

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Forty-Second Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Imperial Hotel, Aberdeen, on the evening of Saturday, November 29, 1930, the President, Mr. James A. Parker, in the chair.

On the motion of the Chairman the following resolution was adopted :—

“That the Club wishes to put on record the great loss sustained by the death of Mr. William Porter, who was one of its oldest members. He joined the Club in 1890, served on the Committee from 1893 to 1918, and was Chairman of the Club in 1899 to 1901, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him.”

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. A. Nicol, advocate, presented the Accounts, which showed that there is a credit balance of £147 10s. 8d., which exceeds the previous year's record by £13 9s. 10d. The membership consists of 242 Ordinary Members, 3 Associate Members, and 18 Life Members—a total of 263. This is 9 less than in 1929, but the reduction is due to the “purging” of the roll. There is an effective increase of 5 in the membership.

The Accounts were unanimously approved of.

The Hon. President, Professor J. Norman Collie, was cordially re-elected. Under the Rules of the Club, various office-bearers retired. Mr. James McCoss was appointed President in room of Mr. Parker, whose period of office expired that day. The Vice-Presidents, Dr. J. R. Levack and Mr. Alexander Simpson also retired, and their places were taken by Mr. William Alexander and Mr. William Malcolm. Messrs. Malcolm, J. A. Hadden, and G. R. Symmers retired from the Committee, and Messrs. H. G. Irvine, F. A. Ritson, and H. Alexander were appointed. The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer and the Hon. Editor were re-appointed.

Braemar was chosen for the New Year Meet; Fortingal for Easter; and Beinn a' Bhuid for the Spring Holiday. It was also agreed to have a day excursion to Lochnagar on New Year's Day.

A grant of £5 was made to the Club Library, and Mr. J. E. Bothwell was appointed Hon. Librarian. Mr. William Garden intimated that he would present to the Club Mr. F. S. Smythe's new book on “Kangchenjunga.”

Miss Helen Duncan, 60 Hamilton Place, Aberdeen, and Miss Agnes M. Pittendrigh, 29 King's Gate, Aberdeen, were admitted members.

A Sub-Committee, consisting of the President, the two Vice-Presidents, and the Secretary, was appointed to deal with applications for membership during the year.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

There was a large gathering of members and guests at the Annual Dinner of the Club, which was held in the Imperial Hotel, following the Annual Meeting. Mr. Parker presided.

Mr. D. M. Andrew, Rector of the Aberdeen Grammar School, proposed the toast of "The Club." He said: I think that we are all, in a sense, mountaineers, lovers of the mountains, lovers of scrambling upon hills, and lovers of fresh air and exercise, and the freedom from care and worry which these excursions bring in their train. We all love to leave the cares and worries of our daily jobs behind us and don our oldest and our stoutest boots and, away from the trammels of civilization and convention, get in touch with Mother Nature once again. I think that we also have common ground in respect that we all love the literature of mountaineering. I do not know any form of descriptive literature which is more fascinating than the great classics of mountaineering. One need only mention such names as Leslie Stephen, Edward Whymper, Mummery, Mallory, and many others, and, in a less serious strain, the immortal Tartarin of Daudet. I am not entirely without hope that, with the backing of my friend and host, Baillie Watt, if I humbly submitted an application for membership of the Cairngorm Club, I might be at least considered by the scrutinizing committee in one of its more indulgent moods. (Laughter.) I believe the Club is flourishing in numbers and finance. It is a very old Club, the premier mountaineering club in Scotland, of longer standing even than the Scottish Mountaineering Club. This is a fact of which the members have legitimate reason to feel proud. You have some great names in climbing among your members, and I have no doubt that among the younger members there are climbers who will prove their metal and attain equal name and fame with the older men who have made the prestige of the Club what it is. (Applause.) I should like to say just one word in commendation of what is undoubtedly a feature of the Club, *The Cairngorm Club Journal*, a periodical which has a very high position among publications of its kind. For this it has to thank its successive editors in recent years—Mr. Alexander, and Baillie Watt, the present editor.

Mr. Parker thanked Mr. Andrew for the generous and, perhaps, somewhat flattering manner in which he had proposed the toast. In the first place, he went on, I have pleasure in reporting that the

