

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

NEW YEAR MEET, 1920—BRAEMAR.

THE Club Meet at Braemar during the New Year week-end was very successful, and was greatly enjoyed by all the members present. A number of members arrived at Braemar on the Wednesday evening, and most of the others, including the Chairman and the Secretary, on Friday evening. One gentleman made the journey from Ballater on foot and returned by the same method next day. Needless to say, the majority favoured the Railway Company's omnibus, which, being closed, was quite comfortable. The snow on the road increased in depth towards Braemar, at which there were some six inches on the level. The weather conditions throughout were ideal. New Year's Day and Friday were bright and frosty, and members climbing had magnificent views of the Cairngorms. On Saturday the temperature rose a little and at times a snowfall seemed imminent. Fortunately, no break took place, and on Monday, the last day of the meet, frost set in again.

Owing to the shortness of the day and the depth of snow in the glens and on the foothills, expeditions to the more distant tops were not attempted. One party of four did have a try at Lochnagar on the Saturday, but encountered deep snow in Ballochbuie Forest, and high wind with driven powdery snow on the hills. Finding it almost impossible to stand against the wind and snow on the summit of Meall Coire na Saobhaidhe (3191 ft), they decided that further progress towards Lochnagar was inadvisable. Had the wind been in a favourable direction, doubtless the first ascent of the mountain for 1920 would have been accomplished in spite of the depth of snow.

For the most part, members confined their attention to the hills in the immediate vicinity of Braemar, namely,

Morrone, Creag Choinnich, and Carn-nan-Sghliat.

Morrone was ascended twice by different parties. A party of five on Saturday followed the gully on the east face and reached the top in about two hours. Owing to the bitterly cold wind, a very short stay indeed was made at the Cairn. The party descended by the west side, having a few short glissades on the way, and, turning north, soon reached the road at the Corrymulzie Bridge. On the lower slopes of the hill a fair depth of snow was met with, but the older snow and that above the 2,000 feet level was sufficiently hard to support the climber's weight. A very pretty snow cornice was discovered near the top of the gully. Members carried ice-axes, which were of great assistance although nothing in the nature of ice was met with on the steep slopes and step-cutting was unnecessary. A herd of some 30 stags was seen as the party approached the hill, and a fair number of grouse in the usual winter pack formation.

The other ascent of the hill was made by another party on the Friday. On reaching the summit, they followed the southern ridge for some distance towards Carn-na-Drochaide and descended to the Cluny. The road to Braemar from the Spital of Glenshee was found very heavy even in its lowest portion.

Carn-nan-Sghliat was ascended by a small party on Thursday. Here also a little glissading was enjoyed during the descent.

Creag Choinnich was visited by eight or nine members on Sunday forenoon. Some time was spent at the old quarry, where a few of the company had a little practice in rock climbing. The vertical pitch at the top of the scree chute was found to be almost impassable, but two members ascended near it after attaching themselves to a rope let down from above as a precaution. On the summit, fine views of Ben Avon and Ben-na-Bhuird were obtained. The sun was shining on Ben Avon, and the various tops were exceptionally clear. Lochnagar was invisible and the distant Cairngorms somewhat obscured.

The snow scenery amongst the trees near the base of the hill was greatly admired.

Another party on Sunday walked some way beyond the Linn of Dee in the direction of the White Bridge. Ben y Gloe and the other hills to the south were very distinct. The river was frozen over near the Linn, where the party spent some time as the weather conditions were very pleasant.

Various winter sports were available for the younger members, who spent much of the time on ski, with occasional skating and sledging. The snow on Morrone was hardly deep enough for serious ski-ing, but much practice was obtained on sloping fields, for the most part at the base of that hill.

On Saturday the Chairman sent a telegram of greeting to the Scottish Mountaineering Club at Loch Awe. Mr. Ling, the president of that Club, promptly replied.

Over a dozen members returned to Aberdeen on Monday. Those who travelled by the morning omnibus obtained a magnificent view of Lochnagar, which stood out sharp against a blue sky background. The only cloud was a small white one in the col. High above, a few clouds were coloured pink by the rising sun.

MARSHALL J. ROBB.

EASTER MEET, 1920—CRIANLARICH.

THE Easter Meet was held at Crianlarich, from Thursday, 1st April, to Monday 5th. The following members were present:—Mrs. Levack, Dr. J. R. Levack (chairman), D. P. Levack, J. W. Levack, A. P. Milne, J. McCoss, G. McIntyre, J. A. Parker, W. A. Reid, M. J. Robb, and Theodore Watt,—11; along with the following guests:—A. J. Rusk, N. Shepherd, and A. M. Macrae Williamson, (since proposed as members)—3

The Club was very fortunate as regards weather conditions, each day of the meet being fine, and, consequently, a good many hills were climbed. It is true that there was little sunshine, and on the heights mist reigned

supreme during the first two days, but every morning all the members left the hotel *en route* for a climb. Ropes and axes were much in evidence, as all present seemed to be of the "ultramontane" type.

