

NOTES.

THE Ordnance Survey Department, acting on a suggestion by Mr. James A. Parker, has just published a map of the Cairngorms which will prove exceedingly serviceable to all

NEW MAP OF THE CAIRNGORMS. mountaineers who explore the region it covers, and useful also to casual visitors to the district. One particular feature of the map, which indeed constitutes its main merit, is that it comprises in one sheet the delineation of the Cairngorm range, which hitherto has extended over four separate sheets of the one-inch Ordnance map. As far back as 1895, the Cairngorm Club, with the permission of the Ordnance Survey Department, published a one-sheet map embracing the relative portions of the four sheets, thus delineating the whole Cairngorm region, with the addition of several place-names that were not on the Ordnance map; and this, of course, obviated the necessity of the pedestrian carrying the four separate sheets and was much more handy for consultative purposes *en route*. This 1895 map, however, has long been out of print, and now it is completely superseded by a greatly improved map which there can be no hesitation in warmly commending. For one thing, a larger area has been delineated, the utility of the map being greatly enhanced thereby. The western boundary, for instance, has been extended to include Kingussie and Gaick Lodge. The eastern boundary now embraces Cock Bridge and the Lecht road to Tomintoul, Balmoral and Crathie, and the summit of Lochnagar. The southern boundary has been projected so as to include the track from Loch Callater to the top of Lochnagar and the beginning of the Glen Tilt path. The map is printed in four colours, viz:—brown for contour lines, secondary roads, and, in six shades, surfaces over 1500 feet altitude; blue for water; green, in two shades, for surfaces under 1500 feet; and red for main roads. Heights are shown on the "layer" system, *i.e.* by contours, and these are shown throughout at intervals of 50 feet vertical, which is a new feature. Every fifth contour line is more heavily printed than the others, thus enabling the eye readily to pick out the 250 feet lines. The scale is that of one inch to the mile, and the map measures 32 inches by 22 inches, and is divided into two-inch squares. It is clearly printed on mounted paper, and is folded into a convenient size for the pocket; its price is 3s. The Club is greatly indebted to Mr.

Parker for the suggestion which has led to the production of this handsome and useful map, and is grateful also to the Ordnance Survey Department for so readily responding to his suggestion.

WE were glad to see such a large representation of the Club at the lecture in February last, in which Mr. George L. Mallory, the leader of the climbing party in last year's Mount Everest expedition, described the efforts of his colleagues and himself to find an available route to the summit. The lecture was of enthralling interest, and the lecturer speedily gained the ear of his audience by his lucid exposition of the routes followed, and of the "reconnaissance" work that was prosecuted in order to discover the most feasible way to tackle the giant mountain. Felicitous, too, were his descriptions of the varied scenery encountered and of the reflections inspired by the wild and weird surroundings in which the explorers often found themselves placed—the thrilling account of a moonlight ride may be instanced. Mr. Mallory, in short, demonstrated that he is particularly well equipped with the essential mentality as well as the physical prowess for the great work he has on hand. As Mr. John Clarke aptly expressed it in proposing the vote of thanks—"Mr. Mallory proved himself worthy of his subject." The lecture was supplemented by photographic views that were truly magnificent—no other phrase can adequately describe them, either as regards distant effects or near-hand details. The numerous and wonderful pictures of snow-clad peaks, mountain ridges, glaciers, precipices, rock faces, snow masses, etc., were realistic to a degree, imposing and arrestive. Not the least impressive was the concluding picture of Mount Everest at sunset with spindrift snow being swept off the summit like a great streamer thousands of feet high.