Club is still going strong and that our membership still stands at practically the same total as a year ago, in spite of the Committee having exercised their powers under Rule 14 and written off a few of the members whose subscriptions were badly in arrear. During the year we held two successful meets. The New Year Meet at Braemar was notable for two things, first, that one of our lady members was instrumental in rescuing an old tramp who was lying in the snow near the summit of the Cairnwell Road and would, undoubtedly, have otherwise perished. The second feature of the Meet was the rather startling innovation of a kind of cabaret entertainment on New Year's Eve, which was a tremendous success. The six Saturday afternoon excursions were all well attended and were favoured with good weather. At the suggestion of several of the members I arranged for an extra Meet, to be held at Fort William on the September Holiday. And the S.M.C. very kindly placed the Ben Nevis Hut at our disposal for that week-end. Seven members arranged to go but unfortunately, after all arrangements had been made, the weather took a hand and became very bad, and the outing had to be cancelled at the last minute. In connection with the statement that I made regarding the Club membership, it may not be inappropriate if I refer to the great development with regard to climbing and hiking that is taking place all over the country. I think that we may fairly claim the two parent clubs in the movement were the Cairngorm Club and the Scottish Mountaineering Club, both of which were founded about 40 years ago, and then had a combined total membership of round about 250. Now each of these Clubs has a total of about 260. The next important development was probably the formation five years ago of the Junior Mountaineering Club of Scotland, with headquarters in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and just recently in Perth. It is really a feeder club to the S.M.C. There are about 100 members. In Dundee there was formed a few years ago the Grampian Club, which has also about 100 members. It has a mixed membership like our own. I had the great pleasure of attending their annual dinner last winter. And lastly, there has during the last few years been a tremendous development in Glasgow of the Rambling movement. There are now over 30 Rambling Clubs in Glasgow, with a total membership of well over 3,000. The movement has been consolidated by the formation last year of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Ramblers' Federation. The objects of the Federation are to encourage rambling, acquire information regarding footpaths, catering places, and other matters; secure and maintain public rights-of-way, arrange for adequate travelling facilities, and finally, to discourage and prevent acts of destruction and carelessness to natural scenery, and the latter, of course, includes prevention of fire in woodlands. The Federation is a very live body and is doing very good work to encourage the open-air life which is now so notable

a feature round about Glasgow on holidays. Last year I referred to the National Park Scheme. As you all know, the Government Committee went very fully into the matter this year, and its Report is expected early next year. We have no indication as to the nature of the Report, and will just require to wait and see. But I am of the opinion that if a National Park is ever established in the Highlands of Scotland, it will be formed by the gradual enlargement of Government Forests such as that at Glenmore. And in this connection it is interesting to note what the Forestry Commissioners are doing. They completed their first decade of working in September last year, and from their Report to that date just issued I find that the total area of land under their charge is 940 square miles. Of this 570 square miles is forest or potential forest, 215 square miles having already been planted. They had to last year 152 forest units, of which 65 are in Scotland. During the next decade it is proposed to plant 550 square miles. You will appreciate the extent of the work thus being done by the Commissioners when I remind you that the area that was suggested for the Cairngorm National Park, extending from Loch Builg to the Spey, is about 250 square miles. There is no doubt that the Forestry Commissioners are doing a magnificent piece of work.

Mr. R. M. Adam, of the staff of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, then delivered a very fascinating lecture on the mountain flowers of Scotland. Mr. Adam displayed many beautiful lantern slides depicting specimens of Arctic flora to be found on the Breadalbane Hills, in Glen Isla and Glen Clova, and on the Cairngorms. His lecture revealed a great deal of patience in the search for the flowers, and a patience which was not satisfied with the finding and the photographing of them. There was evidence of continuous study of many of the specimens in their natural habitat at great heights and in almost inaccessible places. He showed, for example, how on a single ledge in a gully on Ben Lawers a surprising number of different flowers managed to get a foothold, growing right to the very edge; how the struggle for existence went on, and how certain species were in time ousted and others predominated. Ben Lawers, Mr. Adam said, offered unrivalled conditions for Alpine plants, and among those which he showed on the screen was the beautiful Alpine forget-me-not. He uttered a warning to mountaineers and botanists. Some rare specimens of mountain flora were in danger of becoming extinct through the action of over-zealous collectors. He asked them, when they encountered such specimens, to be content with photographing them, and to allow others to experience the appeal of their beauty.

Councillor Alexander, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Adam, after paying a warm tribute to Mr. Sang, whose death had been deeply mourned, said one was at a loss whether to admire most in Mr. Adam's lecture the very beautiful photographs, the scientific

knowledge of the lecturer, or the literary charm and beauty of his descriptions. G. W. Wilson's landscape photographs had never been equalled, and in the same way Mr. Adam's photographs would take their place as permanent records of the pictorial gallery of Scottish flowers. Mr. Alexander put in a strong plea for the protection of these flowers. It was deplorable that collectors should destroy a very precious national possession, and one hoped that here the same change might take place as had taken place in the matter of wild game. The Prince of Wales did not go out to slaughter rare beasts, but contented himself with photographing them.

