

NOTES.

At the eighteenth Scottish National Photographic Salon, held in Aberdeen on February, hill lovers found many interesting and charming studies of mountain scenery, some by

MOUNTAIN members of our own club. Mr. Marshall J. Robb PHOTOGRAPHS. showed a splendid view of the Luibeg in spring, looking up the glen to the Sron Riach with the cliffs of the Coire Sputan Dearg in the distance, winter snow still remaining in the gullies. His very successful group photographs taken at the inauguration of the Lochnagar and Ben Macdhui indicators were also exhibited. The latter is reproduced in this issue. An admirable series of photographs by Mr. H. C. Dugan comprised views of the Stui butress on Lochnagar, Loch Etchachan and the Wells of Dee on Braeriach and these as well as another print, "A Gathering Storm on Lochnagar," show that Mr. Dugan is no mere fair weather mountaineer. Among Mr. John Ritchie's exhibits was one fitly entitled "The Blizzard, Lochnagar," showing a bent figure breaking a track through deep snow on the summit of the mountain. Mr. James McKissack, a well-known Scottish photographer, had several fine mountain studies, notably one "The Call of the Hills," and there was great feeling in Mr. John Baird's views of glen scenery, reminiscent of the Forfarshire valleys, though that may not be the actual locality. Mr. Linton Gibb's study of birch trees on a hillside was very charming and another aspect of hill life was represented by a delightful photograph of a speckled fawn, by Mr. William Mackay.

OLDER Cairngorm lovers will remember with friendly thoughts Donald Fraser of Derry Lodge and his hospitable home and those

DONALD who had time to spare for a round of his golf course will be interested in this vignette from Mr. FRASER. Seton Gordon's new volume, *The Cairngorm Hills*, "There are a few clearings in the forest near

Derry Lodge and I well remember how old Donald Fraser, the stalker at Derry, used to play golf here in his spare moments—and in winter they were many. Fraser was a great personality; he must have been known to thousands of mountaineers, for he always had a cheery greeting for the climber after a long day on the hill.

On his home course he was a cunning golfer, although I do not suppose he had ever played on any links away from his glen. I recall the time when I lowered his record for his course; he suggested slyly that I had played a few extra strokes which I had forgotten to add on to my score. No golfer in the usual sense of the word, I must hasten to add, had ever played here before, so my feat was not a remarkable one. And now Donald 'is lost to the mountain; is gone from the forest,' and I doubt if it would be possible to find the old course."

IN February an unusual accident to deer was witnessed by a number of woodmen engaged felling trees in Caenlochan, Glenisla.

DEER AND FATAL SLIP. Five deer were seen grazing peacefully near the top of Monega, over which passes the path to Braemar. Suddenly all five lost their footing and fell. The mountain side is exceedingly steep and rocky, and, despite every effort, the animals were unable to get on to their legs. Downwards they slid, gathering an ever-increasing impetus. Their career only terminated when the bottom was reached, hundreds of feet below. Here three lay dead, the other two just managing to crawl away, no doubt to succumb soon after from the injuries inflicted in their descent.

It is supposed that while feeding along the hillside the animals had inadvertently ventured upon a piece of snow-covered ice, and one or two had slipped and fallen, knocking the feet from under the others, and thus entailing the same fate to all.

THE centenary of the first ascent of the Pillar Rock in the Lake District was celebrated on Easter Sunday by a great gathering of rock climbing enthusiasts organised by the Fell and Rock Climbing Club. The Pillar Rock was first climbed in 1826 by John Atkinson, a sheep farmer, then 52 years of age, and thus robbed of its reputed inaccessibility and his feat is a classical one in British mountaineering. His route up the Rock is now regarded as a comparatively simple one, for enthusiasts have worked out over two dozen distinctive ways up the crag with a multitude of variations. Mr. George D. Abraham, the well-known Keswick climber, who in 1901 pioneered a new route up the west side of the Pillar, writing in the *Manchester Guardian* on the occasion of the centenary, says that, "probably the most remarkable *tour de force* on the Pillar or any other British mountain was the late Owen Glynn Jones's conquest of the ice-masked Walker's Gully in 1898. Scarcely less remarkable was the late Fred Botterill's first lead up the terrific north-west climb in 1908. Great deeds of daring have been done by rubber-soled experts on the west side of the rock, and the names of Leslie Stephen, John Tyndall, and Richard Pendlebury

are linked with pioneer routes on the east side of the rock in the sixties and seventies of last century."

The weather on Easter Sunday was most favourable for the scores of climbers who assembled from many quarters to "do" the Pillar, and who included experts and novices, men and women and boys and girls and even a fox-terrier, which somehow or other reached the top. Mr. George D. Abraham made his hundredth ascent of the Rock, and one climber, a famous authority on all the cracks and crannies of the Pillar, signalled the occasion by appearing in a silk hat.

