

NOTES.

ON a recent alteration of one of the rules, a member quietly hinted that the rules as a whole might well be revised, and, acting on this suggestion,

Mr. William Garden drafted a new set of rules, which, PROPOSED NEW RULES. having been discussed and amended by the Committee, will be submitted to the next annual meeting. The existing rules, with very little alteration, have been in force since the institution of the Club, thirty-one years ago. They are few in number—eleven in all—are tersely expressed, and are exceedingly comprehensive in their nature. The conservatives among us will probably be of opinion that, as these rules have worked so well for so long, they should be retained with as little change as possible. But we have modernists in our number who are desirous of bringing the Club “up to date” and into line—as regards the rules, at any rate—with the Scottish Mountaineering and other Clubs, and the new rules may be regarded as a reflection of their views. The chief change effected is in the qualification for membership. The old and rather inadequate rule of accepting as a member any one who had ascended a Scottish mountain 3000 feet high is abandoned, and the following stiffish test substituted :—

“Every candidate for election as an ordinary member shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another member, both having personal knowledge of him, and shall supply, for the information of the Committee, a list of his Scottish and other ascents, stating the month and the year in which each ascent was made, or a statement of his contributions to science, art, or literature, in connection with Scottish mountains. Such list, signed by the candidate and by the two members acting as proposer and seconder, will be considered at the next meeting of the Committee; and if, in the opinion of the Committee, the qualifications be deemed sufficient, the candidate shall thereupon be admitted a member.”

The Chairman vanishes and becomes President; in other words, the President becomes the actual instead of the honorary head of the Club. The other office-bearers are practically those at present—two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer (these two offices may be combined), but the Editor of the *Journal* is added, and the Committee will consist of them and nine other members. The Secretary and the Editor have apparently a tenure *ad vitam aut culpam*; the other officials and members of the Committee cannot hold office for more than three years. The annual general meeting is fixed for the last Saturday of November, and a provision is introduced for holding a Club dinner annually. The new rules number 34, many of them dealing in much greater detail than did the former ones with the calling of special meetings, etc., and with the general administration of the affairs of the Club.

ALL lovers of mountain and woodland scenery must grieve over the disastrous series of forest fires in the Highlands that has made the week of 12-19 June memorable. These fires, which broke out almost simultaneously, proved very extensive and destructive, and, owing to the prevailing heat and the excessive dryness of the undergrowth, which after the long drought was as inflammable as tinder, great difficulty was experienced in coping with them and getting them under control. Most of the contents of the present number of the *C.C.J.* had been sent to press by the time the fires occurred, and so we are unable to give full or precise details. But it seems apparent that tremendous havoc has been caused in the Abernethy and Rothiemurchus forests, which, following on the great felling of trees for military purposes, will materially lessen the sylvan beauties of Speyside. Large parts of the dense forest to the south of Nethy Bridge, extending to the Tor Hill and Loch Garten, have been destroyed, while the Dell district suffered severely and fires raged also in the woods about Craigmore. In the Rothiemurchus region a large tract of wood from the Beinne Burn to Loch Morlich was burned, and the fire here spread rapidly in the direction of Aultnancaber and Drumintoul Lodge, above Coylum Bridge, the Lodge at one time being in imminent danger. Extensive forest fires also occurred at Moy Hall, at Dunmaglass, near Inverness, and in the Black Isle. In Aberdeenshire a fire raged for several days in the Glentanar Forest, sweeping at first from the Allachy Burn along the Firmouth road almost to the Tanar, and breaking out afterwards in various directions, woods on the slopes of the Strone, Bad-na-Muick, and Baudy Meg being ultimately embraced in the conflagration. The area burned everywhere is extensive, and the damage of course great. The scenic loss, too, is deplorable, for "the country sides" affected will remain bare and gaunt for a large number of years.

A NEW critical study of Arthur Hugh Clough, by James Insley Osborne, may be mentioned here—not so much because of its inevitable reference to Clough's poem, "The Bothie of Tober-na-Vuolich," as for the revelation of the real "Bothie" that was figured in the poem. The revelation is by no means new, but the story may be told once again, more especially as it is doubtful if "The Bothie," that notable experiment in English hexameters, originally published in 1848, is now much read, or read at all. Its neglect is to be deplored, for, as Stopford Brooke said, "There is a true love of Nature, especially of Scottish scenery, in the poem," and, moreover, it is "full of quaint, observant humour." Something might be said, too, in favour of its reflections on life and work and its stimulating ideals.

The poem arose in this wise: In the summer of 1847, Clough went from Oxford to the Highlands as tutor of a reading party of undergraduates, who finally settled down for several weeks in a large farm-house at Drumna-drochit, on the north shore of Loch Ness. Here they were visited by Thomas Arnold (Matthew Arnold's brother) and John Campbell Shairp (afterwards Principal Shairp), who were on a walking tour in Scotland, and

had walked north along the west side of Loch Ericht, putting up for a night at a forester's hut, named "Toper-na-Fuosich," where they were hospitably treated. When the reading party broke up, Clough and a friend began a long ramble through the Western Highlands by taking this walk along Loch Ericht and stopping at the forester's hut, the description of which in the poem may be regarded as meant to conceal its real location, several of the allusions being quite inapplicable to Loch Ericht-side:—

There on the blank hill-side, looking down through the loch to the
ocean,

There with a runnel beside, and pine-trees twain before it,
There with the road underneath, and in sight of coaches and
steamers,

Dwelling of David Mackaye, and his daughters Elspie and Bella,
Sends up a column of smoke the Bothie of Tober-na-Vuolich.