Mr. E. Birnie Reid proposed "The Guests," and Mr. Alexander MacGregor, in replying, said he was not one of the condemned collectors. "I am a plant-hunter," he said. "I don't collect the specimens; I collect the memories and notes of what I have seen. It may interest Adam to know that I have seen about three-fourths of the plants he has seen. I could tell him where he can see the single-flowered winter-green in much greater profusion than ever he saw it before."

Mr. McCoss, the new President, proposed the health of the retiring President, and Mr. Parker, in reply, thanked the members very sincerely for the honour they had done him. He had done his best for the Club and would continue to do so.

On the call of the Chairman, the toast of the Secretary and his staff, and the Editor, was honoured, and Baillie Watt replied.

In the course of the evening a number of songs, including the Club Song, were sung by Mr. Hector Munro, with Mr. A. C. Simpson playing the accompaniments, and they were cordially thanked, as well as Mr. Alexander Simpson who had arranged the musical programme.

EASTER MEET, 1930—NETHY BRIDGE.

THE Easter Meet of 1930 was held at Nethy Bridge from Thursday to Monday, April 17 to 21. The members present were the President, J. E. Bothwell, J. McCoss, J. J. Donald, A. L. Hay, M. Morrison, M. J. Robb, and G. R. Symmers. On Thursday evening, Messrs. Parker, Bothwell, Donald, Hay, and Symmers met at the hotel. The first four had motored from Aberdeen. Symmers had walked almost the whole way from Ballater, which he had left on Sunday the 13th and spent the first night *outside* Glassalt Shiel. On Monday he crossed Carn an t'Sagairt Mor (3,430 feet) to Inverey. On Tuesday, Geldie Lodge was reached after crossing Carn Cloich-mhuillin (3,087 feet), Carn Ealar (3,276 feet), and An Sgarsoch (3,300 feet). Kincaig was reached on Wednesday afternoon via the tops of Mullach Clach a'Bhlair (3,338 feet), Meall Dubhag (3,268 feet), Carn Ban Mor (3,443 feet), and Geal Charn (3,019 feet). Thursday should have been devoted to the Monadhliaths, but

the weather conditions were too bad, and he took train to Broomhill for Nethy Bridge. The President had motored from Aberdeen with Miss M. McGregor and Mrs. J. A. Wilson, who, after having tea at Nethy Bridge Hotel, were taken on to Coylum Bridge for the night. Next morning the two ladies left Coylum Bridge at 7 o'clock and walked through the Larig Ghru to Inverey, which was reached about 5. The conditions in the Larig were very wintry, but fortunately the snow was in good condition, although somewhat hard in places. There was a strong wind from the north-west, with occasional showers of snow. Lunch was partaken of behind the Tailor's Stone, which was the only shelter that was to be had.

Friday, April 18. The party of five motored on to Forest Lodge and set out for Ben Bynack, the weather being windy, with frequent snow showers. Visibility was poor towards the top, but the cairn was reached safely through the mist. A high northerly wind made conditions very wintry, and as there was no view, the cairn was soon left and the party broke up. The President and G. R. Symmers went on to the Barns of Bynack, while the others descended by a more direct route. Mr. Morrison joined the party in the evening.

Saturday, April 19. The morning did not look very favourable, and a good deal of fresh snow had fallen overnight, but a start was made during the forenoon. The six members motored to Forest Lodge and walked up the path towards Revoan, but about half a mile short of this they split up, the President and Messrs. Donald Hay and Symmers striking off to the right for Meall a' Buachaille, and Messrs. Bothwell and Morrison making an attempt on Cairngorm. The weather was similar to Friday's, the northerly wind continuing strong. The President's party negotiated Meall a' Buachaille, passing through several snow showers, and down to Glenmore Lodge. Here they inspected the cellars of the S.M.C. while these worthies were away in the wintry blast, made themselves very much at home, and were enjoying a quiet game of bridge after tea when the S.M.C. members arrived, and asked them to join them in another meal. After a very pleasant afternoon they returned via the path from Glenmore Lodge to Forest Lodge and so back to the hotel. Meanwhile Bothwell and Morrison were doing their best on Cairngorm. From Revoan they struck up through the gap on the west side of Mam Suim, and so on to the long northerly ridge of Cairngorm, which was reached quite easily. From here to below Cnap Coire na Spreidhe, the high wind and driving snow made the going heavier. After a short rest for food, about 500 feet below Cnap Coire, the last section was tackled in weather which grew steadily worse, and eyebrows and eyelashes soon became stiff with ice. Morrison, who was wearing the kilt, had his knees covered in a thick shell of ice, resembling scales in formation. In the neighbourhood of the Marquis' Well visibility was reduced to six feet, and when taking a compass

bearing the map was carried away by the gale and was immediately lost. After a further effort to find the cairn the attempt had to be abandoned as hopeless, and the descent was made by compass to a point below Cnap Coire na Spreidhe and then down into Glen More to the path leading to Forest Lodge. Messrs. J. McCoss and M. J. Robb joined the others in time for dinner at the hotel.

