

REVIEWS.

THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB GUIDE. SECTION E.
BEN NEVIS. Edited by H. MacRobert, Edinburgh: The Scottish
Mountaineering Club. Pp. 42. 5/- net; by post, 5/3.—

THE
S. M. C.
GUIDE. The Scottish Mountaineering Club has made a beginning
with the publication of its projected Guide Book to the
Mountains of Scotland. As readers of the *S. M. C.*

Journal are aware, much material has been already accumulated and has appeared in the *Journal*, but much still remains to be done. For instance, the region west of the Caledonian Canal and south of the Dingwall and Kyle of Lochalsh Railway line has yet to be "written up," and an appeal is made to those acquainted with Knoydart and Glen Shiel and the forests of Glen Affric and Strath Conon to furnish particulars. As it has been found impracticable, on financial and other grounds, to publish the Guide complete and as a whole, it has been decided to bring it out in sections, and the first section, dealing with Ben Nevis, has just been issued. This elaborate description of Ben Nevis and its various ridges, buttresses, and gullies, with the climbing routes, and a survey of the meteorology, topography, flora and fauna, is written by Dr. Inglis Clark; and the mention of his name is a sufficient guarantee of the carefulness, completeness and accuracy with which the work has been done. Precise details are given of all the climbs that have proved practicable, and the veriest tyro at climbing will find this an invaluable guide. For the non-climber there is very much in the general descriptions that will prove of interest, and the Guide is enlivened by a dozen beautiful illustrations, from photographs by Dr. Inglis Clark and others. If the complete Guide be produced on the scale and in the excellent manner of this section, it will become a most valuable possession. That however, will depend upon the support received, and we accordingly appeal to members of the Cairngorm Club to help along the commendable project of the S. M. Club. To drop into a little banality, the "Guide" is a book that no mountaineer should be without.

R. A.

THE RECREATIONS OF AN HISTORIAN. By George Macaulay Trevelyan.
Thomas Nelson and Sons, Ltd. New Edition. 1919. 2/6 net.—From this

volume Mr Trevelyan's chief "recreations" would seem
AN ESSAY to be writing articles on historical and literary subjects
ON in a lighter vein than that of the solid contributions to
WALKING. Italian history which have earned him a distinctive place
among historical scholars. He can unbend otherwise,
however, for included in his "trifles"—as, presumably, he would term
them—is a delightful essay on "Walking," which has much of the tone of
intimacy and the charm of style that characterise the well-known papers
of Hazlitt and Stevenson on the same theme. It is a dissertation on the

pleasures of walking, and it conveys impressions of the feelings inspired by certain walks rather than descriptions of the scenes viewed. It is permeated by a fine instinct for Nature and natural beauty.

The "personal equation," too, is obvious but not obtrusive: Mr. Trevelyan takes a keen delight in a healthy exercise, and testifies to its stimulating effects. His "recipe for the blue devils" is the simple one of going for a long walk. Quoting the couplet:

"A Sunday well spent
Means a week of content."

he gives it an interpretation not strictly orthodox, perhaps, but nevertheless eminently sane and sensible:—

"That is, of course [he says], a Sunday spent with both legs swinging all day over ground where grass or heather grows. I have often known the righteous forsaken and his seed begging for bread, but I never knew a man go for an honest day's walk, for whatever distance, great or small, his pair of compasses could measure out in the time, and not have his reward in the repossession of his own soul."

Very evidently Mr. Trevelyan is a devotee of walking—of long walks as against mere "tramping." The references to various walks show that he has wandered in many directions—in the Lake district, round the coast of Devon and Cornwall, across Central Italy, and elsewhere; and allusions to spins of five-and-twenty miles, walks by night and in rain, demonstrate that he is of the very best quality of walkers—those to whom unfavourable weather conditions are no deterrent.

On the much-debated questions whether walking should be solitary or in company, whether it should be accompanied by talk or conducted in silence, Mr. Trevelyan has a good deal to say, but he hardly expresses a definite conclusion, though leaning to the view that only solitary walks are perfect. The choice really depends on the mood of the moment, and, after all, "the high, ultimate end of Walking is something other than to promote talk." Then there is the question of road-walking. Mr. Trevelyan rightly says "There are many schools of Walking and none of them orthodox." One school is that of the road-walkers, whom he terms "the Puritans of the religion;" but, on the other hand, "the secret beauties of Nature are revealed only to the cross-country walker." There are many other reflections in this charming essay well worth the consideration of all pedestrians—not least, "the social duties" incumbent on the walker and those equally incumbent on landed proprietors. Mr. Trevelyan deprecates the bad habit of closing moors, which, he says, is spreading in some places; and almost the only cynical remark in which he indulges is this:—"The Highlands have very largely ceased to belong to Britain on account of the deer, and we are in danger of losing the grouse moors as well. If the Alps were British, they would long ago have been closed on account of the chamois." R. A.

