

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Forty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on the evening of Saturday, November 26, 1932. The President, Mr. James McCoss, was in the chair and there was an attendance of 30 members.

Mr. William Garden, advocate, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, submitted the Accounts, which showed a credit balance of £27 0s. 6d. The membership at October 31 was 288, an increase of 18 over the previous year. The Accounts were unanimously adopted.

Office-bearers were elected as follows :—

Hon. President—Professor J. Norman Collie.

President—Mr. James McCoss.

Vice-Presidents—Mr. William M. Alexander and Mr. William Malcolm.

Hon. Editor—Baillie Edward W. Watt.

Hon. Librarian—Mr. J. A. Parker.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. William Garden, advocate.

Committee—Mr. F. A. Ritson, Lord Provost Alexander, Mr. W. A. Ewen, Dr. J. R. Levack, Messrs. J. A. Parker, H. C. Dugan, J. C. Orkney, S. C. H. Smith, and Dr. D. P. Levack, the last four taking the places of Messrs. Geddes, Hay, and Reid, who retired by rotation, and Miss A. E. D. Bruce, resigned.

It was resolved that the New Year Meet should be at Braemar, the New Year's Day excursion to Lochnagar, and the Easter Meet at Kinlochewe. For the Spring Holiday excursion it was decided to traverse Lochnagar from Alltnaguibhsaich to Garbhallt. It was also agreed to arrange two snow-climbing excursions—to the Dubh Loch on February 12, and to Lochnagar on February 26; and three rock-climbing excursions on Saturday afternoons, March 4, 11, and 18, two to Souter Head and one to the Bullers of Buchan.

The Hon. Secretary reported, in regard to the Library, that six numbers of *The Alpine Journal* were required to complete the Club's set from Vol. XXVII, and that these, and binding cases and binding, and the index of Vols. XVI–XXXVIII, would cost £5 10s. 6d. This expenditure was authorized.

In regard to the Capital Fund of the Club, arising from Life Members' subscriptions, it was agreed, on the motion of Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Alexander Simpson, that an annual sum of 5/- for each surviving Life Member be transferred to the Income Account of the Club, and that interest at the rate of 4 per cent. be added annually to the Capital Fund.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

Disappointment occasioned by the absence of Mr. F. S. Smythe, of Himalayan fame, at the Club Dinner, which was held in the Caledonian Hotel after the Annual Meeting, was more than compensated for by the complete success of the function in every other respect.

Mr. James McCoss, President, presided over a record attendance of 141, and the company included :—Members : Lord Provost Alexander, James McCoss, Baillie Watt, William Garden and Mrs. Garden, Dr. J. R. Levack and Mrs. Levack, Dr. J. W. Tocher, James A. Parker, Miss Margaret Skakle, Theodore Watt, George Duncan, William M. Alexander, G. T. R. Watt, G. S. Fraser, Dr. Walter A. Reid, E. Birnie Reid, F. A. Ritson, Dr. J. L. Hendry, Mrs. A. C. Hendry, A. Taylor, William Malcolm, Miss M. M. Telfer, G. J. Allan, Malcolm Smith, R. P. Masson, Maitland H. Gray, John Anton, R. T. Medd, W. D. Hutcheon, A. Simpson, S. C. H. Smith, John Angus, A. D. Edmond, J. C. Orkney, Miss B. P. Macfarlane, G. P. Geddes, H. J. Butchart, Miss E. J. Laing, Miss C. M. McDowell, James Conner, J. A. Hadden, Norman Wilson, W. P. Stewart, E. G. Gordon, Dr. D. P. Levack, Mrs. D. P. Levack, Dr. J. W. Levack, Miss E. L. Mitchell, Miss E. M. F. Cameron, A. Leslie Hay, Miss M. Yeaman, J. E. Bothwell, Miss A. E. D. Bruce, Miss P. Bruce, R. P. Yunnie, E. W. Smith, James Gove, Miss A. H. Dugan, Miss N. G. Henderson, Miss A. M. Pittendrigh, Mrs. E. A. Mackenzie, Miss Mary Daniel, Miss M. D. Johnston, Miss R. K. Jackson, Miss Mavor, Miss Wallace, J. R. Blair, Mrs. Blair, Miss Blair, David Anderson, H. G. Dason, Miss L. Brown, W. J. Middleton, D. A. Ewan, L. McGregor, William Stewart, J. A. Robertson, W. M. Macpherson, Miss W. Hay, Miss A. W. Stewart, Hugh D. Welsh, M. J. Robb, C. P. Robb, A. A. Slessor, James McHardy, Miss E. McHardy, H. C. Dugan, and J. A. Chisholm.

The Club guests were Dean of Guild John Black and Professor Alexander Gray, and the other guests were the Lady Provost, Mrs. McCoss, Mrs. E. W. Watt, Mrs. Theodore Watt, Miss Duncan, G. A. Clarke, Dr. H. J. Rae, T. F. Henderson, C. Davidson, Mrs. W. A. Reid, F. J. Donald, the Misses Donald (3), Mrs. E. B. Reid, Mrs. F. A. Ritson, Miss Joan Rust, Mrs. G. J. Allan, Mrs. Malcolm Smith, Mrs. R. P. Masson, C. McIver, A. E. Cruickshank, L. MacGregor, Mrs. S. C. H. Smith, Mrs. John Angus, Mrs. J. C. Orkney, Mrs. H. G. Dason, Miss E. E. McGregor, William Gerrard, Mrs. G. P. Geddes, Miss H. J. Chrystie, Mrs. H. J. Butchart, Mrs. Robertson, D. MacGregor, Miss I. D. Laing, A. J. W. Brockie, Mrs. Warren, Miss G. J. Martin, Miss F. E. Cameron, Hamish Mackie, Mrs. D. Anderson, Lieut.-Colonel Scott, Captain Anderson, Miss Laird, Mrs. J. A. Robertson, Mrs. W. M. Macpherson, Mrs. A. A. Slessor, Mrs. H. C. Dugan, and Mrs. J. A. Chisholm.

The President explained that Mr. Smythe, who was to have lectured on "Winter and Ski-Mountaineering," had been the victim of a motoring accident in Manchester. He was sure they all hoped that he would soon get well again—(applause). Within ten minutes of hearing the news about Mr. Smythe, he had been able to arrange for Mr. James A. Parker to lecture instead. It was very kind of Mr. Parker to help them out at such short notice and he deserved their sincere thanks—(applause).

After the loyal toast had been pledged, Professor Alexander Gray gave the toast of "The Club," with which he coupled the name of the President.

