

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

### THE ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Forty-first Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Imperial Hotel, Aberdeen, on the evening of Saturday, November 30, 1929, the President, Mr. James A. Parker, in the chair.

The Accounts, which were submitted by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. A. Nicol, and unanimously adopted, showed that there is a credit balance of £134. 0s. 10d., the highest in the history of the Club. The membership is 272, higher than it had ever been. In 1917 it was 133.

The Hon. President and the other office-bearers were unanimously re-elected. Messrs. W. A. Reid, James Conner, and R. Sellar retired from the Committee by rotation and their places were filled by the appointment of Messrs. Leslie Hay, E. Birnie Reid, and Godfrey Geddes.

It was decided to hold the New Year Meet at Braemar, and the Easter Meet at Nethy Bridge. The Spring holiday excursion is to be to Mount Keen, and it was remitted to the Committee to arrange Saturday afternoon excursions. It was also decided to arrange for a party to climb Lochnagar on New Year's Day, if there was a sufficient demand.

The remit regarding the Corrour Bothy was continued.

The President reported that the Allt-na-Beinne Bridge had been repainted in August. This was a first class job and the bridge was as good as new.

Mr. Nicol reported that Mr. Parker and Mr. Garden had presented an oak bookcase to the Club as a token of appreciation of the honour the Club had conferred on them in electing them President. The Club was now collecting a library of books pertaining to the mountains in general, and the Cairngorms in particular.

On the motion of Mr. Porter, seconded by Dr. Levack, Messrs. Parker and Garden were very cordially thanked for their handsome gift, and, on the suggestion of the President, it was resolved to authorize the expenditure of £5 per annum in the purchase of books, the matter being remitted to the President and the Editor of the *Journal*, with powers.

The President reported that he had represented the Club on the Committee of the Association for the Preservation of Rural Scotland at various meetings which had been held in the autumn. He referred



to the fact that the Government had appointed a Committee to consider the question of national parks, and indicated that the whole question would be carefully watched on behalf of the Club.

On the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. Conner, it was resolved to record the Club's high appreciation of the action of Colonel Stewart in placing an indicator on the Blue Hill and clearing away a very large number of trees obstructing the view to the west.

The meeting closed with a cordial vote of thanks to the President.

#### THE ANNUAL DINNER.

Nearly a hundred members and guests attended the Annual Dinner of the Club in the Imperial Hotel, following the Annual Meeting, and, according to *The Aberdeen Press and Journal*, whose excellent report we are permitted to quote, it was one of the most enjoyable ever held by the Club. Mr. Parker, the President, was in the chair, and the guests included Colonel D. B. D. Stewart and Mrs. Stewart, Banchory-Devenick, and Dr. T. R. Burnett, ex-President of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club, who delivered a fascinating lecture on climbing. Among the apologies for absence was one from Mr. G. T. Glover, president of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, who regretted that he was out of Scotland that night, and sent his best wishes. Mr. George Duncan and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Alexander also sent apologies.

Proposing the toast of "The Club," Mr. Parker was in the happy position of being able to state that the membership had now reached 272, an increase of 115 in the last ten years. Turning to what he described as the political side of the Club's activities, the President referred to the movement started this year to establish national forest reserves, which had now reached the stage of being investigated by a Committee appointed by the Government. The proposals, he said, were in a somewhat nebulous condition at present, but the leading ideas were that certain areas might be set apart as preserves for the natural fauna and flora of the country, and that other areas might be dedicated to the enjoyment of the people in all time, with liberty to roam at their pleasure at all times without let or hindrance.

These proposals concerned them very intimately, because the Scottish area which had been most commonly mentioned as suitable for a national forest reserve was the region of the Cairngorms. "I think," explained the President, "that one essential condition of such a reserve is that it must be a mountain land remote from civilization, and that it must be so large that no matter how popular it may become, it will still retain its charm of solitude. (Applause.) The Cairngorms have this essential to a degree perhaps not equalled by any other area of land in the Highlands. Probably no other solitudes in this country are so remote from civilization as, say, Loch Avon or the rough corries of Braeriach and Beinn a' Bhuidr."



