

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Forty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on Saturday evening, November 25, 1933. The retiring President, Mr. James McCoss, was in the chair, and there was the usual attendance of members. An apology for absence was intimated from Lord Provost Alexander.

Mr. William Garden, advocate, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, submitted the Accounts, which showed a credit balance of £31 13s. 7d., an increase of £4 13s. 1d. on the amount at credit a year previously.

The membership at October 31 was 281. The Accounts were unanimously adopted.

Office-bearers were elected as follows :—

Hon. President—Professor J. Norman Collie.

President—Mr. William Malcolm.

Vice-Presidents—Dr. D. P. Levack and Mr. A. Leslie Hay.

Hon. Editor—Mr. Edward W. Watt.

Hon. Librarian—Mr. J. A. Parker.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. William Garden, advocate, 18 Golden Square, Aberdeen.

Committee—Mr. W. A. Ewen, Mr. J. A. Parker, Mr. H. C. Dugan, Mr. J. C. Orkney, Mr. S. C. H. Smith, Miss Margaret Skakle, Dr. A. R. Martin, Mr. H. G. Dason, and Mr. J. McCoss, the last four taking the places of Lord Provost Alexander, Mr. F. A. Ritson, Dr. J. R. Levack, and Dr. D. P. Levack, who retired by rotation.

It was agreed that the New Year Meet should be at Braemar, the New Year's Day excursion to Morven, the Easter Meet at Crianlarich, and the Spring Holiday excursion to Mount Keen. Two snow-climbing excursions to Lochnagar were fixed for February 4 and 18, and three rock-climbing practice excursions to Souter Head for March 3, 10, and 17. It was remitted to the Committee to arrange for Saturday afternoon excursions, and these were subsequently fixed as follows :—June 2—Fasheilach (Glenmuick) ; June 9—Carn a' Ghille Chearr. The Committee also fixed the following Sunday excursions :—May 27—Mount Battock ; July 1—St. Arnold's Seat (Angus) ; and proposed a midnight excursion through the Larig Ghru on June 16 and 17.

In regard to the Life Membership Fund of the Club, the Hon. Treasurer pointed out that, in terms of the resolution passed at the last Annual General Meeting, interest at the rate of 4 per cent. had to be added to the Fund annually, but that a lower rate of interest than 4 per cent. was now actually being earned on the Club's funds. On the motion of Mr. J. A. Parker, seconded by Mr. R. P. Yunnie, it was unanimously agreed that in future interest to be added to the Life Membership Fund should be at the rate actually earned.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to the retiring President, Mr. McCoss, for his exemplary conduct in office.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The Annual Dinner was held in the Caledonian Hotel, after the Annual Meeting, Mr. McCoss presiding over a company numbering 93. The members present were :—

Mr. and Mrs. William Garden, Mr. G. J. Allan, Mr. James A. Parker, Mr. William Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Blair, Dr. J. F. Tocher, Miss N. G. G. Henderson, Miss M. M. Telfer, Mr. George Duncan, Miss H. M. E. Duncan, Dr. A. R. Martin, Mr. W. J. Milne, Miss E. J. Laing, Mr. F. A. Ritson, Miss M. W. Johnston, Mrs. Mary Sinclair, Miss R. K. Jackson, Mr. John Anton, Miss Wilhelmina Hay, Miss E. A. Mavor, Miss E. J. Mavor, Miss H. M. Campbell, Miss J. B. Patterson, Dr. J. Leith Hendry, Mrs. A. C. Hendry, Mr. James McCoss, Mrs. J. Ross Mackenzie, Miss Mary Daniel, Mr. E. W. Smith, Miss A. M. Pittendrigh, Miss C. H. Wisely, Mr. Henry C. Dugan, Miss A. H. Dugan, Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Levack, Mr. and Mrs. A. Leslie Hay, Mr. William Malcolm, Mr. James Hadden, Mrs. E. J. Hendry, Miss J. D. Wallace, Mr. C. S. McLay, Mr. Arthur Taylor, Mr. Marshall J. Robb, Mr. Maitland H. Gray, Mr. E. W. Watt, Mr. R. P. Yunnie, Mr. James Conner, Mr. and Mrs. John Angus, Mr. Malcolm Smith, Mr. James Gove, Dr. D. P. Levack, Mr. L. MacGregor, Mr. Alexander Simpson, Mr. I. C. Simpson, Mr. J. A. Chisholm, Mr. Edgar Beard, and Miss E. M. F. Cameron.

The Club guests were Dr. G. M. and Mrs. Duncan, and Professor H. W. Turnbull, and the other guests were Mrs. G. J. Allan, Miss M. Laird, Mr. and Mrs. James Patterson, Dr. James W. Tocher, Dr. Douglas Simpson, Professor H. M. Macdonald, Mr. Douglas Milne, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. E. Y. Patterson, Mrs. J. McCoss, Mr. Duncan Mitchell, Mrs. H. C. Dugan, Mr. G. S. Sommerville, Miss N. Stevens, Miss M. Johnston, Dr. A. W. Hendry, Mr. H. Johnston, Mrs. M. J. Robb, Mr. J. W. McPherson, Mrs. E. W. Watt, Mr. R. A. Yunnie, Mrs. Malcolm Smith, Mrs. D. P. Levack, Mr. George Gibb, Mrs. Alexander Simpson, Mr. Hector Munro, Mrs. Edgar Beard, and Miss F. Cameron.

The fare provided, most appropriate to the occasion, was as follows:—

MENU.

Hors d'œuvre Varies
Consommé Pools of Dee
Potage Alt Dubh
Suprême of Turbot Etchachan
Lamb Cutlet Corrie Kander
Peas in Butter Lochnagar Potatoes
Roast Chicken Shelter Stone Chips
Salade MacDhui
Iced Peaches Bod an Diabhail
Wafers
Croute a la Corrour Bothy
Coffee

Dr. G. M. Duncan proposed "The Cairngorm Club." Admitting that he approached the subject of his toast with apprehension, Dr. Duncan said: I am not a mountaineer, and I thought that this was really a mistake, and that the gentleman intended was my distinguished townsman, Mr. George Duncan, the noted mountaineer. I decided to consult my near neighbour, Mr. Parker, and I hied myself to him and told him of my difficulties. I told him I was no mountaineer, and Mr. Parker, in his own inimitable blunt way, said: "My dear fellow, you needn't explain that"—(laughter). "As a matter of fact," he said, "when we ask anyone to propose these toasts, one of the essential factors is that the proposers should be quite ignorant of mountaineering"—(laughter).