Professor Gray said, when he looked round the company, and when he studied the rules and the *Journal* of the Club, he felt he was a most unworthy guest at that festival, and most undeserving of the honour of proposing the toast entrusted to him. He observed that candidates for membership submitted a list of their ascents, Scottish and otherwise, with particulars of the hour and month. One of their most distinguished members had recently ascended into the Lord Provost's chair—(applause)—and henceforth from that serene altitude he would look down upon the thunder and the lightning—perhaps more thunder than lightning—(laughter). His (Prof. Gray's) ascents had been mostly by lift—in London, and the date was any year, any month. Hill-climbing, like charity, should begin at home, and might he admit that he had never even climbed the Broad Hill, although from the door of Harry Gordon's he had gazed up (enviously) at its beetling crags. On the other hand he had conquered the Blue Hill—(laughter)—and Brimmond. His first impression then, was that in that company of professionals, he, a mere amateur, was hopelessly out of place, like a vegetarian conducted to the Tower of London to a festival of beefeaters, or, like Gandhi, compelled to propose increased sales for furs—(laughter). But perhaps, on second thoughts, he might scrape into their good graces. His instincts, he believed, were sound, but they had been frustrated and perverted. The Club represented the natural man—all those who would rather hear the lark sing than the mouse cheep. And, in that, he was entirely with them and, therefore, hoped to be saved. As a general proposition it was better to cultivate a patch of potatoes than to cultivate the adolescent mind, and there was a larger crop at the end of the year—(laughter)—it was really more pleasant to extirpate weeds than economic heresies (and they burned better when dry). To plough the ploughed land with a plough was more invigorating than to guide the academic plough, though sometimes it was through surprisingly unresisting soil—(laughter). Consequently, the pass which he most desired for his deserving students, was a pass in the Cairngorms or the western hills, where there was no additional fee for sitting twice—(renewed laughter). So far, he was in agreement with them, but unlike them, he was not the stuff of which

heroes were made. Their spiritual home was the summit, preferably reached after climbing a rock in the manner of a fly on a pane; his was the furthest up croft, where the corn was stunted, where trout might be tickled in a conversational stream, where he might enjoy the companionship of weasels and mountain hares and all the high company of the heavens.

In proposing the toast of "The Club," therefore, he did so in the proper spirit of humility, as one who was content to be among the hills, saluting those whose unconquerable souls were satisfied with nothing less than the highest. If he might adopt the Platonic principle of dichotomy, he would divide all the multiplicity of societies into those that were useful and those which were not; their's certainly fell into the useful class and he had, therefore, special pleasure in congratulating them on their condition of prosperity. Paradoxically, it was gratifying to note that the Club was in no danger of being on the rocks—(laughter and applause). In commending their Club, he trusted that he was not introducing an undesirable political note when he said that in the nature of things they were a company of individualists. They very properly met there that night, and they likewise had Meets like those at Braemar at the New Year season, where they did things well and where (if he might say so) they expressed very gracefully some of their doings. For example, he read "The New Year was ushered in according to custom"—(laughter). And again he read—"On the stroke of midnight the company were entertained by Mr. Gregor in his usual generous manner"—(laughter and applause). But in the long run, the essence of all rambles, hikers, mountaineers, tramps, vagrants, and vagabonds and all the world's elect was that they journeyed alone or in the smallest companies. If he might say so, they looked charming there that night, but if they were suddenly and miraculously wafted to the only free hotel in Britain which kept a visitors' book, to the Shelter Stone, they would look out of place—(laughter). "The Cairngorms, in short, is not a commodity for mass consumption, and I commend you, in the first place," said Professor Gray, "for keeping alive a great ideal." We were living in an age of over-organisation: we were dominated by the machine. Even travelling was now so easy. Those who by their efforts climbed the steep ascent to Heaven (that is, the Angel's Peak) were the true travellers. He commended them then, inasmuch as they stood for the great principle that effort and exertion were necessary if anything worth having was to be attained. Secondly, he commended them for the special province which they had assumed for their activities. Under the beneficent rule of the Queen of the Cairngorms—whose relationships with foreign powers continued friendly—(laughter)—they had taken the Cairngorms under their charge, with a general interest in other hills in Scotland and, indeed, everywhere. They were the guardian spirits of the mountain, where spirits were always guardian.

He should have liked to have quoted to them the psalmist David, as well as Byron and Wordsworth, as to what the companionship of the hills meant. He believed that Byron and Wordsworth still gave the truest expression of what he might call the place of hills in human life, for our later poets were somewhat self-conscious, and seemed to be nervous about letting themselves go. And the enthusiasm of Byron and Wordsworth was largely occasioned by the preposterous "common sense" of the eighteenth century. They remembered Dr. Johnson, when Boswell threw a fly over his august nose. "Yes, sir," he said, as he contemplated the Western Highlands, "but it is not as fine as Fleet Street." He would give them another example which might be less familiar. Captain Burt, in the middle of the eighteenth century, wrote letters from the North of Scotland to a friend in London, which later made a most diverting book. He described the country where, as he said, an inhabitant of the South of England would be ready to die of fear if let loose, and added "But after this description of these mountains, it is not unlikely you may ask, of what use can be such monstrous excrescences?" They observed the implications. God doubtlessly made Fleet Street and the Broomielaw for a purpose, but surely it was in a fit of absent-mindedness that He made these useless and monstrous excrescences which they called the Cairngorms. He asked them, since it was their job to know, of what use were these monstrous excrescences? What was the use of a hundred square miles of heather, of wild waste places where only the red deer were, of rocks standing bold against the setting sun? What was the use of the winds of heaven, of the snow in the corries, of water that trickled through green moss of a thousand shades of greenness and over white pebbles? What was the use of a view from the top of one monstrous excrescence over the shoulders of half a hundred similar excrescences? Captain Burt—God bless him!—gave one answer. "It was," he said, "the deformity of the hills that made the natives conceive of their naked straths and glens as of the most beautiful objects in nature." So, likewise, an ugly wife served a useful purpose if she produced in her unfortunate husband a firm conviction that their quite plain daughter was something of a beauty. But they would give a different answer. Let them avoid rhetoric and the kind of thing that Wordsworth would say much better than he could. The high hills were not merely a refuge for the conies. All these things, said Professor Gray, represent a place of refreshment and comfort, a tonic by which humanity can be restored, a bath in which humanity might be cleansed. Strictly speaking, he supposed, from the scientific point of view, the hills were not eternal and even Ben Macdhui would pass like a shadow, but they were sufficiently eternal for those of them who had already misspent a large portion of their three-score years and ten. To view the world from the hills was like viewing things

from the altitude of eternity, so that all their little busy-nesses and they themselves sank into their proper proportions. Thirdly, in taking over the hills of Scotland, they were interested in what was most peculiarly Scottish. Presently, if the waters of controversy rose, they should be afraid to mention Scotland, just as forty years ago prudent people spoke of Erin when necessary, since mention of Ireland was almost bound to lead to a discussion on Home Rule and so led to many an unruly home—(laughter). They were not so advanced to-day, and therefore he might still mention Scotland. And of this Scotland, which they loved and served, the Cairngorms and the Western hills were the most enduring part. It is, added the speaker, a common complaint that all that is of value in Scotland is going South. Scotsmen who have prospered in London, when they come back to look at us, tell us that we export brains or have exported brains—(laughter). It is a well-known fact that we who are left are but a race of village idiots—(laughter). And other things in the new industrial revolution have set their faces to the South. But I think that Ben Macdhui, Cairn Toul, and Braeriach are safe for some time yet—(applause). Time forbade him speaking of the Scottish Youth Hostels movement, except to thank them for the interest they had shown in the past and to pray for their encouragement in the future. He gave them the toast of "The Club," coupled with the name of the President, and hailed them as among the last true travellers, as representing the companionship of the hills, and as a patriotic organisation interested in the most enduring features of Scotland—(loud applause).