Another essential was that the selected district must be a beautiful one, and possess a bracing and reasonably dry climate. The Cairngorms satisfied those conditions in an eminent degree. (Applause.) A glance at the map at once suggested that the area to be included should extend from the eastern base of Ben Avon westwards to include Sgòran Dubh and the Glen Feshie Hills, an area of something like 250 square miles, of which about fifty square miles would be suitable for afforestation, while the remainder, the higher ground, would be available for mountaineering. Small mountain hotels of a simple type and camping sites would require to be provided at suitable spots, and in this connection Loch Morlich and Glen Lui at once suggested themselves. Refuge huts would also be required at places like Avonford, Loch Einich, and the entrance to Glen Guibhsachan.

The only new roads necessary would be that from Linn of Dee to Kingussie through Glen Feshie, which was long overdue, and a road from Cock Bridge via Inchroy to Tomintoul in substitution for the existing practical joke called the Lecht Road. The existing roads from Strathspey to Loch Morlich would require to be re-made, and a bridge would have to be constructed across the Dee at Braemar. "But," added the President, "absolutely no huts or works of any kind must be erected or carried out in or near the innermost sanctuaries of the Cairngorms, or on the summits of the mountains themselves. These must be left untouched. Tea chalets, say, in the Larig Ghru or on the shores of Loch Avon are simply unthinkable.

"Such is the picture, a fascinating one; but I doubt very much if it will ever materialize, as the difficulties which would have to be overcome are enormous, on account of the sporting interests that would be affected. A beginning could, of course, be made with the Glenmore Forest, which already belongs to the State, and if it were successful, it might form the nucleus for the bigger scheme in whole or in part. While all this discussion has been going on about the formation of national parks, people seem to have overlooked the fact that we have in the Highlands of Scotland one of the most beautiful districts in the world, which simply wants to be opened up by the general improvement of its roads and ferries and the provision of camping sites and rest houses to become the national forest of the British Isles." (Applause.)

Councillor Edward W. Watt, proposing the health of the guests, warmly welcomed Colonel and Mrs. Stewart. Many of them, he said, had been present at the unveiling of the fine new indicator on that splendid site, the Blue Hill, one of the finest viewpoints in Lower Deeside. They thanked Colonel Stewart for his enthusiasm in this matter. (Applause.) Welcoming Dr. Burnett, Councillor Watt referred eulogistically to his fame as a mountaineer.

Replying, Colonel Stewart said that anything he had done regarding the indicator at the Blue Hill had been amply repaid not only



by the Cairngorm Club, but by the population of Aberdeen. Colonel Stewart told how the indicator was being visited by large numbers of sightseers. He dropped a hint to Aberdeen County Council regarding the future of the Blue Hill. He revealed that a gentleman called on him and suggested that Kincardine County Council might consider taking over the Blue Hill.

"I think it is up to you to consider that point," the Colonel remarked. "I am quite uncommitted on the question, but it is well that you should know how the matter stands."

The President said that he examined the indicator last week, and there was no sign of any defacing being done to it or the cairn, and he saw no litter. (Applause.)

During an excellent musical programme, the company sang the Club song, "Where the High Road Ends."

Afterwards Dr. T. R. Burnett delighted the company with his lecture on rock climbing in the English Lake district. Dr. Burnett described many interesting climbs, and showed a splendid series of lantern views. Incidentally, Dr. Burnett assured the members of the Club of the co-operation of his own in their efforts for national parks.

On the call of Dr. J. R. Levack, a cordial vote of thanks was given to Dr. Burnett.

Replying to the toast of his health, proposed by the President, Mr. John A. Nicol, the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, painted an alluring picture of the glories of mountaineering and advised non-members to join the Club and share in those enjoyments.

Mr. J. McCoss proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. William Garden for her songs, to Messrs. George and Wilfred Smith for their violin duets, and to Mr. Meston for his admirable Scotch recitations.