All this occurred some three weeks ago, and every evening since that time my wife, with the persistency of her sex, said, "Have you prepared that toast yet?" and with the dilatoriness of my sex, I explained, "I have not"—(laughter). The matter reached a climax last night, and I am ashamed to say I lied to my wife—(laughter). I said I had. You know the sin of lying always brings its own punishment, and sure enough in about half-an-hour, I found myself climbing an icy precipice roped to two mountaineers, and I was at the end of the rope. I remember clinging to the crevices of the rock, and suddenly my foot slipped, and I hung suspended over the abyss. For a moment there appeared above me a truculent and bearded face, my friend, Mr. Parker, and in his hand he had a knife. He slashed at the rope and said, "We don't want people who are not mountaineers here." I fell and fell and fell, and landed with a tremendous crash on ice at the foot of the abyss. I can remember lying shivering there at the foot and aching in every limb, when gently a voice said near me, "What is wrong, dear?"—(laughter). I awoke to find that the bedclothes had slipped off me—(laughter). That is the end of my first, and I hope my last, experience as a rock

climber. The experience has thoroughly entitled me to propose the toast "The Cairngorm Club"—(applause). What is the peculiar fascination of mountaineering? I suppose it is really a craving that every one, man or woman, has for some sort of adventure. We all have our little outlets. Some find it in field sports, shooting, fishing; some find it in art and literature; some of us find it in collecting stamps, and some of us, I believe, find it in playing contract bridge. I think you will certainly agree with me that, of all outdoor sports, real mountaineering satisfies this craving for adventure which is inherent in every one of us. Think of the thrills of adventure. You have dangers. I believe there are real dangers in the higher branches of rock-climbing. You have the satisfaction of accomplishment, and you have also the satisfaction of your aesthetic sense in the beautiful hills and surroundings in which you make your endeavours. I believe, then, that mountaineering is one of the finest sports going, and one which satisfies in every way this curious craving man or woman has for adventure—(applause). More than that, it can be practised—I won't say at all ages, because rock-climbing is confined to younger men—but it can be practised even in older years, when people can climb with satisfaction to themselves, and when you have reached that period of life when you can no longer climb, you still have the satisfaction of viewing your mountains from the ground, and enjoying the beautiful aspects of nature which they display under varying conditions. I am going to say one more thing to you. The difficulty which has always appealed to me about our Scottish hills is this. You are interested in the hills, and you like to remember them by name, and when you look at Ordnance Survey maps, you find the beautiful hill you have been admiring rejoicing in an indecipherable Gaelic name. I think myself that it would not be a bad plan if, in some of the maps, you could furnish not only the Gaelic name of a hill, but a translation of it. Make it a little poetic if you like, but make it a name which you can carry with you. I am sure that would be of very great interest to the non-Gaelic scholars in preserving one's memory of particular hills.

Your Club has now reached the age of forty-five years. She has reached the most beautiful period of matronhood. She had led a busy life and a prolific life, if the number of her children here to-night is any guide. I hope it will continue to go on, and I hope you will all live to see not only the Club's jubilee but its centenary. I thank you again for extending this invitation to me and my beautiful wife—(applause).

Mr. McCoss replied. He said: This is a toast very dear to every member of this climbing club. The Cairngorm Club has great traditions behind it, and great things have been accomplished by its members. It is the oldest climbing club in Scotland, having been formed by its pioneers on January 9, 1889. After 45 years

of its useful existence I am glad to say that five original members are still with us. They are Messrs. John Clarke, T. R. Gillies, Alexander Inkson McConnachie, George Mollison, and Walter A. Smith. To-night we send them our greetings and best wishes. We are proud of the Cairngorm Club and what it stands for. When we think of names like Mummery, Whymper, Mallory, Irvine, Scott, Bowers, Evans, and Oates who gallantly passed out into the blizzard, we are thinking of real heroes. In these difficult times of armaments and international troubles, where else should one look for real peace but to a climbing club and thence to the everlasting hills? Should not our watchword be to-day—

To ice axes men shall beat their swords,
To climbing nails their spears?

Is there not more heroism in a tussle with rock and snow and the elemental forces of nature than in human beings trying to exterminate one another without any good reason or result? Let us again say, "I to the hills will lift mine eyes." The brotherhood of the mountains binds together in friendship and goodwill the members of every nation in the world. At the Annual General Meeting to-night, the Committee has fixed the New Year Meet at Braemar, and the Easter Meet at Crianlarich. The Club has not visited this centre since 1926, so that this Meet should attract a great many of the younger members. The hills in this district are Ben More, Stobinian, Cruach Ardran, Ben Lui, and Ben Cruachan—a very attractive list. This year's Easter Meet, held at Kinlochewe, was most successful and all enjoyed themselves. Those who attended will not readily forget that magnificent hill, Liathach. On the Spring Holiday the Club is to ascend Mount Keen. The snow-climbing excursions to Lochnagar have been arranged in February, and three rock-climbing practice excursions to Souter Head will take place in March. Members may have a pleasant afternoon there, even though they do not wish to climb rocks. The membership of the Club now stands at 286, and the Club is in a most prosperous condition and is going strong. A fact worthy of mention is that during September this year every snowfield in the Cairngorms had disappeared. The Garbh Chaire Mhoir, and Coire an Lochain, Braeriach, the Garbh Uisge, Ben Macdhui, Coire an Lochain, and Coire an t-Sneachda, Cairngorm and Garbh Chaire, Beinn à Bhuird were all clear of snow. This is the first occasion in my experience that such a thing has happened. At this stage I have something important to announce. A great feat has been accomplished recently in Scottish climbing. All the 277 Munros, *i.e.* the hills in Scotland over 3,000 feet, have been ascended by a climber for the first time, without the assistance of a beard—(laughter). This beardless climber, Dow by name, is a member of the S.M.C., and, according to his own statement, is at least over 45 years of age. He has proved

a most important point. It is that this feat can be performed without a necessary beaver blowing out banner-like in the breeze on each hill-top. I will not mention any names, but four beavers preceded Mr. Dow, who claims to be the first beardless man to climb all the Munros. Now I venture to ask the question—Did this bewhiskered quartette get their strength, like Samson, by growing a towsey besom of hair on their faces, and would their strength have failed them in the ascents had their chins been clean shaven?—(laughter). It puts one in mind of the limerick that appeared in *The Alpine Journal* the same year that the safety razor was invented. It reads—

Four athletes in climbing were reared
 Their appearance was terribly weird,
 For during the time of a very long climb
 They each grew a very good beard—(laughter).