Sunday, April 20. Messrs. Bothwell and Donald had to leave for home in the forenoon, the others motoring up to Glenmore Lodge. At the Lodge it was evident that conditions were unpromising, and the President sent off Messrs. McCoss, Hay, Morrison, Robb, and Symmers for Cairngorm with his best wishes for the day, and then motored to Aviemore (visiting the Bennie Bridge *en route*), where he spent a pleasant afternoon with the members of the S.M.C., and reached Nethy Bridge in time for dinner. The climbing party followed the usual Cairngorm path from the Lodge and crossed over to the Fiacail a'Choire Chaise, the ridge of which was climbed to the summit plateau. A stop was made at about 3,000 feet for lunch, and conditions became severe for the remainder of the climb. The top of the ridge, at 3,737 feet, was soon gained and the remainder of the climb had to be done by compass, under the leadership of G. R. Symmers. The cairn was made, dead on the line, and the descent began almost immediately. Compared with Saturday's conditions, there was more new snow, but the wind, temperature, and visibility had all changed for the better. The descent was made by the ridge immediately to the north of Fiacail a' Choire Chais, and on arrival at Glenmore Lodge the party were entertained to tea by the S.M.C. Messrs. McCoss, Hay, and Robb left in the evening for home.

The weather on Monday was still very bad on the hills and the President and Symmers motored back to Aberdeen.

This Meet will, it is hoped, long hold the record for bad weather. A strong north wind blew the whole three days, with heavy showers of snow and hail. The high wind made the *ascent* of the various hills comparatively simple, but the return journeys were pretty arduous, as every yard of the way had to be fought, whether up hill or down hill. The ladies were fortunate in having the wind with them in the Larig. They admitted that it would have been next to impossible to do it the reverse way.

M. M. and J. A. P.

SPRING HOLIDAY EXCURSION, 1930—MOUNT KEEN.

A PARTY of 33 members and guests assembled at Aboyne Station and proceeded in cars by Bridge of Ess and Glen Tanner House to the point where the Mounth Path crosses the Water of Tanner, about ten miles up the glen. Here we left the cars and started to climb at 10.24 a.m. We followed the Mounth Path as far as the plateau which surrounds the cone of Mount Keen, and then struck off up the

steepest part of the hill. The top was reached at 11.20 a.m. by the more active members of the party.

The ascent had been very hot, but a cool wind was blowing at the top. In spite of a haze we were able to pick out Mount Battock, Morven, Ben Avon, Beinn a' Bhuid, Ben Macdhui, Braeriach, Cairntoul, Monadh Mor, Beinn Bhrotain, Lochnagar, Broad Cairn, Mayar and Driesh.

After about an hour's stay we left for Braid Cairn, a flat, stone-strewn hill a mile to the east. On the way across we saw some grouse and ptarmigan as well as a deer and a white hare. We arrived at Braid Cairn at 12.45. We did not stop here but went over the brow of the hill to a more sheltered spot, where we had lunch.

At 1.24 we started for Gathering Cairn, about a mile to the west, which was reached at 1.45 after some enjoyable glissading on the northern slopes of Braid Cairn. From here it was an easy descent to our starting-point, where we had arranged to meet the cars again. This point was reached at 3.15. Those present were :—Miss H. J. Cran, Miss R. K. Jackson, Miss M. Telfer, Miss M. Daniel, Miss E. J. Mavor, Mrs. Ross Mackenzie, Miss C. F. Mackenzie, Miss M. McGregor, Miss C. Rawer, Miss M. Skakle; Messrs. G. F. Collie, W. Nicol, E. W. M. Watt, G. T. R. Watt, R. S. Gray, J. A. Nicol, J. C. Orkney, G. R. Smith, D. Ritchie, A. Simpson, and J. Iverach, members; and Miss O. H. A. Robertson, Miss D. Nicol, Miss J. D. Wallace, Miss N. G. Morrison, Miss A. T. Bisset, Mrs. J. M. Angus, Miss A. Smith, Miss M. W. Johnston, Mrs. Wilson, Messrs. C. Marshall, J. Angus, and E. Queen, guests.

E. W. M. W.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON EXCURSIONS, 1930.

MAY 31—BENACHIE.

A PARTY of eighteen left Aberdeen station by the 1.20 train for Pitcaple. As the train steamed northwards the weather became unsettled, but fortunately waterproofs were not required for more than a few minutes all the afternoon. On leaving Pitcaple station about 2.20 the President led the way along the North Road, followed at varying intervals by small sociable groups. Tramping along paths and through farm steadings, the foot of the hill was quickly reached, and the easy ascent commenced along the boulder-strewn hill track. A company of Girl Guides was encountered about half-way up the hill, comfortably seated under bushes, feasting on chocolates, oranges, and cakes; the President donned a Guide's hat, and delivered a homily.