The vote was heartily accorded and the proceedings ended with a hearty vote of thanks to President Parker.

#### NEW YEAR MEET, 1930—BRAEMAR.

THE following full and interesting account of the New Year Meet at Braemar has been received from a member who was present. The party had their headquarters at the Invercauld Arms Hotel. The Meet was one of the most successful in the history of the Club.

*Friday, December 27.* Miss N. Bruce, Major H. J. Butchart, E. B. Reid, and H. Q. Irvine arrived.

*Saturday, December 28.* Miss N. Bruce, Major Butchart, E. B. Reid, and H. Q. Irvine motored up the Cairnwell Road until the car stuck in a snowdrift, 1½ miles beyond the Glen Clunie Lodge.

Miss N. Bruce accompanied by H. Littlejohn, underkeeper at Glen Clunie Lodge, set off along the road to climb the Cairnwell



and Cairn Aosda or "Moses Cairn." When they had been walking for over an hour their attention was attracted by wandering footprints, obviously of someone who had lost his way. Walking back along the track for about 400 yards, they came on an old man of the tramping fraternity half buried in the snow, and covered with an old coat. He was able to drink some hot cocoa and said he had lain down on Thursday night. H. Littlejohn remained with him while Miss Bruce returned to Glen Clunie Lodge to warn Mr. McHardy, the head keeper, who set off with a horse and sledge to fetch the man back. Miss Bruce then proceeded to Braemar for further help. So far the old man is progressing favourably.

The skiers, Major Butchart, Reid, and Irvine, had proceeded on foot up the south-east shoulder of Carn Dubh, where they put on their skis before ascending to the summit of the plateau. They then proceeded to the top of the stream which has its source just west of the 2,697 point. Here they got a good run of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles. The snow was crusted and going was very difficult. They then retraced their tracks and descended a very steep slope just opposite the Shan Spital Bridge, and skied along the road to Glen Clunie Lodge, where they picked up their car.

J. & J. W. Scrimgeour arrived the same evening.

*Sunday, December 29.* Miss Bruce, R. Symmers, J. and J. W. Scrimgeour left in one car, and Major Butchart and H. Q. Irvine, with their skis, in another car, and motored up to Glen Clunie Lodge, where the cars were left. The climbers and skiers proceeded up the Cairnwell Road to within  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile of the summit of the pass. Here the climbers proceeded up the North face of the Cairnwell. The whole way up the road and the Cairnwell the going was very heavy, as a thaw had set in and the snow was soft and inclined to be slushy in parts. The wind was blowing alternate rain and snow into the faces of both parties. The last few hundred yards of the climb had to be done on hands and knees owing to the extreme force of the gale, the last 100 yards took 10 to 15 minutes. The view from the summit was good for such a day. The ascent was accomplished in just under an hour. Lunch was taken in a moderately sheltered corner about 150 feet below the summit. From there, by means of glissades, the road was reached in about 10 minutes. The skiers lunched in a hollow near the "Thieves' Burn," and then climbed about half way up the same face of the Cairnwell as the climbers, and practised turns on the lower slopes. The snow for skiing was very slow, with patches of ice in places which made going very difficult. Both parties then united and proceeded back to Glen Clunie Lodge, where the cars were picked up. The Cairnwell Road was very deeply drifted, while at times there was no indication of where the sides of the road ended and the heather began.

The President, accompanied by E. B. Reid, crossed the Dee by the new bridge built for carting wood, at the junction of the Clunie



and the Dee, and walked up to the Quoich. From here they approached Carn-na-Drochaide from the west, and reached the summit in a hurricane. From there they headed north-west into the Slugain Glen, reaching the Lodge for lunch. The going from the summit to Slugain Lodge was very difficult, through soft snow and in the teeth of a gale with driving snow or sleet. The return to Braemar was made down the Glen, re-crossing the river by the new bridge. After crossing the river, there were seen ten stags in a turnip field, where only sheep were supposed to be, thus showing the fierce conditions in the heights.

