

“IT'S A LONG WAY TO—ROTHIEMURCHUS.”

BY E. B. R. AND R. B. W.

THE above may be true, but it is certainly within the range of most of us in a week-end. Anyhow, the writers decided, at short notice, to spend one day going from Dee to Spey, and the next day returning. This was done on the Sunday and Monday of the Aberdeen Autumn Holiday.

Through the good offices of our Club Secretary, a permit was arranged to drive up to Derry Lodge—the key of the Derry Road gate being got at the keeper's house opposite the Mar Lodge gate in exchange for our permit. We were fortunate in getting the services of Dr. D. P. Levack to come with us to Derry Lodge and take the car back to Braemar. From Derry Lodge the usual route was followed by Lui Beg, then in front of the imposing heights of the Devil's Point, through the Lairig Ghru. It was interesting to note in passing the Corrour Bothy that there was considerable activity round about, and there were no fewer than four small bivouac tents pitched, all within a few yards of the Bothy. Time does not appear to smooth the Lairig path at the top, in spite of the large number of pedestrians which must trudge through the maze of boulders during the season. The ptarmigan seemed to be very numerous this year and were flying about in large coveys; also one hears many “whirring croaks” of others, more elusive to the eye. The weather was not conducive to much sitting about, and we found that the times stated on the Allt-na-Bienne foot-bridge tallied with our own—namely, eight hours from Derry Lodge to Aviemore.

The following morning we set off by car from Aviemore to Kincaig, then, crossing the Spey there by Loch Insh, followed the Feshie. Our driver discreetly halted at the junction of the Kingussie and Kincaig roads in Glen Feshie. This is just out of sight of a locked gate near some keepers' cottages, and two to three miles short of Glen Feshie Lodge.



The Feshie is crossed by footbridge about a mile short of the Lodge, and a most pleasant path then leads one right on to where the River Eidart joins the Feshie. We kept a look-out for the relics of the Landseer frescoes (described by Mr. Henry Alexander) in the one remaining wooden hut built by the Duchess of Bedford. Near here we met two members of the Lodge house party, and, amongst other matters, discussed the qualifications of a "hiker." They seemed to consider very large heavy shoes and smiling faces most important points. We both wore boots and, though we might have possessed the second qualification, the matter was not followed up any further.

The one justification for this rambling story is to give fellow-members a "tip" on present conditions regarding the sometimes very difficult negotiating of a crossing over the Eidart. At present there is a footbridge with hand rails over the River Feshie, a few hundred yards below the junction with the Eidart. So the easy way is to cross the Feshie by the footbridge below the junction, then continue East on the South bank till the junction is passed. The Feshie can then be crossed as a rule without difficulty.

From the Eidart to opposite Glen Geldie Lodge is the least pleasant part of the journey. The path is scarcely distinguishable for about a couple of miles, and there is a good deal of soft going over damp, peaty moss. The time taken to reach the cottage and stables at Glen Geldie was seven and a half hours.

Transport met us by arrangement at the White Bridge, and so ended a very successful outing.