members worked this out—in the comfort of the smoking room after dinner—at one inch a second and remarked that even an earwig could have done it at that speed. The four, however, conscious of a successful achievement, treated these calculations with the contempt they deserved.

The second day broke none too favourably, a strong wind bringing heavy rain-showers at frequent intervals. Nothing daunted, however, five club members, Messrs. Brander, Gillies, Nicol, Dr. McIntyre, and Mr. Milne, essayed the ascent of Ben a' Bhuid, *via* Glen Slugan and the stalkers' path from the Quoich. Their

optimism was justified, for the day developed into a most magnificent one, and the party were rewarded with a very pleasant climb and a grand view. Ben a' Bhuid then carried enormous snowfields on its broad back and shoulders, and the climbers traversed along the top of the great corries that divide the mountain from its near neighbour, Ben Avon. The return was again made by Glen Slugan, the outing being voted among the most successful of the series. The Black Spout on Lochnagar claimed the attentions of Messrs. Alexander, Crombie, and Drummond on Saturday, and they found the conditions an improvement on those experienced by their fellow-clubmen the previous day. The wind was not so strong, and there was an entire absence of snow, rain, and sleet. After a very interesting climb in the gully they emerged on the summit plateau to find delightful weather prevailing. A most extensive view in all directions was enjoyed, and they then made their way down the Ballochbuie and reached Braemar after an exceedingly pleasant outing.

Sunday was to have seen a large number of climbers on the hills, but as the morning broke with dull, threatening skies, several projected expeditions were abandoned. At Derry Lodge, however, eight climbers appeared, four of them partly ascending Ben Muich Dhui by Glen Luibeg, and returning in the early afternoon, the weather having broken down badly on the hill.

On this day, "The Castle Gates Gully" was ascended by W. B. Meff, J. McCoss, members; R. Clarke and W. Shepherd, guests. The gully is situated between Carn Etchachan and the Shelter Stone Crag, amid magnificent rock scenery, and is about 600 feet in height above the screes. The climb took two hours, and was rendered somewhat risky on account of the danger of avalanches, the party actually being struck by one. Huge cornices protruded from the great ledges on the left rocky wall of the gully. The snow was soft and steps were kicked, a short stretch near the summit only requiring the axe. A small patch of shallow snow had

to be avoided, and a peculiar twin buttressed cornice formed by the wind was negotiated at the summit. The gully will make a very interesting climb, given thoroughly wintry conditions, and ought to receive further attention from club-members.

A terrific wind was encountered on the plateau, and rain thoroughly drenched the party.

The Meet was most successful, though the weather, owing to the extraordinary violence of the gale on the Friday and Sunday, was not as favourable as it might have been.

LOCHNAGAR—SPRING HOLIDAY.

A party of twenty-four made a successful ascent of Lochnagar on the Spring Holiday under the leadership of Mr. J. McGregor. Mr. J. A. Hadden presided over a meeting on the summit, when four new members were duly initiated. The official programme was to descend to the Danzig Shiel but was not carried out, the party going back to Loch Muick and returning to Ballater, where they dined in the Invercauld Arms before leaving for Aberdeen.