

EXCURSIONS AND NOTES.

ONE fine May day found us in Glen Aray, at a height of about 2000 feet, gazing on a lovely scene, which extended to the south-western end of Loch Awe and the Paps of Jura. Gulls wheeled and circled

A MAY DAY round us, the welcome call of a cuckoo was heard, and the
IN melancholy cry of the curlew was wafted on the wind.
MID ARGYLE. The cry which most appealed to us, however, was the harsh croak of the raven, repeated again and again. So

we diverged and climbed higher, and soon the glasses revealed a pair of ravens evidently interested in the precipitous craggy top above us. It was somewhat of a contest between man and bird ere the nest of the raven was revealed; even though the parents showed a certain anxiety on our approach, we could not have located their nursery without the aid of the telescopes. The cliffs, so insignificant seen from below, assumed considerable proportions, both for height and width, when at last we found ourselves at the foot of the precipices. The nest, cunningly perched, was a substantial structure of twigs and heather, with a little bracken, and lined with wool. The old birds protested very loudly at our visit, and as we had no desire to delay the nestlings' meal hour we soon betook ourselves in another direction.

Two great mountains, each over 3000 feet, Ben Cruachan and Ben Laoigh, were picturesquely streaked with snow in their upper gullies, but they stood forth in the distance rather as solid masses of blue with a certain sphinx-like appearance. Hundreds of stags were seen in the course of the day, either in small parcels or in herds so spread out that there was no crowding. Many rested in the sheltered corries facing the sun; others slowly ate their way up to the sky line, and so to the highest tops. Much old fur had still to be cast, and colour varied from dark to light, but scarcely an ill-conditioned beast was to be seen—the “piners” had passed away. Grouse, like the deer, had evidently wintered well; the cocks were in grand plumage and colour. A good many black game were seen in the course of the day; in the lower glens where trees abounded, jackdaws were rather numerous.

The bright green foliage of the trees in the glens pleasantly relieved the prevailing neutral tints of the hill slopes; it only wanted the flowering of the rowan to complete the grace of the tree-clad gills which here and there, especially in Glen Shira, diversified the steep mountain sides. Curiously enough, the only bird of note which failed to indicate its presence to us was the mountain eagle—and eagles are by no means scarce in Argyleshire.—M.

THE proper Gaelic spelling of the Ben Urns, the mountains at the head of Glen Ey, has always been matter of dispute, and objection has been frequently taken to the form adopted by the Ordnance Survey,

THE Beinn Iutharn Mhor and Beinn Iutharn Bheag, and also
 BEN URNS. to the interpretation given—the big and the little mountains of hell (see “The Mountains of Hell” in *C.C.J.*, vii., 250-1). The subject is referred to in a recent publication by Mr. A. M. Mackintosh—“Farquharson Genealogies. No. II. Inverey Branch” (Nairn, 1914)—which, by the way, contains much interesting and exceedingly accurate information respecting the Farquharsons of Inverey, and their possession of Balmoral from 1632 down till 1798, when the trustees of the last Farquharson of Inverey sold Balmoral to the second Earl of Fife. Mr. Mackintosh had occasion to quote the well-known ballad of “The Baron of Brackley,” incidentally furnishing one of the most complete narratives of the affair to which it relates with which we are acquainted. A couplet in the ballad runs—

O rise up, ye baron, and turn back your kye,
 For the lads o' Drumwharran are driving them by.

Commenting on this, Mr. Mackintosh says—“The lads o' Drumwharran' in stanza 4 may perhaps be understood as applying specially to the Inverey Farquharsons. The name Drumwharran does not appear to be known at the present time, but in all probability it was used a few centuries ago for the hills Ben Uarn (or Uaran) Mhor and Ben Uarn Bheag, at the head of Glen Ey, which closed in the Inverey domain towards the south. Unfortunately in recent times the ‘Uarn’ has been changed under the auspices of the Ordnance Survey into ‘iutharn,’ i.e., hell; but the origin of the name is more likely to be associated with water in some form—as springs, or cascades—than with the place of ‘adamantine chains and penal fire.’” Members of the Club who have visited the Ben Urns will welcome this more agreeable—and to all appearance much more reasonable—philological deduction.

