

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

NEW YEAR MEET, 1932—BRAEMAR.

It was a somewhat daring experiment on the part of the President to insist that a recently elected, though not young, member of the Club should record the doings of the large number of members and friends who assembled at the Invercauld Arms Hotel, Braemar, for the 1932 New Year Meet. Owing to the size of the party and the variety of their interests, it has been somewhat difficult for the scribe to make a comprehensive survey of the activities of all the members present, and it is quite possible that many of the more interesting events, especially on the social side, may have been overlooked.

The following members were present at the Meet :—

J. McCoss (President), W. Malcolm (Vice-President), J. E. Bothwell, H. J. Butchart, A. G. C. Collins, H. C. Dugan, Dr. W. G. Evans, Wm. Garden, G. P. Geddes, H. D. Griffith, A. L. Hay, W. D. Hutcheon, J. Morison, R. Mackay, J. C. Orkney, J. A. Parker, E. B. Reid, Dr. J. A. Sellar, R. T. Sellar, S. C. H. Smith, G. R. Symmers, A. Taylor, N. J. Wilson, Mrs. Garden (Queen), Mrs. E. J. Hendry, Misses A. E. D. Bruce, M. R. Harbinson, E. McCoss, B. P. Macfarlane, M. Yeaman. In addition there were the following guests :—Dr. Hendry, R. D. W. Mackay, Capt. Tireman, Misses Moncur, Morison. E. G. Gordon, R. P. Yunnie, members, and Brockie and Gove, guests, stayed at the Inver Inn—39.

The weather on December 31 gave great promise that those members who hoped to indulge in the much-advertised winter sports would not be disappointed. Snow was lying to a depth of from two to six inches on the roads, and those who had been fortunate enough to arrive earlier in the week had already had some ski-ing.

Unfortunately New Year's Day brought a complete thaw, and the snow rapidly disappeared. In spite of this, however, the Meet must be regarded as a great success.

After dinner on Hogmanay the party, headed by the President with his pipes, and E. B. Reid with the hotel gong, marched to the Fife Arms Hotel, and joined the guests there in dancing. Shortly before midnight they returned to the Invercauld Arms, and the New Year was ushered in according to custom.

January 1, 1932.—In spite of the late hour at which many of the members retired to rest on the previous night, an early start on the serious work of the Meet was made.

The following excursions were carried out :—

1. The President, Malcolm, Bothwell, Evans, Griffith, and Hay, with Mrs. Hendry and Misses McCoss and Yeaman, took the Black

Shiel route to Lochnagar. Visibility was poor owing to mist, but fine views were obtained on the way down. Two members glistaded 300 feet on the east side of the North Ridge. There was a strong gale blowing, one member having his spectacles blown from his face.

2. Orkney, Smith, Symmers, and Miss Harbinson motored to the Garawalt Shiel and made for the Staic Buttress, via the White Mounth. The buttress was climbed with great ease, several variations being made as a matter of interest. The party then circled round and visited the indicator on Lochnagar. The summit was left in a strong, westerly breeze. Visibility was poor throughout. Reaching the path as night fell, the remainder of the excursion was carried out in pitch darkness.

3. Parker and a small select party made a highly sensational trip per Hotel 'bus to the Linn of Dee. Thence, under experienced leadership, through the primeval forest to the Glen Lui Road, which was reached at the well-known cairn, which was repaired and brought up to the scratch. A difficult traverse was then made by road to An Drochaid Dubh. The crossing of the bridge presented no difficulty, and the party then retired in good order to Braemar, via the north road and the timber bridge at the sawmill.

4. Brockie, Gordon, Gove, and Yunnie climbed Lochnagar by the Black Spout, from Inver Inn.

January 2, 1932.

1. Bothwell, Hay, Hutcheon, and Miss Yeaman motored to Derry Lodge and climbed Carn a Mhaim from the Lui Bridge. They followed the ridge up to Ben Macdhuì, descending by the Sron Riach. Miserable conditions prevailed throughout the day.

2. Orkney, Smith, Taylor, and Misses Harbinson and Macfarlane ascended Ben Macdhuì via Sron Riach. The return was made by the same route.

3. Morison, Reid, and Dr. Sellar ferried across the Dee and climbed to the south top of Beinn a' Bhuird via the Slugan Glen. There was very thick mist and rain all the way up the hill, and the fast disappearing snow was very soft.

4. The President, Dr. Evans, Griffith, Malcolm, Mrs. Hendry, and Miss McCoss walked from Derry Lodge to the foot of Sron Riach, and returned the same way.

