

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

### ANNUAL MEETING, 1921.

THE thirty-third annual meeting of the Club was held in the Imperial Hotel, Aberdeen, on 10th December, 1921—Dr. Levack, the Chairman of the Club, presiding.

Mr. Nicol, the Secretary and Treasurer, submitted the accounts for the year, which showed :—

Income . . . . .	£116 11 3
Expenditure . . . . .	100 17 11
	£15 13 4
Balance at the credit of the Club	£15 13 4

The expenditure included £55 2s. 4d. the expenses of the Club Journal, Nos. 56 and 57 ; and £15 16s. for printing, stationery, advertisements, etc ; the printing bill, it was explained, was exceptionally large, due to the printing of the new rules, first as drafted and then as revised. The capital account, consisting of life members' subscriptions on deposit receipt, amounts to £30 3s. 6d. The Allt-na-Beinne Bridge fund amounts to £5 12s. 8d. and the Eidart Bridge fund to £1 11s. 8d. There was collected for the Mount Everest Expedition fund £8 13s. 6d. The membership of the Club at the end of the year was 173.

On the motion of Mr. James A. Hadden, seconded by Mr. William Garden, the accounts were approved.

At this stage, the new rules of the Club, as adopted at a special general meeting of the members held on 15th November last, came into force.

Dr. Levack was called to the chair.

The following office-bearers were elected :—

Honorary President—Viscount BRYCE.	Editor of the Journal—Mr. ROBERT ANDERSON.
President—Dr. JOHN R. LEVACK.	Committee (9)—Messrs. W. GARDEN, J. McCOSS, A. P. MILNE, J. RENNIE, M. J. ROBB, A. SIMPSON, J. A. PARKER, A. M. M. WILLIAMSON, and D. P. LEVACK.
Vice-Presidents—Mr. ROBERT ANDERSON and Mr. JOHN CLARKE.	
Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. JOHN A. NICOL.	

The following meets and excursions were arranged :—New Year—Braemar ; Easter—Aviemore ; May holiday—Buck of the Cabrach ; Saturday excursions—(to be arranged by the President and Secretary).

It was agreed to increase the price of the *Journal* sold to the public from 1s. to 2s. the change to take effect with the next number (January).

Dr. Struthers Stewart suggested that the Club should make a collection of lantern slides of views in the Cairngorms. The idea was favourably entertained, but it was generally considered that, in the meantime at least, a beginning would be best made by the voluntary tender of slides by individual members.

#### DINNER OF THE CLUB.

The meeting was followed by a dinner in the hotel— Dr. Levack, the newly-elected President, occupying the chair. Sheriff J. D. Dallas, Aberdeen, and Major J. D. Ramsay, the King's Commissioner at Balmoral, were present as guests of the Club. Many members were accompanied by guests, several lady members of the Club were present, and altogether there was a company of about 70.

After dinner, Mr. James A. Parker exhibited a number of lantern views from photographs taken by him during a tour in the Pyrenees in September last, in which he was accompanied by Mr. Walter A. Reid. They made their headquarters at Luchon, and explored the Maladetta group, climbing the peak of the range, Pic d'Aneta, 11,167 feet high. A view was shown of the river Garonne at a watershed on the mountains, through which, 200 feet below the crest, it flows into the Val d' Aran; and a number of excellent scenes of snow-clad mountains and wooded valleys were also thrown on the screen. Mr. Parker described the views, and, on the invitation of the President, Mr. Reid added some remarks on the tour.

The toast-list was commendably brief.

Sheriff Dallas proposed "The Club," which he described as the oldest Scottish mountaineering club in Scotland (applause). It was founded in 1889 by a small coterie of enthusiasts. He remembered some years ago, in Edinburgh, seeing a short report in a newspaper of the Cairngorm Club, which he did not bother to read; not knowing the Aberdonian then as he knew him now, he thought it was an association for the acquisition of cairngorms (laughter). He had learned since that that was merely a minor part of the club's activities (renewed laughter). The main purpose of the club was to encourage mountaineering in summer and winter. He once attempted to learn the art of mountaineering. The process covered a period of years, and he was, in a way, relieved that such experiences as he had, did not render him liable to the great honour of being admitted a member of the very fine club of which he was a guest (laughter), because he found Aberdeen a pleasant place, and he always thought mountaineering was a dangerous game, and still thought so (laughter). He was rather helped in that view by the large number of members of the medical profession present (laughter). His experiences in the art of mountaineering were—