TO most of us, I suppose, the period around Easter usually sees the beginning of our hill activities for the season, and while the weather during that holiday this year was not such as would tempt one far from home, that of the few days immediately following was too good to be missed. So, on the morning of the 19th April, in spite of official intelligence that the Cairnwell road was still blocked with snow, we oiled up our bicycle, and, as in previous spring days, pedalled up that hilly road nearly as far as the Devil's Elbow. We left home without any definite object in view, but, while proceeding up Glen Shee and as the giant hills, one after another, began to show their snowy summits, we had ample time in which to make up our mind. First of all there was Mount Blair; then, far away at the head of Glen Brighty, rose Creag Leacach and Glas Maol;

Beinn a' Ghlo showed face on the left ; while Carn Geoidh and Carn Bhinnein next appeared beyond the massive Beinn Gulabin. At the Spital we finally decided on a tramp over the Cairnwell and the mass of hills immediately to the west of the pass. The bicycle was left at the head of Gleann Beag at the point marked on the map, 1499, where a burn comes down from between the Cairnwell and Carn nan Sac. The hot sun was rapidly melting the snow on the lower slopes, so the walking at first was rather wet, but higher up the frost held and we were able to proceed in comfort, cheered by the fine appearance of the eastern face of Carn nan Sac across the narrow glen on our left. At the summit of the Cairnwell (3059 feet) we sat down for a bit to admire the surroundings and eat our frugal lunch. The Cairngorms were in sight and presented a rather unusual appearance for midday. While the sky was of a pale amethyst hue, the hilltops showing up through a thick haze were all beautifully tinted with a delicate pinky glow such as one usually associates with evening. Of course, all the higher hills were clothed in spotless white, and the road in Glen Clunie appeared to be blocked for miles. From our feet unbroken snowfields stretched on by Carn nan Sac to Carn Geoidh, and it was an easy descent in a north-westerly direction to the dip. Ptarmigan were plentiful ; indeed, they were flitting about among our feet all day. A long gradual ascent to the south-west, skirting the fine little glen that runs up between these two hills, led to the summit of Carn nan Sac (3000 feet), where a single upright stone marks the highest point, as it has done since 1897. Half a mile westward rose the massive Carn Geoidh, with hardly any dip between, and thither we bent our steps. From the cairn (3194 feet), which was buried in snow, the western Glen Shee hills—Glas Thulachan, the Ben Uarns, etc.—showed up fine, with the distinctive little summit of Carn Bhinnein in the foreground. But time flies and we must think of our long journey home, so a retreat is made to Carn nan Sac, and then an easy and rapid descent is made into Gleann Beag, and thus ends our first day on the "big" hills for the year 1922.—W. B.

THE Grampian Electricity Supply Bill, which embodies a very ambitious scheme for generating electric power from lochs and streams in the Perthshire Highlands, passed a GRAMPIAN COMMITTEE of the House of Commons early in ELECTRICITY MAY. Serious objection was taken, however, to a SUPPLY BILL. provision that the Credit Facilities Advisory Committee (in other words, the State) should guarantee the interest on the debenture stock, but after a debate on this point the bill was read a third time in the Commons by 185 votes to 78. It transpired in the course of the proceedings before the Parliamentary Committee that the project was initiated by an

Italian, Mr. Manx Fe, who has had experience of hydro-electric installations in Italy, but it was ultimately taken up by a British concern, the Hydro-Electric Development Company, who became the promoters of the bill. What is aimed at is to utilise Lochs Ericht, Garry, and Rannoch, the river Garry, and other lochs and streams, for the production of electric power, to construct generating stations at Dull, Blair Atholl, and Fortingall, and to supply electricity in the counties of Perth, Kinross, and Forfar, and certain parishes in Invernessshire, Argyllshire and Stirlingshire. The catchment area is estimated at 417 square miles, and the waters to be utilised are capable of generating 56,000 horse-power continuously. The chief features of the scheme are the construction of a dam at each end of Loch Ericht, raising the level of the loch by 37 feet, and the construction of a tunnel conveying the water down to a power station at Loch Rannoch, which would be capable of generating 26,900 horse-power. The transmission system would extend about 165 miles, reaching Perth and Dundee, and the transmission would be by overhead cables; and there is a possibility of the power being used for the electrification of part (or of the whole) of the Highland Railway system. The promoters are given ten years to complete the works. The entire scheme is estimated to cost four and a half millions, but it is intended to proceed with it gradually, and meantime authority was sought to raise only £1,750,000, of capital, with power to borrow £875,000. Unfortunately, the scheme will submerge a number of paths and obliterate several recognised rights-of-way, and no clause appears in the bill for the provision of substitutes.