5. Geddes and Wilson were out stalking on Carn Turc. They killed "the Baby" and one hind, and nearly killed themselves dragging the latter home. On arrival at Callater a target sweep ended in a tie, there being no score.

The event of the evening was the crowning of the Queen of the Club, (Mrs. Wm. Garden). Headed by the President, with his pipes, she was borne shoulder-high into the room on ice-axes by four strong

and handsome henchmen, and the crowning ceremony was carried out with all due formalities. After having the crown of stag-moss placed upon her head by the President, and receiving a present sent from Aberdeen by Mr. Walter A. Reid, she charmingly acknowledged the honour, and after amusing speeches by E. B. Reid and Col. Innes Shaw, M.P. (a guest at the Hotel), her health was drunk in a bowl of punch, brewed and served by the capable hands of G. P. Geddes and R. T. Sellar, who were dressed specially for the occasion.

The next part of the programme was the initiation of new members. After a test, consisting of Gaelic pronunciation and walking on an Alpine rope blind-folded, the new member, Miss H. R. Harbinson, was declared to be a fit and proper member of the Club. The members then indulged in dancing under the able leadership of Miss Bruce.

Not satisfied with his activities during the day, a well-known C.A. practised at a late hour various traverses, etc., on his wardrobe before retiring for the night.

January 3, 1932.

The local weather prophet who, in answer to our enquiry, replied, "Maybe it'll no rain a' the day" was far too optimistic. There was no cessation of a steady downpour. In spite of the miserable conditions, the following excursions were planned and carried out:—

1. The President, Bothwell, Hay, Hutcheon, Orkney, Smith, and Misses Macfarlane and Yeaman motored to Derry Lodge and "slushed" up Glen Derry to the Shelter Stone via Corrie Etchachan. Difficulty was experienced at times in crossing the burns. We were surprised to find that in the New Year two names were already inscribed in the book there. We also recorded our visit, and all returned the same way, with the exception of Hay, Hutcheon, and Miss Yeaman, who came back by Derry, Cairngorm, and Carn Crom.

2. Symmers and Miss Harbinson had a short practice rock climb on the Lion's Face.

3. Reid, Morison, Misses Bruce and Morison, together with two guests from the Hotel, climbed Lochnagar via Black Shiel Burn and Garbh Allt Falls and over the north-west shoulder of Cac Carn Beag. There was practically no snow in the corries. The return journey was to Callater.

4. Malcolm and Mrs. Hendry followed the path from Loch Callater to Lochnagar as far as the Stuic Buttress. After examining the upper rocks of the buttress they met the Lochnagar party and descended with them to Callater. Ptarmigan and snow bunting were observed on the slopes of White Mounth.

January 4, 1932.

Many of the guests left. The following excursions were made by those remaining:—

1. Orkney, Smith, and Miss Macfarlane motored up to the Cairnwell, which they ascended. Thereafter Carn nan Sac, Carn a' Gheoidh, Carn Bhinnein, An Sococh and Carn Aosda were climbed and the party descended to the Cairnwell Road. The last five of the seven tops were negotiated by compass, as the mist level seemed about 2,800 feet. Wonderful effects of light and cloud could be seen of the lower levels; later a gale with driving mist persisted. Deer, mountain hares, red grouse, ptarmigan, and snow buntings were seen at close quarters. An amazingly fresh growth of mosses and heather was observed.

2. The President, Malcolm, Parker, and R. T. Sellar climbed the Cairnwell.

3. Taylor, Miss Harbinson, and a guest climbed the Cairnwell and Carn Aosda, descending via Carn Chrionaidh towards Glen Clunie Lodge, and walked back along the banks of the Clunie.

January 5, 1932.

The last of the members regretfully returned to Aberdeen, carrying with them vivid memories of a most enjoyable break from "the daily round."—S. C. H. S.

JANUARY 1, 1932—NEW YEAR'S DAY EXCURSION TO MOUNT KEEN.

ALTHOUGH on leaving Aberdeen the weather was very depressing, the ascent of Mount Keen was made under a cloudless sky amid bright sunshine. There was very little snow, and the climb was made in good time. From the summit a wonderful vista of the snow-clad hills was obtained, Lochnagar and Ben Avon being clearly distinguishable. From the point of view of numbers the outing was one of the most disappointing in the more recent history of the Club, the total number present being only five—Miss Daniels, Messrs. Slessor and Collie (members), and Dr. Lillie and Mr. D. J. G. Shennan (guests).—G. F. C.

FEBRUARY 14, 1932—LOCHNAGAR.

THIS excursion was arranged specially for snow-climbing and, as it happened, the condition of the snow was perfect. The weather on this day was also excellent, there was a hard frost and a lot of sunshine.

