

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

### NEW YEAR MEET, 1931—BRAEMAR.

THE New Year 1931 Meet held at Braemar, December 31 to January 5, was a highly successful one. There were 24 members and guests present, namely: McCoss (President), Malcolm, and W. Alexander (Vice-Presidents), Bothwell, Butchart, Collins, Dugan, Duncan, Hay, Husband, Parker, Ritson, J. Scrimgeour, J. W. Scrimgeour, J. A. Sellar, R. Sellar, Symmers, Taylor; Misses Bruce, Duncan, McCoss, and Yeaman. Messrs. W. A. Reid and C. Reid arrived on January 2.

The weather on New Year's Day was hard and keen, but on subsequent days tended to be soft; on the whole it was quite satisfactory and permitted of a number of successful expeditions.

On January 1 the chief expedition was to Ben Macdhui. A clear, frosty morning provided beautiful sunrise effects on the way up to the Derry, the higher hills, all snow-covered, glowing red in the morning sun. The Derry was left at about 9 a.m. The main party made the ascent of Ben Macdhui by the Sron Riach. It comprised Parker, Malcolm, Alexander, Duncan, Taylor, Bothwell, Dugan, and Ritson. The top was reached at 1 p.m. The going was good, but there was no visibility on the summit owing to driving snow. The party descended by the same route, except Taylor, Bothwell, and Duncan, who crossed by the top of Derry Cairngorm. The Derry was reached about 4 p.m. Symmers, Hay, and Miss Yeaman went with the Ben Macdhui party to the foot of the Sron Riach, thence up to Lochan Uaine, crossing it and tackling the snow slope to the left of Stob an Sputan Dearg. There are some 800 feet of this slope to the summit plateau. The climb was easy apart from the cornice at the top, which, being very soft, occasioned some trouble. An ambitious expedition to the Garrachory was undertaken by McCoss, Scrimgeour, Misses Duncan and McCoss. They reached 3,100 feet after five hours' walking and turned for lack of time; they were then some 300 feet under the Choke Stone Gully, which they intended to attempt. Miss Bruce went to Lochnagar, joining the party from Ballater.

On January 2 the weather was softer, with less sunshine. The chief expeditions were to Corrie Kander, and consisted of two parties. Symmers, Hay, Misses Bruce and Yeaman climbed the stone chute to the left of the large opening at the back of the Corrie. They had a very fine snow climb of some 800 feet; the angle of the gully was very steep, with soft snow from half way up, ending in a cornice with a 20 foot crevasse behind it, which gave no little trouble.



They returned along Carn Tuirc to Glen Callater. McCoss, Miss McCoss, Malcolm, and Bothwell climbed the great snow gully in the Corrie and glistaded down. Dugan visited the Loch for photographs. On the return Malcolm crossed Loch Callater on the ice. Other outings were made in other directions. Parker and Alexander walked to the Dubh Ghleann bothy in Glen Quoich. J. Scrimgeour visited Carn Tuirc, where Butchart and Collins did some ski-ing. Taylor and Ritson walked to Crathie. Dr. Sellar and Husband motored to Linn of Dee and walked to the Derry and back.

On January 3 Symmers, Hay, J. Scrimgeour, Misses Bruce and Yeaman started for Corrie Etchachan, but had to cut short their expedition because of heavy going. They went up to Lochan Uaine on Derry Cairngorm. The snow was very soft and no good climb was possible, but the slope at the back of the loch was climbed to about 3,000 feet, the descent being made by a parallel gully. Malcolm, Sellar, Ludwig, and Taylor went to Lochnagar. They climbed the Staic Buttress and thence went round the top of the cliffs to the summit. There were six degrees of frost on the plateau. Descent was made by the Black Shiel Burn, Sellar and Ludwig crossing Meall Coire na Saobhaidhe.

In the evening Miss Helen Duncan was elected Queen of the Cairngorms in place of Miss Bruce, whose term of office had expired.

Wild life observed by members included one eagle on Ben Macdhui, two foxes on Lochnagar, and a flock of crossbills in the woods of Invercauld.—W. M. A.

#### EASTER MEET, 1931—FORTINGALL.

THIS year the Club held their Annual Easter Meet at the Fortingall Hotel, Perthshire. So large a turn-out of members and guests assembled that some of the members had to find sleeping accommodation in the village, and a few were quartered in Coshievill Inn, about three miles distant.