IN a letter dated "Glasgow, August 11th, 1925, 1.56 p.m.," a correspondent J. C. N. wrote: "As one of a party of four I was on the summit of Ben Macdhui at 3 p.m. yesterday. Possibly my presence here in Glasgow within twenty-four hours may be a wayfarer's record, whatever the achievements of direct aeroplane and car passengers. This has been made practicable by the recently instituted morning motor 'bus service which, leaving Braemar at 8.30, connects with the 12.6 train from Perth to Glasgow. If, further, as a Glasgow old boy just entering on his 70th year of age, I may be permitted here to acknowledge the courtesy of the three ladies, unknown to me but assuredly Aberdonian, who personally conducted me to the summit of the Ben, I shall be very grateful. They fed me, photographed me, held their pace to mine, and, above all, refreshed me on the summit with a cup of tea from a thermos flask, which I am absolutely convinced was reinforced surreptitiously with something very old and special."

CLIMBERS who use the rucksack as a means of carrying their baggage, will be interested to know that it has taken a high place in tests carried out for the Industrial Fatigue Research Board by Mr. E. M. Bedale and Dr. H. M. Vernon, the purpose of which was to discover the best method of carrying loads. It was found that the most efficient carrying posture is the one that is nearest to the normal walking posture. The more that the body or limbs have to bend away from that posture, the less efficient is the method of carrying. A yoke over the shoulders, with two pails suspended from it, was proved to be the most efficient for loads of all weights. The energy required to carry a load of twenty pounds by this method was much below that required for the same weight by any other method, and the rate of increase in the expenditure of energy as the load increased was very much slower than that of any other method. Next to the yoke-and-pail method in efficiency comes the bundle method, namely, a bundle carried hanging from one's

hands at either side, exactly as one carries a suitcase in each hand. Obviously, however, one cannot go up a mountain carrying a yoke and pails or bundles in each hand, and it is reassuring to learn from Mr. Bedale and Dr. Vernon that the rucksack method is the best where these are not available. The initial effort required by the rucksack is high compared with the others, but in both cases the load can be increased to a considerable extent without much change in the rate of fatigue. The only objection to a rucksack is that it is so capacious that one is tempted to cram stuff into it and repent later.

LAST October an unusual funeral service took place on the summit of Great Gable in the Lake District when the ashes of a hill lover were cast to the winds. Seymour Jackson Gubba, ASHES CAST a retired schoolmaster, who lived at Buttermere, TO THE left instructions in his will that his remains should WINDS. be cremated and the ashes scattered from one of the peaks in the mountain country from which he drew his lifelong inspiration. This was carried out on the first fine day of a stormy week, when a company of some forty or fifty friends climbed Great Gable and took part in a service, amid billows of mist, on the mountain top. Gusts of wind swirled the ashes over the edge of the cliffs.

MR. H. F. LAMBERT, vice-president of the Alpine Club of Ontario, gave an account recently in London of the first ascent of Mount Logan, the highest peak in Canada and the second highest in the North American Continent. MOUNT CANADA'S HIGHEST PEAK. Mount Logan reaches an altitude of 19,850 feet. In 1922 Professor A. P. Coleman, of the University of Toronto, the veteran geologist and mountain climber, presented to the Alpine Club of Canada the suggestion that a serious attempt should be made to conquer the mountain, and in the autumn of 1923 the club decided that an expedition should be undertaken. The sister alpine clubs of Great Britain and the United States were asked to send representatives, and thus the expedition was, from the outset, stamped as distinctly international in character. The expedition started on May 12th, 1925, and reached the summit on June 23rd, after a hazardous journey, many nights being spent on the open ice. An unusual feature of their equipment was the inclusion of 1,000 willow wands to mark the trail. These wands, about three feet in length, were stuck into the snow at intervals of about 100 feet on the right side of the trail. They proved veritable beacons upon the snow-clad slope of the mountain, where without them the task would have been utterly hopeless.

The climbers suffered greatly from the sun-glare off the snow,

their faces peeling and their lips cracking and bleeding. Success eventually rewarded the expedition, the climax of which was thus described: "We set foot on the summit of Mount Logan at eight in the evening, and as we stood there in a little knot, with the distance completely obscured by fog and storm, we were reminded that a storm of no little intensity was upon us, so with a hearty handshake, the reading of the aneroid, and the depositing of a small brass tube in the snow containing the record, we commenced our downward journey after a bare 25 minutes' stop on the summit."

REV. WILL BURNETT, Restalrig, in "Vignettes from Strathspey" contributed to *Life and Work*, describes a recent visit to Glenfeshie

when he saw the famous fresco by Landseer. It is LANDSEER'S painted on the plaster above the fireplace of a little FRESKO IN cottage among the ancient pines some little distance GLENFESHIE. beyond the modern lodge. Landseer was a frequent visitor to Glenfeshie and it was there that he got the inspiration for many of his pictures. "Half the fresco and more is gone," writes Mr. Burnett, "soon the whole will have disappeared piecemeal; but just as it is, it brings even to the untutored eye that mark of reality which is the mark of genius. The work is carried out in a brown colour on a white ground. There is almost no background. The figures of the animals engage all the attention. One large stag and several smaller hinds remain. The stag stands in the foreground, a noble animal, well poised, keen, watchful, the leader of the herd, at once recalling the well-known "Monarch of the Glen." It was a strange experience and happy fortune to find in such a secluded spot a reminiscence of the great animal painter. There are those to-day who tell us that Landseer was not an artist, and that his vogue is gone for ever, Perhaps it is; but to me Landseer seems, even in this simple sketch, to have painted what he saw, and certainly I saw what he painted, as I shall shortly show." Mr. Burnett proceeds to describe a glimpse in Rothiemurchus of an antlered stag, the leader of the herd, in exactly the position depicted in the fresco.