It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge on your behalf the cordial and most excellent manner in which Dr. Duncan has proposed the toast of the Club, and we are most grateful to him and Mrs. Duncan and offer them our sincerest thanks for coming here to-night—(applause).

Mr. John Angus proposed "The Guests." He said: We always welcome guests, not only at our Annual Dinner, but—in that excellent *Journal*, edited by Councillor Watt—you will find that at every Meet there are nearly as many guests as there are members. We had an all-night excursion to Lochnagar—we almost sound like a night club—(laughter)—and I think there was almost a majority of guests on that occasion, and the majority of the climbers, including members and guests, were ladies. The total number present to-night is 93, and the guests number 35, over one-third, I think. Might I now tout for members, seeing Mr. McCoss has not done so. Given fair weather we have quite a nice time—(laughter). We bring in the New Year quite well—(laughter). There is still time for members to be initiated to be able to attend the New Year Meet. Mr. McCoss has been telling the members of the Rotary Club that they have to serve an apprenticeship in hill-climbing and pass through four stages. They start as the hiker, then the hill-walker, the rock-climber, and then the real thing. The majority of us are quite content to climb the Cairngorms by easier routes. We get just as much satisfaction as the more adventurous spirits get by going the difficult routes, and we don't have that nasty form of nightmare when we return home—(laughter). I have been told by Mr. McCoss that the guest of the evening is Professor H. W. Turnbull, St. Andrews. He is certainly one of the real thing. It may interest you to know that I regard members only of the Alpine Club as the real thing. There are only three members in Aberdeen—Mr. Parker, Professor Macdonald, another expert in mathematics like Professor Turnbull, and our good friend, Mr. William Garden. Another of the thirty-

five guests I have to mention is Dr. Duncan, who is a bacteriologist in Aberdeen. We sometimes come across him in other places. He is sometimes useful and sometimes a nuisance—(laughter).

Professor Turnbull replied. He said: It is a great honour to come to Aberdeen, especially from St. Andrews, because one of my predecessors in the Chair at St. Andrews was a student at Aberdeen, James Gregory. I suggest that in your centenary year, to do honour to the subject of mountaineering, you should create not a Chair in mountaineering but a ladder in mountaineering in this University—(laughter). I do not know how I have been chosen, but I am deeply honoured to represent this junior Scottish Mountaineering Club, which is just four weeks junior to the Cairngorm Club, and therefore a good second. I thank the Club for giving me this honour. I appreciate the very pleasant evening given to all the guests, and we have enjoyed this wonderful exhibition of the views of the Cairngorms and the delightful way the slides were explained to us. I have been very lucky in my mountaineering career. I was initiated by my father who took me and my brothers at Easter time to the Lake district, and although these mountains only rise to 3,000 feet and lack the extra 1,000 feet which the Cairngorms can provide, in the early months of the year they present those difficulties which give the requisite training to the boy who wants to be a mountaineer. Looking back on these days, what a fine training boys and girls had by being allowed while still at school to go climbing during their holidays! The hills of the Lake district have the same charm for me as the Cairngorms have for you who live in the shadow of the hills. In Wales I found the same beauties of mountain with a slight difference. It is interesting to compare the different mountainous areas in the country to see how much they are alike and yet how each has its peculiarities. Later on I had the privilege of coming for a holiday for the first time to the Cairngorms for winter climbing. I went to Aviemore. What great boots we wore—boots ringed with nails. I remember I had the great ambition to climb Braeriach. I climbed by the easiest gradient, and with a corkscrew formation got to the top in a precarious way to appreciate that Scotland needs an ice-axe when one tries to climb before summer. I then decided to go back with an ice-axe. Then I went to Ben Nevis. If you want a really good tramping holiday, I can recommend nothing better than to go for a few days to Fort William and then make your headquarters in the Ben Nevis hut. The Scottish Mountaineering Club will be delighted to give hospitality to those who wish it. There is two months' solid rock-climbing if you care to indulge in it, doing a different climb each day. I was in the hut before it was formally opened. To get water I had to break through the ice. The water was only 20 yards from the hut, but before I got back to the door of the hut with the pails, the pail I first filled had a film of ice on it.

One really gets winter sports in earnest in a most wonderful situation. Those were the days before one had the opportunity of going out abroad. I used to listen incredulously to the tales of those who had been abroad, but in the Scottish hills in winter the conditions are practically the same as in the high Alps. The only difference is there are no glaciers. I can tell those who have never been abroad that in practically every detail you have the same conditions. There is no better training for the mountaineer than can be got in our own country apart from the crossing of glaciers, which is the technique of not dropping into holes. I have had the experience of climbing in the Far East. I was teaching in a Hong Kong school. I lived on an island 300 feet above the level of the sea with a most wonderful view northwards across the harbour to a range of hills opposite, the sort of view that I suppose is very much the same as the Scottish lochs on the western side of this island. I had one or two experiences of climbing the hills and also hills in the South Island of Japan. It was just like standing on the hills at home. It brought back memories of the homeland. Out there you have the extraordinary mixture of the tropics and the sense of being high up among the mountains. On one occasion I practically climbed trees to get to the top of the mountain. The mountain had broken up, and the parts which had slipped had been filled with trees, and you had to climb up the trees to get to the top ridge. Among the trees butterflies fluttered around. That memory lasts now. On another occasion I saw a New Year pilgrimage very different from what you have here. I was looking out of my window in Hong Kong, and on that evening the outline of the mountain opposite me was lit up. It reminded me of climbing up to the gates of Heaven on a golden stair. It was very literally a golden stair. On either side of a path up the mountain there was high grass which was lit up by the lanterns carried by the Chinese. There were those Chinese who have a high appreciation of their mountain. There was something in that pilgrimage that they had in common with us. They were in their own way lifting up their eyes to the hills.