The Mither Tap was soon ascended. From there the prominent features of the surrounding country were visible through a hazy atmosphere. After a short rest, the assembled party clamorously

discussed the route to Kemnay and to—tea. "By Millstone Hill and its ridges" shouted one, eager for a full day's exercise; "To tea by the easiest route," contended others. On a vote being taken, the proposer of the first motion found himself in a minority of one, but oddly enough half the party followed him as he descended the Mither Tap, making for the heather-clad slopes of Millstone Hill, and from its summit a fine view of the Don and the Woods of Paradise was disclosed. Steady trudging through deep heather, and stumbling through broken ground, led to moor tracks and farm paths to Blairdaff and thence by an unpleasantly hard road to Kemnay.

Seven hungry men, preceded by an advance guard of two, made with all speed for the hotel at Kemnay. Hailing a waitress there, they demanded food to be served immediately. To their dismay they were told that the "hoose wis full o' this climmers and thae gintry wis jist coming doon tae thir denner." Urged by hunger to discovery, a small tea-shop was located in the village. Entering it, food was demanded. It was given in abundance, and served with celerity, graced with fine rustic courtesy. Large bowls of the freshest of boiled eggs were placed on the table and partaken of with gusto—(Let a well-known C.A. recount how many he consumed; although outvoted in the course of the excursion, he was not "out-egged" later on).

Of the Tea-by-the-easiest-route people, your reporter can say little. They arrived early at the hotel, and when settled down to tea there, were amused to see their hungry brothers who followed the longer route turned empty away. Very diverting, no doubt, but they never saw the President play the funny mannie in a shoppie.

A. T.

JUNE 7—TAP O' NOTH.

THE party met at Gartly station at 3.20 p.m. when the 2.20 p.m. train from Aberdeen had arrived there. The afternoon was sunny and windy, but quite warm—a pleasant change from the recent sultry and oppressive weather. We presently proceeded to the foot of the Glen of Noth, passing some quaint old cottages on the way, and commenced to climb the steep, grassy slope of the Hill of Noth. The climb was soon accomplished, and a pleasant high-level walk brought us to the summit of the Hill, where a fine view was obtained. About 4.50 p.m. we left this point, descended for a short distance, and then made a stiffish ascent to the top of the Tap (1,851 feet), where, as almost everybody knows, there are the remains of a vitrified fort, occupying the entire summit. From here we enjoyed a magnificent panorama in all directions; everything that can be seen from the hill was seen clearly. "Ben Macdhui and his Neighbours," still with much snow, were very prominent, while the Buck of the Cabrach, viewed from an unusual position, and the Deeside hills, filled up the

southern horizon. The bold outline of Mount Keen caught our eyes, but there was little snow now, compared with the quantity when the Club spent last May holiday on the hill. To the north were Mormond, the Moray Firth, and the heights of Sutherland and Caithness beyond, the most outstanding of which was Morven: our view stretched beyond this hill, but we could not be sure of what we saw at so great a distance. In the foreground was Ben Rinnes, not unlike Schiehallion. After spending a most delightful hour, we reluctantly "evacuated the fortress," and quickly descended the steep slope to Rhynie. Here we ate a very welcome tea in the Gordon Arms, and later returned to Gartly for an evening train, having walked about five miles. The party consisted of Misses M. W. Johnston, E. A. Mavor, E. J. Mavor, M. M. Telfer, Messrs. W. Garden, R. S. Gray, J. Iverach, G. McIntyre, W. Malcolm, F. A. Ritson, A. Simpson, M. Smith, A. Taylor, G. T. R. Watt, and C. S. McLag (guest).

G. T. R. W.

JUNE 21—BEN RINNES.

IN most beautiful sunshine a party of Cairngormites and guests, numbering ten, left Aberdeen by the Speyside excursion train for Aberlour, thence by motor as far as Glenrinnies Distillery. From there the party started up the hill, the time then being 2.55 p.m. On the way up the sun at times was very hot, but there was just enough breeze to make the going very comfortable. We arrived on the top at 4.45, where we remained enjoying the view until 5.17. There was a slight haze which rather spoilt what would have been a magnificent view, nevertheless, we could see the Monadhliadths, Morven of Caithness, Culbin Sands, Elgin, Forres, The Cromdales, Bin of Cullen, Tap o' Noth, Buck o' the Cabrach, Ben A'an, and the Cairngorms.