THE following interesting passage—for which we are indebted to Mr. A. I. McConnochie—appeared originally in the *Aberdeen Magazine*, (Vol. I 1796,) and was reproduced in a

A SHIELING “Collection of Entertaining Pieces” made by
IN Charles Dawson, and published in 1805:—

GLENDEE. “At last, upon the approach of night, I found myself in a deep and hollow glen [Glen Dee], without hopes of any shelter but what the rocks supplied, when to my very great, but agreeable surprise, in one corner of it, I discovered an earthen hut, and a few goats browsing around . . . An old man, who was standing at the door, kindly invited me into his shieling. ‘This,’ says he, ‘is the habitation of me and my daughter, during the summer, when we tend a few cattle, subsist upon the milk, and with the cheese we make, procure necessaries for ourselves in the low country during the winter.’ . . . She was a good damsel, only a little sunburnt, and did the honours of the house with great propriety . . . But what gave [the supper] the highest relish, was my landlord’s intelligence that the sources of

the Dee, the great object of my inquiry, were not above a mile distant, whither he promised to conduct me the following day At length the morning came After clambering over some precipices, and twice or thrice crossing the river, which was here neither deep nor broad, we arrived at the foot of a gently rising hill, covered with verdure My conductor here pointed out to me a rock on the brow of the hill, 'where,' says he, 'is the principal fountain.' I sprang up the acclivity, and in a moment—judge ye, O ye readers, of my rapture!—found myself at the SOURCE of the DEE"

The passage is of more interest for the reference to a sheiling in Glendee than for its account of the source of the Dee, the former being definite, the latter somewhat elusive.

THE Braemar Gathering in the 'fifties and even later, was a much more lively affair than the local pageant to which it has degenerated. Then detachments of VENISON AT THE BRAEMAR GATHERING. Highlanders crossed the mountains from north and south to take part in the proceedings, receiving a Highland hospitality from the Earl of Fife and others. Those were the days when stags were roasted whole to dine the competitors, and venison was distributed with no niggard hand. Such wholesale cooking was one of the most picturesque sights at Mar Lodge; one wonders that Landseer, always quick to put on record forest incidents, made no sketch of such a scene when he was on a visit to Mar forest—*Scottish Field* for February.

A note in the *Alpine Journal* shows that, despite the popular notion that mountaineering is dangerous, it is really conducive to long life. The lists of Alpine Club members who CLIMBING AND LONGEVITY. died during the three years 1919-20-21 record 50 deaths of members who lived no fewer than 35½ years each on an average after joining the Club.

The average age of entry may be taken as 35. By the mortality table of the Institute of Actuaries, the expectation of life of a man of 35 is exactly 31 years, so that there was an average gain of 4½ years on each of the 50 lives, or, as the writer of the note puts it, "about 232 years of usefulness (let us hope) on the whole 50 lives." An experience of the Scottish Mountaineering Club confirms the general conclusion of a connection between climbing and longevity. "In 1904 a commutation scheme for life membership, based on the general expectation of life, was started and largely taken advantage of. The next ten years proved the life members to be so unreasonably tenacious of their club privileges, that not a single death had occurred among them! The result was that, in order to prevent the threatened exhaustion of the

commutation fund, it was found necessary to revise the scale of future payments."

The recently-elected Pope—Cardinal Achille Ratti, Archbishop of Milan, now Pius XI—was a strenuous mountaineer in his early days, and is a member of the Italian Alpine Club.

THE POPE When he was a priest at Milan, he and a fellow-priest, Professor Grassili, made the first Italian ascent of Monte Rosa from the Italian side, crossing it from Macugnaga to the Riffelberg, and being obliged to spend two nights out on the mountain. This was in 1889. Two days after reaching Riffelberg from this expedition, the adventurous priests made the ascent of the Matterhorn, and, being once more overtaken by the darkness, they were again compelled to spend the night in the open. In the following year they ascended Mont Blanc by the Rochat and descended by the Dome Glacier—a feat which up to that time had not been attempted. An interesting account of the Monte Rosa climb was contributed by the Pope to the Proceedings of the Italian Alpine Club, and a translation of it was published in the *Review of Reviews* for March last. It has just been announced that His Holiness is about to publish an essay on Alpine climbing.