Mr. William Malcolm proposed "The President." He said: During the last three years Mr. McCoss has presided at our meetings in a way in which I think is beyond reproach. It is quite unnecessary for me to refer to Mr. McCoss's sterling qualities. You all know him so well. As showing the keen interest in all the activities of the Club, I tell you that there is not a meeting of the Club or of the office-bearers of the Club at which Mr. McCoss has not been present for the past three years—(applause). This is, I think, a splendid record. During Mr. McCoss's term of office he has introduced some new climbs. Snow-climbing in February has given us some very interesting outings. I think most of the members will have memories of some very fine days at Lochnagar in February. Mr. McCoss has

also introduced rock-climbing. It has given members opportunities to get practice which otherwise is a little difficult to get on the hills near Aberdeen. I think the only objection I have to Mr. McCoss is that he has set a high standard for Presidents coming after him—(laughter). In one respect your future President is not going to compete or attempt to compete, and that is in the playing of the bagpipes—(laughter). But the bagpipes will continue to awaken the echoes at Invercauld at the New Year and Mr. McCoss will be at the business end of them—(laughter). Although Mr. McCoss's term is nearly completed, we are not going to let him go too quickly. He is to remain on the Committee and we are to have the benefit of his experience and advice. We all hope Mr. McCoss will long be with us at our meetings—(applause).

Replying, Mr. McCoss said: I thank the new President for the kind things he has said. I hope he will find his new position as full of interest and good sport as I have done. I thank the members for the excellent support they have given me, and I ask you to give Mr. Malcolm the same support. To have been President of the Cairngorm Club is, I feel, one of the highest honours to be attained in the city of Aberdeen—(applause). Each of the Cairngorm Club Presidents has been outstanding in some way, and I am certain Mr. Malcolm will keep up the high standard—(applause). The success of a climbing club is largely due to its journal. Councillor Watt is the editor, and, although a busy man, he finds time to do his job in an excellent manner. We are also fortunate in our Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Garden, and he is a man who sees that the money is well spent—(applause).

Councillor Watt said: It is very gratifying to have this mark of your appreciation of the *Journal*. After all the editor is just the man who puts it together. He just writes odd bits to fill up space. Unless I am supported in a hearty and unanimous way, it is quite impossible for me to produce the goods. There has been some discussion as to the policy of the *Journal*, whether we should have one or two issues in the year. There are financial circumstances involved, and I am inclined to think that if we get one really good number it is better than to have two rather indifferent ones. It has the disadvantage of having some of the news a little old. I wish to appreciate the help of many members. I am now getting unsolicited communications. I have just received one from an anonymous writer. It is in verse in the form of a sonnet, and, if the writer will in strict confidence reveal his or her identity, it may see the light of day—(laughter). Unless that is done it will not get in.

Mr. William Garden said: We are progressing very well. We are doing very well financially, and from the mountaineering point of view I don't think there is any club which can beat us. We have Charles Ludwig, who has done the Douglas Gibson gully and the Mitre

Ridge of Beinn à Bhuird—a wonderful feat. I will say nothing about the Mitchell Tower—(laughter). I think you forget the wonderful asset we have in the Club Library. We have got some splendid books. I have worked in perfect harmony with Mr. McCoss. He is the right man on the hills. If he gets soaked, he never grouses. I always think you really get to know a man on the mountains. He is a splendid leader, and can work his compass. He is a most desirable man in the mountains. I hope he will long remain a member of the Club—(applause).

Mr. McCoss: I wish the Cairngorm Club continued success. That success entirely lies with the members, and the enthusiasm with which they attend the excursions and the Meets. The annual dinner is not the only meet. We want more and more members to qualify and join the Club.

Messrs. Hector Munro and Mr. Simpson were thanked for providing the musical moments during the evening, and Mr. Leslie MacGregor was thanked for his work behind the scenes.

An entertaining lecture, illustrated by a series of lantern slides of great beauty, was given by Miss Dugan. She said: I am to take you on an imaginary climb from sea level over the hill-tops to Ben Macdhuì. You all know the beauty of Deeside, but to-night perhaps I shall be able to show it to you in a different light. I ask you to put on your seven-league boots and come with me over the hilltops.

After the showing of a chart which traced the route to be followed from the sea to the Blue Hill, up to Banchory and Clachnaben, on to the Buck of Cabrach on Donside, back to Deeside to Lochnagar and Glen Callater to Braemar, and from Braemar to encircle the whole of the Cairngorm mountains, Miss Dugan gave a running commentary on the slides. The first slide was of Souter Head, which was shown with the sun breaking through the clouds over the hill, then came Girdleness, with fine sunshine effects on clouds and sea, followed by a winter scene in the Banchory-Devenick woods. Slides of the Blue Hill, Falls of Feugh, Clachnaben, and the Water of Avon were then shown, the company repeatedly emphasising their appreciation of the artistry and skill of the photographer with hearty applause. A slide of the Buck of Cabrach showed a party of the Club members on the summit having a look at the surrounding country. Prominent was the kilted Past-President, Mr. McCoss, studying his map. Did he find the right way? asked Miss Dugan. A slide of Loch Muick was followed by a view of Dubh Loch. On the left of the latter slide, said Miss Dugan, were the Broad Cairn cliffs. On February the Central Gully was climbed by two lady members, The Coyles of Muick, Meikle Pap, the cliffs of Lochnagar, showing the Douglas Gibson Gully, climbed for the first time by Charles Ludwig this year, the Great Eastern Corrie, and other Loch-

nagar scenes were then shown. Familiar scenes on Beinn à Bhuid then flashed across the screen, followed by slides of Loch Avon, the Shelter Stone, Glenmore and Loch Morlich, with the Cairngorms in the distance. Then came the Larig Ghru, Braeriach, a scene of desolation, a Cairn Toul panorama, Glen Dee, Glen Luibeg, and top of Sron Riach, a slide which gave much amusement, showing, as Miss Dugan said, members of the Club on New Year's Day. Mr. Malcolm was taking the temperature, and two others with jackets off were evidently taking the air. After a slide of Stob Sputan Dearg, the Shelter Stone was revisited, and then came scenes of Loch Etchachan and Coire Etchachan, Glen Derry, showing a herd of deer in winter, Glen Lui, Lui Water, Corriemulzie Falls, Braemar, River Clunie, and finally Morrone, a slide which showed the shades of evening falling over the Cairngorms.

Mr. Leslie Hay thanked Miss Dugan for the interesting lecture, and he also thanked Mr. Dugan for providing the slides. To get the photographs, he said, must have been hard work on the hills, but he was sure Mr. Dugan had been left with many happy memories of days spent on the hills.

NEW YEAR MEET, 1934—BRAEMAR.

ALTHOUGH the weather towards the end of the year was not at all promising and may have prevented some members attending, the New Year Meet at Braemar was a very successful one.

