

THE SIX CAIRNGORMS.

It is 24 years (June 20, 1908) since the six highest Cairngorms were all ascended in one day (*C.C.J.*, Vol. VI, p. 49).

The climbers who took part in that excursion aimed only at traversing these hills within 24 hours, midnight to midnight, and they succeeded. The members of the party were:—H. J. Butchart, L. J. Davidson, H. G. Drummond, H. Kellas, and I. M. McLaren, and the time they took was:—

Loch Builg ..	Midnight.		H.	M.	
Ben Avon ..	2 23 a.m.		2	23	
Beinn a' Bhuid	3 50 ..		1	27	
Cairngorm ..	8 0 ..		4	10	
Ben Macdhuì ..	10 34 ..		2	34	
Cairntoul ..	3 16 p.m.		4	42	
Braeriach ..	5 30 ..		2	14	
Glen Eunach ..	7 0 ..		1	30	
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			19		0

Three and a half hours were spent en route, resting, photography, and for meals. A very enjoyable day was spent. They had ordered a trap to meet them at Glen Eunach at 7 p.m., and no object would have been served by getting there before that hour.

No other attempt was made till this year. On June 26, 1932, three members of the Club set out to reduce the time taken by the first party, and they certainly set up an excellent record.

The members of the party were—J. Beattie, Wm. Hutcheon, and Geo. Shand. Their time was—

			H.	M.	
Loch Builg ..	1 0 a.m.				
Ben Avon ..	2 55 ..		1	55	
Beinn a' Bhuid	4 10 ..		1	15	
Cairngorm ..	7 50 ..		3	40	
Ben Macdhuì	10 40 ..		2	50	
Cairntoul ..	2 10 p.m.		3	30	
Braeriach ..	3 55 ..		1	45	
Glen Eunach ..	5 15 ..		1	20	
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			16		15

A week later, on July 3, 1932, four other members made an attempt on this record. The party consisted of A. J. W. Brockie, E. G. Gordon, J. Gove, and R. P. Yunnie. This party was very unfortunate. Gordon had an accident to his knee after leaving Beinn a' Bhuid, so that only Brockie and Yunnie were able to proceed.

The time taken was :—

	H.	M.		H.	M.
Loch Builg ..	10	15	p.m., 2nd		
Ben Avon ..	11	45	„ „	1	30
Beinn a' Bhuid ..	1	55	a.m., 3rd	2	10
Cairngorm ..	5	30	„ „	3	35
Ben Macdhui ..	7	20	„ „	1	50
Braeriach ..	10	40	„ „	3	20
Cairntoul ..	12	5	p.m., „	1	25
Carrour Bothy ..	1	0	„ „	0	55
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				14	45

It will be noted that this party did not follow quite the same route as the other two parties, and Yunnie was the only member of the party who finished in the above time.

This was also a very fine performance. The distance appears to be 28 miles, and the climbing height 9,000 feet. If we take the climbers' formula :

	H.	M.
3 miles per hour—28 miles ..	9	20
9,000 feet—30 minutes per 1,000 feet	4	30
3 rests of half-an-hour	1	30
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	15	20

this is very good going.

I think it is fitting to point out here that this racing over hills is not true mountaineering, and is to be condemned. However, I happen to know personally all those who took part in this adventure, and realise that they have the true climbing spirit. Still, my advice is—Very good, but don't do it any more.—J. McC.