At 5.17 our worthy President thought it time to return, and gave the order to march. It is hard to say if the ascent or descent were the more enjoyable, but I can truly say the party enjoyed every step, and we were all truly sorry when the day was nearing an end, notwithstanding the fact that a very good meal, with bacon and eggs, was awaiting our arrival at the Hotel in Dufftown, whither we adjourned at 7.45. I can assure you that never were bacon and eggs better or more truly laid to rest, for we went gaily on until 8.49, when the bus took us to the station for the return to Aberdeen, which we reached at 10.45. May we have many such happy days.

E. J. H.

JUNE 28—PANNANICH HILL AND CAIRN LEUCHAN.

ON June 28 the following members and guests spent a delightful afternoon in the vicinity of Ballater:—Mrs. Wilson; Misses Bothwell, N. Bruce, P. Bruce, Dugan, and Telfer; Messrs. Bothwell, Conner, Dugan, Hadden, Orkney, and Symmers. Several heavy showers

of rain during the journey out in the train somewhat damped our hopes of a dry excursion. However, warm sunshine and an almost cloudless sky greeted us at Ballater. Pannanich Hill was first climbed, a visit being made to the cave-pitch* *en route*. Two members then wasted the party's time by making its ascent, time which cost several individuals not a little effort towards the end of the day.

Once out of the wood—one which had been recently felled—my ears are still ringing with the abuse which was poured on my undeserving head by the lady-members present for leading them into such an entanglement at the expense of their stockings. "Good for them," says I, "why don't they turn out at the big meets?" Well, having hacked our way out of the wilderness of fallen timber, we had a delightful three-mile stroll along the ridge of Pannanich Hill southwards towards Cairn Leuchan. One member thought she was a rabbit and succeeded in catching herself in a snare. The hill received a terrible wallop! On reaching the top the first party who were in possession asked us if we had felt an earth tremor. It was subsequently reported that a bottle of beer had been found at the summit. On closer inquiry, however, it appears that the discovery was made in a rucksack, so that the veracity of both statements is questioned. Cairn Leuchan is a very excellent viewpoint; the prospect to the west being particularly fine. An extensive panorama of Lochnagar and the Cairngorms was enhanced by the beautiful gradation of tones, a wonderful conception of perspective being given by the play of light and shade on the distant hills. A lady member left the top with the firm conviction that the view down the neck of a beer bottle was unsurpassed. A somewhat hasty descent to Ballater, round the back of Glen Muick House, left us sufficient time to partake of an excellent tea at the Alexandra Hotel. Here at least two members acquitted themselves with distinction, the reputation of the Club at the board being worthily maintained.

G. R. S.

JULY 5—CARNFERG.

It is not numbers that make for a successful excursion, but the beauty of the day and the unity of the party. These two things were to be found in full measure when the last outing of the season was taken part in by six of the most enthusiastic members of the Club. Surely the walk up the Fungle, Aboyne, on a glorious afternoon and in good company is as good a tonic as a course of Kreuzschen Salts. That view from "Rest and be Thankful" never palls, and the short climb up Carnferg after one emerges into the open, is just enough to be stimulating. On this occasion, however, the summit was not said to be reached until two intrepid cliff-climbers had tackled the obelisk which commemorates someone long departed. The task seemed at

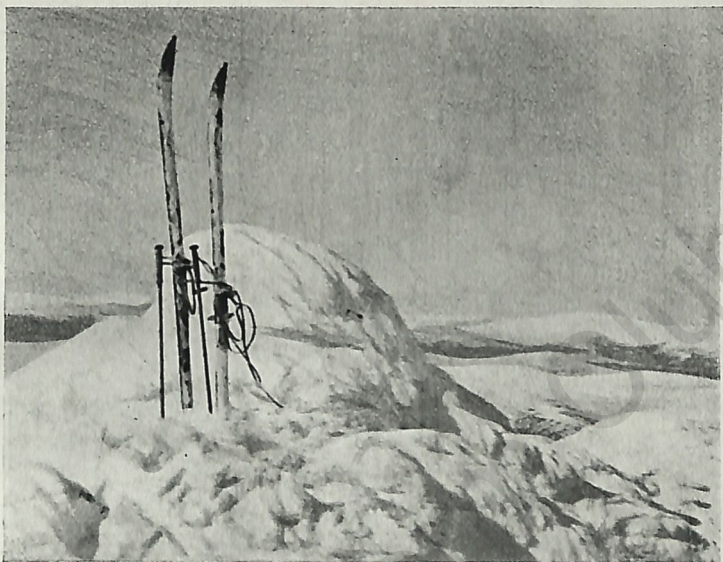
* C.C.J., Vol. XII., p. 42.

first impossible, but our lady athlete, from the vantage ground of her tall partner's shoulders, swarmed in triumph to the top. Thereafter rations were pooled, the President acting as arbiter, and the walk was continued over the top of Lamawhallis and down towards Glencat. The path through the glen leading back to Aboyne by way of Newmill and Drumneachie was ablaze with purple bell heather in sharp contrast to the green of the bracken. This area proved a perfect paradise of wild flowers, and the scent of bog-myrtle and honey made every breath a delight. The party reached Aboyne about seven, when they were entertained by the President to tea—and so home with the memory of a very fragrant day.