The Chairman, in acknowledging, said :—In responding to a toast so ably proposed, one feels nervous in following the Professor up the pitch immediately in front. The handholds are not too good, and the footholds are no better. One feels it is very much safer to look up at him from the scree. Professor Gray is a mountain-lover, and the Cairngorm Club is a subject after his own heart. It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge on your behalf the cordial and very witty manner in which he has proposed the toast of "The Cairngorm Club," and we are most grateful to him, and offer him our sincerest thanks for coming here to-night. A notable achievement this year amongst Club members was the ascent of the Mitchell Tower, after dark. A most unusual offence against the recognized standard rules of climbing was perpetrated on this climb, as one of the party who ascended was left behind strapped to the highest point. This year a Junior Section has been added to the Club, and young people between the ages of 16 and 21 years are invited to join this new Section. These people are to be the climbers of the future and we welcome them. I am very proud of the Cairngorm Club and what it stands for. It is a most active body, with a large proportion of recently enlisted young members, who are very enthusi-

astic, and are doing things. The membership now stands at 298, just two from 300, and the increase is 28 over last year. The Cairngorm Club has great satisfaction in congratulating our member, Lord Provost Alexander. The honourable position of Lord Provost could not have been put in better hands. The electors knew where to get the right man, they came to the Cairngorm Club for him. We are full of confidence, now that he has tied himself on the leading end of the rope, and has started using his ice-axe. We feel that he will bring us all safely over the cornice to the summit. There is another prominent member of the Club who has been honoured, and whom we have pleasure in congratulating. He is Dr. Walter A. Reid, who received the degree of LL.D. from Aberdeen University. I remember about 25 years ago, if one went to Lochnagar one was sure to meet Dr. Reid, wearing a double peaked cap, climbing with Dr. Levack. As members of the Cairngorm Club we all love the Cairngorms. In sunshine or rain, blue skies or mist, the Cairngorms are always the Cairngorms. When summer has passed to autumn, and autumn to winter, the Cairngorms, lifting their summits skywards, remain sleeping under great white eider-downs of purest snow; mystic and silent guardians of the purple heather that will bloom again, of the burns that will reawaken when the time comes, to cascade down their sides.

In winter the Cairngorms is a place for strong and young people with stout hearts, revelling in the glory of storm and flood, wild nature and elemental forces. In spring the Cairngorms is unbelievably lovely. This is the time of great snowfields, colossal icicles, avalanches, bracing winds, and for long periods, brilliant sunshine. Club members have learned the advantages of this period and are now turning out to excursions in such numbers that it is often very difficult to get the names of those who attend.

In summer the Cairngorm group is indescribable in its variety of scenery and perpetual glamour. Forests, glens, and tiny lochans, streams and trackless heather moors, screes and steep stretches of rock to gaze upon. In the glens always the delicious aroma of the larches and the pines, splashing waters foaming over great masses of boulders. The bleached skeletons of the ancient pines sticking through the black peat, and green patches of boggy grass on which the cotton-sedge is strewn like flakes of snow. There is charm all the way up to them, from the cry of the lapwing to the croak of the ptarmigan. The immense thick forests of Rothiemurchus, Glenmore, Abernethy, and Ballochbuie have their own secret influences. Penetrate one of them on a summer afternoon when the sun is throbbing in the sky and in the forests deep gloom, save for filtered splashes of light throwing queer shadows, you hear nothing, not even the hum of bees or the chirp of a bird. There is a silence that can be felt, and you feel you are an intruder, and that you are being

watched by the eyes of the invisible wild life. It must have been such an afternoon as this which gave Robert Louis Stevenson the inspiration to write—

The first pine to the second said :
" My leaves are black, my branches red ;
I stand upon this moor of mine,
A hoar, unconquerable pine."

The second sniffed and answered : " Pooh !
I am as good a pine as you."

" Discourteous tree," the first replied,
" The tempest in my boughs had cried,
The hunter slumbered in my shade,
A hundred years ere you were made."

The second smiled as he returned :
" I shall be here when you are burned."

So far discussion ruled the pair,
Each turned on each a frowning air,
When flickering from the banks anigh,
A flight of martens met their eye.
Sometime their course they watched ; and then
They nodded off to sleep again.

There is, too, the moods of the clouds playing on the hillside of an afternoon, and their mystical groupings in the sky at evening-time, filling the mind with deep content as we leave the mountain summit to commune with the stars. Probably the best moments of every expedition are when one has had time afterwards to sit and think it all over again—(applause).

At this stage the company adjourned to the drawing-room, where Mr. Parker's lecture was given.

Mr. Parker was at the top of his lecturing form. He took his hearers on a "mystery tour." Beginning at Loch Lomond, he travelled up the West Coast of Mull and Ardnamurchan and on to Garbh Bheinn of Ardgour, through Knoydart to Loch Duich and Loch Broom, showing views of Beinn Dearg, and thence across to Harris. After depicting that little-known and mountainous district in the Hebrides, he went on to Iceland and Spitzbergen. From Alaska he took his audience along the coast to Vancouver and home again, via the Rockies, showing a slide of that magnificent peak, Mount Robson. The lecture, which was much appreciated, was illustrated by a wealth of lantern slides from Mr. Parker's own photographs.

Mr. Norman Wilson subsequently gave the toast of "The Guests." They were very sorry, he said, that they had not Mr. Smythe with them, and he was sure it would be their wish that he should couple Mr. Smythe's name in the toast—(hear, hear). Professor Gray had taken a very great and active part in the Scottish Youth Hostels

Association, and he was sure his interest in and work for the Association would go far, not only in making young people interested in the country but in the Club. Mr. Wilson also welcomed another guest in Dean of Guild Black, Elgin, a Vice-President of the Moray Mountaineering Club, which, although only a year old, had conducted a number of successful excursions. The Moray Club, he understood, intended going more or less to the North of Scotland, but he was sure they would visit the Cairngorms.

Dean of Guild Black, who suitably replied, wished the Club every success.

On the call of the Chairman the healths of Mr. William Garden, the new Club Secretary, and of Baillie Watt, editor of the Club *Journal*, were pledged, while votes of thanks were accorded Mrs. Garden and Miss Margaret Skakle for their songs; Mr. Stott, lantern slide operator, and Mr. George Allan and Mr. McGregor for their work behind the scenes.

The toast of "The Chairman" was given by Lord Provost Alexander. Like Mr. Garden he had been a member of the Club for many years, and never had it been more prosperous than it was to-day—(applause). Successive chairmen had each made their contribution to its success and prosperity. In paying tribute to the President, the Lord Provost said that Mr. McCoss was not only a climber but also a writer. In one of the most fascinating papers in any magazine in his time Mr. McCoss had written of a delightful excursion to the mountains of the moon.

NEW YEAR MEET, 1933—BRAEMAR.

THE 1933 New Year Meet, held at Braemar from December 30 to January 3, was a very successful one. There were 41 members and guests present, namely:—J. McCoss (President), Wm. Malcolm and W. Alexander (Vice-Presidents), J. Angus, J. Blair, Jun., H. J. Butchart, A. J. W. Brockie, J. L. Duncan, Wm. Garden, E. G. Gordon, J. Gove, A. L. Hay, W. D. Hutcheon, J. W. Levack, J. Morison, J. A. Parker, E. B. Reid, R. T. Sellar, E. W. Smith, G. R. Symmers, A. Taylor, and R. P. Yunnie, Mrs. Angus, Mrs. Blair, Mrs. Garden, and Mrs. Hendry, Misses Daniel, Duncan, Harbinson, McCoss (Queen), Pittendrieh, Sim, and Yeaman. Guests—Dr. Hendry, Dr. Pearson, and Wright, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Sim, and the Misses Pearson.

For the first two days of the Meet the weather was excellent, but it completely broke down on the last day. Most of the members arrived for dinner on Friday, and during the evening the dancing of Highland reels to the music of the pipes was much enjoyed by all present.

December 30, 1932.—Symmers ascended Beinn a' Bhuid in glorious weather.

December 31, 1932.—An early start was made, and the sun just caught the highest snow-clad summits of the Cairngorms as the party motored over the Black Bridge.

