

## REVIEWS.

THE DEESIDE FIELD. Edited by A. Macdonald and J. B. Philip. Aberdeen: The Rosemount Press. Pp. viii+68, 2/6.—A Deeside Field Club was instituted two years ago, with the "THE DEESIDE FIELD." archæology, folk-lore, history and literature of Deeside, and the still more laudable object of stimulating the interest of the young in these studies. Under the auspices of the Club a number of excursions to various places have been made, and at these excursions addresses were delivered dealing with outstanding features of the places visited, such as their architectural and archæological characteristics and their historical associations. So valuable were some of these addresses, containing as they did much information not readily accessible in printed form, that the Club wisely determined on publishing them. The original intention was widened, however, and a number of articles have been introduced dealing with diverse matters relating to Deeside which did not come within the scope of the addresses at the excursions. The result is a delightful and interesting volume, highly creditable to its editors, and bound to prove attractive, not only to Aberdonians and to dwellers on Deeside, but to all who have come under the influence of the beauties and the charm of the Deeside Valley. Conspicuous among the addresses that were delivered are those on "The Old Church of Maryculter" by Mr. G. M. Fraser, and on "Tullich and St. Nathalan" by Mr. W. Douglas Simpson; and these are in a sense supplemented by a paper on the "Scientific and Historical Appeal of Deeside," by Mr. Alexander Macdonald, and one by the Marquis of Huntly on "The Historical Battlefields of Deeside." There are four very valuable scientific contributions which give the book a distinctive character and must ensure it an enduring place in Deeside literature:—"Deeside as a Field for the Study of Geology," by Dr. Alexander Bremner; "The Flora of Deeside," by Dr. Macgregor Skene; "The Birds of Dee: A Biological Glimpse," by Professor J. Arthur Thomson; and "Mammals of Deeside," by Dr. James Ritchie. In a different vein, but noticeable for recalling many of the distinguished men long and honourably associated with Deeside, are "Some Past Deeside Notabilities" by Lord Aberdeen, "Some Celebrities of Central Deeside," by Miss Burnett Ramsay of Banchory, and an admirable sketch of Anthony Mactier of Durris, well described as "a notable Deeside Laird," for he transformed a barren tract into what is now one of the most famous arboricultural regions in the whole country. One obvious omission of the book is



the lack of reference to the Deeside mountains—but that is excusable perhaps in the case of a Club indulging only in one-day excursions. Mr. John Clarke, however, furnishes an article on "The Glen Feshie Route," and our other vice-president writes on "Scenic View-Points on Deeside," but leaves the ascertainment and appreciation of the views from the tops of the giant mountains beyond Braemar to "the energetic and ardent members of the Cairngorm Club." The book, it should be added, has a large number of excellent illustrations, which clearly show that many members of the Club are uncommonly good photographers. Altogether, the Club is to be congratulated on its enterprise in publishing such a work, and on its success in obtaining so many interesting and valuable contributions.

R. A.

**TOURIST'S GUIDE TO DEESIDE.** Illustrated. Aberdeen: "Aberdeen Daily Journal" Office. pp. 116. 1/6.—In this booklet we have guide-book matter—description of scenery,

**A DEESIDE** historical lore, and local incident—reduced to  
**GUIDE.** pemmican. Brevity is the feature, which was clearly inevitable in view of the limited size of the work. Nevertheless, having regard to the scale adopted, the treatment is fairly adequate, and all the prominent aspects of Deeside and its historical associations are duly noted. Written evidently for the casual tourist, the booklet contains enough to interest him in the country traversed, while ample (and just a trifle disproportionate) space is given to the three special holiday resorts, Banchory, Ballater, and Braemar. The work of revision might have been executed with a little more care. The quaint epitaph in Drumoak churchyard which is quoted refers to a dweller in Carnie, not "Cairnie"; the founder of the herds' bonfire in Durriss was Hogg, not "Ogg"; it is the Eildons, not the "Eidons," with which Sir Walter Scott is identified; and the Huntly monument on Mortlich, the Roman Catholic chapel in Glengairn, and the Gallows Tree opposite Mar Lodge are mentioned as if they were still existent. The press reader, too, is often at fault: he has made a bad break in passing "Clad" for "Cead" in "Cead Mille failte," (p. 50).