The poem was at first titled "The Bothie of Toper-na-Fuosich" (the "Hut of the Bearded Well"), but this was subsequently altered to "The Bothie of Tober-na-Vuolich." Some of the incidents of the poem, according to Shairp, happened to him and Arnold while they were stopping at an inn on Loch Rannoch; and in Glenfinnan, at the head of Loch Shiel, they ran into the ball which Clough utilised—a celebration given by MacDonald of Glen Aladale in honour of the officers of some naval vessels then lying in a near-by port. The poem, besides, has direct references to the Braemar region, showing that Clough or some of his party had stayed there.

R.A.

THE *Inverness Courier* has recently published a series of interesting articles by Mr. Alexander Mackenzie on "Early Road-Making," with special reference to "General Wade in WADE'S Upper Badenoch." The famous military roads, which ROADS. did more than anything else to open up the Highlands in the eighteenth century, are always associated with the name of General Wade. Mr. Mackenzie points out, however, that he was in reality responsible for only a very small portion of them; still, he was their originator, and to him must be awarded the credit of having contrived the system which afterwards received such great extension. The roads were begun in 1725, and the system under which they were carried on remained in operation, with very little interval, till 1814, though before then many of them had been abandoned. They attained their fullest development about 1784, when Lieutenant-General Alexander Mackay, then commanding the forces in Scotland, reported that they extended to about 1100 miles. One of the best-known of General Wade's roads is that from Fort Augustus, at the head of Loch Ness, to "the great Highland road" from Perth to Inverness, which it joins at Dalwhinnie. This road goes right up the Corryarrick Pass by a series of traverses, and across it at a height of 2500 feet—much higher than the Cairnwell road (2199 feet) and Drumochter, Dava, and Tomintoul, all of which are between 1400 and 1500 feet in height. The construction of the Corryarrick section of the

road must have presented many formidable difficulties. The use of blasting materials was then unknown, all requirements had to be conveyed through a trackless country, and sufficient food and shelter for a large body of men had to be provided—a serious problem of itself; “the work was done,” says Mr. Mackenzie, “under circumstances that would have discouraged any man less capable and determined than the diplomat and engineering hero that first opened up the Central Highlands.” Mr. Mackenzie has a high word of praise for General Wade’s bridges. “The stability and endurance of all the bridges erected by Wade,” he says, “much depended on the length and fitness of the materials employed in the arch. The ring-stones were in many cases 5ft. 6ins. in length, even and uniform in thickness, and firmly grouted with liquid mortar. The foundations, in every case where possible, were laid on rock, while the haunching of the arch was amply sufficient to resist the thrust that might be placed upon it, the whole being banked up with sound material, and protected from wind and flood.” Mr. Mackenzie’s articles deal principally with the road which General Wade constructed through Badenoch and Strathspey, and contain much information with regard to the district it traverses, the local history, and the scenery.

DR. DAVIDSON of Torphins, in his book on the Gallipoli expedition—
 “The Incomparable 29th and the River Clyde”—gives
 BEN SLEOCH the following description of the mountain scenery in the
 IN THE island of Imbros, in the Ægean, whither several
 ÆGEAN. battalions of the expeditionary force were moved for a
 rest:—

“We dipped into a deep valley, clothed on all sides in thick shrubbery, with plenty of trees on the lowest part, along which there was a tiny stream with occasional beautiful rocky pools. The trees here and all along were principally olives, figs, mulberry, and a few walnuts. The road was the merest track, littered with stones, and wound up hill and down dale. At first it was so bad that I thought it must surely lead soon to a better path, but little did I think what we were in for; we were soon among huge boulders, and nothing but boulders, up and down shelving rock, often two feet higher than the path, slithering over stretches of hard, bare rock, and all the time without a single stumble on the part of any of our mounts. The scenery soon became simply glorious, and my three companions, who all knew Switzerland, said it was exactly like that country, except for the absence of chalets. The hills rose on all sides, some to a height of 5000ft. rough as possible, all volcanic of course, some looking as if they had belched out flames and smoke not so very long ago. One reminded me of Ben Sleoch as it rises out of Loch Maree, the same mass of rock atop, but here more rugged. Each mountain top and side was studded with enormous needle-like pinnacles and warty masses. It is strange how fertile these volcanic earths are. These high mountains were clothed with trees below, and had thick shrubbery almost to the top—mostly hollyoak, I fancy. The colouring of the rocks is very fine, the colours being warm reds, browns, purples, and yellows in one mingled mass.”