The party left Golden Square by charabanc at 8.30 a.m. for Alltnaguibhsaich. Those present were—Mrs. Agnes, Mrs. Ross Mackenzie, Mrs. Wilson, Misses Daniel, Duncan, Mackenzie, Stewart, Messrs. J. Angus, J. E. Bothwell, H. G. Dason, H. C. Dugan, A. L. Hay, W. Malcolm, J. McCoss, J. McHardy, R. T. Medd, J. C. Orkney, M. J. Robb, E. W. Smith, S. C. H. Smith, A. Taylor, R. P. Yunnie—22.

Mrs. Angus, Mrs. Mackenzie, Mrs. Wilson, Miss Mackenzie, Angus, and Dugan ascended by the Ladder.

Dason, Malcolm, and S. C. H. Smith climbed the Central Buttress Snow Gully.

Bothwell, Orkney, and Yunnie climbed Raeburn's Gully up to the bend and found that they could have ascended to the foot of the Great Cave Pitch. This pitch, however, would not have gone, as it was covered by a mass of ice.

Hay, McHardy, and Medd cut an ice-staircase up the Green Gully (green in summer) on to the Mound.

Bothwell, Hay, McHardy, Medd, Orkney, and Yunnie climbed the left-hand Branch of the Black Spout.

Miss Duncan, Stewart, and M. J. Robb on one rope, and Miss Daniel McCoss, E. W. Smith, and Taylor on another rope, did the Black Spout.

The snow was in excellent condition with a great deal of ice, and very fine climbing was obtained. Owing to the dryness of the snow the party did not return with wet feet.

The cliff was a great sight. It is true there were not any cornices, but the rock-face carried a layer of ice which was thickly plastered with snow.

An eagle sailed over the Black Spout for a while, and a white hare ran up the Black Spout in front of the climbers and ascended by the steepest part at the top.

The magnificent sunset was enjoyed by the party as they went along the top of the cliffs at 5 o'clock. The brilliant greens, fiery reds and purples, showed in the west, and were a great contrast to the greys, slates, and blacks of the east.

Darkness settled down as the last of the party reached the foot of the Ladder. The sky became brilliantly clear, and the planets Jupiter and Venus, to the east and west respectively, shone large and clear. The constellation of Orion sparkled in the south, and the moon at first quarter gave sufficient light to guide the lazy members of the party down the path.

A lantern was lit at the wood, and was useful in negotiating some fallen trees.

The party assembled at Mr. Dason's Hotel, Ballater, and had the usual ham and egg tea there, and so home at 10.30 p.m.

The excursion was voted by all to be a most excellent one.—J. McC.

FEBRUARY 20, 1932—PITMEDDEN TO HAZLEHEAD.

Then slowly sunk the ruddy globe of light,
And o'er the shaded landscape rush'd the night.—

Odyssey, Book III.

A PARTY of members, under the leadership of Parker, took the 5.45 p.m. train for Pitmedden. The party made its way along the

side of the old canal, then gradually ascended uphill by a shaded pathway where the bare tree branches cast shadows in the moonlight. Away to the north Benachie was silhouetted on the sky-line, and the winding Don could be seen faintly in the foreground.

At a point apparently well known to him, Parker gave the order for the lanterns to be lit, and a route was taken up through the wood to the Blue Hill. The route led along a most charming series of footpaths on the Hill of Marcus, and through various gaps in the trees magic views of the moonlit landscape were obtained. The silence which reigned over everything was broken only now and then by a startled wood pigeon or grouse. Here was a time and place for Robin Hood and his men. On such a night as this, one was on the alert for the appearance of the fairies, and sure enough these charming little folk appeared, as anyone of the party will verify.

Leaving the fairies and the trees behind, the party crossed the heather and arrived at Tyrebagger Hill-top, where one of the ladies climbed the cairn on the outside, disdaining the stone steps in her ascent. We gazed on the ghostly moonlit landscape and—

Radiant Hesper shone with keener light,
Far-beaming o'er the silver host of night.

Iliad, Book XXII.

Our route now led down to the North Road, which was crossed. At the Toll House the side road was taken which leads toward Elrick Hill, and the party was soon among the woodland pathways again. At a certain point in a cutting of trees, Parker stopped, and the lanterns were again lit. He seemed positively uncanny. We plunged into a most bewitching winding pathway where the moonbeams could not penetrate, and where without a lantern it would have been impossible to have gone a yard. Beyond this charming route we crossed a space of soft turf, whitened by frost, and burrowed into by rabbits.