BEING in the Aviemore region last summer, I paid a visit to the Lynwilg Hotel, just “for auld lang syne.” Thirty years ago, this humble and unpretentious hostelry was the only place of public accommodation in the district, the gigantic hotel at Aviemore

“THE LYNWILG.” not being in existence then, nor any other indeed; and “The Lynwilg” as it then was is endeared to me, as doubtless it is to other elderly mountaineers, by many pleasant memories. From it as a base I first explored the Larig Pass and much of the exceedingly attractive neighbourhood, and in it I formed many friendships, some of them, of course, merely temporary and evanescent, but one or two of them, I am glad to say, permanent and firm. I was astonished, however, to find that the little, old fashioned country “inn” of my early days has undergone a radical transformation, and has assumed the proportions and character of an up-to-date hotel. The door, which fronted the “turnpike,” has been blocked up, and the entrance is now on the west side, opening from a verandah looking towards Alvie Church and the west end of the Loch. The old bar has been converted into a spacious dining-room, with separate tables; and a large addition at the back provides many more bedrooms,

than could formerly be reckoned upon. Perhaps the most striking modern feature introduced is a small but ample enough "lounge" in addition to a drawing-room. I hardly knew the house, and utterly failed to locate an upper "sitting-room," which a walking companion and I once occupied—on condition that other visitors might be allowed to share it! This transformation of "The Lynwilg" struck me as a good illustration of what may be accomplished in the way of improving roadside inns and rendering them more attractive, not merely to "motor car folk," but to mountaineers and pedestrians and to the increasing number of people who prefer to spend a holiday in a quiet and restful spot, "far from the madding crowd." In this particular instance, so far as my experience went, the additional comfort is not secured at the cost of a seriously heightened tariff. I and some friends who spent a day with me at Lynwilg had, at any rate, no fault to find with the moderate bill presented for luncheon and tea. — R. A.

A SCOTTISH scientific exploring party, it has just transpired, has endowed with familiar Scottish names a number of prominent physical features of a hitherto almost unknown island, Prince Charles Foreland, the most westerly of the Spitsbergen group. The island, "NORTHERN GRAMPAINS." which is about 55 miles in length, was surveyed in 1906, 1907, and 1909, by a party of scientists headed by Dr. W. S. Bruce; and their Scottish predilections are very pronouncedly manifested in a detailed map of the island which has now been published. The "Northern Grampians" form the backbone of the northern section of the island, one of the peaks, 2,800 feet high, being named "Mount Rudmose," after Dr. R. N. Rudmose Brown, an Aberdeen graduate who was of the party. The "Thomson Hills" at the south end of the Grampians were so named in honour of the Professor of Natural History. "Mount Scotia" and "Scotia Glen" commemorate the exploring work of Dr. Bruce in the Antarctic, the "Scotia" having been the name of the vessel in which the exploring party sailed. "The Sidlaws" mark a series of bluffs at the northern extremity of the island; and the "Aberdeen Machar" is the name given to a broad, barren flat stretching from the foot-hills of the Sidlaws—a name which looks somewhat odd, only "Machar" is Gaelic for a haugh. A series of fiords on the southern coast has been named "Ritchie Lochs," after Mr. James Ritchie, D.Sc., another graduate of Aberdeen, who has done much work in connection with the Scottish Oceanographical Laboratory.

SOMETHING of a feat was accomplished by a motor cyclist one day in July last. While the Scottish Horse were in camp at Blair Atholl, a party of motor cyclists was despatched, ostensibly to get a message through to Braemar by way of Glen Tilt, on the theory that, a state of war existing, all the telegraph and telephone lines were cut and the roads guarded by the enemy except the pass through Glen Tilt, which in parts, as many mountaineers know, is a very rough track. Only one member of the party managed to make the whole journey, reaching Braemar about midnight thoroughly drenched, he having had to drag himself and his

machine through numerous streams. He is to be commended for his pluck and endurance. The return journey was made by the Cairnwell road, Glenshee and Pitlochry.