1. Angus, Butchart, Duncan, Levack, McCoss, and E. B. Reid, Mrs. Angus, Misses Duncan, McCoss, and Pittendrigh ascended Ben Macdhuì by Sron Riach under ideal conditions. On the top there was brilliant sunshine and a very fierce N.E. wind was blowing, which put wind-proof garments to their full test. Most of the plateau was a sheet of ice, the result of very low temperature. The view was good in all directions. At Stob an Sput Dearg the party divided. Messrs. Duncan and Reid, Misses Duncan, McCoss, and Pittendrigh descended by Loch Etchachan and Glen Derry, the remainder of the party descending by the route of ascent.

2. Messrs. Hay, Symmers, Misses Harbinson and Yeaman went up Glen Lui Beg and had a snow climb in Coire an Sput Dearg.

During the evening Miss E. McCoss, the Queen of the Club for 1933, was crowned. Preceded by a piper, she was borne shoulder-high into the room on ice-axes by the four most handsome members of the Club. The usual crown of stag-moss was placed on her head. The new Queen suitably acknowledged the honour and claimed the first dance with Mr. Parker. After E. B. Reid gave one of his amusing speeches the Queen's health was drunk in a bowl of punch, brewed and served by Angus and Sellar, who were dressed for the occasion and looked the part. The next part of the programme was the initiation of new members. Mrs. Angus, who had newly experienced the wintry conditions on the summit of Ben Macdhuì, passed the severe tests asked of her with flying colours, and was proclaimed a worthy member of the Club. The members then indulged in dancing under the leadership of Miss Sim.

January 1, 1933.

1. Harbinson, Hay, Hutcheon, Symmers, and Yeaman ascended Cairntoul. They went up the stream leading into the Saucer Corrie, and cut a route up the back of the Corrie to the summit, and descended by the usual route to Carrour.

2. Malcolm, E. W. Smith, and Yunnìe had a climb in Coire an Sput Dearg, coming out about 50 yards from the Stob, and then proceeded to the cairn of Ben Macdhuì.

3. Duncan, Garden, McCoss, and Taylor did Lochnagar by the Garbh Allt. The boulders were ice-covered on the North Ridge and the wind was very cold. The Spectre of the Brocken was seen at the top of the hill. The descent was made over Meall an Tionail.

4. Misses Duncan, Pittendrigh, and Sim ascended Lochnagar by the Garbh Allt and joined No. 5 party.

5. Alexander, Angus, and Parker ascended Lochnagar by the Black Shiel Burn and descended by the same route.

6. Brockie, Gordon, and Wright did Cairntoul from the Corrou

Bothy, where they were staying. They ascended into the Soldier's Corrie and cut a route up the Slichet (first ascent in winter).

7. Levack, Morison, and Reid ascended Morrone.

January 2, 1933.

1. Daniel, H. Duncan, Harbinson, Morison, and Pittendrigh ascended Beinn a' Bhuid by the Slugan Glen. Conditions were so bad on the top that the party were content to gain the plateau and did not attempt to locate the cairn, but descended with as much haste as possible to milder regions.

2. Hay, Hutcheon, and Yeaman went to Loch Etchachan. The conditions there were very bad. They were wet.

3. Alexander, Malcolm, Taylor, and Smith walked up Glen Slugan and returned by Glen Quoich.

FEBRUARY 5, 1933.—DUBH LOCH OF LOCHNAGAR.

THIS excursion was arranged so that Club members might have a tussle with the gullies of Creag an Dubh Loch in winter conditions.

The party left Golden Square by charabanc at 8.30 a.m. for Alltนาguibhsaich. Those present were:—Misses Daniel, McDowell, McHardy, Patterson (Junior Section), and Stewart, Messrs. Clow, Dr. Evans, Gordon, McCoss, McHardy, McLay, Malcolm, Medd, Dr. Martin, E. W. Smith, Malcolm Smith, S. C. H. Smith, Slessor, Taylor, and Yunnie. Guests—W. Brockie, M. B. Watson, and J. McConnach—23.

E. W. Smith, McConnach, and Yunnie ascended Lochnagar by the Ladder.

Brockie, Gordon, and Watson went up into the Lochnagar Corrie and spent the day in the West Gully. They failed in the ascent owing to bad conditions.

McLay, Malcolm, and Malcolm Smith ascended to Lochan Buidhe.

The remainder of the party, fourteen in number, ascended to the west end of the Dubh Loch, where the stream was intended to be crossed, but owing to the great thaw it was in high flood. Miss McHardy, Miss Stewart, and Medd, jumped the boulders and got over, but it was found that all the party could not follow, so the remaining eleven members tried to cross higher up, and a crossing point was not reached till the party had ascended to 2,750 feet, and then only with difficulty. Medd followed the party on the other side of the stream to help in crossing and we joined forces with him. As the two ladies were somewhere at the foot of the cliffs, McHardy, Medd, and Slessor descended again on the south side of the stream to find out what had become of them.

The rest of the party, now numbering nine, made for the top of Broad Cairn, where an exceedingly fine view was obtained over Glen Clova to the south. I think I can safely say that I have never seen so little snow in February for the past twenty years.

Meantime Miss McHardy and Miss Stewart, who had come away without their knitting, did not know what to do with themselves, so they attacked the Central Gully, and made the first winter ascent of it. We saw their steps at the steep head of the gully as we passed it. McHardy, Medd, and Slessor, when they reached the foot of the Central Gully, saw the snow steps and followed the ladies' route to the top of the gully.

The party re-crossed the Allt an Dubh Loch by the small wooden bridge at the west end of Loch Muich. This was accomplished with some difficulty, as the stream had burst its banks and had formed another stream.

The bus was reached after dark at Allt-naguibhsaich, and tea was taken at the Alexandra Hotel, Ballater.

The South-East Gully seems to be impossible in winter. Great icicles were hanging on it from top to foot, and it certainly would not have gone this day. Its only ascent was by Symmers and Miss Bruce in September, 1928.

The Central Gully is an excellent snow climb, and deserves more attention. The North-West Gully, at the upper end of the cliff, has never been climbed, and it seems to overhang at the top. There is also a route to the top at the depression immediately south-east of the cliff. This route, though very easy, would entail step-cutting in hard snow.

It is worth while to note that if one is making for the foot of Creag an Dubh Loch, and the stream is likely to be in flood, the best way is to cross the stream by the small wooden bridge at the west end of Loch Muich.—J. McC.

FEBRUARY 26, 1933—LOCHNAGAR.

THIS was a snow-climbing excursion, and a party of members and friends, numbering 28, left Golden Square at 8.30 a.m., complete with full equipment of ropes, axes, and ski. Those present were:—Mrs. Ross MacKenzie, Misses Daniel, Hay, McDowell, McHardy, Patterson (Junior Section), and Stewart, Messrs. Aitken (Junior Section), Angus, Clow, Dugan, Gordon, Gove, Dr. Martin, Medd, McCoss, McHardy, Malcolm, Slessor, E. W. Smith, and Yunnie. Guests—W. Brockie, C. Medd, R. Mitchell, C. McIver, Miss M. McIver, C. McLennan, and Beard. During the outward journey the party ran into sleet, but beyond Ballater dry snow was falling. The intention was to drive up Glen Muich to the Spital, but we were advised that this road was impossible owing to drifts, so the route was changed, and the party motored to the Suspension Bridge at the Danzig Shiel. In a heavy snowstorm twenty-two well-equipped members started for the hill. Gordon and Beard put on ski and followed behind. The party ascended to the height of 2,500 feet

on the west side of Carn Fiaclan, above the Black Shiel Burn. At this point the weather conditions assumed a blizzard, and clothing began to freeze, so it was decided to go no further. It was obvious that it would be quite impossible to reach the summit. However, when the party reached the Forest again, conditions were very pleasant though it was still snowing, and the walk through the Ballochbuie to the bus was much enjoyed.

