

## REVIEWS.

THE October and April issues of the *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal* contains a pleasing mixture of lighter stuff and severely

SCOTTISH  
MOUNTAIN-  
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serious matter and the illustrations, especially in the October issue, are numerous and attractive. Mr. J. Gall Inglis has put at the disposal of the editor the manuscript of an account of a walking tour in the Highlands in 1856 undertaken by his uncle, the late C. S. Inglis, and it is interesting to

see something of conditions as they existed sixty-eight years ago. C. S. Inglis was one of three brothers, all great walkers, who kept up their hill tours they were septua-genarians. He used to think nothing of going for a 70-mile tramp across the hills, lying down for a sleep en route wrapped in his plaid in the lee of a dyke. The tour described covers the Western Highlands as far north as Mam Soul. Ten years later the brothers visited the Cairngorms. An unconventional and entertaining paper is that by Mr. A. M. Macrae Williamson, entitled "The Miseries of Mountaineering," describing two very wet camping and climbing expeditions to Ben Avon and Beinn a Bhuird, the first from Corgarff and the second from Glen Derry. Every hill lover will sympathise with the paradox put by Mr. Williamson—misery as you get soaked and weary, and joy and thrill in the retrospect. The worst days on the hills become the finest in memory.

THE *Journal of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club*. Edited by R. S. T. Chorley. Pp. 160. A detailed guide to the climbs on the

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Pillar Rock and neighbouring crags occupies the first, and a considerable part of this volume, the writer being H. M. Kelly, who expresses his indebtedness to a number of his fellow-members for their assistance. The first recorded ascent of the

Pillar Rock was made in 1826, and to-day it is one of the favourite climbing faces in the Lakes, dozens of routes of varying degrees of difficulty having been worked out upon it. These are all

detailed, with dotted lines on diagrams and photographs, and exact particulars down almost to every handhold and belay. The degree of difficulty and length of rope required for each climb are stated. The other rock faces in the vicinity are described with similar fulness and exactitude. This guide to the Pillar is one of the series which the Club is preparing for the whole of the Lake District. "Envoi," a photogravure of the Pillar from below, silhouetted against the sky, is a charming picture. It was taken by J. H. Doughty and so was the fine photograph of Yewbarrow with snow. The scene in Mosedale by A. Wilson is also most pleasing. Scottish mountaineers who remember Mr. Lawrence Pilkington's work in Skye, will be interested in his reminiscences of climbing in the Lakes. Other articles deal with the Girdle Traverse of Doe Crag and climbs in Langdale, and numerous new routes on old climbs are recorded in the Notes upon members' doings. An account is given of the negotiations leading up to the purchase of Great Gable and the Glaramara ridge as a war memorial, and we have dealt on another page with this noteworthy project upon the successful completion of which the Club is to be warmly congratulated. A fine panoramic view of the summits included in the area conveys a vivid impression of the mountain richness of the memorial. Mr. T. Howard Somervell, who was with the Everest expedition in 1922, describes some ascents which he made north of Kangchanjunga, and articles of a lighter vein and notes and reviews impart variety and interest to an excellent issue.

THE *Yorkshire Ramblers' Club Journal*, published annually (Offices of the Club : 10 Park St., Leeds, 5/- net), is a handsome volume, finely printed and richly illustrated.

YORKSHIRE RAMBLERS' CLUB. The opening articles describe expeditions in the Alps and Norway, after which comes a diary of a combined yachting and climbing holiday on the west-coast of Scotland. A distinctive feature of

Yorkshire climbing is the exploration of the pot holes and caverns which abound in that region. "First descents" take the place of "first ascents" and various papers and notes and diagrams deal with climbs of this kind. A photograph, taken by flashlight, shows a group of climbers standing at the foot of an underground waterfall in Alum.Pot. This fall can be reached from below, but has not yet been climbed. Of archaeological value as well as interest to the pot holer is the account of the excavations made at Fox Holes at Ingleborough where remains of pre-historic wars have been found. Admirably detailed photographs and drawings

of these remains are given. Mr. E. E. Roberts, the editor of the *Journal*, has been elected president of the Club. J. V. Hazard of the Everest expedition is a Yorkshire Rambler.

THE *Rucksack Club Journal*, edited by John Wilding (Charles H. Barber, 5a Ann Street, Manchester 4/- net). Last year this

Club came of age and it has now entered on manhood with every show of vitality as is evidenced by the variety and interest of its annual journal. Those who know the Cuillins in Skye will appreciate Mr. E. W. Steeple's account of a visit which he and his friend Mr. Barlow—the joint names are already well-known in connection with Skye—paid to Lofoten. Mr. Steeple's beautiful photographs show how closely the Lofoten peaks resemble the Cuillins: in fact, if the title were obliterated, one would say of the Troltinder "These are the Cuillins, aren't they, in spring, with snow on them." There are several Alpine articles but one is glad to see that our native mountains receive due honour. New climbs at Wasdale are described and Mr. J. Rooke Corbett and Mr. N. Freedman give accounts of winter expeditions among the lesser known tops of the Ben Nevis district and to Ben Alder respectively. Incidentally the former refers in terms of high praise to the special map of the Cairngorms issued by the *Ordnance Survey* which he describes as "almost ideal" and wishes that similar maps would be done for other popular districts. Charming photographs accompany Mr. A. W. Boyd's paper on "Birds of the British Hills." Other pages, as, for example, Mr. G. Winthrop Young's verses, will naturally appeal to Club members rather than to the general reader.