L. M. Morison, guest, arrived this evening.

*Monday, December 30.* Two parties left Braemar in cars for Derry Lodge. One party, which consisted of the President, Miss Bruce, J. and J. W. Scrimgeour, and R. Symmers. The other party was composed of skiers, namely, Major Butchart, H. Q. Irvine, J. M. Morison, and E. B. Reid.

Owing to the breakdown of one of the cars, the start was delayed. Both parties left Derry Lodge at 9.15 and proceeded via Luibeg and the Sron Riach to the 3,000 feet contour, where, owing to the ice crust, the ski-ing party decided to go no further. Up to this point the climbers had found going fairly heavy, as there were many patches of soft snow. Above this the conditions for climbing were excellent. The party continued along the cliffs above Corrie Lochan Uaine to the Stob Coire-an-Sputan Dearg. Thence the party set a course for the summit, which was reached at 12.45. The cairn and Indicator were found encased in a thick coating of ice. The view eastward and southward was unimpeded. The return was made by the same route.

Meanwhile the skiers had some excellent running, made the more interesting by large patches of ice which necessitated frequent swing and turns. Most of the running took place between the heights of 2,500 feet and 3,000 feet.

The weather conditions and views, particularly of precipices and corries, were exceedingly fine, and were enhanced by occasional clouds and flurries of drifting snow from the summits. The two parties reached Derry Lodge at 4 p.m.—the members being hospitably entertained by Mrs. Grant at Luibeg Cottage.

In the evening, the party was strengthened by the arrival of ex-Vice-President Walter A. Reid, and also by Robert Sellar.

*Tuesday, December 31.* The following members set off to climb Ben Bhreac, 3,051 feet, and Meallan Lundain, namely Miss Bruce, W. A. Reid, J. Scrimgeour, and R. Symmers. Leaving Derry Lodge at 9.45 a.m. they proceeded up the Derry for about  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile, where a crossing was effected dryshod by throwing a tree trunk across the stream. The western slope of Ben Bhreac was then ascended, and the summit made in a cold wind, with drifting snow, by 11.45.



After a short stay, the descent was made to the Pol Bhát, where a little snow-climbing was indulged in. Meallan Lundain was next climbed, and the descent made to Derry Lodge.

The ski-ing party, which consisted of Major Butchart, H. Q. Irvine, L. M. Morison, and E. B. Reid, motored up to Glen Clunie Lodge, where the car was left. They then skied along the bridle path from Glen Clunie Lodge to Loch Callater for about a mile. From here they climbed to the summit of Carn Dubh and proceeded towards Carn an Tuirc. From the saddle between these two hills a good run of over a mile in length was discovered down the stream which enters the Callater just below the loch. There the snow was powdery, with patches of ice, but the summit was bare and wind-swept. After lunch, Carn Dubh was re-ascended, and the return made by the same route to Glen Clunie, where the skiers were hospitably entertained by Mr. McHardy.

The President, R. S. Sellar, and J. W. Scrimgeour motored to Glen Clunie Lodge. From here they set off to climb An Socach, by way of the Baddoch. The summit was reached in good time, although the going was somewhat heavy owing to softish snow. The descent was made by the same route, and the Lodge reached about 3.15.

Dr. and Mrs. David Levack, J. W. Levack, and Miss Ruth Warren arrived in the afternoon, also J. Middleton, W. Malcolm, and A. Taylor.

There was a good assembly of the members of the Club on Hogmanay and a very enjoyable evening was spent. A small committee was in charge of the programme, which was varied and amusing. The President told some racy stories of his experiences on tour in his inimitable manner. One of the most entertaining items was the story by Messrs. Butchart, Reid, and Scrimgeour which brought in amusing hits at the members present (*v. p. 141*). The feature of the evening was the "Cairngorm Ceremony." Amid much laughter and jollity, the President crowned Miss Bruce Queen of the Cairngorms for the ensuing twelve months with a crown of heather. She was chaired by two handsome squires on a throne composed of ice axes. On the stroke of midnight the company were entertained by Mr. Gregor in his usual generous way.

