

to cross, then by walking in the rough a quarter of a mile down the opposite bank of that stream, a foot bridge crossing the Feshie enables one to return over the river to a good footpath which leads down the valley. An hour was spent altogether in crossing the Eidart and taking a leisurely lunch on its bank. The footpath was then followed without difficulty, through splendid scenery, till it appeared to get lost in the flat bottom of the valley opposite Feshie Lodge. By walking across easy ground, at this point, towards the river, a grass-grown cart track was soon found which led to a good bridge about half a mile below the Lodge.

Crossing this bridge the Lodge road was followed down the Glen to Achlean, and then the road to the left over rolling moors to Kingussie. A fine view of the western hills, lit up by the setting sun, was obtained while descending the moorland road. Kingussie was reached at 6.20 p.m. The total time out was 11 hours 12 minutes, and the time, excluding halts of over 5 minutes' duration, 9 hours 42 minutes. As the distance is about 27 miles this gives an average walking speed of about $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles per hour. The "Bogie" time, per Parker rule, is about $9\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

The writer was not in training, but a fairly steady pace was maintained, except that a number of standing halts were made to consult the map, to identify hills, streams, and other features. The weather conditions were good for walking, except for a few miles below Feshie Lodge, when there was a head wind with driving rain.—W. MALCOLM.

NOTES.

THIS number completes Volume XIII. The title page, contents, and index will be issued with the next Number.

OUR frontispiece is an infra red photograph of the Cairngorms, taken from the top of Lochnagar. It presents a remarkably clear panorama of the mountains, with all the well-

OUR known features distinctly brought out. The

ILLUSTRATIONS. two young ladies bathing in Loch Builg (p. 249) are Miss Catherine Sinclair and Miss Margot Youngson. We are indebted to Mr. H. G. Dason for the two excellent photographs of Liathach (pp. 240-1), climbed during last year's Easter Meet.

ALTHOUGH the snow on the Cairngorms begins to disappear rapidly in May and June, the larger north-facing beds may linger on into the autumn. The survival of very small patches

SNOW ON THE suggests that the melting process slows down later, CAIRNGORMS. probably because old snow becomes so dirt-laden that evaporation is reduced to a minimum. "I saw two such patches" (writes a correspondent) "on Lochnagar in October, 1930. But for a year or two back, all the snow has disappeared from Lochnagar and only the northern corries of the Cairngorms

have carried snow after July. (The conspicuous patch on Beinn a' Bhuid usually defies its southernly exposure and may outlast July.) The melting process is due, not alone to the rise in temperature and the prevalence of S.W. winds, but also, during periods of anti-cyclonic weather, to very rapid evaporation, relative humidity of the air being then very low. During a wet summer, when the hills are frequently shrouded in mist and the air, consequently, saturated, evaporation does not take place. I think that Mr. Seton Gordon records somewhere that only in the little corrie of Cairngorm known as 'Margaret's Coffin,' has the snow never been known to melt. But during the winter of 1932-33 there was an abnormally small precipitation. Following on that we had also an abnormally dry summer, which no doubt produced periods of low relative humidities. But I would put the very small winter snowfall as chief among these causes." Mr. McCoss stated in his speech at the Annual Dinner of the Club that during September last "every snowfield in the Cairngorms had disappeared." "This," he added, "is the first occasion in my experience that such a thing has happened." (*v. p.* 253.)

The author of a Sonnet on "The Indicator on Ben Macdhuì" is requested to communicate with the Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HILL-CLIMBING PRECAUTIONS.

[To the Editor of *The Cairngorm Club Journal*.]

SIR,—Before the memory of the recent tragedy on Ben Macdhuì has faded, it may be useful to note one or two simple precautions designed to prevent a repetition of it and others of the kind of no distant date.

The complicated and widely extended system of mountains in Central Scotland demands the utmost respect from those who would explore it. The ascent of the highest peaks may require no super-human effort, but it is never quite a promenade. There is not a day in the whole year when they are not subject to that worst of all terrors, mist, and in winter and spring, when ordinary landmarks are obliterated, an expedition may be attended with very great risks. No ascent should be undertaken without careful study, and there should always be an alternative or alternatives whereby safety may be reached in case of unforeseen emergency.

To the inexperienced be it said that the first ventures can best be made under expert guidance. There are, in any case, three requisites which should never be neglected—a compass, a map, and, perhaps less essential but still most desirable, an aneroid. To go mountaineering without a reliable compass is to court disaster, is, in fact, the first step to suicide. An electric torch may be useful for reading the map in very thick weather. An aneroid enables one to check the height as well as to become aware of changes of atmospheric pressure that prognosticate storm.