*Wednesday, April 1.* Dr. J. A. Sellar and Usher Hill (guest) arrived.

*Thursday, April 2.* The following members arrived:—J. McCoss (President), M. J. Robb, J. C. Orkney, Roy Symmers, H. Dason, S. C. Smith, G. F. Collie. Miss Duncan (Queen of the Cairngorms), Miss J. M. Pittendrigh, Miss Telfer, Mrs. Ross Mackenzie, Miss Nesta Bruce, and Miss Mackenzie; Miss Macfarlane of the Glasgow Ladies' Climbing Club, and Mr. F. G. S. Davidson were present as guests. F. A. Ritson and Dr. J. L. Hendry arrived at Coshievill Hotel.

*Friday, April 3.* The weather, although cold, was excellent for climbing, and the following parties spent a most enjoyable day on the various mountains.



1. Miss Macfarlane, Miss Bruce, Smith, and Orkney climbed the eight peaks of the Carn Mairg range. The party motored to Invervar Lodge and started off by ascending Creag Mhor, then traversing over Carn Mairg, Meall a' Bharr, and Meall Garbh, returned to Invervar Lodge.

2. Dr. Sellar and Usher Hill motored to Lochan na Lairige and climbed up the north face of Meall nan Tarmachan to the top of the mountain. Some good snow-climbing was enjoyed, and when the top was reached, they traversed along the ridge to Carn Chreag, returning the same way as they had come.

3. Roy Symmers, Miss Telfer, Miss Mackenzie, and Dason made the ascent of Schiehallion from the Braes of Foss, returning the same way. The party enjoyed quite a lot of good glissading on the way down, and it was reported that one of the party glissaded down head first, and, I may add, he returned safe and sound to the Hotel.

4. Owing to a mechanical breakdown in one of the cars, the activities of the rest of the members were greatly curtailed, but McCoss, Miss Duncan, and Miss Pittendrigh climbed Creag Mhor from Fortingall Hotel.

The following members and guests arrived in the evening :—J. A. Parker, A. Scott (guest), Hay, and Service. Ward also arrived, coming from Ipswich to join the Meet. Although he arrived in the afternoon, he lost no time in getting into trim, as he straightaway made the ascent of Creag Mhor from the hotel.

*Saturday, April 4.* The morning broke fine, with practically no clouds in the sky, but a high wind was blowing all day, which made walking along the mountain ridges rather trying. In the afternoon the weather broke down and blizzards of snow swept across the high peaks.

The following parties departed to the hills :—

1. Miss Bruce, McCoss, Miss Pittendrigh, Miss Duncan, Roy Symmers, Morrison, Service, and M. J. Robb motored to Lochan na Lairige to climb the north face of Meall nan Tarmachan. Three of the party, Miss Bruce, Roy Symmers, and Leslie Hay climbed the Arrowhead Gully on the north face of Meall nan Tarmachan. This ascent was found fairly difficult, as the first cave pitch would not go owing to black ice. The party, therefore, climbed up the left wall, letting out two runs of 80 feet of rope, and then made the traverse back into the gully, after which the summit of the gully was easily reached in the snow. Thereafter they ascended to the top of Meall nan Tarmachan. The remainder of the original party who did not participate in the rock climbing ascended to the summit of Meall nan Tarmachan and crossed along the ridge to Carn Chreag. Three snow gullies were climbed by some of the party, and the rope had to be used on two occasions. Some enjoyable glissading was experienced



by the party on the return journey. One member who was wearing a kilt was unable to glissade, so he had to cut steps in some of the steeper slopes.

2. Dr. Sellar, Usher Hill, and Miss Macfarlane were motored up Glen Lyon as far as Glen Lyon Church by J. A. Parker. From here the party ascended Meall Garbh, on the Ben Lawers range, by the north shoulder, descending the southern face of the mountain to Lawers Hotel, where Parker was kindly waiting to convey them back to Fortingall.

3. J. A. Parker enjoyed a motor run round Loch Tay. After conveying the Meall Garbh party up Glen Lyon he motored by the south road of Loch Tay to Killin, and then on to Lawers Hotel, where he, along with the party who had descended from Meall Garbh to Lawers Hotel, enjoyed an excellent tea. On the south side of Loch Tay Parker discovered a valuable copper mine. He brought an excellent sample of copper ore back to the hotel with him, where it was auctioned, the excellent and valuable sample of ore falling to the highest bidder, namely, Miss Bruce, for the munificent sum of 1/6. Parker's efforts to float a company to work the mine did not meet with success.