IN a recent lecture at the Royal Institution, Professor Joseph Barcroft gave an account of the wonderful way in which the mechanism of the human body reacts to meet the relative lack of oxygen at high altitudes.

THE BIG-CHESTED MOUNTAINEER. Four different changes occur. First, the quality of the red corpuscles in the blood and of the red colouring matter contained in them is increased so that the blood is able to carry more oxygen and the body is able to store more oxygen. Secondly, the breathing becomes deeper and somewhat more rapid, so that more use is made of the oxygen present in the air. The form of the chest alters so that it

is in a chronic state of distension. In the case of the native this results in his possessing a large barrel-shaped chest mounted on an extremely short body. Thus a mountaineer five feet, two inches high would have a chest as large as that of an ordinary man six feet high. It is not certain whether this change is hereditary or brought about afresh in each individual as he grows up from childhood. Finally, an extremely subtle but wonderful change takes place in the chemical constitution of the blood, the red colour-matter of it being able to combine with a greater quantity of oxygen than is normally the case.

HILL lovers are all more or less interested in maps and we in Aberdeen can boast of two of the most famous of early Scottish cartographers, Gordon of Straloch and his son, GORDON Parson Gordon of Rothiemay. In the latest issue OF the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* Dr. A. S. STRALOCH. Cumming describes an astrolabe which he picked up in an antique shop in Edinburgh and which proves to have belonged to Gordon of Straloch. It bears the name *Robertus Gordon* and was apparently made in Paris about the beginning of the sixteenth century. Gordon, who was born in 1580 and died in 1661, went to Paris in 1598 to complete his studies. The astrolabe was an instrument for taking observations of the stars, and Gordon had adapted this one to the latitude of Straloch. Gordon of Straloch produced an atlas of Scotland, which was published at Amsterdam in 1648, and, with the assistance of his son, Rev. James Gordon of Rothiemay, and others, he revised Pont's maps of Scotland for Blaeu's Atlas (1663-64).

CAPTAIN D. J. MUNRO, C.M.G., R.N., writing in the *Glasgow Herald* on the possibility of reviving sheep farming in the highlands, points out that when the black faced and Cheviot SHEEP IN THE sheep were introduced about the end of the eighth HIGHLANDS. century, they found the country suited for grazing because the grass in the glens had been well kept down by cattle and the heather checked by burning. When sheep farming decayed and the country was put under deer, the grazing deteriorated for the grass became rank and deep heather spread over the hillsides. Captain Munro fears that if sheep were put on to deer forests to-day, they would not thrive. Sheep always feed on the barest place and the first thing necessary to convert a deer forest into a sheep farm would be to turn cattle out to eat down the rank grass and to burn the heather. A system of Government loans is suggested in order to encourage farmers to take deer forest ground and re-stock it with sheep, with security of tenure over a period of years and the stock tied to the farmer and not the proprietor.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND RECREATION SOCIETY in its last annual report states that guide posts which were urgently required have been erected in Rothiemurchus forest and also on Deeside and in Athol. It is further stated that the adjustment of the rights of way through Glen Tanner on Deeside is still the subject of negotiation with Lord Glentanar, the proprietor, and with several influential people in Aberdeen and Deeside, who are interested in the matter, but the Directors of the Society have confidence that a satisfactory arrangement will be come to at an early date.

The report invites members of the Society and the public generally to report any questions regarding rights of way, because the erection of posts, especially at the *termini* of rights of way, is one of the best methods of keeping them open and encouraging the public to use them.

ON 22nd Aug. 1925, Messrs. A. Harrison and L. St. C. Bartholomew of the Scottish Mountaineering Club made an ascent of the west buttress of Coire Brochain on Braeriach, and an account of their climb appears in the *S.M.C. Journal*. Their climb, which is probably new, commenced at a point a short way up the screes leading up to the west gully, from which the rocks of the buttress were traversed to a point almost underneath the highest point of the buttress. From here a fairly direct course was taken to the top of the buttress. The climb took one hour and twenty minutes, the height of the climb by aneroid being about 650 feet. They state that the climb presented no special difficulties and was most enjoyable. Four previous rock climbs in Coire Brochain have been recorded in the *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal*. The gullies on the east and west of the central buttress have been climbed, and two climbs have been made on the buttress itself, one of which included the ascent of the Black Pinnacle in the centre of the buttress.