Messrs. Medd, C. Medd, C. McIver, and Miss McIver motored up Glen Muich and got stuck in the snow near the Falls. They walked to Allnaguibhsaich and ascended the hill some distance, but had to turn owing to the snowstorm. Tea was at the Alexandra Hotel, Ballater.—J. McC.

ROCK CLIMBS AT SOUTER HEAD.

March 4, 1933.—No excursion was possible owing to very heavy rain all day.

March 11, 1933.—This was a very successful excursion. At one period during the afternoon four ropes were in use at the same time. Mr. Parker very kindly motored the party from Balnagask to the climbing ground in relays. The excursion was attended by Miss McDowell, Messrs. Clow, Gordon, Dugan, McCoss, and Parker. Guests—W. Brockie, R. Forrest, J. Irvine, R. Mitchell, R. Reid, M. B. Watson, and S. Wright. The Slab-top Chimney was ascended by Miss McDowell, Messrs. Clow, Watson, and Wright; the Milestone Climb by Miss McDowell, Messrs. Clow and Wright; the Crack above the Pool by Messrs. Clow, Brockie, Wright, and Watson. Overhang Crack at Pool was attempted by Gordon (exceptionally difficult: not yet ascended). The Face Climb at Pool was done by Gordon, McCoss, and Watson; the Face Climb south of Pool by Miss McDowell, and Messrs. Clow, Brockie, Gordon, Watson, and Wright; and the Short Face Climb, south of Pool, by Miss McDowell, Messrs. Irvine, Mitchell, and Wright. The Sea Traverse was accomplished by nearly the whole party.

March 18, 1933.—The party who attended this excursion consisted of Messrs. Clow, Dugan, Dr. Martin, and McCoss. Guests—Miss N. Helmrich and M. B. Watson. The party walked from Balnagask to Souter Head, where it was decided to go further south and visit Clashrodneay, below the farm of Cairnrobin, so that those present might see the climbs there. The climbs to the south, namely, the Back and Foot Chimney, the Trap Dyke Crack, and the Curved Crack were all too wet, so attention was directed to the climbs at the north end. The tide was too high for the start of some of the climbs, but a good deal of scrambling was accomplished. The Upper Crack above the little deep bay was ascended by Messrs. Martin, Clow, Dugan, and Miss Helmrich, and the Staircase was climbed by McCoss and Watson.—J. McC.

EASTER MEET, 1933—KINLOCHEWE.

THIS year the Club held their annual Easter Meet at Kinlochewe Hotel, Ross-shire. Those present were :—H. G. Dason, D. S. P. Douglas, W. A. Ewen, J. McCoss, A. R. Martin, R. T. Medd, J. C. Orkney, J. A. Parker, E. B. Reid, M. J. Robb, S. C. H. Smith, and G. R. Symmers, Mrs. Ross MacKenzie, Misses L. Archibald, M. Daniel, H. M. E. Duncan, A. M. Pittendrigh, A. W. Stewart, and M. M. Telfer. Guests—F. Garrow, A. A. Marr, D. Medd, Misses Brown and Stewart—24. This was a most successful Meet, and as the district was new to most of those present, the ascents were interesting and were very much enjoyed.

The following excursions were carried out :—

Tuesday, April 11.

Dason and Ewen ascended Beinn Alligin. They were finishing a ten days' climbing tour with tent and motor.

Thursday, April 13.

1. Dason and Ewen ascended Beinn Eighe from a camp established in Glen Torridon.

2. Parker caught a salmon and climbed Liathach, "says he." What he actually did was to walk to Loch Coulin and back again.

Friday, April 14.

1. Parker, Reid, Douglas, Marr, and the two Medds walked to the foot of Glen Bianasdail and climbed Slioch by way of the east corrie. The descent was made along the east ridge to Sgurr an Tuill Bhain, and thence down the east corrie.

2. Symmers walked from Achnasheen over Fionn Bheinn to Kinlochewe.

3. Dason and Ewen did Liathach, ascending between Bidean Toll a Mhuic and Spidean a Choire Leith. They traversed Corrie Leith then over the Spidean and kept the ridge westward to the Fasarinen Pinnacles, descending on the east of the stream in the gorge which descends to the keeper's house at the small wood.

4. Archibald, Brown, Daniel, Martin, McCoss, Mrs. Ross MacKenzie, Orkney, S. C. H. Smith, and Telfer followed the above route on Liathach, only they ascended straight up to the west of Bidean Toll a Mhuic.

5. Duncan, Garrow, Robb, Pittendrigh, A. Stewart, and M. Stewart traversed Corrie Leith to Spidean a Choire Leith, then took the ridge eastward and did Bidean Toll a Mhuic and Stuc a Choire Dhuibh Bhig, and descended near the route of ascent.

Saturday, April 15.

This day was wet, and excursions mostly on the lower ground were participated in by all the members.

1. Daniel, D. Medd, R. T. Medd, and Telfer walked to the watershed beyond Clair and Coulin, and back again.

2. Douglas, Marr, Reid, and S. C. H. Smith were motored to Achnasheen by Orkney, and there the car broke down. A goods train took this party of four to Achnashellach, and they shared a truck with another dog. They walked up the path by the River Lair to the watershed between Beinn Liath Mhor and Carn Eite, where they met the Medd party, and so to Glen Torridon.

3. Duncan, Pittendrigh, Robb, and Symmers did Slioch and came back rather more than a little wet.

4. Garrow, Martin, and the Misses Stewart motored the round—Dundonnell, Garve, Achnasheen.

5. Archibald, Brown, and Mrs. Ross MacKenzie also motored the same route.

6. McCoss and Parker motored to Gairloch and visited the Youth Hostel, Carn Dearg, where they had a lunch which cost threepence.

Sunday, April 16.

1. Martin, S. C. H. Smith, and Symmers did the following tops of Beinn Eighe :—Creag Dubh, Sgurr Ban, Spidean Coire nan Clach and Ruadh Stac Mor.

2. Daniel, Garrow, McCoss, Mrs. Ross MacKenzie, A. Stewart, M. Stewart, and Telfer did Creag Dubh. They traversed the ridge of the Black Men, and went over each of the pinnacles, keeping exactly to the ridge all the way, to Sgurr an Fhir Duibhe and down to the Fhir Duibhe—Ban col.

3. Douglas, Marr, Reid, and Parker ascended Beinn Eighe from Loch Bharranch by the excellent path in Coir' an Laoigh to Spidean Coire nan Clach and along the ridge to Sgurr Ban then down to the Fhir Duibhe—Ban col. At this point Garrow and the Misses Stewart dropped down into the Glen, and Daniel, Mrs. Ross MacKenzie, and Telfer continued on to Sgurr Ban and Spidean Coire nan Clach. McCoss joined the eastward-going party, composed of Douglas, Marr, Reid, and Parker, and ascended Sgurr an Fhir Duibhe and the pinnacles, dropping down into Coire Domhain and the Allt a' Chuirn.

Monday, April 17.

Parker started from Annat, at the head of Loch Torridon, and followed the path behind Ben-damph House to the bridge over the Allt Coire Roill. From just west of this bridge an excellent path was followed southwards up the glen to the Drochaid Coire Roill at its head. The intention had been to climb Beinn Damh, but it was covered with mist down to about 2,300 feet, with no signs of clearing. Enough of the hill was seen to show that its east face is precipitous, with a steep shoulder rising up from the Drochaid. The return to Annat was therefore made over the top of Beinn na h- Eaglaise (2,410 ft.)—a sandstone hill, with many small escarpments and, between its two summits, an interesting string of four small lochs. The east face of the hill is very steep, and a considerable detour westwards had to be made before a direct course could be struck out for Annat.