The lanterns were now put out again for good, and we ascended the Brimmond Hill in 25 minutes, arriving at the indicator at 9.25 p.m. An excellent view of the moonlit landscape was obtained, from the Bay and the twinkling light of the town to the Hill of Fare, which was clearly seen. The party descended by Fairley and over Geese Hill to Hazlehead, which was reached at 10.45 p.m.

Those present were—Misses A. E. D. Bruce, P. Bruce, M. Daniel, E. Mavor, E. A. Mavor, Messrs. W. Garden, J. McCoss, J. A. Parker, and A. Taylor.—J. McC.

FEBRUARY 28, 1932—LOCHNAGAR.

A most enthusiastic party of members left Golden Square, by charabanc, at 8.30 a.m.

Those who attended the excursion were:—Mrs. D. P. Levack, Misses A. E. D. Bruce, Harvey, E. Mavor, E. A. Mavor, C. M.

McDowell, McHardy, Messrs. Bennett, J. E. Bothwell, Brockie, G. F. Collie, H. G. Dason, H. C. Dugan, Wm. Garden, E. G. Gordon, R. Hart, D. P. Levack, Wm. Malcolm, J. McCoss, J. McHardy, C. S. McLay, J. C. Orkney, J. A. Parker, A. Taylor, H. D. Welsh, R. P. Yunnie—26.

A slight fall of snow had turned the lower brown heather slopes of the hill into a grey shade, which left a spoor behind as one crossed it. Higher up there was a bigger fresh fall of snow, the cliffs were quite white and there was a great deal of ice. The mist and the wind had left their traces behind, and fog-crystals, the shape of ostrich feathers, covered the rocks above a layer of ice. Mist covered the top of the cliffs all day, but the conditions were very favourable and the excursion was much enjoyed.

The Misses E. Mavor, E. A. Mavor, C. M. McDowell, and Messrs. Collie, Bennett, Garden, Hart, Orkney, Parker, and Welsh ascended by the Ladder; Collie and Bennett descended by the Glas Allt.

Dason, Malcolm, and McLay climbed the Ladder Gully.

Miss McHardy and Messrs. McCoss, McHardy, and Taylor climbed the Red Spout.

Misses Bruce, Harvey, and Bothwell climbed the Central Buttress Snow Gully.

Brockie, Gordon, and Yunnie spent the whole day trying to cut a route up Raeburn's Gully, but without success. They climbed as far as the first cave, where their progress was stopped by a wall of ice. Their performance was very creditable under the prevailing conditions.

Dugan went down to the loch-side and afterwards went up on the plateau.

The Misses Mavor, McDowell, and J. C. Orkney ascended the Meikle Pap on the way down.

Mrs. Levack and D. P. Levack walked up the side of Loch Muich.

After tea at Ballater the party started for home again very pleased with themselves.—J. McC.

ROCK CLIMBS AT SOUTER HEAD.

March 5, 1932. A rock-climbing practice excursion was held at Souter Head. The party consisted of Misses A. E. D. Bruce, D. M. Carle, Messrs. H. C. Dugan, J. McCoss, and G. T. R. Watt. The day was very fine and some good practice was obtained. G. T. R. Watt climbed the Through Route Chimney, and Miss Carle and Watt did the right wall of this chimney.

March 12, 1932.—The second rock-climbing practice excursion was attended by Dewar, E. G. Gordon, J. McCoss, and J. A. Parker. The day though cold was fine. The rocks were sheltered from the

land-wind, and the conditions were excellent. The party participated in very fine practice, which was enjoyed by all present. Dewar and Gordon did the Slab-top Chimney and the right wall of the Through Route Chimney.

March 19, 1932.—The third and last rock-climbing excursion was a most enjoyable one, and fine practice in this fascinating branch of mountaineering was had by the party. Those present were Misses A. E. D. Bruce, D. M. Carle, M. Daniel, Messrs. E. G. Gordon, J. McCoss, L. McGregor, S. C. H. Smith, and R. P. Yunnie. Carle, McGregor, and Yunnie climbed the Slab-top Chimney, and Yunnie climbed the crack on the left of the Slab-top Chimney. The crack above the Pool was ascended by Bruce, Carle, Gordon, McCoss, McGregor, and Yunnie. Yunnie did the Through Route Chimney, and the Grassy Pinnacle was ascended by Carle, Gordon, McCoss, and McGregor.—J. McC.

EASTER MEET, 1932—FORT WILLIAM.

