

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

THE 38th annual general meeting was held in the Imperial Hotel, Aberdeen, on Saturday, November, 27th, 1926. The President, Mr. William Garden, advocate, was in the chair.

Mr. John A. Nicol, advocate, the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, submitted the financial statement, which showed that the balance at credit of the Club was £48 15s. 7d., as compared with £28 16s. 5d, at the end of the previous year. The accounts were adopted.

It was agreed that the New Year Meet should be at Braemar. Nethybridge was selected as the centre for Easter, and the Buck o' the Cabrach and the Tap o' Noth would be climbed on the Spring Holiday. The question of Saturday afternoon excursions was left to the committee.

The President stated that Mr. A. G. Nicol Smith had designed a very nice button for the Club, showing the letters "C. C." and a Scotch thistle. He thought they should have that button to be up-sides with the S. M. C. This was agreed to.

Mr. Robert Clarke referred to the question of re-erecting the Blue Hill cairn. It had been suggested that the Club in collaboration with other local organisations, might go into the matter and see what could be done. After some discussion, it was agreed, on the motion of Mr. Theodore Watt, seconded by Mr. W. A. Reid, to remit the question to the committee for consideration and report.

Mr. Parker expressed his cordial thanks to the Club for a set of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch maps of England and Wales which had been presented to him in recognition of all he had done in connection with the erection of the Ben Macdhui Indicator. The question of the disposal of the surplus on the Indicator Fund and on other special funds was remitted to the Committee.

The office-bearers were re-elected. It was agreed to increase the committee by one, and two vacancies due to retirement by rotation had to be filled. Messrs. A. J. Parker, R. Clarke, and R. Sellar were appointed. The resignation of Mr. Henry Alexander from the editorship of the *Club Journal* was received with much regret, and the President paid a warm tribute to the valuable work he had done as editor. Mr. E. W. Watt was appointed to the post, and it was decided that two numbers should be issued in the coming year.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

THE annual dinner which took place in the Imperial Hotel, at the close of the annual meeting, was attended by a large number of members and guests. The chair was occupied by the President, Mr. William Garden.

The Chairman, in proposing "The Cairngorm Club," said that the Club was in a most prosperous and successful position both financially and from the membership point of view. A year ago the membership was 199, that night it was 243. Amongst such a large membership, there were members of other well known clubs, and that was as it should be, because all true mountaineers had no jealousy. It was his desire, as they all knew, that the Club should be on all sides as good as the Scottish Mountaineering Club. How did they compare? The S.M.C. had a club tie, a club button, and a club song, and he had heard they were proposing to have a club flag. He did not think the Cairngorm Club would have a flag, but they had a club tie and he had been authorized to arrange for a club button. Mr. Nicol Smith had designed a very suitable button for them, in the shape of a little bronze disc, with the letters "C.C." and a good Scotch thistle. As to a club song, the club poetess, Miss Skakle, said she had not yet been inspired, but he thought she would be, and they would yet have their song. They had had one set-back. Mr. Henry Alexander had given in his resignation as editor of their *Journal*. He was now a municipal father, and the municipal child, being liable to misbehaviour, required a good deal of looking after. They had accepted his resignation with much regret, and Mr. E. W. Watt had slipped into the breach. It had been decided that the *Journal* should be issued twice a year instead of once. As regards expeditions, he thought he was right in saying that the Club had done nothing heroic in that respect in the past year, but they had set up two indicators, and they were awaiting with interest their younger sister's efforts on Ben Nevis. Some foolish people had said to him, after having climbed in the Alps, and Canada, and some of the Norwegian mountains, why descend to lower summits? Could anything more absurd be said? Let us never forget that the Cairngorms are our own mountains and that on the slopes of these magnificent hills we get our first impressions of the beauty of mountain form and enjoy the peace and solitude of the Highland glens.