The following members and guests were present, at one time or another, at the Invercauld Arms:—W. Malcolm (President), Dr. D. P. Levack (Vice-President), Dr. Walter A. Reid, W. Alexander, J. Angus, C. Reid, E. B. Reid, J. Scrimgeour, J. W. Scrimgeour, R. T. Sellar, E. W. Smith, G. R. Symmers, N. J. Wilson, R. C. Yunnie, Mrs. J. Angus, Mrs. Dr. A. Hendry, Mrs. D. P. Levack, Misses L. Archibald, H. Duncan, R. Harbinson, and A. Pittendrigh. Guests:—Dr. A. Hendry, Mr. Dyer, B. M. Nicol, F. H. Stewart, and Mrs. N. J. Wilson. Camping in Glen Derry—Mr. W. D. Hutcheon and party. Staying at Inverey—Mr. Colin Jackson and party. Camping at the stables, Glen Slugan—Mr. W. Melville (Junior Section) and party.

Saturday, December 30, 1933.—The weather was fine in the morning, with sunshine and drifting clouds on the snow-clad summits.

1. The President's party included Dr. D. P. Levack, R. Sellar, Miss A. Pittendrigh and Miss H. Duncan. They motored to Inverey and walked up Glen Eye to within half a mile of Auchelie. The hillside was then ascended by the long slope leading to the Carn Creagach-Carn Bhac Col. Mist was encountered slightly below the Col, and after a short halt, in a cold breeze, for refreshments, a compass course was set for the Carn Bhac (3,098 ft.) summit. The Cairn

was reached at 12.50 p.m. (temperature 2 degrees of frost), but no view was obtained. After another halt, a course was set for the north ridge leading to the Connie valley. The ground on the lower part of the ridge caused rather heavy going, but the party were cheered by Miss Duncan's prophecy of a path lower down. The prophetess proved correct and, after a pleasant walk down the Connie valley and past the Falls, Inverey was reached at 3.30 p.m., 5½ hours after leaving.

2. R. Symmers, L. Archibald, and R. Harbinson motored to Loch Callater with the intention of climbing the East Gully above Loch Kander. Having got half way up in soft snow they encountered an avalanche, coming off second best. As the outlook from above seemed to promise a second or further instalments, they wisely retreated and ascended to the plateau by the easy gully at the head of the loch. They then made for Carn an Turc summit in driving mist. Unfortunately the summit was just off their map, and they were not sure of the compass bearing. After walking for some time looking for the Cairn, they came on tracks in the snow and were surprised to find they had returned to their own tracks. They then gave up any further attempt to find the Cairn and returned by the north-east ridge to Callater, which they reached dead on time. They were interested to observe that Loch Callater was partly frozen over, although Loch Kander, which is nearly 600 feet higher, was clear of ice.

Sunday, December 31, 1933.—1. The first party away consisted of R. Symmers, E. W. Smith, R. C. Yunnie, and N. Dyer, L. Archibald, and R. Harbinson. They all motored to Derry Lodge where the party split into two. Yunnie, Smith, and Dyer ascended Ben Macdhui by the Lui Beg route. They then crossed the plateau and descended the Castle Gates Gully. It is understood that the steep slope, consisting in parts of soft snow covering an icy slope, caused more than a little excitement, and one member, descending in unorthodox fashion, came off second best in a mix-up with an ice-axe. Time did not permit of a visit to the Shelter Stone and, after ascending to Loch Etchachan, the return journey was made by Glen Derry. Near Derry Lodge a tent was seen belonging to a Turriff member of the Club.

2. L. Archibald, R. M. Harbinson, and R. Symmers set off up Glen Derry. Due to the dismal failures in every respect other than getting the party home on the previous day, Symmers was relegated to the ranks and Archibald took the lead. The party underwent great preliminary difficulties and delays owing to Symmers's determination to take photographs. At the end of Glen Derry, Archibald selected an excellent route up the South ridge of Beinn Mheadhoin, only to be confronted near the summit with a steep slope of hard snow. At this point a mountain genie (often found on Lochnagar)

kindly made his appearance and, hey presto! the steps were miraculously fashioned. The same genie again made his welcome presence felt at the summit when all seemed lost and the leader failed to find a route up the ice-clad tor. The return to Derry was made by the line of ascent and proved uneventful except that Symmers got lost. It transpired later that while engaged in taking photographs, he was lured away by siren music which proved to be "canned." The party started at 9 a.m. from and returned to Derry at 5 p.m., only to be kept three-quarters of an hour for their conveyance to Braemar, due to the delinquencies of the President's party on Lochnagar.

[NOTE.—The President had intended to let bygones be bygones but, owing to the base insinuations contained in the last report, feels that he owes to his party to state that they were delayed half an hour or more in their morning start, due to the failure of the Derry party (not the Beinn Mheadhoin portion) to set off at their appointed time. It is understood that one of that party was found peacefully lying in bed at the pre-arranged hour of departure.]

3. A party of ten climbed Lochnagar *via* the Black Shiel Burn. They consisted of:—The President, D. P. Levack, W. Alexander, J. Angus, E. B. Reid, J. Scrimgeour, J. W. Scrimgeour, F. H. Stewart, A. Taylor, and Mrs. Angus. The morning was beautifully clear and sunny, and very fine views were obtained, and as the party leisurely made their way along the slopes of Meall Coire na Saobhaidhe there appeared to be nothing to prevent an easy ascent to the Cairn. Only a slight snow plume on the lee edge of the ridge caused some of the party to suspect severe conditions aloft. A strong, icy wind laden with snow drift was entered just below the crest of the final ridge, and for 15 minutes the party had to battle with "blizzard" conditions before the Indicator was reached. Fortunately there was sufficient shelter on the north side of the summit for a halt for lunch. The thermometer here registered 7° of frost. The descent from the summit ridge was even more strenuous than the ascent, the driven snow being like a thick mist, but well before the Saobhaidhe Col was reached conditions were again normal and the return was made in good time to the Danzig. Two members made the return *via* Meal an Tionail and reported the wind as being quite normal on that summit (2,903 ft.). The Deeside road was reached at 4.15 p.m., 6½ hours after setting out from the same point.

4. Dr. Reid, C. Reid, and R. T. Sellar motored to Derry and climbed Carn a Mhaim (3,329 ft.). They found some of the snow slopes iced and difficult to negotiate without axes.

5. Miss Duncan and Miss Pittendrigh ascended Beinn a' Bhuidir *via* the Clais Fhearnaig.

During the evening members and guests gathered together for light entertainment before seeing in the New Year. Proceedings were opened with music, when the company were delighted with

the skilled performance of Mr. Mitchell Smith, C.A., a resident at the hotel, who so kindly assisted at the entertainment. During the latter part of the music Sellar and Angus had stealthily slipped away, and when the President made investigations, they were found dressed in white robes of office bending over a steaming brew on the kitchen range. Anxious expressions were on their faces and the silence was broken by strange sentences: "A little longer over the fire," "Is it sweet enough for the ladies?" "Another bowl of sugar." A figure stepped forward and a white cascade poured into the pot, more stirring, testing by all concerned, final testing, and the looks of anxiety were chased away by beatific smiles—all was well. In due course the Punch Bowl went round and the company were ready for the more serious part of the evening's programme.