R. A.

"SEEN FROM THE TOP OF BEN-Y-VRACKIE" is the title of a sketch of the horizon viewed from this popular tourist hill, published by L. Mackay, stationer, Pitlochry, (price 9d).

**A PERTSHIRE** Though quite a modest production this outline  
**MOUNTAIN** sketch is very well done, and it is a pity that a  
**OUTLINE.** little more care had not been bestowed on the identification of some of the visible points, and also on the accompanying letterpress. The altitude is wrongly given in quite half-a-dozen cases—Ben Vrackie itself being among

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the number. The author, whoever he is—his name is withheld—is evidently not a hillman of very wide experience, as he is unable to recognise a number of well-known and unmistakable peaks. Adjoining tops of the Beinn a' Ghlo mountains puzzle him not a little, for while the group is correctly delineated, we find the name Ben-y-Glo placed over Braigh Coire Chruinn Bhalgain, the middle peak, with Carn na Gobhar at its north end, while the actual summit of Beinn a' Ghlo—Carn nan Gabhar—is christened Ben Vuroch. The latter hill is not shown in the sketch at all. The two distant peaks—only one is shown on the chart—seen over the Bealach an Fhiodha are, in our humble opinion, not Ben Muich Dhui, but Cairn Toul and a little bit of the Angel's Peak. Carn an Rìgh is marked Ben Gulabain. The quite distinctive and well-known Mount Blair bears the appellation "Lamh Dearg," while the much flatter Cat Law beyond does duty for its more shapely neighbour Mount Blair. Ben Alder, Ben Udlaman and Ben Lomond are omissions. Ben More in Mull is shown as being visible, but we hardly think this possible. With careful revision we have no doubt this chart will prove very useful to the tourist or occasional hill-climber. W. B.

IN the October number of the *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal* Mr. E. W. Steeple describes "Some New Climbs from Glen Brittle," and Mr. H. G. Willink furnishes a

"SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN-EERING CLUB JOURNAL." brief account of an ascent of Blaven in 1873, which, it is surmised, was the earliest traverse of this Skye mountain by the rock faces and gullies therein mentioned, preceding Sheriff Nicholson's, which was not made till 1875. Mr. J. Gall

Inglis writes on "The Carn Mairg Range (Glen Lyon)," a range still very much a *terra incognita* but "essentially a hunting-ground for the hill walker, up and down over half-a-dozen peaks." In "A Day on Braeriach," Mr. Alexander B. Beattie describes a climb from the lower bothy in Glen Eunach to the summit of Braeriach by way of Coire-an-Lochan, the descent being made to the upper bothy. There is an effective picture of a "mist revelation" at the top: "Suddenly an opening appeared in the dense wall of drifting vapour and, widening rapidly, momentarily revealed an impressive snapshot view of the landscape 2,000 feet below. The mist again closed in, and we were left with the vivid recollection of an aerial picture of Glen Dee framed complete by Nature's hand." The article is accompanied by two excellent photographs by the author—"In Glen Eunach" and "Cairn Toul from Braeriach." In "A Glimpse at the Lunar Mountains," Mr. James M'Coss furnishes a most interesting article on the mountains of the moon—a subject, we suspect, which does not much engage the attention of the terrestrial mountaineer. The



article has a sub-title, "Through the Telescope and at Close Quarters"; but we do not imagine that Mr. M'Coss has been emulating Jules Verne and has made a journey to the moon. His observations evidently have been made through a refracting telescope, but he has skilfully woven an air of verisimilitude into them and described for us imaginary climbs up tremendous altitudes, "crag rising on crag, and precipice upon precipice, mingled with craters and yawning pits, towering pinnacles of rock, and piles of volcanic debris." This exposition of the mountains of the moon is deserving of careful study.