The Chairman then introduced Rev. A. E. Robertson, the guest of the evening, who had been a member of the Scottish Mountaineering Club since 1893. Mr. Robertson had more knowledge of the Scottish mountains than any other man he knew. Mr. Robertson and another had climbed every mountain in Scotland over 3,000 feet, and there were 276 of them. They were fortunate in having him to speak to them.

Mr. Robertson's address (a summary of which appears on pp. 246-252) was greatly appreciated. It was illustrated by a series of splendid photographs shown on the screen.

Dr. J. R. Levack proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Robertson who, he said, was one of the finest exponents of mountain photography in Scotland. They had seen some examples that night which could be seldom equalled, and certainly never bettered. He had not only knowledge of the rocks and high peaks, but he had also the knowledge of the artist in picking out the beauty spots of the glens. They were grateful to him for coming north to give them such a delightful and enjoyable lecture.

Mr. Robertson made suitable acknowledgment, and thanked Mr. Stott for his skilful manipulation of the lantern, which, he said, was one of the chief factors tending to the success of the lecture.

An enjoyable musical programme was contributed to by Miss Lena Dunn, the Misses Skakle, and Mr. Frank Scorgie, while Mr. Robert Clarke gave a recitation.

Mr. E. W. Watt proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and referred to his extensive experience and knowledge of mountaineering in several countries.

The chairman replied, giving several reminiscences, and the evening ended with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

NEW YEAR MEET, 1927—BRAEMAR.

BRAEMAR was again the centre for the New Year Meet—from December 31 to January 3. Headquarters were at the Invercauld Arms Hotel and there was a good attendance of members. The following notes record the expeditions of the various parties :

Friday, Dec. 31, 1926.—Messrs. J. A. Parker, R. T. Sellar, and Sturm, made the last ascent of Ben Macdhui for the year 1926. Leaving Braemar by car shortly after 8 o'clock, the party found the road to Derry Lodge clear of snow and got away from the latter about 9. The Lui Beg route was followed and the summit was reached about noon, a compass course having had to be followed from the Stob Coire an Sput Dearg. Plenty of large patches of old snow were encountered all frozen hard. The Indicator was found to be clear of snow and in as good condition as the day it was built. After lunch in the Sappers' Hut a descent was made by Coire Etchachan and Glen Derry, and Braemar was reached about 4 o'clock. The weather throughout was favourable, but very cold on the summit.

Saturday, Jan. 1, 1927.—The same party motored to the top of the Cairnwell road and from it climbed Glas Maol and Creag nan Leacan in very windy weather.

Sunday, Jan. 2.—The same party with the addition of Roy Symmers walked to the top of the Slugan, where the party divided. Sturm and Symmers pushed on to the Clach a'Chleirich and thence to the north top of Beinn a'Bhuird and then back along the edge of the eastern corries to Carn Fiaclach and home by the Slugan Glen, Braemar being reached some time after 5 o'clock. Meantime Parker and Sellar walked down Glen Quoich, through its magnificent forest of Scots pine to the Dubh Glen bothy, and up the latter glen to a point about half-a-mile beyond the tree line, by Glen Quoich to Alanaquoich and the ferry, Braemar being reached shortly before 5 o'clock.

Monday, Jan. 3.—D. S. P. Douglas, Mackie, J. A. Parker, and Sturm left Braemar shortly after 8 o'clock in two light cars and motored to the ford over the Geldie Burn, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles beyond the White Bridge, where it was found possible to turn the cars without difficulty. Leaving the cars about 9.20 the party walked up the very rough cart road to Geldie Lodge and thence skirted across the lower slopes of An Sgarsoch at a level of about 2,000 feet. From the Allt a'Chaorruinn a compass course was struck up the eastern slope of Carn Ealar, crossing some very hard snow near the top, and the small cairn on the top of the hill was found without any difficulty. The weather conditions were now very bad, thick mist and driving snow, but very careful compass work with dead reckoning, enabled the party to reach the bealach, which was clear of mist, at the head of the Allt a'Chaorruinn and thence to the top of An Sgarsoch. From the big cairn on the latter a compass course was set down the slopes of the Coire an Tobar, the party getting out of the mist about the 2,500 feet level. Passing Geldie Lodge, the back portion of which is now in ruins on account of a fire, the cars were reached about half-past 4 o'clock, just as it was getting pitch dark. The drive to the Linn of Dee required the greatest caution; but by going very slowly there were no adventures and Braemar was reached about 6 o'clock.