The meet opened on the Friday with the ascent of Beinn More by the N. W. ridge, and Am Binnein from Bealach-eader-dhu-bheinn. Cruach Ardrain and Beinn Tulachan were also ascended. Cruach Ardrain was climbed by the right and left branches of the Central Gully on the N. W. face. The snow in the right gully was in good condition, and a fine climb was experienced. In the left branch the snow was thin in parts, and the climbers of this gully had more than once to take to the rocks for firmer footing. This mountain with its fine outline and snow-lined gullies looked splendid from the windows of the hotel, which it seemed to overhang.

On the Saturday those left of the party (Parker and Robb went to the S.M.C. Meet at Fort William on Friday evening, and Reid left for the north on Saturday morning) motored to Tyndrum and proceeded to Beinn Laoigh, and climbed gullies 4, 5, 6. of Coire Gaothach. There was not quite the usual quantity of snow on the hills at Easter this year; but, nevertheless, the windy corrie looked majestic with its grand sweep of 1,100 feet of snow-slope towering into the mist. Beinn Laoigh is a singularly beautiful mountain, and gives what is considered to be the finest snow climb in Scotland. Near the top of the corrie the snow was very hard, and the angle steepened to 65 degrees as measured by clinometer. The hill was capped with mist, but there was very little wind, and the party had quite a pleasant time among the summit rocks, which carried icicles and fog-crystals. The descent was made into the corrie with the two lochans to the north of Stob Garbh, and some good glissading was obtained on the way down. The younger members of the party re-climbed the snow and had the exhilarating rush all over again.

Sunday was the best day of the meet, and fine views

to the south and west were obtained from Beinn-a-Chroin and Cruach Ardrain. On the north face of the latter some excellent glissading was participated in.

Climbing Notes :—

Friday 2nd—J. W. Levack, Milne, Parker, Reid and Robb, climbed the central gully on the N. W. face of Cruach Ardrain and traversed Beinn Tulachan. Rusk and Williamson did Beinn More and Am Binnein.

Saturday 3rd—Coire Gaothach of Beinn Laoigh. McCoss, Milne, and Shepherd, climbed No. 4 gully; D. P. Levack, Rusk and Williamson climbed No. 5 gully; and the chairman, J. W. Levack, McIntyre, and Watt climbed No. 6 gully.

Sunday 4th—The chairman, J. W. Levack, and Milne climbed Beinn-a-Chroin; D. P. Levack, McIntyre, Rusk and Watt climbed the Central Gully of Cruach Ardrain; and McCoss, Shepherd, and Williamson did the left branch of this gully.

Monday 5th—Rusk, Watt, and Williamson climbed Beinn an Dothaidh and Beinn Doireann.

Tuesday 6th—Rusk and Williamson climbed Ben Cruachan; and on Wednesday these two energetic young men ascended Ben Nevis, and Carn Mor Dearg.

The Meet was a most successful one, and everybody had a good time. During the evenings the chairman was in the chair, and kept the party merry with his endless store of humorous stories.

The arrangements for the Meet, which were made by the Secretary, Mr. J. A. Nicol, were a complete success.

JAMES MCCOSS.

SPRING EXCURSION, 1920—BENRINNES.

THE Spring 1920 Excursion of the Club was to Benrinnes—on Monday, 3rd May, the Aberdeen spring holiday. This Speyside mountain (2755 feet) has been frequently climbed by the club, the ascent generally being made from the Aberlour side. On this occasion a party of eleven members and prospective members travelled from Aberdeen by the 8 a.m. train to Dufftown, and were joined there by a party of five ladies and gentlemen who had motored across from Buckie. The united party then drove up Glenrinnes to Craighead Inn, the idea being to ascend to the West ridge of Benrinnes, as there was a strong north-westerly wind, with frequent showers

of rain and sleet. By following this route the wind was behind the party all the way, and the mist, which had been well down on the hill, cleared away, and when the party reached the top, everything was perfectly clear. The view from the summit (as has been mentioned before in the *C. C. J.*) is one of the finest and the most extensive in the north of Scotland, embracing eleven counties and extending from Schiehallion to the Pap of Caithness, and from Ben Alder to Buchan Ness. If it was not wholly revealed owing to the weather conditions, the panorama unfolded amply rewarded the exertions of the climbers. The Cairngorms were distinctly visible from Ben Bynac to Sgoran Dubh, and their appearance was rather extraordinary, giving the impression that the spectators were looking at a stupendous range very far distant and of a height far exceeding the reality. They were clear of mist, and the sun was shining on them, imparting to the mountains a curious rich golden colour. The Moray Firth was quite visible. Lochnagar appeared rather dimly through some driving clouds.

There are three rocky tors on the summit of Benrinnes designated "Scurran" (or Sgoran)—the Scurran of Morinsh, the Scurran of Well, and the Scurran of Lochterlandich, this last being the principal. All three were duly visited, and then the party descended the hill by the south-east ridge, making for the Glenrinnes road. At this stage the weather became very bad, the mist closing down on all the hill-tops and being succeeded by heavy rain.

On their return to Dufftown the party dined in the Fife Arms Hotel, Dr. Levack, the Chairman of the Club, presiding.

There were Club excursions on the afternoons of Saturday, 12th June, and Saturday, 26th June, to Cairnmon-Earn and Cloch-na-Ben respectively.