

under the existing law. There is a risk of making the position worse rather than better unless the clauses applying the Bill to Scotland are most carefully worded. And if real access is to be given to mountains, better facilities will have to be afforded for the accommodation of travellers. We do not suggest that the State should necessarily build hotels and rest-houses, though it did this in the Highlands in the eighteenth century, but it should forbid proprietors to close hotels already existing and convert them into shooting lodges, as is being done to-day, and it should free tenants and others from the restrictions now put upon them in some districts against the housing of visitors. It is by these and other measures of an insidious kind that considerable tracts of the Highlands are rendered inaccessible to the climber.

MOUNTAIN MEMORIES.

(Written of Helvellyn but applicable to many hills.)

May one of those who normally essay
The lightest themes of superficial rhymers
Presume, unchecked, to criticise the way
Of certain mountain-climbers?

I clambered lately to Helvellyn's crest.
There, if you share my notion of aesthetics
You'll sympathise with the implied request
In these my homiletics.

Round the full circle when your eyes have gone,
To mark what scenes the far horizon fringes,
Observe the decorative scheme that on
Your nearer view impinges.

Chocolate-wrappers, orange-peel, and string ;
Of sandwich-papers, white and brown, say twenty ;
A "Daily Shout" ; a mangled chicken-wing ;
Banana-skins in plenty.

I lit a fire and tended it with care.
I felt a longing that was frankly cruel.
I only wished I had those tourists there
To serve as extra fuel.

F. H. J.

In the "Manchester Guardian."