Easter, 1933.

THE CLUB AT KINLOCHEWE.

S. C. H. Smith.

Back Row—Stewart, Robb, Orkney, Symmers, Telfer, Douglas.

*Front Row—Stewart, Pittendrigh, Duncan, Ross McKenzie, Medd, Daniel,
Brown, Archibald, Marr, Reid, Garrow, Parker.*

The whole district is most interesting, with its towers of old red sandstone, white quartz summits and screes, and green chlorite schist. There is water everywhere, the sea and the lochs, with tree-covered islands. The breezes are more kindly than on the Cairngorms, and there is a peculiar mystery and peace which this part of the West breathes to one who is accustomed to the East coast.

J. McC.

EASTER MEET SECTION AT BRAEMAR.

G. J. ALLAN, M. H. Gray, and Malcolm Smith held a Meet of their own at Braemar.

Friday, April 14.

Allan and Gray motored to the Cairnwell. From there they climbed Meall Odhar and Glas Maol. They then struck north-eastwards along the boundary to Cairn-na-Glasha and Tolmount. After that they descended the steep slope into Glen Callater and walked along the valley past Loch Callater to Auchallater. The weather was clear when the climb was started, but half-an-hour later there was thick mist, which continued till Cairn-na-Glasha was reached. Thereafter the mist disappeared and good views were obtained.

Saturday, April 15.

On Saturday morning Allan, Gray, and M. Smith, who had arrived at Braemar the previous night, motored to Derry Lodge with the intention of climbing Ben Macdhui and returning by Derry Cairngorm. The route chosen was Glen Derry and Coire Etchachan, and fine weather was experienced until noon, when lunch was taken just below Loch Etchachan. From there the climb was continued against a strong head wind, which gave way to mist and heavy rain, so that no view was obtained at the summit. In view of the depressing weather conditions, it was decided to cut out Derry Cairngorm, and the return was made by the same route, heavy rain falling practically all the way. Derry Lodge was reached about 5.30 p.m.

Nothing strenuous was attempted on Sunday. In the morning the party enjoyed the bright sunshine and views on Creag Choinnich, and in the afternoon motored to Glen Ey, returning to Aberdeen in the evening.—M. S.

SPRING HOLIDAY EXCURSION, 1933—LOCHNAGAR.

A PARTY consisting of 22 members assembled at Ballater and motored in four cars to Alltnaguibhsaich. The route traversed was up the Ladder to Cac Carn Beag, then along the Callater Path to the top of the Stuib Buttress, down the Allt a' Choire Dhuibh to the Feindallacher Path and through the Ballochbuie Forest to the suspension bridge at the Danzig Shiel, where the motors were waiting.

The cliffs were magnificent, having been dusted to a grey shade by a fall of snow, during a thunderstorm, two days earlier. The day was excellent, without any wind, and though the temperature

was not very high, there was a good deal of sunshine. The Cairngorms were very clear, each hill standing out very distinctly. The Rev. E. Cruickshank was specially interested in Cnap a' Chleirich (the Priest's Knoll; 3,811 ft.), which was pointed out to him. Those present were:—W. N. Aitken (Junior Section), D. N. Collie, Rev. E. Cruickshank, Dr. Evans, Wm. Malcolm, A. Muir, J. McCoss, J. McHardy, and A. A. Slessor. Mrs. Ross Mackenzie, Misses Archibald, Burley, Daniel, Hay, McHardy, Mackenzie, Patterson (Junior Section), Skakle, and Telfer. Guests—G. A. Johnstone, Misses Johnstone and Marshall.—J. McC.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON EXCURSIONS, 1933.

MAY 20—PETER HILL AND MOUNT BATTOCK.

THE first Saturday afternoon excursion took place on May 20, 1933, and was attended by 25 members and guests. The party left Golden Square at 2.30 p.m. by charabanc and two private cars. Those present were:—Rev. E. Cruickshank, Wm. Garden, J. McCoss, J. C. Orkney, J. A. Parker, A. A. Slessor, Malcolm Smith, and S. C. H. Smith, Mrs. E. J. Hendry, Mrs. Ross Mackenzie, Misses Archibald, Burley, Campbell, Jackson, Johnstone, Martin, Mitchell, Telfer, Wallace, and Wisely. Guests—Messrs. T. Archibald, C. Lind, Mrs. Orkney, Mrs. S. C. H. Smith, and Master Smith.

1. Miss Burley, Mr. and Mrs. Orkney, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. H. Smith and Master Smith ascended Peter Hill by the path east of the hill and over Luther Moss, descending by the Glaspits Burn.

2. Cruickshank, Garden, Johnstone, Parker, Telfer, and Wallace did Peter Hill by the Glaspits Burn path and descended on the east side. Parker motored this party home, and Cruickshank crossed the Cairn o' Mounth on push bike.

3. T. Archibald, Lind, McCoss, Slessor, and Malcolm Smith, Mrs. Hendry, Mrs. Ross Mackenzie, Misses Archibald, Campbell, Jackson, Martin, Mitchell, and Wisely ascended Mount Battock by the Glaspits path, crossed the Aven, passing Cock Hill on the east. Their time was:—

		Time.	Distance.	Height.	Climbing Height.
Sawmill ..	4.0 p.m. ..	..	..	500'	
Glaspits— Peter Hill			h.m. mls.		
Watershed	5.0 p.m. ..	..	1.0 2	1,700'	1,200'
Aven ..	5.15 to 5.30 p.m.	..	0.15 ½	1,300'	
Battock ..	6.40 to 7.0 p.m.	..	1.10 2	2,555'	1,255'
Aven ..	7.40 p.m. ..	..	0.40 2	1,300'	
Watershed	8.10 p.m. ..	..	0.30 ½	1,700'	400'
Sawmill ..	9.0 p.m. ..	..	0.50 2	500'	
			4.25 9		2,855'

If we apply the climber's formula, it will be seen that they were going at the proper speed :

	h.m.
3 miles per hour—9 miles	3.00
2,855 feet—30 minutes per 1,000 feet	1.25
	4.25

The afternoon was fine and tea was partaken of at Feughside Inn.—J. McC.

JUNE 10—SOCACH.

A PARTY of 19 members started at 2.30 p.m. by charabanc and one private car. Those present were :—Messrs. J. Angus, Wm. Garden, A. R. Martin, J. McCoss, and S. C. H. Smith; Mrs. Angus, Mrs. A. Hendry, Mrs. Ross Mackenzie, and Mrs. Wilson; Misses H. M. Campbell, R. K. Jackson, M. W. Johnstone, E. Mavor, E. A. Mavor, Margaret Skakle, M. M. Telfer, and C. H. Wisely. Guests—C. R. Enson and Miss E. Allan. The charabanc left the Tarland road at Tillylodge and proceeded to Confunderland (for the benefit of the very ignorant who may not know where Confunderland is, I give its exact position—Lat. N.57° 10' 26", Long. W. 2° 48'), where the walk started at 4.10 p.m.