THOSE who attended the Meet were :—Mrs. J. L. Hendry, Misses N. Bruce, P. Bruce, Martin, Mitchell, Paterson, and Telfer, Dr. J. L. Hendry, Messrs. J. McCoss, J. B. Miller, M. Morrison, J. C. Orkney, F. A. Ritson, M. Smith, S. C. H. Smith, J. J. St. Clair, G. R. Symmers.

Thursday, March 24.—Arrived at Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Hendry, Miss N. Bruce, Messrs. McCoss, Orkney, Ritson, M. Smith, S. C. H. Smith.

Friday, March 25.—Mrs. Hendry and Miss N. Bruce, Messrs. Hendry, McCoss, M. Smith, S. C. H. Smith, Orkney, Ritson, and Symmers, who arrived that morning, set off for the Scottish Mountaineering Hut. The weather was mild. The hut was reached by the first party at 1.15 p.m., in 2 hours 50 minutes. After lunch, Miss N. Bruce, McCoss, Orkney, and Symmers climbed No. 2 Gully. The snow was easy, and step-cutting was not resorted to till about three quarters of the way up. The cornice gave little trouble. M. Smith, S. C. H. Smith and Ritson explored Coire Leis, while Dr. and Mrs. Hendry remained at the hut and organised the domestic arrangements. M. Morrison, Misses P. Bruce, Martin, Mitchell, Paterson, and Telfer arrived at Fort William.

Saturday, March 26.—Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Hendry, Messrs. McCoss, M. Smith, S. C. H. Smith, Ritson, and Orkney ascended Carn Mor Dearg from the hut and proceeded by the arête to the summit of Ben Nevis, and thence to Fort William by the path. Symmers and Miss N. Bruce attempted the Tower Ridge. Starting by the gully to the east of the Douglas Boulder, the ridge was climbed to the bottom of the Tower. The Eastern Traverse would not go. Time was lost

exploring this exit, which allowed several parties of climbers to get ahead into the Recess, where the chimney was giving trouble to the party leading. At this point there were in all fifteen climbers on the ridge, mostly queuing up between the foot of the Tower and the Recess. As a long wait was in prospect all hope of finishing the ridge was abandoned, and a descent was made into the Tower Gap Chimney by a long glissade. This was descended to a very steep pitch, and thence by a long traverse by Goodeve's Route the party emerged near the top of No. 2 Gully.

M. Morrison, Misses P. Bruce, Martin, Mitchell, Paterson, and Telfer ascended to the hut, climbed into Coire Leis and returned to Fort William. Miller and St. Clair left for the hut at 9 p.m.

Sunday, March 27.—Miller and St. Clair reached the hut at 12.30 a.m. in sleet and rain. In the early forenoon they set out in a blizzard to tackle the Tower Ridge. As with the previous day's party, the traverse on the east of the Tower would not go, and the Recess Route was abandoned owing to lateness. Turning back, with two parties from the Climbers' Club, from Cambridge, they reached the Boulder Gap in almost pitch blackness.

Miss Paterson, Morrison, and Symmers ascended Ben Nevis by the path. Symmers proceeded along the arête to Carn Mor Dearg, having some difficulty in making the arête owing to a blizzard. He descended to the hut, collected some kit, and returned to Fort William.

McCoss, Orkney, and S. C. H. Smith went peak-bagging in the Glen Nevis direction, and returned with Mullach nan Coirean, Stob Ban, and Sgurr a' Mhaim to their credit.

Dr. and Mrs. Hendry, M. Smith, and Ritson motored to Mallaig for the day.

Monday, March 28.—All except Miller and St. Clair left for home. These two climbed No. 2 Gully and found conditions very hard and icy, with not the slightest trace of anyone having been there three days before. From the summit they made Carn Mor Dearg by the arête, and descending by the hut to collect kit, reached Fort William, and Glasgow eventually that night.—N. B.

SPRING HOLIDAY EXCURSION, 1932—BEN AVON.

A PARTY consisting of 37 members assembled at Ballater and motored in eight cars to Invercauld House, thence to the stables at Bealach Dearg, where the turning place for cars was very busy till the cars were got into position. (It may be well to note that it is impossible for two cars to pass on the road between Invercauld House and the stables.) The drive through the larch woods and the view to the west was much enjoyed. The route from the Bealach to the foot-bridge at the Gairn, then up Gairnside to the Allt an Eas Mhor was a very pleasant trek in bright sunshine and ideal conditions. Lunch was partaken by the side of the stream at 2,500 feet, where

the snow started. After being refreshed the party, led by Mrs. Wilson, started up the snow and scree slope. Although the summit was clear earlier in the day, as we approached it a dry mist settled down and obscured everything above 3,000 feet. The large party, however, arrived safely at Mullach Lochan nan Gabhar, and most of the members ascended the steep rocks of the Barn. On the way down a splendid glissading run was discovered and great fun was obtained in shooting down this steep slope of snow. The party arrived back at the stables in good time for the cars, and reached Ballater at 6.15 p.m., where the usual tea was partaken at the Alexandra Hotel, with our good friend, Mr. Dason, in attendance.

