

## EXCURSIONS AND NOTES.

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A CORRESPONDENT of the *Free Press* who climbed Ben Muich Dhui and Cairngorm on Monday, 4th October, reported that all the ground over 2500 feet was covered with snow, varying from half a foot to three feet, not to speak of wreaths. This was the result of a recent storm, and no one in the district remembers so much snow on the hills so early in the season. With brilliant sunshine, such as was prevalent, the effect was Alpine and very fine.

A PARTY of five (three ladies and two gentlemen) walked from Nethy Bridge to the Green Loch on one of the rather rare dry and bright days in July last. The outward route was by the Dell road to Forest Lodge, and then by Rynettin and the Pass of Rebhoan—a distance, we were assured, of 8 miles (5 miles to Rynettin and 3 to the Green Loch), though we were inclined to think the latter distance under-estimated. (There is a good illustration of the Pass of Rebhoan in *C.C.J.*, VI., 145). The Green Loch (An Lochan Uaine) is a beautiful little loch at the entrance to Glen More. It is situated at the foot of a crag of considerable height with extensive scree-slopes and a scanty lining of firs, whose gnarled trunks and twisted shapes indicate the severity of the storms that sweep through this narrow pass. A fringe of similar weather-beaten and scattered firs encircles the loch, the shores of which consist of stones, save for a tiny spit of sand at each end. There is an engaging view down into Glenmore Forest with its mountain backing, but the attraction of the spot is the loch itself, the delicate green colour of the water constituting a special charm. Whence the peculiar colour of the water is a subject of speculation on the part of most beholders, but possibly the real reason is the simple one that, while water is colourless in small quantities, it is blue-green when viewed in mass (See "An Lochan Uaine" in *C.C.J.*, I., 294). On the return journey, a hill track round the shoulder of Cairn Rynettin was taken, leading ultimately to the eastmost of the Tulloch roads—a route which shortened the distance somewhat.—R A.

THE Black Mount Forest in Argyleshire, belonging to the Marquis of Breadalbane, has a reputation for its white deer, it seems. This white strain has been reported as apparent time after time, though at long intervals; and for the past few seasons a white stag has been observed repeatedly in the uppermost corries of the beat which is worked from Alltchaorunn Lodge in Glen Etive. Invited to visit the forest with the view to an "introduction" to the animal, Mr. A. I. McConnochie recounted his experiences in an article in the *Glasgow Herald*

(August 28). He and a stalker set out from the lodge on a day of intense heat in mid-July, and laboriously climbed up Aonach Mor, ultimately reaching a point where they looked into Coireach Ba, the sanctuary of the forest. "Truly a wonderful scene, a stupendous corrie girt by two mountains, steep, rugged, and high, on the north Clach Leathad (3602 feet), on the south Stob Ghabhar (3565 feet), the goats' peak; at its mouth a wide-spreading, far-reaching chain of moor lochs which develops into Loch Laidon. This corrie was swarming with hinds and their fawns, some of the latter breaking a silence which could be felt with cries for their dams. A few stags were also seen, one of them a Royal." No white beast being observed far or near, Mr. McConnochie and his companion broke new ground and looked into the corrie on the north side of Aonach Mor. "And lo! there was our white hart. Feeding in close company with a ten-pointer, whose coat was brilliantly red, he at once attracted attention by his abnormal markings. Head and neck were practically pure white, the fore legs and part of the shoulders were also of the same colour, while here and there the normal red was spotted in a somewhat grotesque fashion. The white stag is understood to be about seven years old, but the head is not promising; there are only eight points, and the brows are rather disappointing."

THE following interesting communication appeared in "Country Life," 26th December, 1914:—"I enclose photograph of Loch Ericht, taken from the Dalwhinnie end. While photographing last

TIDES           September, a somewhat curious phenomenon occurred,  
ON               the cause of which I shall be interested to learn. It was  
LOCH ERICHT. a fine sunny morning, with a slight breeze from the north,  
                  and the loch was therefore almost still near the shore. I  
noticed the water begin to rise and gradually cover the shingle to a width of  
about six inches, and then slowly subside again. After an interval of about  
ten minutes, a similar rise and fall occurred. Could this be caused by  
intermittent springs or some volcanic movement?—H. W. BURNUP."