It rained all the time the hill was being crossed, but "It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven," and was refreshing and pleasant, even though the grass and heather were very wet. The first part of the ascent, The Top (1,750 ft. contour), was reached in 30 minutes, and Pressendye (2,032 ft.) in another 20 minutes, then Pittenderich (1,655 ft.) was crossed, and the beautiful wooded ridge running south to Tarland was traversed. Along a lovely wooded pathway marvellous glimpses of the hills were got, the Coyles of Muick having a fine setting against heavy clouds. The dazzling shades of green made brilliant by the rain were gorgeous, and the tender new shoots of the firs caught the eye, looking like blossoms against the older and darker greens of the trees. The club's now famous Saturday afternoon excursion tea—ham and eggs—was partaken of at the Commercial Hotel, Tarland, preceded by selections on the piano by Miss Skakle, the Club's bard.—J. McC.

JUNE 24—LOCHNAGAR.

THIRTY-EIGHT members attended the annual night excursion at the Summer Solstice. This excursion was so successful that the Club has probably never held an outing with more satisfactory results. During the journey to the Spital of Glen Muick the clear sky assumed a pale lemon colour, verging to pale blue at the zenith, and Loch Kinord was dyed a vivid crimson by a brilliant afterglow which swept the horizon for 90°.

The party left Golden Square at 10 p.m. and arrived at the Spital at 12.15 a.m. Glacier lanterns aided the climbers during the passage of the pine woods of Alltnaguibhsaich. Beyond the woods there was sufficient light for walking, and by the time the Foxes' Well was reached, the light had improved and every hill was quite visible. In looking up at the few stars it was brought home to one that, if the sun did not withdraw for a short space the true glory of the heavens would never be revealed at all. The planets Mars and Jupiter kept us company all through the short summer night, and just over the Meikle Pap Col could be seen the great flaming sun Arcturus.

From the summit plateau, three-quarters of an hour before sunrise, the snow patches on Ben Macdhui and Beinn a' Bhuid and the Saucer Corrie on Cairntoul were clearly visible, while Ben Rinnes wore a scarf of cloud. The whole range of the Cairngorms was sharply silhouetted against the sky, and the Isle of May Lighthouse, fifty-seven miles distant, was seen flashing very clearly in the summer twilight. The limpid atmosphere made visibility excellent, but the hill colours showed up as greys and blacks. With the coming of dawn, however, the greens, browns, and silver-greys took on their true tone of colour and seemed more brilliant than usual. About fifteen minutes before sunrise, shafts of brilliant orange-pink light proclaimed exactly where the sun was going to appear, and the afterglow began to fade. Exactly to time, at 4.12 a.m. (summer time) due north-east, the wide red upper edge of the refracted sun peeped over the horizon. It seemed to come in little jumps till the large elongated disc was in full view. The upper edges of a great sea of "wool-pack" cumulus clouds immediately became tipped with crimson, and each high hill summit, according to height, was caught in a "noose of light" like the sultan's turret.

On the outward journey Martin and Watson tried the Black Spout by lantern, but owing to insufficient light, the unstable condition of the boulders at a new fall of rock, and shortage of time, they gave it up. Gove and E. W. Smith descended it, however, in record time on the return journey.

Breakfast awaited the party at Ballater, and Aberdeen was reached at 9.25 a.m.

Those present were :—Messrs. Wm. Alexander, J. Angus, A. Clow, H. C. Dugan, Wm. Garden, J. Gove, Wm. Malcolm, Dr. Martin J. McCoss, J. McHardy, E. W. Smith, S. C. H. Smith, Mrs. Angus, Misses Archibald, Daniel, Dugan, Henderson, McHardy, Mitchell, J. Patterson (Junior Section), Skakle and Wallace. Guests :—Messrs. R. Mitchell, W. Mitchell, W. Melville, A. Thomson, and M. B. Watson. Misses Browne, Burnett, Cruickshank, Fowlie, Harvey, Helmrich, Hepling, Malcolm, McKay, Rodger, and Young—(17 men and 21 women).

During this period W. D. Hutcheon and Geo. Shand were busy with the six Cairngorms. Their time was—

	H.M.		H.M.
Loch Builg . . .	8.45 p.m.	24th .	
Ben Avon . . .	10.50 p.m.	„ .	2.05
Beinn a' Bhuidh . . .	12.00	. . .	1.10
Cairngorm . . .	3.45 a.m.	25th .	3.45
Ben Macdhui . . .	5.20 „	„ .	1.35
Braeriach . . .	7.15 „	„ .	1.55
Cairntoul . . .	9.30 „	„ .	2.15
Carrou Bothy . . .	10.10 „	„ .	-.40
			<hr/> 13.25

This excursion reduces the time for the six summits by 1 hour 20 minutes, and is 25 minutes under the time set down by the well-known climbers' formula (*C.C.J.*, Vol. XIII, p. 98).—J. McC.

JULY 1—THE BUCK.

SIXTEEN members attended the last Saturday afternoon excursion. Those present were :—J. Angus, H. Dugan, Wm. Garden, J. McCoss, Dr. Martin, J. A. Parker, and A. Taylor. Mrs. Ross Mackenzie, Mrs. Wilson, Misses Archibald, Campbell, Henderson, Jackson, and Johnstone. Guests :—Miss Erskine Milne and Miss Fowlie. The party motored to near Meikle Cairn, which is $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the summit of the Buck. The day was clear and very warm, and a magnificent view was obtained in all directions from the top of the hill, where a considerable time was spent in the sunshine. The long peat ridge to Hill of John's Cairn was traversed on the way down. At this point some of the party crossed Peat Hill and went down the Kindie. The others descended to Auchmullen, thence to Glenkindie Inn, where tea was partaken of. Parker ascended Peat Hill and Mount Meddin from Glenkindie.—J. McC.

THE WEST GULLY OF LOCHNAGAR—FIRST WINTER ASCENT.

A PARTY of three members, consisting of E. G. Gordon, J. Gove, and R. P. Yunnie, ascended the West Gully on Christmas Day, 1932. We entered the Gully at 1 p.m. and emerged at 4 p.m. Our route was up the extreme left chimney, of which there are three, and gained the slightly ice-covered, rather treacherous grass slopes above. These slopes took us to about one-third of the height of the cliff, where a traverse was made along a ledge into the bed of the Main Gully, and the first pitch. Great care had to be taken at this part as the rock was very unreliable. To gain an entrance to a small

cave above a large slab of rock combined tactics were used. Immediately above we faced an overhang and traversed to the right, then worked back again over the chokestone, where the handholds were very poor. Up to this point the Gully had been wet in parts with some ice on the rocks, but there was very little snow. We could see, however, that snow lay ahead of us. The Gully now branched into a steep chimney which led into another cave, and combined tactics were again used to reach a small platform from which the leader could see the start of the Gully immediately below. A very difficult step had to be taken at this point, as the foot has to get wedged behind a rock and, with a spring, a handhold has to be reached. A good belay, however, can be found in the cave. We now came to the last pitch: the Gully narrowed and the exit could be seen. As we cut steps in snow-covered ice up the left side we noted that a high wind was now blowing. Some huge boulders had now to be surmounted, after which it was a straight climb to the top. We were very surprised at the scarcity of the snow for the time of the year. More snow would have made the climb easier in parts, but more difficult on the rock.—E. G. GORDON.

RAEBURN'S GULLY OF LOCHNAGAR—FIRST WINTER ASCENT.

G. R. SYMMERS, A. W. Clark, and W. A. Ewen had a very fine snow-climb in Raeburn's Gully on December 27, 1932. The lower pitches were masked in ice but, above the cave pitch, the snowfield extended unbroken to the cornice. Progress was sometimes made on "fingers" of ice, which the leader thoughtlessly broke after he had finished with them. In consequence, the third man met with entirely different conditions, incidentally losing his tobacco pouch in the service of the community. (No reward is offered for its recovery!) The bulk of the snow met with by the third man came from the leader's axe; in the circumstances, he feels disposed to disagree with the leader's statement that there was "perhaps just not enough snow to make conditions perfect." The climb occupied just about three hours, but half-an-hour of this was given over to a discussion between the leader and the second, on "why men climb," a subject which left the third man cold.—W. A. EWEN.

