

## NOTES.

IN his speech at the unveiling of the Mountain Indicator on Brimmond, Sheriff Laing dropped a hint that the Cairngorm Club might erect a similar

Indicator on Lochnagar in memory of members of the Club who have fallen in the war. It may be advisable to mention that a suggestion of a memorial was put forward about a year ago by one of our own members, only the proposal he made was a commemorative Tablet recording the names of the fallen, to be placed on Cairngorm. The suggestion was informally communicated to the Committee of the Club, and the general feeling was that consideration of the matter might very properly be deferred until the war is over. It must be borne in mind, besides, that the Club has a project in hand to erect an Indicator on Ben Muich Dhui as a memorial of the late Mr. Alexander Copland—a heavy undertaking, progress with which has been suspended for the duration of the war.

REFERENCE has been made elsewhere to the sad fact that three additional members of the Club have lost their lives in the war; here we may congratulate other three members on earning distinction.

THE CLUB Captain (temporary Major) Eric W. H. Brander, Gordon  
AND MILITARY Highlanders, and Captain J. V. Lorimer, Army Service  
SERVICE. Corps, have been mentioned in dispatches; and Captain W. L. Cook, of the 4th Gordons, received from the late Tsar of Russia—whom Russian revolutionaries now designate “Nicholas Romanoff”—the Order of St Anne (Third Class), in recognition of the work he accomplished while on special service in Petrograd. Captain Brander has also been gazetted a Staff officer. Lieutenant (acting Captain) J. C. Duffus, R.F.A., has been promoted Captain.

THE man who planned the bridle-path to the summit of Ben Nevis died at Fort William on 10th January last. He was a Mr. Colin Livingstone, one

of the few remaining old parochial schoolmasters, and had lived to the patriarchal age of 89. The bridle-path was constructed by the Scottish Meteorological Society in 1883, when the now abandoned Observatory was erected. An article descriptive of “Life and Work at the Observatory,” appeared in Vol II. of the *C.C.J.*, and the author (Mr. John S. Begg), in referring to his first ascent of the Ben by the new route, mentioned that, not being in good form, he “cursed the apparent endlessness of that stony bridle-path, with its successive zig-zags up the mountain-side.” But many of us have had good reason to act in the spirit of the General Wade couplet and bless the (to most people unknown) designer of the path up Ben Nevis, un-

comfortably "stony" though it be in its higher section. Searching among some mountaineering literature lately, we unexpectedly came upon a little pamphlet on Ben Nevis Observatory, dated 1883 (price 1/-), which every person who chose to use the path was expected to purchase, "by way of annual ticket for the use of the road." The pamphlet gives a succinct account of the establishment of the Observatory and the erection of the Observatory buildings, and incidentally states that the route of the bridle-path—6 feet wide, with gradients nowhere exceeding 1 in 5—was suggested by Mr. Colin Livingstone, and the construction of the road (as well as the Observatory buildings,) was intrusted to Mr. James M'Lean, Fort-William.

A SLIGHT incident in the ecclesiastical status of Aviemore may be noted—of some interest to such mountaineers as concern themselves with local details of places visited. On 2nd March last, the Court of

ECCLESIASTICAL Teinds disjoined the district of Aviemore from the parish of Duthil, and annexed it, *quoad sacra*, to the parish of Rothiemurchus, and at the same time transferred the glebe of Rothiemurchus from the minister of

the united parish of Duthil and Rothiemurchus to the minister of the parish of Rothiemurchus *quoad sacra*. It may come as a surprise to some readers that Duthil and Rothiemurchus form a united parish, the union having taken place as long ago as 1625. The Spey is the boundary between the two. Rothiemurchus was constituted a *quoad sacra* parish in 1859. Rev. Donald M'Dougall, who has been minister of Rothiemurchus for over forty years, has demitted his charge owing to advanced years and failing health. Mr. M'Dougall was an esteemed contributor to the early volumes of the *C.C.J.*

THE reversion of deer forests to sheep grazing which some "authorities" declare to be impending seems actually to have begun. A part of Invercauld Forest near Loch Bulig has been again let for sheep this season, and the upper part of Glen Clunie (part of Glencallater Forest) has now been let for sheep. It is a number of years since sheep were removed from these glens to give place to deer.

A NEWSPAPER correspondent recently returned from "somewhere in France" tells a story of a visit paid by Viscount Bryce to the trenches. An

OUR PRESIDENT officer was sketching out a little trip along the front which he proposed to make with the distinguished visitor the next day, but, suddenly remembering that AS A WALKER. Lord Bryce is 78, suggested that perhaps the programme involved too long a walk. His Lordship at once answered

that, as an old Alpinist, he would undertake to walk against his much younger friend, himself, by the way, an Alpinist of some distinction. And when next day the two returned to camp, after trudging through trenches for many miles, the younger man had to confess that he was very much more done up than his companion.

WAR correspondents at the Austro-Italian front furnish from time to time further illustrations of the exceptional features of the campaign there being carried on, to which reference was made in a Note in our last issue. The general nature of the Italian task was thus summarised by Dr. Mario Borsa, writing from the Italian

MOUNTAIN WARFARE. General Headquarters, January 31—"We had to fight the

Austrians, but, above all, to overcome the almost insuperable difficulties of the ground—steep mountains from 8,000 ft. to 12,000 ft. high, covered with thick woods, snow and glaciers, bare rocky walls like the dreadful Gate of the Dolomites, and the rugged, waterless, inhospitable Carso, with its deep, crater-like depressions, its sharp stones, and dark-brown peaty earth." Wintry weather presented its own difficulties, but also created aspects of landscape which Dr. Borsa did not overlook. "Under their thick white coat," he wrote, "mountains and upland valleys have a peaceful fascination which makes the immediate realities of war almost inconceivable. Roads are screened by the fences of snow thrown up on both sides; pine trees and fir trees, half buried, bend their heads under a heavy snow-cap; villages are silent and invisible. A sense of rest and oblivion weighs over this calm harmony in white, so that the sharp bursting of a shell here and there comes almost as a desecration."

WE have received the annual report, list of members, &c., of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club. In consequence of the war, no Club meets were arranged during the past year, and it has also been decided to

YORKSHIRE  
RAMBLERS'  
CLUB.

postpone the publication of the Club's *Journal* for the present. Four members of the Club have been killed in action. The Club, we observe, has a library embracing over 170 volumes of mountaineering literature.