THE *Annual of the Mountain Club of South Africa* No. 26—1923. Published by the Cape Town Section. Pp. 112. 2/-. This hand-

south some volume, while largely devoted to mountain-eeering interests in the direct sense, contains much that will appeal to nature lovers generally, in the shape both of letterpress and of illustrations. Elsewhere we have referred to the unveiling of the Club's war memorial on Table Mountain and taken the liberty of reproducing from the *Annual* General Smuts' noble utterance on the Religion of the Mountains. Passing to the other contents we note an account of the First Ascent of Slanghoek Needle by K. White, a lady being in the party. The photographs accompanying this article are excellent and remind one of the rock scenery in the Torridon district of Ross-shire. Other rock-climbing articles are

devoted to the first ascent of Columnar Face and an ascent of Cleft Peak and Buffels Dome and we then pass to several papers of a more general travel kind, describing expeditions in Zululand and Eastern Secocoeniland and Pondoland. Climbers and walkers in Scotland, where everything has long since been explored and worked out, must envy their comrades in South Africa where there is so much fresh country to conquer. The Club can boast some accomplished naturalists in its ranks, to judge by the admirable drawings and descriptions of birds of the duck family which are native to the Cape Peninsula, contributed by two members. This paper is the fifth of a series. The Cape Town Section of the Mountain Club of South Africa is a flourishing body with over 500 members and with an active programme of club meets and lectures and afternoon rambles. The annual report, published as an appendix to this volume, refers to the growing popularity of mountaineering, as witnessed by the increasing number of people who visit Table Mountain and the surrounding districts. An appeal is made to the public not to roll stones down the mountain, because of the obvious danger of this practice, especially as rock-climbing on the face of the mountain is now being pursued.

*La Montagne.* Nos. 167 to 170. December, 1923, to February, 1924. These four numbers of the monthly journal of the French

FRENCH  
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Alpine Club contain a number of excellent articles of which probably the most interesting are the two by M. L. Maury descriptive of the Picos de Europa, a little known mountain region near Santander. The reports of the monthly *seances* of the C.A.F. are interesting and bear witness to the great activity of the Club and the enthusiasm of its members. The journal is well illustrated and all the illustrations are described in detail, a feature which with advantage might be copied by other mountain journals.

*The Pillar Rock and Neighbouring Climbs:* A Climbers' Guide by H. M. Kelly. Published by the Fell and Rock Climbing Club, pp. 68. This is the second of the guides

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prepared by the Fell and Rock Club, the first, dealing with the climbs on Doe Crags and round Coniston, having been published a year ago. The matter comprised in the present guide has previously appeared in the *Journal* of the Club, which is reviewed above, and further reference is not necessary, except to mention that

in the present reprint some additional features, including an index, are introduced, all enhancing the usefulness of the guide-book for the rock-climber. The work is complete: the rock-climber will revel in the technical details and diagrams, and the mountain lover will enjoy the admirable photographs. The guide is sensibly bound in pliable but strong covers.

*James William Helenus Trail: A Memorial Volume.* Aberdeen: The University Press, pp. 331. Though not of direct interest to mountaineers this volume, containing a memoir of PROFESSOR TRAIL. Professor Trail and his hitherto unpublished Flora of Aberdeen, deals with the career of a close student of Nature who knew the north-east of Scotland as perhaps few men did, and with the plant life of the city of Aberdeen and its immediate vicinity, and as such it deserves the notice of all lovers of the open air. For years Professor Trail had been collecting data for a flora of the city, meaning by this the land within the burgh boundary—a flora to include not only native plants but migrants from up country and strange aliens sprung from seeds cast out on rubbish heaps at railway sidings and elsewhere. The results of his painstaking and exact observations are seen in the pages now published in this volume. They are preceded by a most interesting survey which he wrote, describing the topographical changes which have taken place in the area of the city since early times—the levelling of hills, the draining of the lochs and marshes, the reclaiming of waste ground, the building of streets, all of which have affected the plant life of the locality, mostly, of course, in the way of exterminating species. His own memory carried him back to the sixties—before the diversion of the Dee, when the Inches still existed and supported an extensive estuarine flora. This vanished, and though such a flora lingered about the Tile Burn and the mouth of the Don until our own day, it is now disappearing there also, in consequence of the changes carried out on the Links.

