

## REVIEWS.

BALMORAL IN FORMER TIMES : AN HISTORICAL SKETCH. By the Rev. John Stirton, B.D., F.S.A. (Scot.). Forfar : W. Shepherd.

Pp. 57.—Balmoral has a history of its own, quite irrespective of the accretions of history which have gathered round it in modern days owing to its being the "Highland Home" of Queen Victoria and her successors on the throne. Singular to relate, it was Crown property four centuries before Prince Albert bought it, for in 1435 James I appropriated the earldom of Mar, of which Balmoral formed a part, and the Scottish Kings drew the revenues of the Mar territories (including Balmoral) till 1565, when John, Lord Erskine, was granted the earldom and the lands. About a century later, Balmoral somehow became a separate property, and was owned by a family of Gordons. Little is known about these Gordons, who are supposed to have been cadets of the Abergeldie family. More authentic history is reached when Balmoral, about 1655, was acquired by the Farquharsons of Inverey, and a distinctive family of Farquharsons of Balmoral was set up. There is a touch of irony in the circumstance that these Farquharsons were Jacobites, in view of Balmoral ultimately becoming the property of the successors of the Hanoverian monarchs against whom they strove. As a consequence of their devotion to the Stuart cause, the Farquharsons of Balmoral had chequered careers and were subject to the vicissitudes that beset so many of the Highland chieftains of the time. One of them fought at Killiecrankie, and died in exile at St. Germain's; his successor—known as "Balmoral the Brave"—took an active part in the 1715 and 1745 risings and had eventually to go into hiding. The family of Farquharsons of Balmoral became extinct, and Balmoral reverted to the Farquharsons of Inverey and then to the Farquharsons of Auchendryne, one of whom sold Balmoral to the second Earl Fife in 1798. As is now well known, Prince Albert took over the lease of Balmoral in 1848, and four years later purchased the estate from the Fife Trustees, and subsequently built the present Castle. He bequeathed Balmoral to Queen Victoria, and she in turn bequeathed it to the Sovereign of the country.

Mr. Stirton, in his little volume, has given us—for the first time, we think—a connected history of Balmoral (merely outlined above), and his work is a distinct addition to the literature of Deeside, for which many will be grateful. If somewhat too concise, perhaps, it is none the less carefully and judiciously executed, and it will take its place as an authoritative exposition of the subject with which it

deals. The narrative is exceedingly interesting, and, in addition, is replete with many picturesque details, particularly in connection with the Jacobite Farquharsons.

R. A.

THE PHYSICAL GEOLOGY OF THE DON BASIN. By Alexander Bremner, M.A., B.Sc. Aberdeen: The University Press. Pp. viii + 129. 6/- net.—In 1912, Dr. Bremner published a work on "The

Physical Geology of the Dee Valley" (See *C.C.J.*, THE GEOLOGY vii., 248-9), and he has now followed it up by a OF THE corresponding work on the Don Valley, really DON VALLEY. written in 1914, he tells us, though only now published. The work is characterised by all the

qualities which marked its predecessor. It is manifestly the outcome of much patient investigation, and is written with clearness and with a thoroughness and minuteness which leave nothing to be desired. The Don is not so associated with mountainous country as is its neighbour, the Dee, but it is none the less a mountain stream, its source being at an altitude of about 2000 feet. The lower altitude of its source, however, has contributed with other circumstances to give it different characteristics from its sister river. This is most noticeable perhaps in the matter of glaciation. Dr. Bremner concluded that the Dee Valley glacier extended as far eastward as Dinnet, many miles from the source of the river, but he fixes the limit of the glacier of the Don basin at Invernochty and Bellabeg, places very much nearer to the source of the Don than Dinnet is to Braeriach. Like the Dee, however, the Don has suffered from the "capture" of its headwaters by other streams, a predatory procedure which took place prior to the ice age. The Avon ate its way back through friable strata and appropriated twelve miles of the upper Don, and tributaries of the Avon did similar work, so much so that by the combined operations the Don lost almost exactly 60 square miles of drainage area, and that an area with the heaviest rainfall. In a final chapter Dr. Bremner briefly discusses the subject of scenery in relation to the nature of the underlying rocks, making reference to the effect on Donside scenery of Morven, Lord Arthur's Cairn and Callievar, and Bennachie.

R. A.

THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB GUIDE, SECTION A. GEOLOGY, etc. Edited by James Reid Young, Edinburgh. The Scottish Mountaineering Club. Pp. 144, 7/6 net,

THE by post, 7/9.—This, we take it, is intended to be S.M.C. the introductory section of the projected "Guide," and so is necessarily of a preliminary nature, GUIDE. dealing with general features of mountains and of

mountaineering craft. Thus there are articles on the geology of Scottish mountains (by Dr. B. N. Peach and Dr. John Horne), the meteorology (by Mr. Gilbert Thomson), the botany, with special

reference to the flowering plants (by Professor Bower), and the bird-life (by Mr. Lionel W. Hinxman.) These are followed by two articles on mountaineering equipment and on snow conditions (both by Mr. Harold Raeburn), an article on rock climbing (by Mr. George Sang), and one—not by any means the least interesting—on photography for mountaineers (by Dr. Inglis Clark), while Mr. J. Gall Inglis contributes useful notes on maps, compasses, and aneroid barometers. The names of the several contributors are a sufficient guarantee of the accuracy and authoritativeness of the information supplied, which, as regards the geology and other scientific aspects of Scottish mountains, strikes us as remarkably complete. Mr. Harold Raeburn and Mr. Sang are recognised exponents of mountaineering generally and rock-climbing in particular, and their articles furnish much sound and sensible advice as to how to go about both. The A section of the Guide also includes Munro's Tables of the 3000 feet mountains of Scotland, revised and brought up to date partly by the late Sir Hugh Munro himself and partly by Mr. Gall Inglis. It is well to have these valuable tables reproduced in what is obviously destined to be the master guide to Scottish mountaineering.