To the April number of the *Scottish Geographical Magazine*, Mr. G. M. Fraser, Librarian of the Aberdeen Public Library, contributes the first of a series of articles on "The 'Mounth' Passes over the THE "MOUNTH" Grampians." He points out that the term "Mounth" PASSES. is the English rendering of the Gaelic "Monadh," meaning a moor or heath and having no reference what-

ever to a road or pass. "Mounth" was originally applied in its proper meaning to describe, not a pass, but the Grampian range itself, as in the well-known phrase, "dwelling to the north of the Munth," in Aberdeen's first charter from William the Lion. By corrupt and loose usage, however, "Mounth" came to be applied to the passes through the range. Mr. Fraser enumerates six of these passes:—1. The Causey or Cowie Mounth, a "historic highway," which ran between Cowie and Aberdeen, and was the main connecting link between Aberdeen and the south till the Stonehaven turnpike road was made. 2. Elsieck Mounth, leading from Stonehaven to the old ford and boat on the Dee at Tilbouries. 3. The Slug Road, leading from Stonehaven to Durris and to the crossing of the Dee at Crathes and at Banchory Church. 4. Cryne's Cross Mounth, leading from Laurencekirk and "Paldy" kirk in the Mearns to the river crossing at Mills of Drum. 5. The Stock Mounth, leading from Glenbervie to Strachan. 6. Bulg Mounth, an important pass leading from Glenfarquhar to Deeside, but doubtless well known as a drove road. An accompanying map shows that there are more of these Mounth roads to be enumerated. The map, by the way, correctly designates the pass between Ben Muich Dhui and B'aeriach—for the first time in our observation—as "The Lairig."

The number contains, besides Mr. Fraser's article, Professor Lyde's presidential address at the Geographical Section of last year's meeting of the British Association, the subject being "The International Rivers of Europe," and an article on "Recent Developments in Spitsbergen," by Professor Rudmose Brown.

THE April number of the *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal* opens with "The Cairngorms—An Appreciation," by G. Murray Lawson—a sprightly

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article recounting experiences during visits to the Cairngorm district, including those of a day of rain, ultimately transformed into sleet, rendered all the more unpleasant by a strong south-easterly gale. The writer, nevertheless, is loud in his praise of the Cairngorms and of Rothiemurchus forest, and has even a kindly word to say of sleeping under the Shelter Stone. "It is true," he remarks, "that the couch it offers is somewhat hard, and that at times the draughts are somewhat persistent, but, after a day spent in the open, slumber, induced by fresh air and exercise, comes readily, and the sleeper awakens in the morning more refreshed than if the night had been spent in conventional surroundings. Then there is the scenery at one's doorstep, so to speak." Accompanying the article are admirable photographs of Carn Elrick and the Pools of Dee. Permission has been given to reprint from *Punch* some verses by Miss C. G. M. Orr on "The Road"—"the road that runs by Atholl." Of the seven verses two apply to the Speyside section of the road:—

The road it runs by Alvie—you may linger if you list
To gaze on Ben Muich Dhui and the Larig's cap of mist;
There are pines in Rothiemurchus like a gipsy's dusky hair,
There are birch-trees on Craigellachie like elfin silver-ware.

The road it runs to Forres and it leaves the hills behind,
 For the roving winds from Morayshire have brought the sea to mind ;
 But still it winds to northward in the twilight of the day,
 Where the stars shine down at evening on the bonny haughs o' Spey.

Mr. G. W. T. H. Fleming writes on "Loch Etive Side," and under the title of "Froth and Fancy" Mr. G. Sang has some reflections on the Peaks of Cruachan. An illustration is given of the War Memorial Tablet erected in the Library of the Club's Club-room.

THE *Rucksack Club Journal* for the present year has a great variety of articles, ranging from climbs in the Lake District and Wales, on Ben Nevis and Cioch, in Skye, to "A Few Days' Peak-Bagging in
 "RUCKSACK Vancouver." Mr. J. Rooke Corbett, in "A Day in
 CLUB Shetland," describes a walk from Scalloway to Ronas
 JOURNAL." Hill, which he ascended at midnight ; he then made for Hillswick, where he knocked up the hotel at 4 o'clock in the morning, in broad daylight. "The Caravaners Up-to-date" is the record of a tour in an improvised caravan—an ambulance "body" fitted on to a motor chassis ; the "van" was used as a mobile "base," from which many hill ascents were made. There is an interesting article on a Journal in the Lakes, written in 1769 by Thomas Gray, the author of the "Elegy in a Country Churchyard." The poet became quite enthusiastic over the scenery—so much so that, as the writer of the article suggests, the generally accepted statement that Wordsworth was the first man to appreciate the Lakes will have to be modified.

ALTITUDE is, I have often thought, a more potent factor in the life and conduct of man than latitude—more even, perhaps, than ALTITUDE AND race, environment, or heredity. Crime, I am inclined CONDUCT. to believe, is more often hatched at the bottom than at the top of a mountain. A writer who knows the Cotswolds inside and out insists that the cottagers who live on or near the top of those delectable hills are ethically, as well as intellectually, superior to those who dwell at the foot. A monk of Monte Cassino informed me that the people of the little town (I forget its name) half-way up the holy mount were both more moral and more pious than the inhabitants of Cassino in the plain below ; and, when I asked the reason, said simply, "E piu alto," as if that explained everything. It must be easier, I sometimes fancy, to lead a virtuous life at Harrow-on-the-Hill than at Moreton-in-the-Marsh or Bourton-on-the-Water. Given the choice, I should prefer to reside at Pera rather than at Galata ; at Petropolis or Tijuca, with the cool rivulets running through the streets, rather than in hot wicked Rio de Janeiro ; in the keen clear air of Jerusalem, nearly 3000 feet above the Mediterranean, rather than in sleepy steaming Jericho, 1300 feet below it.—"A Medley of Memories," by the Right Rev. Sir David Hunter Blair.