Those present were :—Mrs. Angus, Mrs. A. Hendry, Mrs. E. J. Hendry, Mrs. Ross MacKenzie, Mrs. Wilson, Misses Archibald, A. E. D. Bruce, P. Bruce, Daniel, Duncan, Jackson, E. Milne, Martin, Mitchell, McDowell, McHardy, MacKenzie, Stewart, Wallace, Messrs. Angus, Burnett, Rev. E. Cruickshank, D. N. Collie, Dr. Evans, Dr. A. W. Hendry, Dr. J. L. Hendry, Dr. Hart, Malcolm, Muir, McHardy, McCoss, Orkney, Robertson, Simpson, M. Smith, S. C. H. Smith, Welsh.

Bothwell, Dugan, and Hay motored to Alltdourie Cottage and walked up Glen Sluga and had a snow climb in Coire nan Clach of Beinn a' Bhuird.—J. McC.

SPRING HOLIDAY WEEK-END, 1932—LOCHNAGAR.

A PARTY of six, namely, Brand, Brockie, Gordon, Gove, E. W. Smith, and Yunnie, spent the May Holiday week-end in camp near the Fox's Well. The original intention when leaving Aberdeen was to camp at the edge of the loch, but when near the Fox's Well it was realized that the condition of the snow would make this arrangement unsuitable from the point of view of comfort. On Saturday evening four of the party walked down to Alltnaguibhsaich, whilst Brand and Yunnie climbed the Meikle Pap to view the Great Eastern Corrie. Their efforts were amply repaid by the magnificent view which was obtained. The last rays of the setting sun turned the snow-corniced cliffs to a beautiful crimson, and the distant Cairngorms lay bathed in a soft, rosy glow. A great silence, which could almost be felt, lay over the hill. Suddenly this silence was broken by a thunderous roar, and an avalanche was seen to come tearing down the Douglas Gully, subsiding with a low muttering on the lower slopes near the loch. This avalanche was followed at intervals by other two, one from the Parallel Gully A and one from the Black Spout Pinnacle, which latter shot into Raeburn's Gully and rushed down the slope below it. After waiting in the hope of seeing more avalanches, this party returned to camp in a chill wind and thickening mist.

Next morning, Sunday, May 1, the whole party set out for Raeburn's Gully, which three of them (Brockie, Gordon, and Yunnie)

intended to climb. A halt was called on the mound below the final slope leading to the mouth of Raeburn's Gully. One party (Brand, Gove, and Smith) then set off for the Black Spout, whilst Brockie, Gordon, and Yunnie commenced the ascent.

The latter ascended some 200 feet when, to their dismay, they saw above them numerous snow cornices seemingly waiting to avalanche. Small snow-falls had occurred during the ascent, but these had been looked upon with amusement rather than with temerity. This was a different proposition however, and the possibilities of a serious accident were discussed. Ultimately it was decided to abandon the ascent until more favourable conditions could be obtained. The descent was speedily made. (Half an hour later a terrible roar was heard and an avalanche was seen to come tearing down the slope below Raeburn's Gully!) Yunnie then ascended the Black Spout and caught up with the other party at the opening to the left-hand branch. On viewing the cornice at the top of the Black Spout it was decided that disastrous consequences might result if it were attempted to cut through it, and the left-hand branch was, therefore, attacked. Soft snow made the climbing heavy, but the ever-present danger of avalanches made the party hurry, and the ascent was completed without mishap. Ten minutes after emerging from the Gully a cornice broke away and roared down it and into the Black Spout, making Brockie, who was ascending the lower reaches, jump hurriedly for the cliff wall.

Lochnagar lay bathed in brilliant sunshine, and a truly magnificent view of the snow-capped Cairngorms was enjoyed. Brand and Smith walked to the Summit Cairn, whilst Gove and Yunnie set off for the Red Spout to indulge in a glissade. After glissading down the Red Spout they turned to the right and trudged through the deep snow to the foot of the Ladder Gully. As they ascended mist enveloped the cliffs. Soon the snow gave way to scree and then rocks. The rope was tied on, and after half an hour's exciting climbing they emerged on the plateau. At the foot of the "Ladder" Brockie and Gordon were met, and camp was soon reached and the joys of hot soup experienced.