4. Miss McCoss, Miss Archibald, Scott, Smith, and Orkney made the ascent of Schiehallion from Glengoulandie Farm. They followed the pony track up the Allt Mòr burn, and then up the eastern ridge to the top, returning again by the same way. The visibility from the top of the mountain was poor. Dr. Hendry and Ritson also climbed Schiehallion, walking from Coshieville Inn via the Allt Mòr burn. They also returned by the way they had made the ascent.

5. Collie, Davidson, Ward, Dason, Mrs. Mackenzie, Miss Mackenzie, and Miss Telfer formed themselves into two parties and ascended Ben Lawers from Lawers Hotel, returning again to Lawers Hotel.

Malcolm arrived.

*Sunday, April 5.* 1. Starting from Lawers Hotel, McCoss, Orkney, Scott, and Miss McCoss climbed the south side of An Stuc Gully, ascending to the top of Ben Lawers by the Raven's Crag.

2. Roy Symmers, Miss Bruce, and Miss Macfarlane climbed the gully on the east side of the Raven's Crag, and then continued to the top of Ben Lawers.

3. Ward, Miss Telfer, Malcolm, and Dason motored to Lochan na Lairige and climbed Meall nan Tarmachan, ascending some of the snow gullies at the north end of the Crag.

4. Miss Archibald, Miss Duncan, Miss Pittendrigh, Smith, and Robb made the ascent of the East Gully of Ben Lawers, walked along the ridge to the top and returned to Lawers Hotel.

5. Dr. Sellar and Usher Hill motored up Glen Lyon to the Condie Burn and climbed Stuchd an Lochain. After walking along the top of the corrie they descended to the spot from which they had started.



6. Mrs. Mackenzie, Miss Mackenzie, Collie, and Davidson motored up to Loch Lyon and ascended Ben Vannoch.

7. Dr. Hendry and Ritson climbed to the top of Ben Lawers from the Lawers Hotel, and descended by the same route.

8 J. A. Parker motored to White Bridge and climbed Meall Tarruin chon (2,559 ft.). The ascent of this hill did not necessitate the use of an ice-axe to any extent. After he had descended, he motored to Lawers Hotel to convey a party who had been climbing Ben Lawers back to Fortingall Hotel.

*Monday, April 6.* 1. J. A. Parker motored up Glen Lyon almost to Loch Lyon. After parking his car in a neighbouring gravel pit, he climbed to the top of Meall Buidhe via the west side of the glen of Eas Eoghannan. Visibility was perfect, especially looking towards Ben Nevis. Bartholomew's map makes this peak 3,004 feet, but Parker made the height out to be 2,981 ft. Therefore, the hill is not a Munroe. After visiting the keeper at Cashlie, Parker reached Fortingall Hotel at 7 p.m., leaving for Aberdeen on the following morning.

2. Dr. Sellar, Usher Hill, and Ward motored to the Braes of Foss, and climbed Schiehallion. The weather was very warm and on the top Usher Hill stripped to the waist and enjoyed a sunbath, the ultra-violet rays so invigorating him that he skipped down the mountain side like a two-year-old. The views from the summit were wonderful, especially towards the west, where all the mountain peaks stood out clean cut in their snowy mantles. Rarely does one see such a clear view from a mountain top as the party enjoyed that day.

3. Service and Morrison climbed Ben Lawers on their way back to Glasgow.

This meet was one of the best the Club has enjoyed for a number of years, as every day was utilized in climbing, the weather conditions on the whole being most favourable for mountaineering, and everybody returned home invigorated after the days spent on the mountain tops.—J. A. S.

#### OVERFLOW MEETING AT BRAEMAR.

IN steady rain, or perhaps sleet, and a cold easterly wind. E. B. Reid, J. W. Levack, R. B. Williamson, and A. Dyce Davidson left Aberdeen for Braemar on the Thursday evening. By Banchory it was definitely sleet, by Aboyne it was proper snow, which continued most of the way. Just in front of Invercauld House we surprised four stags on the road, and their lightning disappearance over a four-foot fence reminded some of us of very recent losses over the Grand National. Cairngorm Club members are always made welcome at once at the Invercauld Arms, and the kindly attentions of George and Priscilla (sometimes familiarly called "Priskie") make one feel at home immediately.