Tuesday, Jan. 4.—Douglas, Mackie, and Parker motored back to Aberdeen.
J. A. P.

Saturday, Jan. 1., 1927.—A party consisting of:—Dr. Levack, Walter Reid, E. B. Reid, Dr. D. P. Levack, J. W. Levack, Wm. Malcolm, D. S. P. Douglas, G. R. Symmers, Taylor, T. Ogilvie, J. Ogilvie, Miss Margaret Cameron, Miss Ruth Warren, and two guests, left Invercauld Hotel by bus, and proceeded to the Garrawalt Bridge, over the Dee. The weather was dull, somewhat wet, and a frosty strong wind was blowing, but it was not very cold.

Leaving the main road, the party struck through the woods to the Garrawalt Shiel—which was apparently deserted. Then leaving the private driving road beyond the Shiel, the rather steep ascent through the Ballochbuie Forest was accomplished fairly easily.

At the upper limits of the forest the party divided, and four members—Wm. Malcolm, D. P. Levack, D. S. P. Douglas, and G. R. Symmers—struck off to the right, up the glen of the Garrawalt, to the Sandy Loch and the Stuié Buttress.

The remainder of the party proceeded upwards towards Lochnagar itself. The weather was now much worse, with some rain, and a very strong gusty wind. The whole party, with the exception of Dr. Levack, made the top of Lochnagar without much difficulty, although the wind was very severe at times, and threatened to blow some of the members over.

After a short stay at the top, where there was a tremendous gale and a view rather broken up by storm clouds and rain showers, the whole party, with the exception of Dr. Levack and Mr. Walter Reid, descended by the ridge of Meall Coire na Saobhaidhe into the forest, and then by the path back to the Garrawalt and the main road.

The four who made for the Sandy Loch had a very good climb on the Stuié Buttress. In a fierce gale of wind, very gusty, and liable to attack them from any direction, they slowly made the ascent, finding some difficult patches with half frozen snow, and rather thinly covered rock. Had the temperature been a few degrees lower the climb would have been extremely uncomfortable, if not actually impossible, owing to the very exposed nature of the ridge. On the summit the whole plateau of the White Mount was covered with frozen snow, half melted in places, and difficult to walk over in the terrific gale of wind which was blowing. After making the cairn of the White Mount, the party retraced their steps to the Buttress, and then down the edge of the cliffs immediately to the north of it, to a part where a steep snow slope afforded some excellent practice in cutting steps. In places the angle approached 60° —and was quite exciting. One man dropped his hat and had to descend the whole slope to rescue it.

After an hour or so passed in this pleasant way the party struck off down the Garrawalt, and by the path descended once more to the main road, arriving, within five minutes of their scheduled time, singing loudly.

Here the whole party packed into the bus, except the Ogilvies and their friend, who walked home to Braemar. One member of the party—a guest from Dundee—was found suffering from true exhaustion—with typical symptoms and a partial collapse. He recovered quickly, however, in the hotel, after a hot bath, food, and an evening in bed.

Sunday, Jan. 2.—A party consisting of D. P. Levack, J. W. Levack, D. S. P. Douglas, Miss Elizabeth Warren, Miss Ruth Warren, and Miss Margaret Cameron, left the hotel about 10.30 a.m. and drove to Callater. They then proceeded up the west side of the loch, and ascended into Corrie Kander. The gale of the previous

day had not settled very much, and the loch looked very wild and black.

An ascent was made, in very soft snow, of the big gully leading out of the corrie. No difficulty was experienced except at the top, where the slope steepened, and a rope was used for a short time as a safeguard.