Dr. Levack, in a suitable speech, proposed the health of the new President who, in replying, thanked the members for the honour they had conferred on him, and said that he would like to see a larger proportion of members present at the Meet and hoped all present would do their best to induce absent members to attend in future, and also that members would send in a note of their excursions for insertion in the Magazine.

The crowning of the Queen for 1934 then took place, Miss Harbinson entering into the spirit of the ceremony in a regal manner. In a graceful speech she thanked the company for the honour they had shown her and proceeded to distribute "largesse" from a handsome box, presented to her by Dr. Reid.

A new member of the Club was next passed through preliminary tests of efficiency and came out with flying colours. The way he dealt with soft snow while traversing a knife-edge ridge showed a born climber. The next proceedings were of too serious a nature to be dealt with in this short article, but the salutary lesson given to Mr. A. Taylor will give confidence to Messrs. Reid Bros. and all other members that, though night-lights are not provided by the hotel, they can sleep in the knowledge that they will not be wakened in the dark by riotous songsters outside their rooms.

At midnight the company were hospitably entertained by Mrs. Gregor and family, and the toast of their health was enthusiastically received. Dancing, to the music of two pipers, was then enjoyed till thoughts of early breakfast sent members to their rooms.

Monday, January 1, 1934.—The weather on Monday was the worst during the Meet, the frost having disappeared and driving rain taking its place in the valleys, with probability of high winds on the summits.

1. Messrs. Yunnie and Smith were first away, bound for Beinn a' Bhuid. Ascending by Glen Sluggan they reached the plateau in the vicinity of the south top in high wind and mist. Staggering about in the gale, they tried to find the Cairn, without success, and

soon decided the plateau was a lonely place and, under the prevailing conditions, "no place to stay." They made short work of getting back to the hotel in time for afternoon tea.

2. The President, along with Messrs. Alexander, Stewart, Scrimgeour, Sen., and Scrimgeour, Jun., Mrs. Dr. Hendry, and Misses Archibald and Harbinson motored to Derry Lodge. Alexander and Scrimgeour, Sen., spent the day exploring Glen Lui and Luibeg. The remainder of the party ascended Carn a Mhaim (3,329 ft.). A direct compass course was set from the path to the Cairn. Two snow slopes required a little care, and eventually the crest of the N.E. ridge was reached a few yards below the Cairn. There was a strong westerly wind blowing but the party was sheltered by the S.W. ridge and, although somewhat wet, enjoyed the outing.

3. C. and E. Reid, with two guests, ascended Craig Choinnich, doing the whole six peaks in record time. It is rumoured they discovered an unknown seventh peak. R. T. Medd, with four friends, motored out from Aberdeen before breakfast. Fortunately the President was out of bed in time to receive him. Owing to the conditions the party gave up the idea of doing Ben Macdhuil and instead did the round of Glen Slugan and Glen Quoich. On the way they came across Melville's camp in the stables at Sluggan Lodge.

Tuesday, January 2, 1934.—The last day of the Meet the morning was fine and sunny, but most members had departed the previous night and the remainder were preparing to depart.

The President, with Messrs. Alexander, C. and E. Reid, Stewart, Smith, and Yunnie, crossed the Dee, walked to the Quoich, and explored the Linn. C. and E. Reid then started to cross Carn na Drochaide, the remainder of the party returning to Braemar and so to town.

During the Meet several members remarked on the remarkable lowness of the River Dee, which more resembled its lowest summer flow than that of mid-winter. Regrets were expressed that owing to indisposition Past-President McCoss was unable to be present and that the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer had unavoidably to cancel his arrangements to be present at the last moment. Greetings were exchanged by wire with the Scottish Mountaineering Club at Loch Awe.

One member of the Club, W. D. Hutcheon, along with two friends, scorning the comforts of Braemar, took high level camping equipment to Derry with the intention of camping near the summit of Ben Macdhuil. The intention was to transport the equipment by sledge to the summit. Unfortunately lack of snow in the valleys upset the transport arrangements and camp was established in pleasant surroundings in Glen Derry. Derry Cairngorm was ascended on two occasions, and the party spent a novel and enjoyable three days in their holiday resort.

THE FINEST DAY IN JANUARY, 1934.

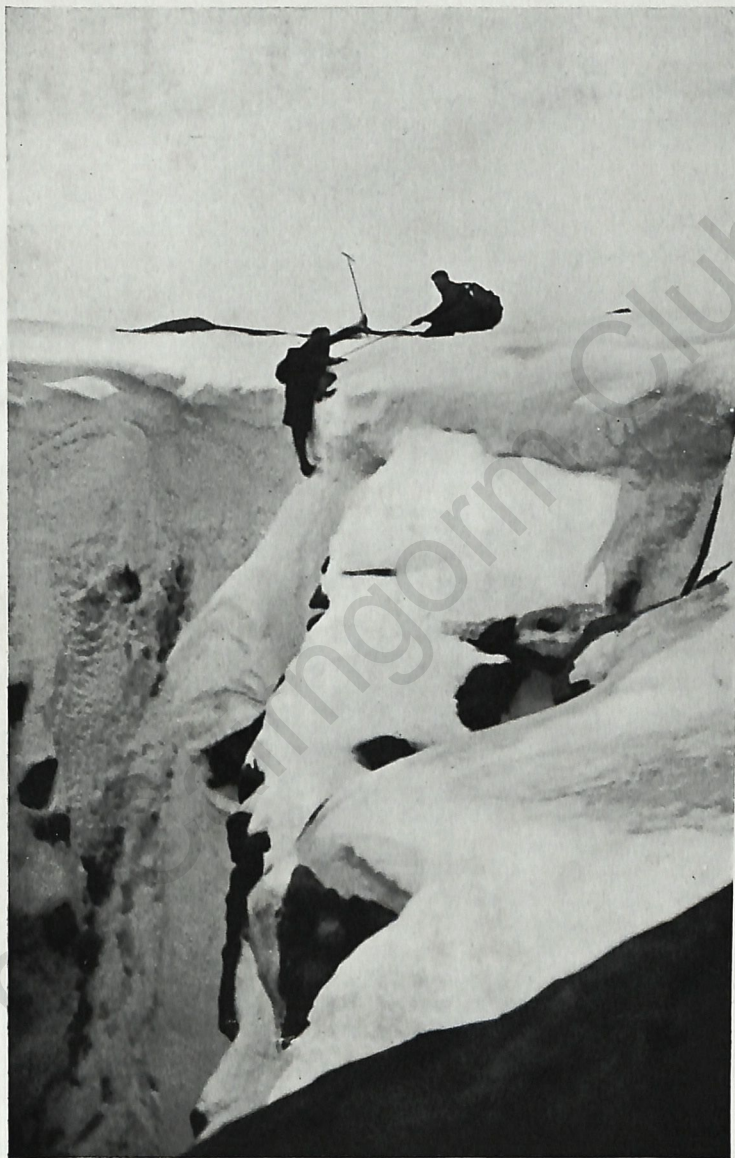
To do Ben Macdhui from Aberdeen in one day, in January, demands an early start, and, setting off along the Skene Road in the cold darkness, we felt that none but the highest of the Cairngorms could have dragged us forth at 6 a.m. As we proceeded, the valley began to fill with light and the nearer hills to take on the colours of a Japanese painting. The pleasure of the winter morning was complete when Lochnagar appeared, flushed with rose, over the Coils of Muick.