Good Friday proved dry and sunny, though the wind was cold and from an easterly or north-easterly direction. We motored as far as Shean Spital bridge on the Blairgowrie road—beyond this point drifted snow made the road impassable for vehicles; then followed the delightful Monega Pass over Sron-na-Gaoith ridge to the summit of Glas Maol. On the way we peeped into the Canlochan Glen at the head of Glen Isla. From below we had seen the snow blowing in clouds from the top of the Glas Maol corrie, but nevertheless we were able to lunch on the leeward side of the Glas Maol cairn, admiring the view of Glas Tulaichean and Beinn a' Ghlo, with Ben Lawers and Schiehallion dimly visible. We wondered if any of our fellow-members from Fortingall were looking at us from there. The lunch, as carefully ordered, included our Easter eggs, provided by Mrs. Gregor, which were duly rolled according to custom on the top of Glas Maol. As an illustration of the cold, one member found his chocolate frozen so hard, he had to use his ice axe to break it. The descent to the highest point on the Blairgowrie road, over the top of Meall Odhar, calls for no comment. As this was our first outing after some months of indoor work, our original idea was to return to Shean Spital bridge by the road. However, we decided to tackle the Cairnwell, which, over snow slopes, was reached inside three-quarters of an hour; even then, two members were not satisfied, and the ascent of Carn Aosda was soon accomplished by the party. From there the best standing glissades of the day were obtained, and after a little over six hours of leisurely going, we were back at the car at Shean Spital bridge.

*Saturday, April 4.* The party again set out from the Invercauld Arms at 9 a.m. with the object of doing Ben Avon. Proceeding across the Dee by the temporary bridge used for timber haulage opposite Mar Castle, Gleann an t-Slugain was soon reached, and a steady walk up the glen brought the party to the shooting lodge at 10.30 a.m. The path was practically clear until within about a mile of the lodge, after which huge drifts of old snow filled the narrower parts completely. After a short halt, the usual route was followed up the head waters of the Quoich to the Clach à Chlèirich and thence up to The Sneck between Beinn a' Bhuid and Ben Avon.

The weather up to this point had been dull with a fairly strong wind on our backs. By the time The Sneck was reached at 12.45 p.m., a moderate gale was blowing, which made a halt there impossible owing to drifting snow and intense cold. The Muckle Slock looked desolate and nothing could be heard but the swish of icy particles of snow and the faint croak of an occasional ptarmigan. Turning to the right, the final ascent on to the summit plateau was made in more or less "blin' drift," fortunately on our backs, and the main top was reached at 1.30 p.m. During this time the weather had definitely turned worse, and conditions at the top were very bad,



mist having come down and obscured the view almost entirely. No shelter could be found even on the lee side of the huge rocky top. Lunch was a "standing" meal under miserable conditions of blowing snow and cold, and was a rapid affair. A course was then set for the Allt an Eàs Mhoir, leading down to Glen Gairn, so as to avoid the blizzard from the direction of Carn Eàs. The Gairn was reached about 2.30 p.m., but weather conditions were still very bad and the full blast of wind and sleet was again encountered. Turning right, the Gairn was followed up for about a mile to the broad upper end of the valley, when turning south, a course was struck over rough and wet country to Glen Slugain, which was reached at 4 p.m. By this time, and even long before, boots and plus fours were soaked through, and a short halt was made to consume the "unexpended portion" of lunch and an orange.

Once more fortified, the party soon had Glen Slugain behind and the Invercauld Arms in sight. Hot baths and tea soon made everyone at peace with all mankind. We were joined in the course of the evening by Richard Irvin, who remained with us for the rest of our visit.

*Sunday, April 5.* On the last day of the meeting it was decided to attempt Lochnagar—via Loch Callater. The distance of five miles to Loch Callater Lodge was covered by car, the road presenting no difficulties in spite of a fall of snow during the previous night. The start from the Lodge was made at 10.15 a.m., under almost ideal weather conditions, bright sunshine, with a slight breeze from the north.

The journey along the slopes of Creag an Loch was made at a slightly lower level than the path, but as there was very little snow lying, there was no great difficulty presented.