THE *Times Literary Supplement*, in its review of Sir Martin Conway's "Mountain Memories," gave the following striking

MOUNTAIN
MEMORIES. enumeration of the mountains and scenes referred to in the book :—

"The story begins with Sir Martin's earliest experiences in Switzerland, when to climb the Breithorn—a cow mountain—was an intoxication; and it ends, fittingly, in Tierra del Fuego, the end of the world. The Chilas gorge, 24,000ft. in depth—from the crest of Nanga Parbat to the river bank one steep, unbroken incline of snow and rock; the Hispar glacier, a stately avenue a hundred miles long; the Biafo glacier, a channel framed on either side for fifteen miles by needle-sharp spires that out-jut the Aiguilles of Chamonix in steepness, outnumber them perhaps a thousandfold in multitude, and out-reach them in size; the overwhelming magnificence of the Baltoro pass giving on multitudinous peaks among which K2 for all his 28,000ft. is but a prince among his peers; the magnetic sand on a many-coloured hill among the Chilean volcanoes, "which leaps into the air and flies about in sheets and masses when thunderstorms pass over, to the horror of the Indians"; the torrent from the Golden Crown glacier in Spitsbergen, dyed blood-red through the disintegration of sandstone and flowing in a deep, blue-sided trough over the white ice; the ice feathers draping a long *couloir* on Horn Sunds Tind, "splendid plumes eighteen inches long and of loveliest forms, like ostrich feathers glittering with diamond dust," which break into fragments in the wind, clash as they fall, and fill the air with a sibilant rushing sound so that the mountain sings; the shadow of Aconcagua flung 200 miles over the purpled waters and homing to his conqueror's feet as the sun mounted—these are but a few of the wonders with which the mountains have recompensed Sir Martin Conway for his service and devotion."

Mr. WALTER M. GALLICHAN, in an article in the *Daily Mail* of 24th March, poured scorn on "the average pocket lunch of diminutive sandwiches," mentioning that many persons, especially delicate women, became exhausted when trying to perform walking feats during the holidays upon such an unsubstantial meal. What should be aimed at, he contended, was the maximum of nutriment in the minimum space and weight. He recommended the substitution of cheese, which is one of the most nourishing foods; one ounce of cheese will give more staying power than twice the weight of lean beef. Sugar too, in one form or another, should be a part of the "concentrated lunch;" his own preference was for good chocolate, and next to that Swiss roll. Fruit and nut cakes, dates, figs, and raisins were also recommended. His "concentrated lunch" finally took the form of "Three ounces of bread, one ounce of cheese, two ounces of dates, and a bar of chocolate." Wheatmeal biscuits, oatcake, shortbread, and gingerbread, he added, contain rather more nutriment than ordinary bread or plain cake, "and they are all better food than the conventional thin sandwich with a shaving of lean ham."

MEMBERS of the Club were afforded a special opportunity—of which many took advantage—of witnessing a series of cinematograph pictures of scenery in the Rocky Mountains of Canada, which were shown to the Aberdeen branch of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in the Coliseum picture-house on 25 May. The pictures formed an exhibit sent by the Canadian Government to the International Congress of Alpinists held at Monaco in April, and were remarkably fine examples of photographic art. Many of the wonderful scenic features of the Canadian Rockies were displayed, and, in addition, representations were given of difficult and “fear-some-looking” mountain ascents. The camp life of the mountain-climbers was the subject of a number of humorous scenes, while sections of the 5000 feet film were devoted to the varieties of plants and animal life met with at different elevations. Mr. Byron Harman, of Banff, Alberta, was in charge of the exhibition. Dr. Levack, the chairman of the Club, presided.

THERE has been a gratifying accession of new members since the last annual meeting, the following 20 ladies and gentlemen having been admitted by the Committee during the present year :—

NEW	Alexander J. Adam, 97 Irvine Place, Aberdeen ;
MEMBERS.	Alexander E. Anton, solicitor, 1 St. Peter's Terrace, Buckie ; John Anton, M.A., B.L., solicitor, 1 St Peter's Terrace, Buckie ; Alexander Booth, 127 Union Street, Aberdeen ; Miss Annie C. Esslemont, Fairford, Cults ; George Hendry, M.B., 93 West Church Street, Buckie ; James Lorimer, Solicitor, “Norwood,” Cullen ; Miss Elizabeth Lyall, 40 High Street, Buckie ; James Cooper Lyon, 21 Waverley Place, Aberdeen ; William Round, M.A., 4 Dirlton Place, Bellshill, Glasgow ; A. J. Rusk, Clinton House, Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh ; D. Scott, Surveyor, Customs and Exeise, Strait Path, Banff ; R. T. Sellar, Battlehill, Huntly ;—Shepherd, 90 Fonthill Road, Aberdeen ; Miss Margaret Skakle, Bank House, Cults ; Miss Mary Skakle, Bank House, Cults ; James Watt, District Valuer, 25 Union Terrace, Aberdeen ; A. M. Macrae Williamson, 22 Rubislaw Den South, Aberdeen ; Gordon Wilson, 49 Rubislaw Den South, Aberdeen ; Major James Wood, M.C., Art Master and Architect, Reidhaven Street, Cullen.

The membership of the Club now stands at 173.