

## NOTES.

ON June 19 Mr. J. A. Parker climbed Ben Hope, Sutherlandshire, and thus joined the very select band who have ascended every 3,000-foot mountain in Scotland, of which there are 276. The separate tops or peaks above the 3,000-foot line number 543. All these have been climbed by Mr. Ronald Burn. Rev. A. E. Robertson and Mr. Parker have done all the mountains, but not all the "tops."

THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB is publishing a series of Guides, the intention being to cover all the Scottish hills, and three volumes have already appeared, one a general introductory volume and the other two dealing with Ben Nevis and Skye respectively. The Cairngorms volume is approaching completion and will be published next. It will deal with the Grampians from Aberdeen to the Drumochter Pass and with the Cairngorms.

WE regret the following *errata* which unfortunately occurred in the article under this heading in the last issue of the *Journal* :—

Page 195, line 16—This sentence should read "The masons were then called over, and the Doulton slab was placed in position and finally checked first by compass and again by a sight on to Ben Avon which was the most distant point visible."

Page 195, line 10 from foot—For "not" read "now."

Page 195, line 3 from foot—For "and did not" read "and things did not."

Page 196, line 4—For "systematical" read "symmetrical."

THE accurate mapping of a country is done by a series of triangulations based upon a line very carefully measured. One of the base lines so used in the Ordnance Survey of Scotland was measured on the Belhelvie links near Aberdeen. Members of the Geodetic Survey of Canada, found that when they began a survey of the Canadian Rockies, they had no place level enough to measure a baseline, so they sat down (says the *Canadian*

*Engineer*), and waited for winter to come and freeze over a small lake and then measured their line as accurately on the ice as they might have done on the sand of a long beach. The baseline measured on the ice of the Canadian lake was exactly 5,800 metres long, and posts were held in holes cut in the ice every fifty metres until the water poured around them froze them in. The tapes used for such important work are not the ordinary tape, but are made with extreme accuracy and must be used with great skill if small errors are not to be made. They have a special thermometer attached, by means of which the temperature may be known at the time of each measurement and the amount of contraction of the tape due to the cold allowed for. Unfortunately for the rapid progress of the work, but fortunately for the comfort of the surveyors, the thermometer supplied with the tape used by the Canadian experts did not read lower than two degrees below zero, while the temperature of the air was often thirty degrees colder.

CONTRAST this age of luxurious sportsmen who motor to the butts, with their predecessors of a century ago. There were indeed giants in those days, as witness this story of a Two Remark- wager quoted in the first volume of the *Cairngorm* ABLE WAGERS. *Club Journal* from a then recently published volume "Kings of Rod, Rifle, and Gun." "One night, while a large party of sportsmen were assembled at Blackhall in Kincardineshire, then the seat of Mr. Farquharson, Sir Andrew Leith Hay bet Lord Kennedy £500 that he would get to Inverness on foot before him. Off they started at nine o'clock at night in their evening costume, thin shoes and silk stockings. Sir Andrew Leith Hay went by the coast road *via* Huntly and Elgin. Lord Kennedy, with Captain Ross as umpire, struck straight across the Grampians. Amid pouring rain they walked all night, next day and the next night, reaching Inverness at 6 a.m. on the third day. Sir Andrew Leith Hay, who had chosen the longer but far more comfortable route, did not arrive till four hours later." It was an age of bets and wagers, Captain Barclay of Ury being one of the first to set the fashion by his famous walk on Newmarket Heath. That walk, however, was easy going compared with Lord Kennedy's achievement. He went through the Larig Ghru, if the tradition which still lingers at Braemar be true.

This was not Lord Kennedy's only feat of the kind. Mr. A. I. McConnochie quotes in his book "The Deer and Deer Forests of Scotland," reviewed in No. 61 of the *Cairngorm Club Journal*, a paragraph which appeared in *The Times* of 31st August, 1822, recording the decision of a match for 2000 guineas by Lord Kennedy on Monday, the 12th of August. It was a combined shooting and riding wager. He had wagered that he would in one day, from midnight to midnight, kill 40 brace of grouse at his shooting farm of

Felar (at the head of Glen Tilt a little beyond the Bynack) and afterwards ride to his seat at Dunnottar and back to Felar, a distance of 140 miles. The account goes on, "Exactly at 12 o'clock on Sunday night, three watches were set together and put into a box by the umpires. At four in the morning Lord Kennedy commenced shooting, attended by a great body of Highlanders, drawn together from curiosity. A great deal of rain had fallen in the night which made the hills very wet and the birds wild. The first bird was killed at a quarter after four, and the whole 40 brace in 4 hours and 41 minutes. After shifting his wet clothes and taking some refreshment, he mounted his horse and started for Dunnottar, where he arrived at two o'clock, having rode the 70 miles in four hours and a half. He remained about an hour there and got back to Felar four minutes before eight o'clock at night, performing the 140 miles in 10 hours and 26 minutes and winning the match by four hours.