It is pointed out by Professor Trail that the Dee, owing to its sources being at a greater height, has differed much from the Don in the prevalence along its banks, even to a low level, of typically alpine and subalpine plants, sprung from seeds or from bulbs or other reproductive parts carried down by the river and lodged on the shingles or banks. Thus the flora of Aberdeen included on the north bank of the Dee and on the inches of the estuary, a good many plants of a type quite distinct from those on the low ground away from the river. Among the alpine and upland plants that

formerly grew beside the Dee within Aberdeen, there have disappeared Bald Money or Highland Micken, (*Meum athamanticum*), Mountain Sorrel (*Oxyria digyna*) and Northern Bedstraw (*Galium boreale*). Very interesting and suggestive of strange wanderings and vicissitudes are the exotic plants found by Professor Trail. Many of these are natives of the Mediterranean lands and the Black Sea, brought here with grain, and noted by Professor Trail's quick eye. They flourished for a summer but in most cases failed to produce seed and have therefore not become established as true colonists. Two exceptions there are however, to this fatality of climate, which are familiar to all who know the Dee and its tributary burns, the blue Lupine and the yellow Mimulus. The *Lupinus Nootkatensis* is a native of the northern Pacific coast of America, and the story given by Professor Trail, though he does not vouch for its accuracy, is that when Balmoral was bought by Queen Victoria in 1847, this lupine was among the plants brought to the castle grounds, whence it escaped and the seeds or roots were carried down the Dee. By 1862 it had reached Aboyne and Professor Trail watched its progress down the river, how it established itself on the shingles—or stanners, to use the local word—first dispossessing the native plants, then altering the level of the shingle beds, thus making it possible for large grasses and other coarse vegetation to arise and in turn crush out the lupine. The *Mimulus Langsdorffii* also comes from Western North America, and was introduced as a garden flower in this country in 1820. It quickly spread as a wild flower along ditches and streams and is first reported near Aberdeen in 1865. Professor Trail quotes a correspondent in the *Aberdeen Free Press* in 1907, who stated that the late Professor Dickie, Professor Trail's predecessor in the chair of Botany, sowed seeds of the *Mimulus* in various places about Aberdeen, hoping to naturalise it. We have touched on only a few of the points suggested by this fascinating volume.

*The Hill Paths, Drove Roads and Cross Country Routes in Scotland.* Notes and Recollections compiled by Walter A.

Smith, F.F.A. Edinburgh: Macniven and

HILL PATHS Wallace. Pp. 104. 2/6.—Few know the hills

AND of Scotland better or can write of them more

DRIVE ROADS. lovingly than Mr. Smith and contributions from his pen to the literature of the Highlands are

always welcome. One is glad that he has here put on record the matter gathered in his wanderings over the length and breadth of the country from the Cheviots to Caithness and Orkney, adding

information as to various other hill routes not actually traversed by himself and thus furnishing the fullest and most comprehensive handbook that has yet appeared upon this side of Scottish mountaineering. Cross country wandering, as distinct from hill climbing, has a charm of its own. There is always a peculiar novelty—familiar though the ground may be—in rising from one valley and seeing beyond the watershed another countryside burst upon the eye. Especially do the Grampians furnish such a dividing range and most of us can recall some occasion when we have breasted the hills from Deeside and when suddenly a spacious prospect has opened before us over all Strathmore and away to Ben Voirlich and the Lomonds in Fife and we have stood for a moment like Cortez “silent upon a peak in Darien.” The feature of the Mounth roads across the Grampians, which are all admirably and concisely described by Mr. Smith, is that they do not go through passes in the hills but over the broad summits, no doubt in order to avoid peaty ground and secure solid footing for horses and cattle. To-day our flocks and herds go by train from north to south: in old days they went on foot and men went on foot too and the hill paths were the arteries of the country's life. They are now silent and deserted save for an occasional tinker or tramp, the sole survivor and custodian of old usage.

Much interesting history, some authentic and some legendary, clings to the hill routes of Scotland and these associations are noted by Mr. Smith along with the more precise details of heights and directions and distances. In the next edition of the little volume, which will no doubt soon be called for, he should perhaps question the reference to King Edward's crossing of the Fir Mounth in 1296 and 1303. The authority for this is not accepted by Mr. G. M. Fraser in his account of the Deeside roads. One cannot speak from personal knowledge of the many other routes described in these pages, for they number some 200 in all, and cover the whole of Scotland, remote and accessible regions alike, but if they are all done as carefully as those on Deeside and in the Cairngorms, the book will be found satisfactory in other districts no less than here. If ever a chance comes to plan a walking tour in the Border country, the present writer will certainly consult this volume. It is prefaced by a delightful introduction upon the pleasures of cross country walking and ends by a very practical appeal to walkers not to leave sandwich papers lying on the hillside. Pity it is that such a reminder should be necessary but unfortunately it is. The sketch of a mountain track, which embellishes the cover of the volume, shows that Mr. Smith is no less happy with his pencil than with his pen.