

NOTES.

BACK numbers of the *Journal* may be had on application to the Hon Librarian, except the following numbers, which are out of print :—1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 20, 23, 31, 33, 37, 38, 39, 40, 43, 44, 45, 48, 57, and 62.

SIR IAIN COLQUHOUN recently broadcasted a most interesting talk to young people on "The Care of the Countryside." It is to be hoped his remarks reached the ears of some older people who are thoughtless or indifferent to this important question. Sir Iain asked his hearers to show the litter louts, by precept and example, what poor-spirited, mean little creatures they are to spoil everyone's pleasure, and he told them to think of three things—the farmer's gates and fences, litter, and fires, "because," he said, "if the landowner could trust the public to behave sensibly over these matters, I think few of them would have any objection to giving full right of access over their lands. Nobody," he went on, "hates notice boards more than I do, but I can't afford to have the farmers penalised, and the woods burned and the fields turned into refuse dumps. It costs me a great deal as it is to maintain control of the ground, and I get nothing in return; but it has been proved time and time again that once control has been lost, the whole area deteriorates almost at once."

A FEW days after Sir Iain's talk, an important conference was held in Edinburgh between representatives of the chief agricultural and forestry societies and representatives of various societies. The proposal submitted was that trespass should be made an offence punishable by fine. It was recognized that that was the kernel of the whole question, and a long discussion ensued. The agricultural societies ultimately agreed to withdraw their proposals for the amendment of the law of trespass, and all the other societies agreed to unite with them in approaching the Secretary of State for Scotland with proposals for the provision of recreation grounds at the motor-bus termini near the large towns, either by the towns or by the State; that the lighting of fires in woodlands should be made a serious offence and subject to a heavy fine, though it was pointed out that the expression "woodlands" would require careful definition. Drastic and prompt penalties, it was proposed, should be inflicted on anyone who left a fire unextinguished or caused an outbreak of fire by carelessly dropping matches or cigarette ends. The conference agreed that it should be made an offence for any person other than the owner or occupier of the land to allow an uncontrolled dog on to fenced

or grazing land, and that the owner of dogs found straying should be liable to a fine, as well as to payment of the expenses of impounding the animals. It was unanimously agreed that the police should be authorised to take severe and prompt action against anyone leaving litter, bottles, broken glass, tins, or other rubbish behind them.

At the meeting of the Aberdeen County Road Board this month, Mr. H. L. F. Fraser, county clerk, said he had received INCHNABOBART letters from Ballater Town Council and also from RIGHT-OF-WAY. a member of the public, raising the question of the Crathie-Inchnabobart-Lochnagar right-of-way. On the direction of the factors of the Abergeldie Estate, Messrs. Wilsons and Duffus, advocates, Aberdeen, a gate had been put across the road in a hollow near the bridge over the River Girnock adjacent to where a private road cuts across the old drove road, and a notice had been erected that the road was closed to vehicular traffic. He understood that this action had been taken because of damage done to the road by charabancs while the road was in a soft condition after a thaw. It was intimated that part of the road was to be put on the statutory list of highways. That part of the road was being used for distillery traffic. Mr. Fraser pointed out, however, that the road was not closed to pedestrian traffic. He suggested that they should try to negotiate with the estate for the re-opening of the road, which is a private road, to light traffic, but excluding charabancs. It was suggested that a committee should go to see the place first, and this was agreed to.

THE Cairngorm disaster, in which Alistair Mackenzie and Duncan Ferrier lost their lives, is very fully dealt with in an authoritative article, by the editor, in the April number CAIRNGORM of *The Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal*. Mr. DISASTER. Parry reviews all the facts and calls attention to the important letter by Mr. Garden in the *Aberdeen Press and Journal* of January 12, on the risks of mountaineering and the precautions that should be observed. "We cannot resist," Mr. Parry concludes, "again urging hill walkers and climbers to consider an expedition from all possible aspects before deciding that the risk is worth taking. We should never advocate a policy of extreme caution, but nobody with the smallest experience of the mountains would for a moment consider starting a climb without taking what are merely ordinary precautions. This accident falls into that most tragic of all classes—those which might so easily have been avoided."

QUEBEC has put a ban on hoardings. According to a recent Act, passed by the Provincial Legislature, posters have been HOARDINGS. prohibited along the main highways. They may be shown only at places where they will not spoil the scenery.