*Wednesday, January 1.* Lochnagar was climbed by the President, John Middleton, J. Scrimgeour, R. S. Sellar, and A. Taylor. They went up the Black Shiel burn and reached the summit by the north-west slope. They had the satisfaction of finding that they were the first to climb Lochnagar in 1930. While having lunch at the top, they watched in the distance the other section of the Club ascending from Allt-na-giubhsaich, but owing to the intense cold they were unable to wait for the arrival of this other party. The return journey was made over the top of the Meall Coire-na-Saobhaidhe (3,191 feet). The snow conditions for walking were excellent.



Miss Bruce, W. Malcolm, and S. R. Symmers, leaving the Garrawalt Shiel, proceeded along the shoulder of Meall-an-Tionail towards the Stùic Buttress. The going was fairly good over hard snow. The conditions on the Buttress, owing to the thaw, were less difficult than on the previous day. The Buttress was climbed by the crest of the ridge in about 40 minutes. The snow being soft and treacherous in places, the descent was made by the gully to the east of the Buttress, after having first lowered the leader over the cornice. Some glissades were made, but owing to the steepness and presence of rocks, great care was necessary. The return from the Loch was made by the same route as the approach, and the car was reached just before dusk.

Major Butchart and H. Q. Irvine motored to Glen Clunie Lodge and skied up the Baddoch Burn for about 2 miles. They then climbed about half way up Socach Mor but found the snow very poor, so they descended to the burn for lunch. After lunch they ascended Carn Chrionaigh and skied down along the crest to the Baddoch Burn, and so on to Glen Clunie Lodge by 4 o'clock. On the whole the snow was rather slow, since a thaw had set in. There were seen on the slopes of Carn Aosda a herd of more than 150 hinds. E. B. Reid and L. M. Morison ascended Morrone before lunch, and afterwards they ascended up Craig Coinach. E. B. Reid, J. and J. W. Scrimgeour left this evening.

H. Q. I.

*Thursday, January 2.* The President motored Middleton to Derry Lodge, and from the Black Bridge the latter climbed Beinn Bhreac (3,051 feet), while the former took some photographs of the Derry.

Sellar motored to about a mile beyond the Linn of Dee and walked up to the Chest of Dee.

Morison took Symmers up Glen Clunie and instructed him in the gentle art of ski-running.

*Friday, January 3.* Sellar motored the President up to Derry Lodge, from which they walked up the Larig Path as far as opposite the Corrou Bothy, which was visited by one of the party and found to be in fair condition, with the exception of the roof which badly calls for renewal. The Visitors' Book was inspected and was found to have been signed by 49 people since the 12th September last, the date when the book was placed in the Bothy.

*Saturday, January 4.* The last members of the Meet, the President and Sellar, left for home.

#### AN ATTEMPT ON THE STUIC BUTTRESS.

*Tuesday, December 31.*—A party of four, consisting of D. P. Levack, Mrs. Levack, Miss Ruth Warren, and J. W. Levack left Aberdeen in a very fine dawn at 6.50 a.m., and had an excellent breakfast at Pannanich Hotel. They then continued their run to