Derry was reached before nine o'clock. We found only a sprinkling of snow. The sun grew warmer as we walked up by the Lui Beg, and, before we were well on to the ridge of Sron Riach, we began to shed clothing, although the snow was firm and made walking in no ways difficult. Soon we looked like old-clothes men, carrying more than we wore. A halt was made half-way up Sron Riach, for the hills on the other side of the Larig were picked out in relief more clearly than we had ever seen. We reached the summit at noon. Even here it was practically windless, but we felt so cold after five minutes' rest that point-to-point races were held. The atmosphere was clear, but a thin, low blanketing of cloud obscured our view of the nearer tops. We came down by the Tailor's Burn, making for Carn à Mhaim. As we came down, there was enough snow for a glissade, and enough warmth for one of our party to begin snoring loudly, during a fifteen minutes' halt. The walk along the narrow ridge of Carn à Mhaim was a pleasant relaxation after a strenuous morning. Before leaving Derry we performed the usual ceremonial rites, swimming three strokes in a pool in the Derry burn.

A hill-climbers' tea with Maggie Gruer made the drive back to Aberdeen in the evening easy to face.—R. T. M.

FEBRUARY 4, 1934.—LOCHNAGAR.

THE following members and guests left Aberdeen about 8.40 a.m.—W. Malcolm (President), J. McCoss (Past President), R. P. Yunnie, J. Gove, N. Dyer, E. W. Smith, Miss Daniel, J. McHardy, Miss J. Patterson, C. C. Jackson, A. Taylor, C. S. McLay, W. Lawson, Dr. A. R. Martin, A. A. Slessor, H. Johnston. Guests:—Miss Young, Miss Rogers, Mr. Michie, Mr. Angus, Mr. McConnach. The above were joined on the hill by W. D. Hutcheon and three friends, H. G. Dason, W. A. Ewen, Miss Archibald, and Miss Brown. The major portion of the party, who travelled by bus, arrived at Spital of Muick at 10.45 a.m. The weather was beautifully sunny and clear, with only light clouds just touching the highest ridge of Lochnagar, the precipices of which were well draped with snow. On the walk to the Well most members felt the heat, but a short halt there for lunch enabled all to cool down, as the air temperature was only just over freezing point. At the Col the party split up, some making



February, 1934.

W. N. Aitken.

LOCHNAGAR CLIFF.

Head of narrow chimney on the right-hand wall of the side gully,
Black Spout. First ascended on December 21, 1913.



January 28, 1934.

R. T. Medd.

1. Ben Macdhui.
2. Cairntoul and his neighbours across the Larig.
3. Cairntoul from the slope of Ben Macdhui.

for the Black Spout and others descending to the north end of the Loch in order to climb the N.E. ridge. The snow in the Corrie was in a very hard condition and the Black Spout party found they had a bigger undertaking than had been expected. Had they not received the support of two members who had arrived earlier at the summit, it might well have been dark before the final difficulties were overcome. A word of warning is here necessary. Snow slopes even of quite moderate inclination may, under certain conditions, easily become dangerous, and inexperienced persons should on no account join parties ascending these slopes unless properly equipped.

Part of the Black Spout party ascended the left-hand branch and found the snow there in easier condition for step-cutting. Another party tried conclusions with the Giant's Head Chimney but were turned back by ice. The party ascending by the N.E. ridge had only a few steps to cut near the summit and, taking things easily, reached the Cairn at 2.35 p.m. There was practically no wind, but unfortunately the view was hidden by thin mist which hung about the top plateau. An unusual amount of smooth ice was found on the plateau and it was agreed that skating might easily have been indulged in. The thermometer showed 4 degrees of frost. The descent by the Ladder required care as the path was filled with hard snow, and it was more by good luck than by good management that some members glissading did not come to grief. The last arrivals reached the bus about 6.45 p.m. and were soon enjoying a sumptuous meal at the Alexandra in Ballater, after which a quick run took a happy and contented party back to Aberdeen, arriving there before 10 p.m.

FEBRUARY 18, 1934.—LOCHNAGAR.

THE following members and guests left Aberdeen by bus about 8.35 a.m. bound for Spital of Muich :—W. Malcolm (President), J. McCoss (Past President), R. P. Yunnie, N. Dyer, E. W. Smith, J. McHardy, H. Johnston, A. Taylor, W. Lawson, W. Ross, R. T. Medd, E. Beard, W. Melville, Mrs. E. J. Hendry, Mrs. J. Ross Mackenzie, Misses M. Daniel, J. Patterson, M. W. Johnston, R. K. Jackson, Hay, E. A. Mavor; Guests—P. Johnston, W. Shand, Martin, R. Forrest, R. Leslie, T. Ogston, A. Proctor, R. Reid, A. Howie, Misses Young, Roger, Donaldson. Members and guests who arrived at Altnaguibhsaich in their own cars—A. L. Hay (Vice-President), J. E. Bothwell, W. N. Aitken, H. G. Dason, W. A. Ewen, C. S. McLay, Misses H. Duncan, A. Pittendrigh, L. Archibald, H. Campbell, C. Wisely; Guests—J. A. Aitken, J. Richmond, Misses M. Stewart, A. Stewart, McLay, Brown, N. Hoggarth. Total members and guests present—51.