On the plateau of Carn Tuirc the gale was very strong and a thick mist required some compass work to make the cairn. This was done without much difficulty, and then the descent to Loch Callater was accomplished, half in mist, half out below it, and the party returned to the hotel after a most enjoyable and not too strenuous day.

D. P. L.

This expedition was repeated on Monday, Jan. 3, by Malcolm, Taylor, Symmers, and E. W. Watt. The steps cut the previous day were found very useful.

SPRING HOLIDAY CLIMB.

THE Spring Holiday Excursion was to the Buck o' the Cabrach and Tap o' Noth. The main party, consisting of Messrs. W. M. Smith, Taylor, Chisholm, W. J. Milne, and Iverach, with two guests, Councillor George and Mr. Chisholm, went to Rhynie and from there ascended the Tap by a ridge covered with snow just hard enough to bear. A cold wind and sleet met them at the top and the view was not extensive, though the Cabrach was well seen. Descending the face of the hill, the party made a cross-country tramp to the Buck. Two miles from the foot a postman was met who predicted that the party would never get up the hill in time and who was entrusted with an order to send a motor to meet them on the Lumsden side. A Lumsden man then appeared on the scene, and, deferring to his local knowledge, the party put him in charge. The going became pretty stiff owing to the snow and long heather, but the climbers followed a wire fence right to the top where a blizzard raged. Fleeting glimpses of the country, especially the Cabrach, were obtained. The conditions were extraordinarily severe for so late a date as the May Holiday. The descent was down a long ridge pitted with holes, some of them 15 feet deep. "We had to jump about," as one of the climbers put it, "like a lot of hyperborean kangaroos," (We do not know this breed.—Ed.). Ultimately the car, duly sent by the postman, was reached about 6 o'clock, and the party dined at Rhynie with the President and Dr. Levack, who had gone out by an early train, and with Mr. Parker who also turned up. Mr. Munn and a lady guest climbed the Tap independently and also joined the party at dinner. The homeward journey was by train from Gartly.

THE BLACK SPOUT--(LEFT-HAND BRANCH)--
LOCHNAGAR.

ON August 1, 1926, Mr. King and I did some climbing in the left-hand branch of the Black Spout. Apart from the initial 12 ft. choke-stone pitch at the foot of the gully it is very similar to the Black Spout and proves somewhat uninteresting. To overcome the above mentioned obstacle it was necessary to enter a very cramped cave under the blocking stone and push one end of the rope, which was fastened to a stone, through a hole in the roof and let it slide down the outside of the choke-stone. Holding the end of the rope coming from the cave I gave my companion a back up and with the assistance of the other end he managed to scramble up. After I had passed up the kit, King anchored the rope and I went up hand over hand. Having thus succeeded we looked for more difficulties to overcome but were bitterly disappointed. About half-way to the top, tired of scree scrambling, we decided to tackle a rather steep chimney of the open variety which branches off to the right. The rock which composes this narrow gully is very unreliable, the most inviting looking holds coming away in one's hand. The top of the chimney is rather picturesque. Climbers emerge through a hole formed by a bridge-stone and to an onlooker at some distance would appear to come from the bowels of the earth. Although not exceedingly difficult, leaders should exercise the utmost caution in negotiating this chimney, because of the disintegrated nature of the rock. For those coming behind, my advice is, "Wear a crash-helmet."

G. R. S.

THE ANGELS' PEAK: NORTH-EAST RIDGE.

ON the 15th August, 1926, G. Wilson and the writer walked from Tullochgrue through the Larig Ghru to the Garbh Choire and thence up the steep slope to the lip of the corrie which holds the Lochain Uaine. From this point the Angels' Peak was ascended by its north east ridge which gave an interesting scramble of about 750 feet. The lower part of the ridge is perfectly simple; but towards the top the ridge becomes fairly steep and at one point narrows down to a mere wall. Under winter conditions the ascent of the ridge would probably be difficult. In summer it offers an interesting line of ascent of Cairn Toul as an alternative to the usual routes up that peak.

J. A. PARKER.