he had climbed the highest hill in England, the highest hill in Scotland, and the highest hill in London. Owing to the climatic conditions on Scafell, he saw nothing from the time he started until he came back, and the only thing he " marvelled " at was that he did not contract double pneumonia. As to Ben Nevis, it did not count, as, particularly to a member of the Cairngorm Club, it was merely a walk. He made the ascent of the highest acclivity in London at night—in a taxicab—the summit attained being that of Primrose Hill, 120 feet above sea-level (laughter). He had looked at the Cairngorms from afar, and yielded to no one in his admiration of them. Never having climbed them, he could not offer an opinion, but those who had done so told him that the view was far finer and grander at the top. Be that as it may, he would prefer to continue taking his pleasures at the foot, while holding high admiration of the powers and enterprise of the members of the Cairngorm Club who climbed (applause).

The President, in replying, said he thought the Club had reason to congratulate itself upon its healthy, happy, and youthfully exuberant condition at the present time (applause). He was apprehensive lest Sheriff Dallas had frightened some of their guests, because the Club wanted recruits (laughter). Their Club was 32 years old, and one or more of the original members were present that evening, among them Mr. Robert Anderson (applause). There was nothing wrong with the heart, or the lungs, or the head of a club that could hold the interest of a member for 32 years. For some years the Club had, perhaps, languished a little, but not much. It was always enthusiastic. But recruits then were not coming forward, and it was necessary to the life of an organisation that young members should be added to it. As a result of the persistence of the devotees of the sport, however, interest in mountaineering had been stimulated ; it had become more general, deeper, and more intense, and young men had come to think that, after all, there was " something in it."

It was very difficult to give reasons why mountains were climbed. One was that people had been turning more and more to the beauties of Nature, and thought they could see them better from the tops of the hills. Mountaineers were divided into two classes—those who went up the hill for the view and those who went up the hill for the climb. The people who went to see the landscape took the easiest way, and had a knack of persuading other members of the party to carry their coats and other gear (laughter). This class was composed of " salvationists " (laughter), but after a time some of them came to think there was something more in it, and they proceeded to find out how they could get added excitement and muscular exertion by climbing, not by the ordinary way, but by one which would satisfy those desires and still allow them to arrive at the top—

intact. These people were known as "ultramontanes," and they again were divided into two classes, those who preferred rocks and those who preferred snow. The Cairngorm Club could cater for all, and on their beloved hills of Deeside the taste of every type of a climber could be indulged in and suited.

The Club was pleased to have as one of its guests Major Ramsay, who was always so ready to grant facilities for the members to roam at will through the Royal forests at Balmoral, including the approaches to Lochnagar (applause). In thanking Major Ramsay, they acknowledged also their gratitude for similar facilities to the other lairds on Upper Deeside. The Club had no difficulty whatever in indulging in the sport, and could follow the pastime all the year round.

They were very proud of their Club. It was the oldest mountaineering club in Scotland, and they hoped and believed that it would continue to flourish, and would live for a long time yet. There were more young enthusiastic members joining now than there had ever been before, and the standard of climbing had greatly increased—so much so that the younger enthusiasts were tackling things now that the older members would never have dreamed of tackling (applause). He would emphasise to those who had not sought them the advantages of the sport of mountaineering, and to those who had experienced its delights, his advice was—"Keep to the mountains as long as you can." His medical colleagues told him that it was not wise to go on the mountains after the age of forty, but he was older than that, and the "wisdom" of his friends remained unproved. Mountaineering was not a dangerous thing—in fact, it was much less dangerous than cycling down Union Street on a wet day—and as long as they were able to walk or crawl, they would go up the mountains (applause).

Mr. Robert Anderson proposed "The Guests," and Dr. Rorie, D.S.O., Cults, responded. The President proposed "The Secretary and Treasurer," and the concluding toast of "The President" was given by Professor Ashley Mackintosh.

There was an excellent musical programme arranged by Mr. Alexander Simpson. Mr. Alexander C. Simpson played the accompaniments.