the Bridge of Dee, below Braemar, and were allowed to take the car across the old bridge to the Garrawalt Shiel, where they parked it. From there they took the usual path to Lochnagar through the forest, and struck off from this at the upper limit of the trees, bearing directly for the base of the Stuic Buttress. The going was excellent, with frozen snow bearing well right to the Sandy Loch, which was covered with ice and drifted snow. After a little food they began the climb, and not more than a hundred feet or so up the Buttress they had to rope, as there was hard ice on the rocks, and the snow was not very firm. By a process more painful than exciting they slowly rose, very disturbed by the cold, made very severe by strong gusts of wind and their inability to move quickly enough to keep warm. There was a good deal of cutting of steps and careful moving, and they got to the final pitch, about 150 feet below the top, where the rocks become quite exposed. Here it was obvious that the climb had to end, for the usual route of escape, to the left of the Buttress, was a solid mass of ice, and the party was rather cumbered by climbing four on an eighty-foot rope. They traversed out to the left, on to the steep snow slope which runs up the side of the Buttress on the south side, and after some difficulty on the part of the ladies, who found the angle of the slope rather trying, they descended to the loch again in a series of zig-zags, after a rather uncomfortable three and a half hours of exposure to biting wind and driving snow. By the time they reached the forest it was quite dark, and the usual path was quite blotted out, so that it was with some little difficulty, by the aid of a lantern, a compass, and the Pole Star, together with Sirius, that they finally joined the road on the south side of the Dee, and so got back to the Garrawalt Shiel, and finally on to the hotel at Braemar, in good time to join in the revels of the New Year Dinner, and the jolly party afterwards.

D. P. L.

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY, 1930—LOCHNAGAR.

On January 1, 1930, the Club's first New Year's Day Excursion went to Lochnagar, and it was a great success. A most enthusiastic party of 20 left Aberdeen by the 8.5 a.m. train. A start was made from Ballater at 10.15 a.m., and although there was not any snow there, it was very soon met with in Glen Muich. The company had to dismount from the motors a short distance beyond the Falls of Muich as the road was blocked with snow. Lunch was partaken at the "Stick," and the party afterwards continued their climb much refreshed. At the Meikle Pap Col, Bothwell, Donald, and Hay went down into the Corrie and had a good snow climb in the Sput Dearg. The main party ascended the Ladder and reached the summit at 2.15 p.m. At the top it was found that the Braemar party, consisting of Parker (President), Sellar, and Taylor, had preceded us



but had left New Year's greetings on the snow. We were seen by them at the top of the Ladder, however, from Meall Coire na Saobhaidhe. The weather conditions were good, and quite a long time could have been spent at the top if there had been more time. The party arrived back at the Falls of Muich at 5.30 p.m. and motored to Ballater in time for the 5.52 p.m. train.

Those present were—the Misses Forbes, the Misses Mackinnon, and Miss McCoss; also the two Bruces, Bothwell, Collie, Donald, Dugan, Duncan, Hay, McCoss, Mackinnon, Purvis, Charles Robb, M. J. Robb, Shennan, and Speirs.

J. McC.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON EXCURSIONS.

##### JUNE 29—CORRYHABBIE, SPEYSIDE.

Who said thirteen was an unlucky number? At this excursion there were thirteen of us, and all voted it an unqualified success. We travelled by the Speyside "excursion" to Dufftown, whence we motored up Glen Fiddoch to the Lodge. In glorious sunshine we followed the stream up one of the finest glens in Scotland. Then, led by Mr. Malcolm, we mounted the hill and walked easily from top to top, Miss Bruce acting as porter for the less robust members. The view towards the north was fine, but the Cairngorms were partly obscured by haze. The return was made along the ridge, and as we had abundance of time, we browsed for half an hour in the glorious afternoon sunshine. After changing our hobnailers and eating double rations at the Commercial Hotel, we returned by train. At Kittybrewster the entire company crowded into one compartment, where a lady guest proposed a vote of thanks to the members for the enjoyable day, and a verse of the Club Song was sung with gusto.

M. S.

##### A WEEK-END FROM BRISTOL.

MR. J. R. CORBETT, who is a member of the S.M.C., and who lives in Bristol, had a week-end's tramping in the Lochnagar district last summer which is worth recording. Leaving Bristol at 5.15 p.m. on Friday, June 28, Ballater was reached at 9.45 a.m. on Saturday, on which day Mount Keen was climbed as a short training walk.