An hour later the camp was aroused by a "voice" asking if "Jack and his pal" had been seen. The "voice" came nearer and a figure loomed up in the mist. "Jack and his pal" were apparently lost. Brockie and Yunnie set out with the "voice," and after wandering about the moor on the Balmoral side, the errant climbers' tracks were picked up and followed to Gelder Lodge where the search was abandoned, as it was realized that the wanderers would come out at Balmoral Castle eventually. (Next morning it was found that this was exactly what had happened, the wanderers having asked their way and walked back over the hill to Alltna-*guibhsaich*.) No climbing was had on Monday morning, a thick mist and tired limbs suggesting an "off" morning.—R. P. Y.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON EXCURSIONS, 1932.

MAY 21—CLOCHNABEN.

THE first Saturday afternoon excursion took place on May 21, and 36 members attended. The motors left Golden Square at 2.30 p.m. The party traversed the hill from Glen Dye Lodge to Feughside Inn. In Glen Dye, the beautiful new greens of the beeches and larches were very much admired, and at one's feet the violets and anemones and the fresh shoots of the bracken gave one the promise of summer to come. The route taken was by the green loaning north of Glen Dye Lodge, then over the south shoulder of Mount Shade and across the Devil's Bite to the summit. The last half mile was ascended in thick mist, and the compass had to be resorted to in the descent. The party had tea at Feughside Inn. Those present were:—Mrs. E. J. Hendry, Mrs. Ross MacKenzie, Mrs. Orkney, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. S. C. H. Smith, Misses Archibald, Bisset, Brown, A. E. D. Bruce, P. Bruce, K. Collie, Daniel, Gibb, Johnston, Laing, E. A. Mavor, Martin, Mitchell, McDowell, Telfer, Messrs. Burnett, Barnes, D. N. Collie, Dr. Evans, Griffith, Malcolm, McCoss, McLay, Orkney, Parker, Raite, Ritson, Slessor, M. Smith, S. C. H. Smith, and Taylor. The trek was a very interesting one and was enjoyed by everyone present.—J. McC.

JUNE 11—THE COYLES OF MUICK.

EIGHT motor cars conveyed 40 members and guests of the Club from Ballater to the Falls of Muick, where the party started the ascent. A most enjoyable afternoon was spent ascending the hill and walking along the broad ridge to Creag Liath. The Cairngorms, with snow gleaming through the heat-haze, looked very near, and the beautiful greens of the woods in Glen Muick were very much admired. Mr. and Mrs. Blair and Miss Jackson also ascended Creag Megen, and Dason and Ewen did some rock-climbing on the way up the Coyle. Mr. Dason very kindly motored twice up Glen Muick and conveyed the last members of the party to Ballater. The party had tea at the Alexandra Hotel and afterwards, well satisfied with the afternoon's outing, trained home again. The following members attended:—Mrs. Blair, Mrs. Chisholm, Mrs. Donald, Mrs. E. J. Hendry, Mrs. Ross Mackenzie, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Welsh, Misses Archibald, P. Bruce, Burnett, Daniel, Dargie, Duncan, Gray, Henderson, Hay, M. W. Johnston, M. Johnston, Jackson, Mitchell, Martin, McDowell, Riddell, Skakle, Stewart, Telfer, Wallace, Messrs. Blair, Chisholm, Dason, Dugan, Ewen, Dr. Hart, Ironside, McCoss, Malcolm, McLay, Muir, S. C. H. Smith, and Welsh.—J. McC.

JUNE 18—BENNACHIE.

A MOST enthusiastic party of Club members and friends, numbering 36, started by charabanc from Golden Square at 11 p.m. for the

summer solstice excursion. The party arrived at the foot of the path, near Pittodrie, at 12.30 a.m. and ascended to the Mither Tap, 1,698 feet, by the aid of a glacier lantern, as the sky was very cloudy. From the top, at 1.30 a.m., weird glimpses of the surrounding landscape were obtained in the midnight twilight, and the lights of Girdleness and Buchan Ness were seen flashing on the eastern coastline. Oxen Craig, 1,733 feet, was reached at 2.45 a.m. and tea was partaken by the members. The party then descended to the lovely valley of the Birks Burn as the day was breaking, and the increasing light showed up the colours of the countryside in the beautiful, clear, morning air. At West Haugh the motors were waiting, and the members motored down Donside, arriving at Aberdeen at 5.30 a.m. Those present were:—Misses Archibald, A. E. D. Bruce, P. Bruce, Clark, Daniel, Fowlie, Henderson, M. Johnston, M. W. Johnston, Laing, Martin, Mitchell, McDowell, McHardy, Ritchie, Reid, Telfer, Messrs. Bothwell, R. Bruce, Cowie, J. A. Chisholm, A. B. Chisholm, Dr. Evans, Gordon, Gove, G. Martin, Malcolm, McCoss, McGregor, McHardy, McMillan, Merrilees, Ritson (Junior Section), Thresher, E. W. M. Watt, and G. T. R. Watt.—J. McC.