On rounding the southern extremity of this hill, the path was struck but, owing to old snow, could be followed for only a very short distance. A walk of approximately a mile in a north-easterly direction, away from Loch Callater, brought the party to the foot of Cairn Taggart, and, instead of rounding this hill, it was decided to make the summit, for which extra effort ample reward was given in the form of a magnificent view of the Cairngorms, with Cairn Tuirc in the foreground to the south, and Ben Macdhuì and its neighbours in the distance in the west.

The descent of Cairn Taggart was then made on the eastern side, where thick snow lay, and Lochnagar, with its snow-clad summit visible on the skyline, made for.

On reaching the flat at the foot of Cairn Taggart, weather conditions became extremely bad, a strong wind with driving snow and sleet coming from the north. However, this lasted for only a very short part of the journey and, when a start was made on the actual slopes of Lochnagar, the conditions were excellent.



The first cairn was reached at 1 p.m. and the summit at 1.15. Here the wind was fairly strong, but not strong enough to prevent the party lunching on the south side of the cairn.

Visibility was moderate, the majority of the hills referred to on the Indicator being visible, especially the nearer hills towards the south.

The return journey was started at 1.45 and the same route was taken back to Loch Callater Lodge, with the exception that Cairn Taggart was skirted on the north side. The Lodge was reached at 3.50 p.m. and, at this point, sunshine worthy of June tempted the party to relax for fifteen minutes before the return journey to Braemar by car was started.

Two members of the party went deer-stalking on the Sunday with the object of getting cinematograph pictures of the deer in its native haunts. Their efforts were successful.

Only 60 per cent. of the party were Cairngorm Club members when we started, but by the time we had completed the week-end the remaining 40 per cent. had been enrolled.—R. B. W.

#### SPRING HOLIDAY EXCURSION, 1931.

A PARTY of 19 members and guests assembled at Alltdourie Cottage, on the Invercauld Estate, to climb Beinn a' Bhuid. The weather was fine and clear but not hot, a contrast to Aberdeen, where rain fell until the early afternoon. After about 75 minutes' pleasant walking up the Slugain Glen the Slugain Lodge was reached, where lunch was taken. Here the party split, the main portion going direct to the south top, and four members going to the buttress between the corries on the north face of the hill. The walk down to the Quoich bridge was pleasant, but rather heavy and wet on the other side of the river owing to melting snow. The first part of the climb to about 3,000 feet was accomplished with ease, but some difficulty was experienced on the steep snow-covered slopes of the last 500 feet. Before entering the mist at about 2,750 feet, the view to the south and east was glorious. The whole expanse of the Eastern Grampians was visible, from Mount Battock to Beinn a' Ghlo. In this panorama it was possible to pick out Mount Keen, Lochnagar, Tolmount and Glen Callater, Glas Maol, and the Ben Iutharns. At the summit there was neither wind nor sun, but the temperature was not low, and mist obscured the view. After about half-an-hour the party began to descend, by the same route. The more active members tried glissading, but this was not successful on account of soft snow. The walk from the Quoich bridge to Alltdourie Cottage was most enjoyable, as all members will testify.

The four who went to rock-climb in the corries climbed the buttress between the corries and had magnificent views into these and of the Dubh Lochan. On reaching the summit plateau they



proceeded to the north top, from where they walked to the south top and descended by the same path as the main party.

Those present were :—Miss R. K. Jackson, Miss B. Forbes, Miss K. S. Forbes, Mrs. Mackenzie, Miss M. M. Telfer, Miss A. H. Dugan, Messrs. James McCoss (President of the Club), G. T. R. Watt, R. S. Gray, J. C. Orkney, W. G. Evans, G. F. Collie, E. W. M. Watt, H. C. Dugan, A. L. Hay, J. E. Bothwell, M. D. Deans, C. Marshall, and C. H. Barnes.—E. W. M. W.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON EXCURSIONS, 1931.

##### MAY 23—MIDMAR TO TORPHINS.

THE first Saturday afternoon excursion took place on May 23, 1931, when twelve members of the Club left Golden Square by char-a-banc for the Hill of Fare. The route taken was by Midmar, where the high road was left, and the party leisurely made their way to the plateau at the top. After the rain of the morning the country presented a beautiful aspect, and a fine view was had of all the familiar hills, with the snowy patches on the Cairngorms shining in sunshine. The return was made by the western slope of the hill, and a walk through exquisite country, including the grounds of Craigmyle House, brought the party to Torphins, where tea was provided and much enjoyed at the Learney Arms Hotel. Here the char-a-banc was picked up, and the return to town was made via Glassel and the North Deeside Road. Those present were Misses Jackson, Johnston, Mavor, Skakle, Telfer, Mrs. Hendry and Mrs. Wilson; Messrs. Conner, Hadden, McCoss, Ritson, and M. Smith.—E. J. M.