ASCENT OF MOUNT KEEN.

ON the morning of March 11, 1930, we were wending our way up beautiful Glenesk in a combination sidecar when an unexpected and heavy snow shower came down upon us. We had started out with the intention of climbing Mount Keen, but the change in the weather modified our plan. We left the cycle at Invermark and walked up to the top of Lochlee, which looked very attractive with snow to the edge, and we abandoned all idea of climbing. Then the sun came out and melted the snow, so we hurried back to Invermark and walked up the Glen of Mark, following the old track to Deeside. In due course we reached the Queen's Well, and would have had a drink therefrom had there not been a dead rabbit in it, typical of the decease of all things Victorian. Then we passed the shooting-box, crossed two burns, and began to climb the "Ladder," which is a fairly steep ascent leading on to high ground. The track then goes over the shoulder of Mount Keen. There was a good deal of snow about and, on this day, the summit was wrapped in mist, which always makes a mountain so solemn and impressive. We climbed the last 500 feet, entered the band of mist, and were lost to the world. A wind was now raging, but we reached the cairn, which looked positively grim in the uncertain light. It was bitterly cold at that altitude of 3,077 feet, and, of course, we got no view, but still we both felt we had triumphed. In descending, we had to use the compass till we were out of the mist. Then our descent to Glenmark was steep and rapid. The snow shower in the morning had put us out a great deal. It was 4.15 when we reached the summit, and, therefore, nearly dark when we arrived at Invermark. It was not for nought that there was a cap of mist on Mount Keen. Rain and sleet began to fall, and our journey down Glenesk was not very pleasant.

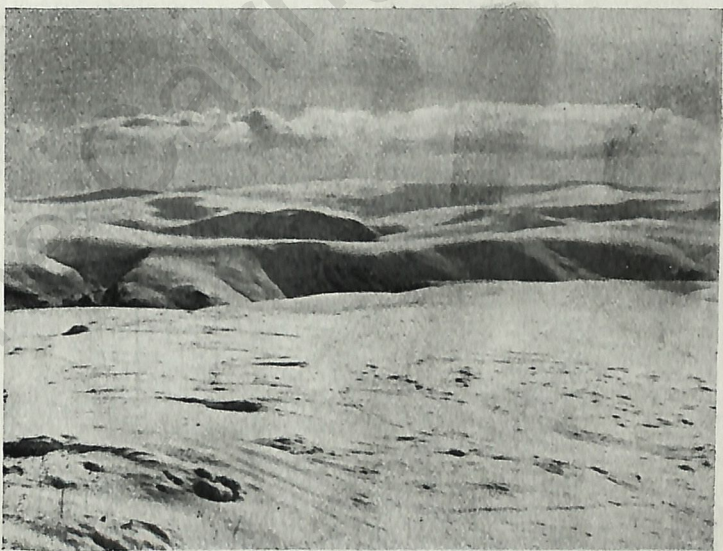
E. CRUICKSHANK.



February, 1930.

J. Keiller Greig.

SUMMIT OF MOUNT KEEN, LOOKING TOWARDS MORVEN.



February, 1930.

J. Keiller Greig

GLEN MARK FROM THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT KEEN.

THE BEN CLEUCH INDICATOR.

THE Indicator on the summit of Ben Cleuch, which was referred to in the last issue of the *Journal*, has now been completed, and was formally unveiled on Saturday, June 14, 1930. It is similar in design and construction to that on Goatfell, and consists of a circular paper chart, 23 inches in diameter, enclosed in a glazed, metal frame. The chart shows an outline map of the part of Scotland concerned, and has pointers indicating the direction, distance, and height of 132 hills. Of these no fewer than 41 are over 3,000 feet in height, which gives some idea of the extensive panorama that is to be had from Ben Cleuch in clear weather. The furthest point visible is the Cheviot, 80 miles distant. The chart was designed by Mr. D. K. Paterson, of Paisley, assisted by Mr. Tom S. Hall, of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Federation of Ramblers, and was gifted by *The Daily Record*. The Town Council of Tillicoultry was responsible for the erection, and honoured our President by inviting him to unveil the Indicator, which he did on the above date, in presence of a crowd estimated at from 750 to 1,000 persons.

PROPOSED MEET AT FORT WILLIAM.

