

## NATIONAL PARKS.

THE National Park Movement is being very widely debated at present. The important meeting which was held at Glasgow on June 4, under the auspices of the Association for the Preservation of Rural Scotland, resulted in an important discussion on the proposal to establish a National Forest Reserve, and, as Sir Iain Colquhoun remarked, it was clear that the locality in most people's minds is the Cairngorms.

It was remitted to the executive of the Association to appoint a Committee which will undertake the preliminary work of investigating the whole question and report. A general committee will then be formed to carry the scheme further, and eventually the formation of a Scottish National Trust, to hold the National Reserve, will be considered. Thus the whole question is being kept prominently before the public. Various points are leading to keen debate. How far should the selected area be "popularized" by opening it up with motor roads and rest-houses? What steps should be taken to preserve it in its natural condition with its flora and fauna? Under what conditions should camping be allowed? These and many other questions are being asked, and it is well that they should be freely discussed.

At the Glasgow meeting we note that Sir Iain Colquhoun, asking for the opinions of delegates as to whether motor coach roads should be allowed in the reserve area, said it was no use making scathing remarks about charabanc crowds. They were very



decent. They had practically the whole of Scotland to go to, and he did not think they would have any grievance if they were excluded from a small area.

Mr. John Bartholomew said a national reserve would be useless if there was not fairly easy access to it. They could not rule out the motor coach. Motor coach traffic might be permitted up to a point, but controlled.

Mr. Mortimer Batten put forward the suggestion that a Scottish National Reserve should be divided into three sections. One would be reserved for beasts and animals, and no camping or loitering would be allowed. The second would be used for the benefit of the thousands of people who could not afford to take houses or go into quarters in the country, but who had a great love of nature. These people would be able to take their children into a great reservation of the kind proposed, and spend cheap, happy holidays. The moral effect on the nation of such a holiday existence for many of its people would be very great. In the third section ordinary camping and caravanning would be permitted, so that the people, instead of going on a tour to the National Reserve and merely going in to see it, could be on the spot for a period of time.

In England a number of interesting proposals for the establishment of National Parks have recently been put forward. Lord Bledisloe suggests the Forest of Dean, Dovedale, has been proposed, and an appeal is also being made for the preservation of Longshaw Moor, Sheffield, "The preservation of this glorious piece of moorland," it is contended, "is no matter of merely local interest," and, "Sheffield, having done its own part, has a right now to call for the help of all who care for the unspoilt beauty of England. There are not many bits of it more worth preserving than Longshaw Moor." A National Park in Snowdonia is another suggestion. In advocating this scheme, Dr. Vaughan Cornish says, "The area to which my project refers is centred on the Pass of Llanberis and comprises five mountain masses, Moel Hebog, Snow-



don proper, the Glyders, Carnedds, and Siabod with Cynicht. Its length from south-west to north-east is 28, its central breadth 14 miles, most of the area lying in Caernarvonshire, but with a small part in Merioneth."

While these schemes are being mooted, it is most satisfactory to note that some practical results are being obtained in the Lake District through the generosity of public-spirited donors. Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Simon have presented to the National Trust Cockley Beck Farm at the head of the Duddon Valley. Cockley Beck lies at the foot of Hardknott Pass, and the land attached to it runs the whole length of Wrynose Bottom (including the Lancashire side of Wrynose Pass) to the Three Shire Stones, and takes in the summit of Carrs (2,500 ft.). Dale Head Farm, which adjoins Cockley Beck Farm, has also been presented to the Trust by an anonymous donor.

Professor G. M. Trevelyan has purchased and presented to the Trust 400 acres of land in the head of the Langdale Valley, which runs up underneath the famous Langdale Pikes towards the Stake Pass and Crinkle Crag. Another small but valuable addition to the properties of the National Trust in the Lake District has also just been made. The promontory known as Bee Holme on Windermere Lake—which for nine months of the year is an island, and the other three months a peninsula—has been purchased by Mr. F. J. Hayes, of High Wray, near Hawkshead, and presented to the Trust.

The holdings of the National Trust in the Lake District now include:—The Borrans Field, Ambleside, the site of an old Roman fort on the shore of Windermere; Gowbarrow Fell and Aira Force, and land near Stybarrow Crag, Ullswater; Queen Adelaide's Hill, Windermere; White Moss Intake, Grasmere; the whole of the area of Scafell above the 2,000 ft. contour line; the summit of Scafell Pikes; the Fell and Rock Climbing Club Memorial—an area of about 3,000 acres above the 1,500 ft. contour line, containing



the summits of Great Gable, Green Gable, Kirk Fell, Great End, Glaramara, &c. ; Brandelow Estate, Keswick ; Castle Crag, Borrowdale, Crow Park, Cockshott Wood, and Castle Head, Keswick ; Kelsick Scar, Ambleside ; Druids' Circle, Keswick ; Friar's Crag and Lord's Island, Derwentwater ; Grange Fell and Borrowdale Birches, Derwentwater ; Manesty, Keswick ; Peace Howe, a view-point near Grange-in-Borrowdale ; Ruskin Monument on Friar's Crag ; the Glebe Lands, Bowness, and the Old Bridge House, Ambleside ; and the painting by Mr. Frank Bramley, R.A., "The Grasmere Rushbearing," in the parish hall at Grasmere.