OF the dozen or so articles in the *Yorkshire Ramblers' Club Journal* for the past year, no fewer than five are devoted to accounts of the exploration of some of the pot-holes which abound in Yorkshire. "Speleological" work, as it is termed, is also being conducted among the Mendip Hills in Somersetshire, and interesting discoveries have been made. Admirable photographs accompanying the articles give us some idea of the features of these curious subterranean chambers. There is a brief but interesting description of an endeavour—which was successfully accomplished—to cross the fells at the heads of the Yorkshire dales in snow. Mr. Matthew Botterill contributes a diary of a yachting cruise to Loch Scavaig and then through the Sound of Sleat to Loch Hourn and other places, with which were combined several mountain ascents.

WE have frequently called attention to the excellent verses descriptive of Highland scenery which appear from time to time in *Punch*. The latest contribution—in the issue of 25th October—was concerned with a day's run in a motor car from Edinburgh to Aviemore. There is a captivating enthusiasm in the concluding lines:—

The Highland Road's been sung before and should be sung again,  
With a verse for every heather hill and every rowan glen;  
And, though God's earth is a goodly place and a many roads there be,  
It's the North Road, the Atholl Road, the Highland Road for me!  
We may be pardoned quoting other two verses, which are calculated to thrill all familiar with the region delineated:—

A minstrel wind from Badenoch sang  
Laments for the waning day,  
As from darkling Ericht the Truim sprang  
To carry us down to Spey  
By crags and corries and grey rock spurs  
Where the steadiest head may flinch  
Till evening fell on the Laggan firs  
And the sunlit birks of Insh.



Then thanks be given whate'er betide  
 That still as heretofore  
 A man may waken in Morningside  
 And couch him in Aviemore ;  
 Thanks for the rare road running north  
 And a day that gave its due,  
 From the mounting sun on the Firth of Forth  
 To the moon on the Larig Ghru.

WE learn from a note in the May-June number of *La Montagne* the organ of the French Alpine Club, that the Council of the arrondissement of Grenoble has expressed the THREATENED view that chamois-hunting should not be permitted EXTINCTION for the next three years. The chamois, it seems, OF THE is "a victim of the war." Many Frenchmen CHAMOIS. learned at the front to use arms at very long range, and returning with German muskets and quantities of cartridges, have deemed it incumbent on them not to waste these munitions. So an indiscriminate warfare is being waged on the innocent chamois. Entire herds of them have been already annihilated, and there is a danger that "the most graceful animal of the mountains" will be eventually extirpated. As *La Montagne* says, it is desirable that the suggested prohibition be enacted as speedily as possible.

THE following interesting note appears in the *Bulletin of the Associated Mountaineering Clubs of North America*, for 1922:—

DENUDATION appreciation of the necessity for a national forest OF AMERICAN policy, and for scientific forestry on all privately- FORESTS. owned as well as public lands; and this will bring the needed legislation. Meanwhile we have over eighty million acres that have been denuded by fire and ruinous lumbering, and we add to them from ten to fifteen million acres yearly. Four-fifths of our forests are privately owned, and it is stated that our timber is being used about five times faster than we produce it. We lose 20,000,000 dollars a year by forest fires. At the present rate of destruction it is predicted we shall be without important forests in less than fifty years. It costs only five to fifteen dollars an acre to reforest denuded land, but no general effort is yet being made to provide for the future. We are paying over 85,000,000 dollars a year to import paper for newspaper use alone. There is gratifying activity on the part of some of our states, but none in the way of legislation. . . . Fifty years ago this spring, Nebraska started the Arbor Day movement, and since then 700,000 acres have been planted in this state alone. Some of the large western lumber companies are now beginning to apply scientific forestry and reforestation in order to insure a future for themselves."