ON the suggestion of several of the members who were present on the Carnferg Saturday afternoon excursion, the President arranged for an extra Meet of the Club to be held at Fort William on the September Holiday. The proposed Meet was advertised in the *Press and Journal* and seven members intimated their intention of attending. Most unfortunately the weather completely broke down just before the party was due to leave Aberdeen, and the Meet had to be cancelled at the last moment. This was much to be regretted, as the S.M.C. had very kindly reserved the Ben Nevis Hut for the Cairngorm Club Members for the week-end.

A FIRST VISIT TO SWITZERLAND.

IN June, 1930, W. Malcolm spent a week of perfect weather at Zermatt. It being a first visit to Switzerland, no serious ascents were made, but the following enjoyable excursions were undertaken, with the idea of getting a working knowledge of the district. As the continuous snow-line was at about 8,000 feet, some little care was necessary in the higher parts, giving an added zest to the outings.

1. Ascent by rail to the Gornergrat and a walk along the snow arête to the Höhtali Grat (10,790 feet). The condition of the snow and a "bad step" in the ridge prevented the walk being continued to the Stockhorn. The descent was made through bad snow to the Riffelhorn Hotel (not occupied) and then by the ordinary path to Zermatt.

2. Ascent by the ordinary route to the Matterhorn Hut (10,820

feet). The path was invisible and the snow treacherous on the last 250 feet to the Hut. The latter was uninhabited, but not locked. Mist descended while at the Hut and continued on the descent to the foot of the Hornli. The Schwarzsee Hotel was also uninhabited.

3. Ascent past the Edelweiss Café to the Trift Hotel (uninhabited) and up the valley and along a moraine to the foot of the Trift Glacier.

4. Walk up the Zmutt valley and along beside the glacier to the Schönbühl Hut (8,860 feet). This was also uninhabited, but not locked. The return was made across the terminal moraine of the Zmutt glacier and through Staffelalp to Zermatt.

5. Ascent of the Unterrothhorn (10,190 feet). The rack railway was taken to Riffelalp station and the path then followed across the glacier stream and through the village of Findelen. The ascent was made straight up from the Stelli See and involved a little rock scrambling and some bad going in loose snow and boulders. The descent was made straight along the ridge to Zermatt.

An "off day" was profitably spent in visiting the Museum, where there are excellent relief maps of the district, and in visits to the Gorner and Trift gorges. The power house of the Gornergrat railway was also visited, and a short morning spent on the hillside above Heueten. The meadows were all thick with flowers, and on all excursions the views were perfectly clear. The most outstanding memories of the holiday were the views of the Matterhorn and Weisshorn, and the beautiful blue gentians on the hillsides.

MIST ON THE HILLS.

By GEORGE STEPHEN.

[ON Sunday, March 30, 1930, the writer and his wife, in the course of a three days' tramp from Braemar, over the Cairnwell Road, and home by Kirriemuir and Glen Clova, were doing the last stage of the journey when they got enveloped in mist on the Tolmount (3,143 feet). Instead of landing at Loch Callater, they found themselves at Loch Muick.]

Across the trackless Tolmount did we go,
From Clova's Glen on tramp towards Braemar ;
And ploughed our way through miles of icy snow,
In sight of white, majestic Lochnagar.

The tonic crispness of the bracing air,
Gave that ecstatic feeling of delight,
Which moves the mountain lover to declare
That only on the hills we live aright.

From cairn to cairn we sought our doubtful way,
With some familiar landmark to assist ;
When lo ! location-sense was ta'en away,
Amid a dense envelopment of mist.

The driving wind was lashing storms of hail,
The freezing cold forbade the thought of rest ;
When, presently, our feet began to scale
Some height unknown—and lost ! we were confessed.

For aeons—so it seemed—we circled round ;
In vain we hoped : this may be but a dream !
When hark ! there reached our ears a hopeful sound—
The welcome gurgling of a mountain stream.

This stream will lead us downwards—sure it must !
We'll follow where it leads—no matter where !
Forthwith to its uncertain course we'll trust,
In fervent hope 'twill free us from despair.

And even so, it led us to a glen,
Descending which, our hours of dread were o'er ;
O happy sight—first Dubh Loch—and then !
To recognize Loch Muick's familiar shore.

Wind, rain, and gathering darkness made us feel,
Ours had been an unenviable plight ;
Not now ! we reached the path to Glas-allt Shiel,
Soon light from Allt-na-giubhsaich came in sight.

Though all unknown, right welcome were we there ;
We came as " strangers and they took us in " ;
'Twas grand such hospitality to share ;
Such true and kindly fellowship to win.

That night 'twas not Glen Callater we trod,
To reach our home from home in dear Braemar ;
We sought not mountain path nor snowy sod ;
In chastened mood we travelled home by car.