JULY 2—BEN RINNES.

THE Club held the final Saturday afternoon excursion to Ben Rinnes on July 2. The party, numbering seventeen, arrived at Aberlour at 2.38 p.m., and motored to the distillery (closed), which was reached at 2.55 p.m. The day was gorgeous and the hill was very dry. After walking along the pathway through the wood, the party ascended to Scurran of Well. As it was only 4.15 and much ahead of time, the party enjoyed a rest in the sunshine. A few of the members climbed the tors by all the possible and impossible routes. Scurran of Lochterlandoch was reached at 5 p.m., where a very substantial meal was partaken of by some of the members. The visibility northward was good, and the various lighthouses along the Moray Firth were picked up by one of the members, who is a Major of the Signals and has very keen eyesight. The party arrived at Glack at 7 p.m., where a motor bus was waiting. It was at this point that the "stout fellows" of the party showed themselves. Bothwell, Jackson, Martin, McDowell, Nicol, and Reid decided to ascend the steep slope of Meikle Conval. They crossed the top and descended to Dykehead, and the 'bus was sent back to pick them up. After a very excellent tea, and selections on the piano by Miss Hopkins, at the Fife Arms Hotel, Dufftown, the party left for the train, having enjoyed the excursion very much. Those present were—Mrs. Ross McKenzie, Misses Campbell, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnston, Martin, Mitchell, McDowell, Messrs. Barnes, Bothwell, Griffith, Hay, Dr. A. R. Martin, McCoss, Bruce Nicol, Reid, Malcolm Smith.
—J. McC.

WEST GULLY, LOCHNAGAR—THIRD ASCENT.

On June 12, W. A. Ewen, W. Middleton, and R. Lees (the two latter members of the Junior Section) made the ascent of the West Gully, Lochnagar. Commencing via the Central Chimney, we followed the route described by Symmers (*C.C.J.*, Vol. XII, p. 8). Some difficulty was experienced in locating the gully in the mist. Except in the lower section, where snow still lingered, the gully was comparatively dry, a result, probably, of the unusually dry winter. The "cave" pitch, where Symmers met with a waterfall, was climbed for half its height, when an overhanging boulder at the top presented a very awkward problem. There was no obvious way of circumventing this, so the leader returned and avoided the pitch on the right. The climb occupied two hours and a quarter.

A'CHIOCH, BEINN A' BHUIRD.

W. GARDEN and J. A. Parker climbed Beinn a' Bhuid by a rather unusual route on July 10. Leaving Aberdeen at 7.40 a.m. we motored to half a mile beyond Alltdourie. The path through the Slugan was then followed to the bend below the Clach a' Chlèirich, and the main glen thereafter followed for about half a mile, with the intention of climbing Cnap a' Chlèirich, etc. At this point the weather completely broke down, and, after a very prolonged lunch in the shelter of a big boulder, we decided that our original programme of climbing all the four tops of Beinn a' Bhuid must be abandoned. Turning back we climbed up to Coire na Ciche. This little corrie proved to be quite interesting and contained several small pools of water which were evidently the survivors of a small loch which at one time had been held back by the terminal moraine of a small glacier. The moraine is very distinct. After examining the corrie we struck up steep, grassy slopes and screes on our right, to the beginning of the rocks of the east ridge of the Chioch. These rocks are very interesting, and we followed the crest, more or less, all the way to the top of the Chioch. When difficulties appeared in front we shirked (*sic*) them by traversing to the left and got into greater trouble. Anyway we had a very pleasant scramble, and at one place had to go through a curious small natural arch in the solid rock. Had we traversed to the right we would probably have avoided all trouble and have found easy and uninteresting scree slopes to near the actual top. The rocks of the Chioch are well worth a visit and should afford many little problems in rock scrambling. We were in thick mist from 3,250 feet up. After going over the top of the Chioch, we visited a neighbouring ridge of huge rocks to the north; but failed to get on to the top of the highest point, which is an enormous boulder. We then struck out a compass course to the South Top, reached at 3.50 p.m., and from it down the Snowy Corrie to Càrn Fiaclach and so back through the Slugan to the car. A halt was called at Ballater for tea, and Aberdeen was reached shortly before 10 o'clock.

—J. A. P.