LOCHNAGAR—PINNACLE GULLY, No. 1 (VARIATION).

ON June 4, 1933, G. R. Symmers, W. A. Ewen, and W. Middleton (Junior Member) made a variation on Pinnacle Gully, No. 1 route. Just below the second cave pitch a horizontal traverse to the left was made, round a buttress of rather slabby rock to a shallow gully, leading, without difficulty, to the summit. There should be several interesting variation routes in this vicinity, but this particular alter-

native route has, perhaps, less merit than the orthodox finish to P.G., No. 1. The Junior Member views this "achievement" with ill-concealed contempt—he being, by nature, a fire-eater. The Seniors, tired and subjugated, after four hours of fruitless exertion on 150 feet of cliff on the previous day, were looking for something they *could* climb!—W. A. EWEN.

LOCHNAGAR—PINNACLE GULLY, No. 2.

On the Sunday of the last Autumn Holiday week-end, H. G. Dason, W. A. Ewen, W. Malcolm, and W. J. Middleton (Junior Section) met at Altnaguibhsaich with the vague intention of climbing something in the corrie should conditions be suitable. The weather was not promising—a low barometer, high wind, mist, and rain showers. The Meikle Pap Col was crossed in mist, and a descent made in the general direction of the head of the loch, which only came in sight when within a few hundred yards. Several parties of climbers had been seen on the hill, and it was evident from the noise of falling stones that some were in the gullies. The conditions were not suitable for anything difficult, and, by common consent, the Black Spout was entered and then the left hand branch. Lunch was taken in cold, wet conditions below the first pitch. After lunch the difficulty was tackled. Middleton, after discarding his heavier garments, managed to pass the through route and lower a rope, by means of which the luggage, Dason, and Malcolm afterwards ascended the face with the help of a back-up from Ewen, who then roped up and ascended by a promising looking crack on the right of the pitch. A little further up, Ewen and Middleton (the experts) persuaded Dason and Malcolm (the cautious) that they could get just as wet and dirty in the Pinnacle Gully as in the left hand branch. The latter was, therefore, left behind, and the steep, narrow floor of the Pinnacle Gully ascended to the first pitch. This consists of a large choke-stone, which can be surmounted from a comparatively comfortable mantel shelf on the left hand wall. The difficulty is to get on to the mantel shelf from the sloping floor of the gully, the hand and foot holds being either non-existent or very awkwardly placed. Ewen and Dason got up by combined tactics and, being exhausted with their exertions, proceeded to fall asleep in the cave above. At least this was the opinion of Middleton and Malcolm as they waited patiently in the rain below for the rope to be sent down. All that came down was lumps of rock and dirt, not even an apology for such flagrant breaking of the laws of good climbing. However, at last the rope did appear and they were able to scramble up to the comparative shelter of the cave above. The exit from the cave was by a comparatively easy through route, sufficiently restricted to ensure that the climbers were now in a thoroughly wet and dirty condition. The remaining slope to the Col, though

steep, presented no difficulty. Ewen tried a direct ascent to the top of the Pinnacle from above the cave pitch, but decided it was not justifiable with the wet condition of the rocks. The ascent of the Pinnacle by the whole party was then completed by the route starting with a sloping crack a short distance down Pinnacle Gully, No. 1. Ewen was of the opinion that the slabs above the crack are increasing in difficulty, owing to previous climbers having kicked away some of the holds. After the ascent of the Pinnacle the summit of Lochnagar was visited, and the exertions of the climbers were rewarded by the mist clearing, and with the sun shining forth an enjoyable finish was given to an interesting day.—W. MALCOLM.

ON December 28, 1932, A. W. Clark and W. A. Ewen climbed the Spout branch, reaching the summit by Pinnacle Gully, No. 2. As on the previous day, the snow conditions were thoroughly good. The second pitch in Pinnacle Gully was not snowed over, but a passage was found on the left wall, from which the snow above the pitch was gained with some difficulty. The climb took two hours and a half.

Anticipating easier conditions later in the winter, W. Middleton (Junior Section) and W. A. Ewen returned to Pinnacle Gully on March 18, 1933. The pitch and wall were heavily iced, and the party spent an hour and a half on an ascent of 20 feet, reaching the Pinnacle "neck" at dusk.

The short ascent from the "neck" to the plateau calls for careful manœuvres in iced conditions. This ascent of the Gully took five hours. (The route on the left wall appears to be feasible only when comparatively free of ice.)—W. A. EWEN.

ON April 16, 1933, James Gove and R. P. Yunnie made an ascent of Pinnacle Gully, No. 2. The Gully was filled with hard-packed snow lying at an angle of fully 70°. The Pinnacle itself was free of snow and ice. The time taken in ascending from the foot of the snow tongue to the summit of the Pinnacle was about an hour and a half, and no difficulty of any kind was experienced. The climb was a most delightful one. We had a most thrilling experience, escaping an avalanche which came thundering down the Parallel Gully A, which we had been attempting to ascend about an hour previously.—R. P. YUNNIE.

SHALLOW GULLY OF LOCHNAGAR—FIRST ASCENT.

H. A. MACRAE and Mrs. Macrae (Miss Bruce) made the first ascent of this Gully. The Club wait a description of the climb from the pen of Mrs. Macrae as promised.—J. McC.

JUNIOR SECTION.

THE Junior Section of the Club was duly constituted last year. The rules and conditions are as follows :—

1. The Section shall be called the " Junior Section of the Cairngorm Club."
2. The object of the Section is to promote climbing, foster the knowledge of the hills, afford an introduction to the various branches of mountaineering technique, and act as a feeder to the Cairngorm Club.
3. The members of the Section shall consist of those who are not qualified for the Cairngorm Club on account of age. The age of the members of the Junior Section shall be between 16 and 21 years.
4. Every candidate for election as a member of the Junior Section shall be proposed by a member of the Cairngorm Club and be seconded by another member of the Cairngorm Club. These members must have personal knowledge of the candidate and state the candidate's age. Admission to the Junior Section shall be controlled by the Entrance Committee of the Cairngorm Club.
5. Members of the Junior Section shall be entitled to attend the Meets and Excursions of the Cairngorm Club, and they may promote Meets and Excursions of their own, provided they are accompanied by a member of the Cairngorm Club. They may also attend the annual Dinner of the Cairngorm Club.
6. Members of the Junior Section shall receive a copy of the Cairngorm Club Journal, in which Excursions of the Section may be reported. They shall also receive notices calling Club Meets and Excursions, and they shall have the use of the Club Library, but they shall have no voice in the management of the Cairngorm Club, nor shall they attend any of the Business Meetings.
7. Members of the Junior Section shall, on election, pay an Entrance Fee of 2/-, and also an Annual Subscription of 4/-.
8. Members of the Junior Section on reaching the age of 21 shall be eligible for admission to the Cairngorm Club under Rule 5 of the Cairngorm Club. No Entrance Fee shall be payable provided the candidate has been a member of the Junior Section for the three preceding years.
9. An Annual Meeting of the Junior Section shall be held immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Cairngorm Club for the purpose of electing a Meets' Secretary for the ensuing year, and transacting any other competent business.
10. The Rules of the Cairngorm Club in so far as applicable shall apply to the Junior Section.