##### MAY 30—CRATHES TO DRUMLITHIE.

THIS was a delightful walk, and was greatly enjoyed by nine members. The forenoon was very dull and none too inviting, but by the time we had reached Culter, the sun was shining brilliantly and continued to do so all afternoon. The route followed was from Crathes by the Slug Road to Spy Hill, thence by a footpath leading between Craigbeg and Mongour. There was no strenuous climbing, the highest part being only a little over 1,000 feet. At the top we halted for a few minutes and then off down the other side, where we reached a most beautiful part of Glen Cowie at Lady's Leys, and the still more beautiful stream, which was found by some to be most refreshing and cooling. The higher Deeside hills were not visible owing to mist, but the view near at hand was quite good. We joined the road again just above Carmont station. Then along the railway line to Drumlithie, where tea awaited us. When in the Hotel we were visited by one of our new members, Mr. Collie, from Auchinblae, who, on account of the mist, had been unable to join us at an earlier stage. After a sumptuous repast, three members left by train. As it was a



glorious evening, and only just after 7 p.m., the others did a few more miles along the road until overtaken by a bus, which they boarded, arriving back in Aberdeen at 9.40 p.m. This is a splendid cross-country walk, and gives an excellent idea of the wildness of the country. Those present were: Misses Daniel, Johnston, Wallace, Messrs. W. Malcolm, J. McCoss, E. B. Reid, F. A. Ritson, M. Smith, S. C. H. Smith.—M. D.

#### JUNE 6—TILLYFOURIE TO LUMPHANAN.

We arrived at Tillyfourie by 'bus at 3.20 p.m. on June 6 and ascended Green Hill by the side of the Ton Burn. This route is beautiful and interesting. We had a good view of the Vale of Alford and far beyond to Mormond Hill at Strichen and Ben Rinnes. The hill walk to Benaquhallie was very pretty by the route we took, which was south of Red Hill. The fauna and flora were particularly interesting. The visibility from Benaquhallie, in spite of some mist, was good, and we saw all the Deeside hills and the Cairngorms. We arrived at the Tarland road in 35 minutes, and after passing Gjenmillan House we reached Lumphanan at 7 o'clock, just as the rain came on, exactly 3 hours 40 minutes after leaving Tillyfourie. We took the 8 o'clock 'bus from Lumphanan, after spending an hour with a very high tea at Lumphanan Hotel. Those present were Misses Jackson, Johnston, E. A. Mavor, Wallace, and Mr. J. McCoss.—J. D. W.

#### JUNE 20—CORYHABBIE.

THIS Saturday afternoon excursion took place on June 20. It was a relief to find that after the depressing weather conditions for the previous Sunday excursion the day gave promise of good walking conditions. The party of five, consisting of Misses Johnstone and Marjorie Watt, and Malcolm, McCoss, and S. C. H. Smith arrived at Dufftown by the Speyside Excursion train at 2.26. There they were joined by Ritson. Three motor cyclists, Ronald Kellas, E. W. M. Watt, and G. T. R. Watt, were to have met us, but they did not make an appearance until later. After the formality of ordering tea, which one member of the party thought wholly unnecessary, we motored along the Glen Rinnes road to near the farm of Rinatin, starting to climb at 3 o'clock. Our first objective was Muckle Lapprach and thence to Corryhabbie Hill, the summit of which was reached at 4.30. The ascent was rewarded by a magnificent panoramic view of the Cairngorms. The visibility was excellent, and the Moray Firth and the hills beyond were distinctly seen. The Buck, Tap o' Noth, Mormond Hill, Knock Hill, Binn of Cullen, and Lochnagar to Clachnaben were all also very clear. After a short rest in a sheltered spot we descended to Glen Fiddich—a most delightful spot—and leisurely made our way to the Lodge, which was reached at 7 o'clock. Our motor was waiting to take us back to Dufftown and tea, where



all, except perhaps the youngest member of the party, showed in a practical manner their appreciation of the meal which awaited us. The motor cyclists, who had been delayed in starting, joined us there. They had reached the top of Corryhabbie about half-an-hour after us, but found the visibility not quite so good. The walk to the station, an appreciation of the beautiful setting of the War Memorial, and a comfortable journey home, ended a most enjoyable outing.—S. C. H. S.