It is exceedingly gratifying to note that the Club is well represented in the reserves called out for duty in consequence of regular THE CLUB AND troops being drafted to the front in the great European MILITARY SERVICE war that is now raging. No fewer than twenty members are engaged in military service in one form or another. They are:—

Major G. A. Smith,	4th Gordon Highlanders.
„ E. W. Watt,	„ „ „
Captain J. B. Gillies,	„ „ „
„ Charles Reid,	„ „ „
„ A. M. Wilson,	„ „ „
Lieut. A. M. Johnston,	„ „ „
2nd Lieut. W. L. Cook,	„ „ „
„ Robt. Lyon,	5th „ „
Major John McGregor,	6th „ „
Captain J. Dickson	„ „ „
„ J. H. Edwards,	1st H.B., R. F. Artillery.
Lieut. J. C. Duffus,	„ „ „
2nd Lieut. Cecil Mackie,	„ „ „
Capt. J. D. MacDiarmid,	Army Service Corps.
Lieut. J. V. Lorimer,	„ „
Captain H. J. Butchart,	2nd Scottish Horse.
Capt. D. V. Pirie, M.P.,	Rly. Transport Officer.
Major A. R. Galloway,	1st Scot. Gen. Hospital.
Captain W. F. Croll,	„ „ „
„ J. R. Levack,	„ „ „

THE twenty-sixth annual meeting of the Club was held in the office of the secretary and treasurer, 14 Golden Square, Aberdeen, on the 21st December, 1914—Mr. T. R. Gillies, the chairman of the

ANNUAL MEETING. Mr. T. R. Gillies, the chairman of the

Club, presiding. Mr. T. R. Gillies was re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year; and the other office-bearers and Committee (named on p. 31) were also re-elected. The Treasurer's accounts for the year 1914, showing a credit balance of £35 19s. 3d., were submitted and approved.

On the motion of Mr. John Clarke, seconded by Mr. J. A. Parker, it was agreed to leave in the hands of the Committee the determination of whether, in view of the national crisis, a programme of excursions should be arranged for the ensuing year, and also the selection of the excursions, should altered circumstances warrant a programme being carried out.

The remit to the Committee to consider the suggestion of having a lantern lecture was continued.

Mr. Walter A. Reid called attention to the proposal to erect a memorial to the late Mr. Alexander Copland, the memorial to take the form of a bronze circular replica of Mr. Copland's Panorama of the View from Ben Muich Dhui, to be placed on the summit of the mountain (see p. 73); and moved that steps be taken to carry the proposal into effect. General approval of the proposal was expressed, but opinions varied as to the probable cost of such a memorial as was projected. Eventually, on the motion of Mr. John Clarke, the whole matter was referred to a Committee consisting of the Chairman, the Secretary and Treasurer, and Messrs R. Anderson, W. A. Reid, and J. A. Parker.

THE membership of the Club, it was reported at the annual meeting, now stands at 157. The following were admitted members during the year:—

NEW MEMBERS. Mr. E. W. H. Brander, 14 Hamilton Place; Mr. Alexander Craig 210 Mid Stocket Road; Mr. R. G. Gellie, 34 John Street; Mr Patrick McGee, 12 Osborne Place; Mr. W. B. Meff, Fordbank, Riverside Road; Mr. John D. Munro, 56 Polmuir Road; Mr. John Murray, Glenburnie Park; Mr. James Pyper, 129 Union Street; Mr. William Skinner, 9 Springbank Terrace; Mr. Alexander Smith, 27 Calsayseat Road.

The following member has resigned:—Mr. Robert T. Sellar, Battlehill, Huntly.

WE regret having to chronicle the death of one of our very few poetical contributors, Mr. James Reid, M.A., formerly of Backhill, Castle Fraser.

He died at The Cottage, Kemnay, on 29th August, aged 85. Mr. Reid was for many years schoolmaster at Leochel-Cushnie. To our July issue for five successive years (1906-10) he furnished a piece of verse, generally of a descriptive character, his most successful effort being "A Holiday on the Hills" (*C.C.J.*, vi., 140).

We may also record the death of a former member—Mr. George Christie, late flesher, Windmill Brae, Aberdeen—a familiar figure at the early excursions of the Club. He died on 19th September, aged 73.—Rev. Arthur Cadenhead, minister of St. Andrew's Parish Church, Alloa—who had been a member since 1897—died on 28th July, from the effects of a cycle accident, aged 44. He was a son of the late Colonel James Cadenhead, Maryville, Aberdeen.