On Sunday, Mr. Corbett left Ballater at 9.55 a.m. and walked to Allt-na-Giubhsaich and thence to the top of Lochnagar (4.58 p.m.) via Little Pap, Meikle Pap, and Meall Coire na Saobhaidhe. Then all the 3,000 tops on the White Mounth were visited, and Carn an-t-Sagairt Mor was reached at 7.21 p.m. From this it was a two hours' run out to the Broad Cairn, and another two hours' to the top of Tom Buidhe, 11.28 p.m. A course was then set for Mayar and Dreish, the latter being reached at 3.57 a.m. And then it was only



a 17-mile tramp over the Capel Mount to Ballater which was reached at 12.35 p.m. on Monday afternoon, 26 hours 40 minutes after it had been left on the previous forenoon. The total distance walked was about 50 miles, with practically 9,000 feet of ascent. Twenty 3,000 feet tops were visited. Ballater was left on Tuesday morning and Bristol reached at 12.57 a.m. on the Wednesday. Mr. Corbett is qualifying for the ascent of all the 3,000 tops in Scotland, and the above week-end left him with only 25 to do. Good luck to him!

J. A. P.

#### ST. ARNOLD'S SEAT, 1,615 FEET.

It is possible that many members of the Club may know where the above hill is situated; but I must frankly admit that I never knew of its existence until about 11.30 a.m. on Sunday, October 27. Tempted by a magnificent morning, Garden and I had left Aberdeen via the Stonehaven road for an unknown, i.e., uncertain, destination, and 11.30 saw us at the Tannadice junction between Brechin and Forfar. Here we turned north and made for Glen Ogil, which we thought might be worth a few hours' exploration. We took the car to road end near Glen Ogil House, and from there climbed up to the top of the hill to the west, which is called St. Arnold's Seat, as it looked as if it might furnish us with a fine view. It did. The climb was delightfully easy—just about 900 feet up, through a larch wood and over heather. The view, as the day was perfect, was magnificent, embracing as it did the whole of Strathmore from the hills at Laurencekirk to the smoke of Perth, while the North Sea was visible as far as St. Abb's Head. There is a big cairn or heap of stones on the top of the hill, and we sat on the lee side of it for nearly an hour, basking in the brilliant sunshine and admiring the panorama. Of the big hills we picked out Schiehallion, Ben-y-Gloe, Glas Thulachan, and Glas Maol; the last three looking well with their first winter snows. I do not know who St. Arnold was, but the Seat is well worth visiting on a clear day for the view. The round trip, as our American cousins would say, took just exactly eight hours from Aberdeen.

J. A. P.

#### THE POSITION OF THE BARNES OF BYNACK.

SINCE the Beinn Tarsuinn controversy of recent date, climbers will be feeling a lack of confidence in the hitherto infallible accuracy of the Ordnance Survey. Although I do not aspire to the discovery of another mislaid Munro, I should like to have the following verified:—

On July 11, 1929, the writer and party were on the summit of Bynack More in very thick mist. It was decided that before heading for Faindouran Lodge we should pay a visit to the Barnes. With this object in view, the map was brought out and the exact height and



position of the Barns noted. The aneroid (a good one, not my own) was then adjusted to read the height of the summit, and we set off on our compass course. Having descended to the proper height of the Barns, as indicated by the aneroid, we stopped and looked around for our objective but could see nothing larger than the usual hillside boulder. Now, I felt annoyed to say the least of it, because it seemed to cast a shadow on my route-finding ability, of which I am, perhaps, unduly proud. At any rate, no leader likes to admit that he has gone astray, and, therefore, you may take this dissertation, if you care, as a bad workman's complaint against his tools. To return to the slopes of Bynack: we wandered backwards and forwards along the hillside for quite a time without result. Suddenly, through a break in the mist, one of our party saw the fantastic shape of one of the Barns high up on the mountainside above us. On reaching them, we took an aneroid observation and found the altitude to be considerably above what the map indicated it should be.

In what follows, I set down my observations in the hope that they may be of some interest.

Height of Bynack More, by 1" Cairngorm Map	=	3,574 feet.
Average height of Barns, by 1" Cairngorm Map	=	3,075 feet.
Aneroid reading at Barns	=	3,250 feet.

