

REVIEWS.

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SCOTTISH TOPOGRAPHY.
By the late Sir Arthur Mitchell, K.C.B., and C. G. Cash, F.R.S.G.S.

In two vols. Edinburgh: Scottish History Society.—En-
BIBLIOGRAPHY ormous is the labour involved in cataloguing books dealing
OF with a special subject or a particular district of country.

SCOTTISH Perhaps only those who have attempted the task, even on a
TOPOGRAPHY. small scale, have any idea of the patient industry required,
the time and energy that have to be expended, the
sacrifice of leisure that must be made. To prepare a bibliography of the
topographical works for a single county would be a formidable enough
undertaking. What is to be said, then, of a compilation that deals with
the whole of Scotland? Its preparation is of the nature of a highly ex-
ceptional feat, the accomplishment of which evokes spontaneous and
unstinted applause. "Great is the glory, for the strife is hard!"

The idea of a bibliography of Scottish topography originated with Sir
Arthur Mitchell, who accumulated numbers of titles and valuable notes for
the purpose. But the task of giving this collection shape and coherence
and comprehensiveness became too great for Sir Arthur in his declining
days, and it fell to Mr. Cash to assume the task, and to prosecute
it to completion, the resultant labour extending over several years. [We
share the regret more fully expressed elsewhere in this number at the
death of Mr. Cash, which occurred since this notice was written.] We
are perhaps not far wrong in assuming that Mr. Cash is to be credited with
the lion's share of the two volumes now published, and specially with the
systematic compilation and arrangement adopted; in assuming, in short,
that the work is practically an individual and independent production of
Mr. Cash's. He has given us a list which is noticeable for its thorough-
ness and exactitude, and which must commend itself to all interested in the
class of books dealt with. The list is arranged in two main divisions,
Topographical and Topical, according to places and according to subjects.
In the Topographical division, general descriptions of Scotland are assigned
the first place, after which we have an alphabet of counties and of three
territories not limited by the boundaries of a single county—to wit, the
Borders, Galloway, and the Highlands and Islands—and then an alphabet
of places within each county, the topographical works relating to the
several counties and places being arranged in the alphabetical order of
authors' names. In the case of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen, sub-
divisions have been used, this arrangement bringing together in groups all
books having a common topographical reference. Then, as many books
deal rather with a topic than with a place, a second main division is created
(constituting practically the second volume), in which such books are
placed under an alphabet of Topics, the "topics" embracing Antiquities,
Architecture and Art; Clans and Families, Ethnography and Folklore;
Communications (sub-divided into Bridges, Canals, Ferries, Harbours,

Railways, Roads, etc.); Industries, Maps, Place-Names and so on. This brief account of the work may convey some idea of the immense labour expended in its preparation. The ramifications of bibliography are extensive, and doubtless Mr. Cash has not exhausted the sections into which his catalogue may be sub-divided. Possibly, too, Mr. Cash's list, comprehensive as it is, may not be complete; and not the least valuable results that may be anticipated from its publication may be the discovery of works that have escaped his notice and the impetus that may be given to the production of topographical works which yet remain to be written. We may well be grateful in the meantime, however, for what Mr. Cash has accomplished, both in the preparation of the general list of topographical works and in the distribution of specific works under topical headings. By his arduous labours he has achieved a distinct success: his work must remain for long the "authority" on the subject, an invaluable handbook of reference.

It would unduly extend our notice to enter on any detailed examination of this compendium of Scottish topographical works. Its value may readily be tested by a scrutiny of the works enumerated which relate to Aberdeenshire—say—or to the Cairngorms. Any such scrutiny, however perfunctory, will at once show that the list is exceedingly comprehensive—exhaustive, one might almost add. Incidentally, it is particularly pleasing to us to note the frequent citation of articles which have appeared in the *C.C.J.*—very many of them, by the way, written by Mr. Cash himself—and articles, too, by many of our contributors which have appeared elsewhere, for one of the conspicuous merits of the bibliography is that it includes a great deal of miscellaneous writing which, though not taking the form of published works, and too often dismissed as of minor importance, is nevertheless of considerable value for topographical purposes. Among items thus "recovered" may be mentioned the now almost forgotten monographs on Morven, Mount Keen, Tap o' Noth, and Benrinnes, issued by the Cairngorm Club in its early days. As to the sectional divisions, it must suffice to state in a general way that they have been particularly well done, but we cannot avoid calling special attention to the large amount of new and original research in the section devoted to Maps. Only one regret has to be expressed—that the circulation of such an important work is severely restricted by its limited issue to the 400 members of the Scottish History Society.

R. A.

HILL VIEWS FROM ABERDEEN, with Articles, Maps, Diagrams, and Scientific Notes. By G. Gordon Jenkins, M. Inst. C.E. Aberdeen: D.

Wyllie & Son.—Two articles in the last number of the

HILL VIEWS FROM *C.C.J.* constitute the first half of this work—Mr. Jenkins's

contribution on "Curvature and Refraction" and Mr.