## JUNE 27—KERLOCH.

ON June 27 the Saturday afternoon excursion was to Kerloch. Six members left by char-a-banc at 1 o'clock, passing over the Bridge of Strachan, then eastward to the farm of Pitreadie. The party started to cross the moor at 2.15 under most delightful conditions. Kerloch was reached at 4.15, where a most pleasant 50 minutes were spent in the sunshine. Bees and coloured butterflies were all round the cairn, and there was a pleasant, warm breeze, scented with mosses and heather. The visibility was also excellent in all directions. Cairntoul, Sgor an Lochan Uaine, and Braeriach were clearly seen. At the top, our member from Auchinblae, the Rev. E. Cruickshank, was waiting for us. He had walked over Goyle Hill and Tipperweir. At 5.5. we left for Little Kerloch, and passed over it at 5.25, then down to the Bulg Burn at 5.50. By the stream side the young brackens, bog-myrtle, and birch trees were very beautiful. It was a lovely spot. The shoulder of Heathery Hill was crossed, and the party arrived at the Bridge of Dye at 6.50, where the char-a-banc was waiting. Mr. Cruickshank, who had accompanied us to this point, now had to weigh in the balance whether he would have a ham and eggs tea at Whitestones Inn and an extra four-mile walk, or turn his face up the Cairn a' Mounth road for Auchinblae. He reluctantly took the latter course and promised himself a drink at Junior's Well on the way. We had our usual very high tea at Whitestones Inn and met Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Garden and Porter, who also had tea. We afterwards had a very enjoyable run home, and ended a very delightful excursion. Those present were Misses Jackson, Johnstone, and Mavor, and W. Alexander, Cruickshank, McCoss, and Malcolm Smith.—R. J.

## JULY 4—BEN RINNES.

The Club had a very enjoyable Excursion to Ben Rinnes on the afternoon of Saturday, July 4. Members and guests, numbering seventeen, arrived at Aberlour. It seemed as if the weather conditions were to be favourable, though now and then dark, rainy clouds drifted across the sky. The party was taken by car to Esquiebuie, thus saving a walk of two or three miles along the highway. The ascent was begun at 3.20 p.m. The path ran through a wood and



finally emerged on the heather-clad hill slope. From here a fine view of three of the tops of Ben Rinnes was obtained. After covering a good distance a halt was made, when the members of the party collected together and partook of some light refreshment. At 5.10 the party arrived at Scurran of Well, which is crowned by three rocky tors. After a little rock-climbing, the next objective was the main summit, Scurran of Lochterlandoch. It had been noticed for quite a while that clouds were gathering overhead. The surrounding hills were enveloped in moving rain clouds, and soon Ben Rinnes got its share. However, this did not last long, and from the top, which was reached at 5.40, a splendid view was obtained. Away to the north lay the Moray Firth, and beyond the blue hills of Caithness. The Cairngorms, still wearing part of their winter garb, stood out clearly on the left. In all, the view was a very fine one. The party remained only 20 minutes on the summit, for it became quite chilly. The descent by the east ridge was made in good style. On reaching the Glen Rinnes road at Glack the company was conveyed by bus to Dufftown, where tea was waiting. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the President for all he had done to make the afternoon excursions so enjoyable. Those present were Misses Bothwell, Dugan, M. Johnstone, McNaughton, Russell, and Skakle; Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Ross MacKenzie, and Mrs. Wilson; Messrs. A. Booth, Ian Booth, Bothwell, Dugan, Malcolm, McCoss, McNaughton, and S. C. H. Smith.—A. H. D.

#### SUNDAY EXCURSION.

JUNE 14—MORVEN.