The Editor of "Country Life" sent the query to Dr. James Ritchie, D.Sc., of the Natural History Department, Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, who wrote as follows:—"I have no doubt the fluctuations of level observed by your correspondent were simply manifestations of a sort of regular tide which has been found to exist in many freshwater lakes. For long such movements have been known on Lake Geneva, where the water rises very slowly for twenty to thirty minutes and then as slowly falls again. As regards Scottish lakes, such tidal phenomena—known as 'seiches,' from the local Swiss name—were unknown until the summer of 1903, when the members of the Lake Survey of Scotland discovered periodical fluctuations in Loch Ness. In the earlier observations the tidal waves were measured by a foot-rule, and never exceeded  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. in height. Finer results have been obtained by the use of delicate instruments, which showed that wave oscillations of different character occurred regularly at periods of 31.5 min., 15.3 min. and 8.8 min. So far as I know, no 'seiche' phenomena have hitherto been noted on Loch Ericht (certainly none has been measured), but it is almost certain that they must exist here as in other lakes, and the period of their recurrence leaves little doubt that Mr. Burnup actually was witness of 'seiche' waves."

Dr. Ritchie thought it improbable that intermittent springs could be the cause of the oscillations, or that they were attributable to earthquake movements, but said somewhat similar movements have been traced to the latter cause. For example, at the time of the great Lisbon earthquake in November 1755, the *Scots Magazine* related how :—

“On the 1st November, Loch Lomond, all of a sudden, and without the least gust of wind, rose against its banks with great rapidity, and immediately retiring, in about five minutes subsided, as low in appearance as ever it used to be in the greatest drought of summer. In about five minutes after, it returned again, as high and with as great rapidity as before. The agitation continued in the same manner, from about half-past nine till a quarter past ten in the morning; the waters taking five minutes to subside and as many to rise again. About eleven the agitation ceased. The height the waters rose was measured immediately afterwards and was found to be 2 ft. 6 in. in the perpendicular. The same day at the same hour Loch Lung [Long] and Loch Keatrin [Katrine] were agitated in much the same manner. We are informed from Inverness that the agitation on Loch Ness was so violent as to threaten destruction to some houses built on the sides of it.”

Similar occurrences were recorded from Loch Tay in September 1784 and July 1794, when the waters moved to and from a distance of 4 yards or 5 yards, and continued oscillating, in a modified degree for four days.

“The general causes of the smaller oscillations in regular ‘seiches,’” said Dr. Ritchie in conclusion, “are obscure, but they appear to be due in some way to differences of atmospheric pressure. Probably violent gusts of wind, swirling down the narrow glens and striking the surface of the lake almost vertically would be sufficient to set up a series of oscillations which would continue for some time. At any rate these ‘tidal’ waves are larger when the barometer is falling suddenly; they are also more pronounced at the extremities of lakes, especially at the head of long, narrow lochs whose banks gradually approach each other, and where the bottom shelves gently. At the Dalwhinnie end of Loch Erich these conditions would have favoured the observations of your correspondent.”

SUGGESTIONS have been made in the Canadian press that Mount Robson, the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies (13,700 feet high), should hence-

forth be called Mount Cavell, being thus constituted “an eternal monument to Edith Cavell, the martyred British nurse.” The sentiment that inspires the proposed change is entirely laudable, but the perpetuation by this means of remembrance of the grim tragedy with which the lady’s name is associated may be doubted. We have seen it remarked that the magnificence of “the great Mount Robson” is entirely unsuited by its name, and possibly this objection would still remain even if the name were changed as proposed. An account of Mount Robson and its imposing surroundings will be found in an interesting article in *Scribner’s Magazine* for May 1914.