ABERDEEN. Cruickshank's on the "Mountain Indicator on Brimmond," and they are accompanied by reproductions of

the diagram Mr. Jenkins furnished illustrative of his observations on curvature made from the Blue Hill and of the Chart of the view from Brimmond which he drew for the Indicator. In addition, Mr. Jenkins gives us descriptive accounts of the hill views obtainable from the

Covenanters' Faulds near the Bridge of Dee, from the summit of Carmaferg, near Aboyne, and from minor hill-tops and standpoints. These are supplemented by various "indicator" diagrams, and particularly by a Chart of the magnificent mountain view to be got from the Blue Hill. The little work is deserving of the highest commendation, and mountaineers especially ought to be grateful for this valuable *aide mémoire*. Mr. Jenkins not only possesses a thorough knowledge of the hills but a sympathetic appreciation of the many admirable views his diagrams and charts enable others to enjoy, and he writes of walking and mountain-climbing with an enthusiasm that is delightful. Viscount Bryce, in an interesting preface, directs attention to the very notable fact that few cities in Great Britain are so fortunate as Aberdeen in possessing, within easy reach, eminences which afford views "charming in their varieties of upland and cultivated ground, with the broad stretch of sea on one side and distant summits on the other." Aberdonians are under a debt of gratitude to Mr. Jenkins for this handy guide to the eminences and to the views which they command.

R. A.

The "Mountain Indicator on Brimmond" and the Index Chart in the last number of the *C.C.J.* were also reproduced, with some additional matter, in a *brochure* issued by the Stoneywood Literary Guild.

IN the October number of the *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal* Dr. Ernest A. Baker begins the first of a series of papers under the title of "Scansorial Gleanings in Belles-Lettres." His

"SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN-EERING CLUB JOURNAL." intention, apparently, is to make a selection of passages from climbing literature "where a poet, a humorist, or some other genius has touched on climbing in a way that is vital or amusing, whether consciously or unconsciously so." In this instalment he gives us extracts from Defoe's "Tour," "The Life and Opinions of John Bunce" ("perhaps the choicest example of unconscious humour in the English language," he says), Kingsley's "Two Years Ago," Meredith's "Beauchamp's Career" and Neil Munro's "John Splendid." Mr. H. P. Macmillan, K.C., has a brief paper on "Rights of Way," and the editor, Mr. F. S. Goggs, cites from Tennyson numerous passages to establish the thesis that the great Victorian poet possessed the spirit of the mountaineer.

WE are sorry to observe, from a note appended to an editorial apology for the delay in the issue of the 1916 number of the *Journal of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club*, that the editor himself, Mr.

"FELL AND ROCK CLIMBING CLUB JOURNAL." William T. Palmer, has completely broken down under the strain caused by Recruiting Office duties and the editing of the *Journal*, and has apparently relinquished the latter task—for the present at least, and for what we hope will be a very brief period. The number contains "In

Memoriam" notices of three members of the "F. and R. C." who have fallen in the war and the names of seven others. For one of the former, Siegfried Wedgwood Herford, it is claimed that "he was the greatest rock climber England has yet produced," and certainly for a youth of 26 he had accom-

plished a surprising number of climbing feats. Of another, mention is made of the somewhat singular fact that he joined up partly from "the desire to wipe out the ignominy of inheriting a German name" (Oppenheimer). If we find the number less interesting than usual, that is doubtless due to so many members of the Club being engaged in military service or other patriotic work. The majority of the articles relate to the Lake district of England, and two of them are of general interest as showing the risk of climbers even in that region being swept down by avalanches—avalanches of soft snow which might easily prove dangerous. "A Note on Photography in Switzerland" contains a number of hints of value to amateur photographers elsewhere.

Two papers read before the Rucksack Club, a mountaineering club having its headquarters in Manchester, constitute the most noticeable features of the Club's *Journal* for 1917. They both deal with Kinder Scout, a portion of the High Peak of Derbyshire, one treating of its history, antiquities, and literature, the other of its geology. The writer of the former alludes to the fact that about 1830 the greater part of the Scout was parcelled out and allotted to the contiguous lands of the surrounding owners, but instead of sharing the "indignation" which this circumstance arouses in many minds, he regards the situation with complacency. He takes the sensible view—which some of us also hold—that "the mountaineer and the moorland lover are the owners of our highlands in a much more real sense than are the nominal owners." It really comes to this, he says—"The moors are preserved by their nominal owners, at great trouble and some expense, in order that the wilderness and solitude, the sanctity of the wastes, may be kept inviolate from the vulgar and the vandal, what time we, with the 'owner's' kind permission, step in to enjoy our natural heritage, without the trouble and expense entailed by matters of 'ownership'." Nevertheless, it was only by the intervention of a Footpaths Society that some rights of way in the Peak district were preserved. Several minor papers and In Memoriam notices of Club members who have fallen in the war make up the number.