Lending weight to these, Mr. Malcolm has kindly furnished me with his observations, also taken this last summer whilst ascending the hill in mist:—

Aneroid reading at Barns	=	3,250 feet.
Aneroid reading at summit of Bynack More	=	3,620 feet.
Therefore—Difference in altitude	=	370 feet.
Hence true elevation of Barns	=	3,574 - 370 = 3,204 feet.

From these results it would appear that the Barns are shown on the map in a position some 150 feet below their actual location.

G. ROY SYMMERS.

#### LAIRIG AN LAOIGH AND BEN BYNACK MORE.

At the Autumn Holiday week-end, after some very unsettled weather in town, two members of the Club left Aberdeen on Saturday afternoon and arrived at Braemar in time for dinner. A short walk on the side of Morrone in the evening gave one the impression that winter was not far off, and the chances were about even as to the morrow being fine or wet. After an early breakfast, the hotel was left soon after eight o'clock and Derry Lodge reached, by motor, at 8.45. The weather was cold and clear, with hills free of mist, and the sun only occasionally hidden, so that the walk up Glen Derry was most enjoyable and invigorating. The junction with the Coire Etchachan track was passed at 10.13 and, the track presently becoming indefinite, the hillside on the right was climbed for a short distance till a track was again found which led over the Beinn



Mheadhoin, Beinn a' Chaorruinn Col (about 2,500 feet)—time, 10.45. The view up Coire Etchachan was very fine, with a cornice of fresh snow showing on the precipices of Ben Macdhui. From the Col, where a ten minutes' halt was made, the peculiar rocks of the Barns of Bynack were clearly visible. On the way down to the Avon a number of ptarmigan were raised. By carefully choosing a route the stream was crossed without wading, and dry-shod, and after 15 minutes' halt, the track was again followed towards Ben Bynack. A careful look-out was kept for the glimpse of Loch Avon mentioned in the "Guide to the Cairngorms," but this was not seen, and we decided that the Loch cannot be seen from this track. A short distance from Lochan a' Bhainne the track was left and the hillside ascended close to the left of a prominent stream tumbling down from A'Choinneach. This stream was crossed at about 2,900 feet level, and a gradual ascent northwards along the ridge brought us to the Barns at 1 o'clock. A little scrambling was done in the big gully, and the weather-worn rock proved uncomfortably sharp to the bare hands. After taking some lunch in the shelter of the gully a start was made at 1.40 for the summit of Ben Bynack. The weather in the meantime had changed for the worse, and the higher tops were now hidden in the mist which was sometimes enveloping the Barns. The summit (3,754 feet) was reached in 12 minutes and, steering a compass course in the face of driving sleet and mist, the north ridge was soon distinguished and followed downwards. In fine weather this ridge might give some interesting scrambling. Some little difficulty was found in picking up the track to the north of this ridge, but after crossing comparatively good ground, this was eventually found and quickly followed to the Nethy footbridge—3.30. Just before this bridge the map shows a track striking off for Forest Lodge on the east side of the Nethy, but this could not be found, and previous memories of wandering in bad ground on this side decided us to take the longer but well-marked road by Ryvoan. While sitting at the footbridge our attention was drawn to peculiar sounds in the direction of Ben Bynack, and presently, from high up in the mist, three flights of geese appeared. They passed directly over our heads and disappeared towards Loch Morlich. At times they were in perfect "V" formation with a leader in front, but when last seen were in one long line. The bothy at Ryvoan was found to be occupied by two rambles who had just arrived from the Corroun bothy. The remainder of the walk presented no difficulties, and in due course Rynettin and Forest Lodge were passed and Nethy Bridge reached at 6.30. On the way through the Forest, frequent halts were made to refresh ourselves with cranberries, which were plentiful. The juniper bushes also carried a large crop of berries. The total distance walked was about 22 miles, and height climbed, 2,400 feet, making bogie time  $8\frac{1}{2}$  hours—actual time taken being  $9\frac{3}{4}$  hours.