THE Club's first Sunday Excursion was held on June 14. About eight members intimated their intention to be present, but owing to the bad weather only four turned out. With such a small party a char-a-banc could not be considered, so it was decided to go by bus leaving at 10.15 a.m. It was fair but dull when we left Aberdeen, and as we had a two hours' journey before reaching Dinnet we were hopeful that the sun would break through. We left the bus at Dinnet at 12 o'clock and were successful in reaching the foot of Morven at 1.45 p.m., after a six-mile tramp along a beautifully-wooded road. Up till then we had had no rain, only a very thick mist. While we were having lunch, before starting to climb, the rain came on, and we had a few very heavy showers before the summit was reached at 3.20 p.m., that being ten minutes ahead of the scheduled time. There was a fierce gale blowing, which made us feel that we did not want to stay there for long, and there was no view to be got owing to the mist. A compass bearing had to be taken here. This being done and our way assured, we set off for Morven Burn. When we were about half-way down, the mist cleared for a few minutes and we



looked across the wide expanse to Mona Gowan and Scraulac, with black thunder clouds behind them.

Oh, the glad sounds of the joyous earth,

The murmurs that live in the mountain pines.

We saw a number of ptarmigan, grouse, and oyster-catchers, the last being a rare sight. This side of the hill is much more boggy than the Dinnet side. We reached the foot bridge over Morven Burn at 4.30 p.m. The journey from here to Ballater by Glen Gairn was much enjoyed, and was completed in 1½ hours. By this time we had left the mist behind, and we got some fine views of the hills beyond Ballater, but not as far as Lochnagar. It was still raining heavily when we arrived in Ballater. We all enjoyed a good tea at Mr. Dason's hotel. The return journey was made by bus, leaving at 8 p.m. Some of the party found it necessary to return to Aberdeen in borrowed clothing.

Those present were Misses M. Daniel and J. D. Wallace, and J. McCoss and A. A. Slessor.—M. D.

#### THE CRUACH ARDRAN RIDGE.

At the Spring Holiday week-end three members of the Club entrained for Crianlarich. Arrived at that station, the very fine view of Cruach Ardran (3,428 ft.), with its snow-filled Y-gully, and framed by the ridges enclosing Coire Ardran, soon decided them that this should be their objective for the following day.

At 9 o'clock on Sunday morning they were clear of the hotel, and, crossing the iron railway bridge a short half-mile down the Glasgow road, took to the gently sloping hillside and followed a sheep fence to the crest of the ridge at Hawk Craig. The ridge was then followed over Grey Height (2,159 ft.) to the foot of the final peak. At this point the party divided, one member making for the summit by the line of least resistance, up the ridge. The two other members traversed across steep snow on the north face to the fork of the Y-gully. One member tried the east branch of the Y and found it rather disappointing. The angle was probably nowhere over 40 degrees, and although the snow was in good condition, the gully could be left at any point and the face of the hill easily climbed. This member reached the Cairn about ten minutes after the climber who had taken the ridge. The west branch of the Y was tackled by the other member, and, although shorter, it appeared to be the more interesting of the two gullies, the snow at the top being at a much steeper angle. This member was about three-quarters of an hour later in reaching the summit. The view from the Cairn was very fine, especially of the hills to the west and north. Ben More and Am Binnein had very little snow on their west sides, but all the



hills were well covered on the east faces from about the 2,750 ft. level. After about an hour at the summit, as snow began falling from heavy clouds which had come up from the south-east, a start was made for the descent by the north-east face. A glance down this face into the swirling snow blown before a cold wind revealed that some care would be necessary in the descent, and a retreat was made to the shelter of the north face till the weather cleared a little. After a short time the snow stopped and the descent was made partly by steep snow and partly over the rocky face. A good glissade down the easier slopes at the foot of the face brought them to the col. Near this point and in close proximity to the snow they were attracted by clusters of small red flowers growing in the rock crevices. The ascent to Stob Garbh (3,148 ft.) from the col is very gradual but interrupted by rocky outcrops. These afford some interesting scrambling, but can easily be avoided. During a rest in the sun on the west side of the ridge, two figures were seen at the summit of Cruach Ardran. The members were interested to see these climbers glissade from top to bottom of the north-east face, descending in a few minutes what had taken them a good half hour. From Stob Garbh a leisurely descent was made over Stob Coire Bhuidhe (2,781 ft.) and Creag na Iolaire to the Glen Dochart road at Inverardran, and a half-mile walk along the road brought them back to the hotel at 6.30 p.m. The whole round is about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles and makes a very enjoyable day's outing, without being too strenuous. With ice conditions the north-east face might give trouble and require rope, but this is the only part of the ridge presenting any difficulty.—W. M.