THE names of other four members have to be added to the Club's "Roll of Honour." Probably there are others who have escaped the notice of the officials, and the Editor would be greatly obliged if they THE CLUB AND or their friends would communicate with him (furnishing MILITARY the regiment entered and the rank held), so that the list SERVICE. may be rendered as complete as possible. The following three gentlemen have responded to the call for men since our last issue :—

Dr. E. M. Corner, of 37 Harley Street, London, has been posted to the commission of Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps (Territorial) attached to the 5th Base Hospital (St. Thomas's) in London. He works also at the King George Hospital.

Mr. A. P. Milne, Cressbrook, Aberdeen, has been commissioned as Lieutenant (temporarily) in the 2nd Field Company, Highland Division, Royal Engineers. He served in the 1st Aberdeenshire Royal Engineers from 1894 until 1902, attaining the rank of Captain.

Mr. D. Ronald Macdonald, 98 Queen's Road, Aberdeen, joined the Royal Engineers (regular force) as a motor dispatch rider, and is now a Corporal attached to the 4th Signal Company, 4th Division, in France.

The fourth, unfortunately, has been killed—Mr. George Buchanan Smith, LL.B., Chanony Lodge, Old Aberdeen, the eldest son of the Principal of the University. On the outbreak of the war, he was gazetted a Second Lieutenant, and was attached to the 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders. He was severely wounded on December 14th while leading his platoon in a charge on the German trenches in Flanders, and was in hospital for more than two months. He returned to France in August last, and was attached to the 12th Battalion of the Gordons. He fell leading his platoon in the first charge of the memorable advance on Loos on 25th September. A young man of great promise (he was only 24), his loss is deeply deplored by all who knew him, and not least by his fellow-members of the Club.

It may be of interest to mention that Major G. A. Smith, of the 4th Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, has been promoted to be Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the 8th Battalion, King's Own (Royal Lancaster) Regiment.

THE twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Club was held in the Secretary's office, 14 Golden Square, Aberdeen, on 27th ANNUAL December 1915—Mr. T. R. Gillies, advocate, the Chair- MEETING. man of the Club presiding. The Chairman and other office-bearers, along with the Committee (named on p. 31) were re-elected *en bloc*, on the motion of Mr. Henry Alexander, seconded by Mr. J. A. Parker, it being felt undesirable at the present moment to make any change, as the activities of the Club are virtually suspended during the war.

The Treasurer's account for the year 1915, showing a credit balance of £39 os. 3d., were submitted and approved; and, on the motion of Mr. John Clarke, seconded by Mr. W. M. McPherson, it was resolved to give

a donation of £3 3s. to be divided equally between the War Dressings-Depots at the University and in Bon-Accord Square.

Mr. Parker submitted a drawing of the proposed Mountain Indicator on Ben Muich Dhui (see p. 170).

Mr. Parker also called attention to the necessity of a bridge over the Eidart in Glen Feshie. The matter was left over for further consideration.

OWING to the suspension of the Club's activities on account of the war, there have been no accessions to the membership during

THE year. The following seven members have resigned :—  
MEMBERSHIP. Sir George Henschel, Messrs. Charles Diack, Hugh S. Ingram, George Mearns, Ian Maxwell Rattray, James Reid, and William Tennant. The membership now stands at 147.

It will be seen from our frontispiece that we have reverted to a former practice of furnishing portraits of prominent members of the Club.

OUR Naturally, we should have begun with the present Chair-  
PORTRAIT. man, only his portrait has been given already in his  
former capacity of Treasurer (Vol. V., p. 285). That  
being so, we have chosen his immediate predecessor, Mr.

John Clarke, M.A., who was Chairman for three years, 1910-11-12. Mr. Clarke is an original member of the Club and has taken a very active part in its proceedings, frequently contributing to the *Journal*; and his Chairmanship was distinguished by the erection of the Allt-na-Beinne Bridge. We hope to give portraits of other ex-Chairmen in future numbers.