R. A.

IN a most interesting book,—recently published—“A Hundred Years in the Highlands,” by Mr. Osgood H. Mackenzie of Inverewe,

there is a reference to Sir Hector Mackenzie, PIONEER WORK fourth baronet and eleventh laird of Gairloch OF THE (born *circa* 1758), which illustrates how visitors to the Highlands were treated in his time.

ORDNANCE SURVEY.

“‘Father,’ Frank (his son and heir) would say, ‘they tell me there is an officer come to-day to the inn at Ceann-t-saile.’ ‘Frank, run and find out his name,’ was the reply. ‘Give him my compliments, and say I hope he will come up at once with his things and remain here till he is obliged to leave.’ The idea of a gentleman—ladies in those days never inspected our country—being allowed to remain at an inn was contrary to all rules of Highland hospitality and thought disgraceful. The entertained were not always angels unawares, but one day there arrived Major Colby, of the Engineers, who, with a sergeant and some privates, had been sent to the north-west as pioneers of the Government plans for the Ordnance Survey of Britain, a great work, hardly completed yet, though I must be writing of about the year 1816. My father (Sir Hector) caught many a fish on his hospitality hook, but never one like Colby, a highly-educated man of science, from astronomy all the way downwards, full of every kind of information, and most able and glad to pass it on to others. He had been all through the wars with Buonaparte, yet was always ready to come shooting or fishing in burn, loch, or sea with us if his men were carrying on routine work which only needed his presence

occasionally. He was with us nearly the whole summer, and I remember what high spirits he was in one day when one of his people won a prize by throwing the sun's rays from a concave mirror from, I think, the top of Slioch to the Clova Hills in Kincardineshire through some glen or other, thus enabling these spots to be fixed accurately for mapping. . . ."

The author quotes the above passage from a MS. left by his uncle, Dr. John Mackenzie. A. I. M.

THE first four articles of the current number of the *Alpine Journal* deal with the great Himalaya which has been so much in the minds of all mountaineers during the year. A short

"ALPINE summary of Mountaineering in this region is given JOURNAL." by Dr. Norman Collie, who also contributes an article on the Ranges North of Mount Everest as seen from the Kang La. Mr. C. F. Meade contributes a very useful article on Himalayan Hints for mountaineers, while the expeditions of the late Dr. Kellas to Kamet are described in extracts from his report to the Oxygen Research Committee. A man's own work is his best memorial, and Dr. Kellas's exquisite photographs reproduced in recent *Alpine Journals* and his writings on the unknown land between Tibet and India will ever remain as a memorial of our townsman who gave his life for the furtherance of scientific research in that far-off land. Various articles of interest on Alpine subjects follow, among which is a short note of special interest to Scottish climbers in the contribution of N. E. Odell dealing with an ascent of the Chasm, Buchaille Etive. The usual Memorial Notices, Club Notes and Reviews, finish a number which amply maintains the high standard set by the pioneer journal devoted to mountaineering. J. G. K.

THE Chasm, Buchaille Etive, is also dealt with in the *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal*, an article thereon being contributed by Mr. R. F. Stodart, who accompanied Mr. and

"SCOTTISH Mrs. Odell in their investigation. One sentence MOUNTAIN- descriptive of the start for home when the climb EERING CLUB was finished is calculated to stir emotions in most JOURNAL." of us: "As often happens, one of the party was certain he knew the quickest way down, and the others resigned themselves to the inevitable loss of time." Mr. D. H. Menzies writes on a climb of the Coruisk face of Sgurr a' Greadaidh. It was a whole-day performance with a vengeance, it being 11.30 p.m. before the ridge of the Black Cuillin was struck. "Progression along the knife edge of the summit ridge in the dim light of the midnight hour," says Mr. Menzies, "brought strongly to mind 'The Cat that Walked by Itself' in Just-so Stories." "W. G." contributes a notice of Dr. Kellas.

THE *Yorkshire Ramblers' Club Journal* has made its reappearance after an interval of nearly seven years, and it is not surprising, therefore, to find it containing a record of the war services of members of the Club and In Memoriam notices of those killed in action. The career of many a good climber was evidently cut short by the great European conflict, but mountaineering has still its devotees, as is well attested by the contents of the present number. Several of the articles describing climbs are almost provocative of "thrills" on the part of the reader, so venturesome they appear and so fraught with danger. Especially is this the case with Mr. C. D. Frankland's account of his experiments with rubber-soled shoes, which he declares essential to the successful ascent of sundry pitches in the Lake district. Mr. C. E. Benson describes with not a little mordant humour several climbs in Arran. He has a particular quarrel with Cir Mhor and a contributor to the *C. C. J.*, (so far back as July 1904). What was described as scree he found to be sand. "Granite disintegrated to the condition of coarse sand is not scree," he writes. "In fact, the two-thirds of the terrace below the grass is in dry weather a gigantic sand heap, in wet a gigantic muck heap, much of it at a high angle, and studded with stones treacherously embedded."