The morning was fair and sunny, but when the party descended at Spital of Muich they were assailed by a cold, fresh breeze which gave promise of more strenuous conditions aloft. The Well was

reached in good time and, after a short halt for refreshments, the party split up into several groups, each to attack the summit by different routes. The major portion crossed the Col and descended into the Corrie. Here a large number ascended the Black Spout, half doing the Spout direct and the others the Left Hand Branch. One party ascended the Central Buttress and found the iced rocks none too easy. The last member on the rope found that dodging the ice sent down by the leader was no light task, and finished the climb with visible evidence that his dodging was not always successful. Another party rounded the lake and ascended the Western shoulder and found that, without axes, it was no easy task. Another party ascended the face of Cuidhe Crom, where the snow was sufficiently steep and hard to require a short resort to rope and axe. Whichever way the ascent was made, all found that as soon as the top plateau was reached they were assailed by a wind of gale force, and, with a temperature below freezing point, there was no inducement to loiter in crossing to the summit cairn. Ptarmigan were seen and also snow buntings on the top plateau. The view from the summit was unfortunately very hazy, with signs that the weather was not improving, and with the gale behind, all started on the return journey. This was made either by the Glas Allt, by the Little Pap, Monelpie Moss, and An-t-Sron, or by the ordinary route to Altnaguibhsaich. Large numbers of deer were seen sheltering in the hollows of Monelpie Moss. The view of Lochnagar from An-t-Sron is very fine, the summit rocks appearing like a true peak behind the Corrie precipices and, as seen in the failing light, with a background of dense black clouds, looked very impressive. All were back at the Spital by 6.15 p.m., and three-quarters of an hour later were welcomed by the hospitable host of the Alexandra, in Ballater, where all was ready to supply their wants. By 8.10 p.m. a somewhat tired but happy party started on the return to Aberdeen, which was reached about 9.40 p.m. It was generally agreed that the outing had been a very successful one.—W. M.

ROCK CLIMBS AT SOUTER HEAD.

THREE Afternoon Excursions were made to Souter Head, where rock climbing practice was indulged in. Those who attended enjoyed the outings, and it is a pity that more members do not avail themselves of these opportunities of becoming acquainted with the rock scenery near Aberdeen and of learning, in pleasant surroundings, the problems met with in rock climbing. The following attended the excursions:—

Saturday, March 3.—W. Malcolm (*President*), A. L. Hay (*Vice-President*), H. C. Dugan, Mrs. A. L. Hay, Mrs. E. J. Hendry, H. Johnston, Dr. A. R. Martin, E. W. Smith, A. Taylor, G. T. R. Watt.

Saturday, March 10.—W. Malcolm (*President*), H. C. Dugan,



Easter, 1934.

Miss I. Rust.

TWISTING RIDGE, AN CAISTEAL.

N. Dyer, A. Howie, W. Melville, H. Johnston, R. P. Yunnie, E. W. Smith.

Saturday, March 17.—W. Malcolm (*President*), A. L. Hay (*Vice-President*), H. C. Dugan, A. Howie, H. Johnston, Mrs. E. J. Hendry, Dr. A. R. Martin, R. Reid, E. W. Smith, R. P. Yunnie.

EASTER MEET, 1934—CRIANLARICH.

THE following members and guests were present at one time or another during the Meet, the majority arriving at Crianlarich on Thursday night, March 29 :—W. Malcolm (*President*), H. G. Dason, W. A. Ewen, Dr. Martin, Dr. A. Sellar, R. T. Sellar, Mrs. Ross Mackenzie, Misses L. Archibald, H. M. Duncan, M. Daniel, A. M. Pittendrigh, McDowell, E. L. Mitchell, M. Stewart; Guests—A. Palmer, Garrow, Misses Brown, A. Stewart, J. Rust, Martin. As evidence of the attraction of the mountains, it may be mentioned that representatives were present from towns as far apart as Worthing, London, and Huntly.

Friday, March 30.—The following party left for Cruach Ardrain (3,428 ft.) about 9.30 a.m.—Dason, Ewen, Garrow, Malcolm, Dr. Martin, Palmer, Mrs. Mackenzie, Misses Archibald, Duncan, Daniel, McDowell, Mitchell, Pittendrigh, Brown, Martin, Rust, A. Stewart, M. Stewart. The sky was overcast in the morning, with mist down to about the 2,750 ft. level, and as the party made their way up the slope of Grey Height, there were occasional snow showers. The hill did not clear of mist till after 4 p.m. From the ridge Ewen, Palmer, Dason, Dr. Martin, McDowell, M. Stewart, Duncan, Pittendrigh, and Archibald traversed below the rocks to the Y-gully and ascended the right hand branch. They reported the climb a fairly easy one. The remainder of the party made their way to the summit by the ridge and after a little difficulty, owing to the mist, found the cairn. Here lunch was taken in what shelter could be found from the cold, easterly wind which swept the summit ridge. The party now roped up on four ropes for the descent to the Stob Garbh Col. The descent was steep and the snow treacherous, and an icy wind blowing on the face helped to cool the ardour of those who waited in the snow steps while the leaders cut down into the mist below. All parties had slips, impressing on them the absolute necessity of being properly equipped for snow-climbing, and of taking proper precautions to minimise the danger of slipping. The President, with Mackenzie, Daniel, and Rust, after descending a short distance, decided they knew of a better way home, so returned to the summit and descended the comparatively sheltered left hand branch of the Y-gully. By the time the fork of the Y was reached the mist cleared, and with the sun out delightful views were obtained. An ice axe which had evidently lain in the snow for some days was found at the foot of the gully. It is understood this has since been returned to the owner.

Dason, with Brown, Pittendrigh, Mitchell, and Duncan, after descending half way to the Col, also decided they had forgotten something at the summit, so returned, unroped at the Cairn, and induced circulation in frozen extremities by walking to Loch Voile and so to Balquhidder. Here a conveyance was obtained for the 22 mile run to Crianlarich. The two other parties descended to the Col in due course, having to cut steps the whole way down, and Crianlarich was reached by way of the Allt Coire Ardrain valley.

Saturday, March 31.—1. Malcolm, Palmer, Dr. Sellar, and R. T. Sellar motored to Bridge of Orchy and ascended to the Beinn Doireann—Beinn Dothaidh Col and then started along the ridge to Beinn Doireann (3,524 ft.). Mist was entered shortly afterwards but, with the snow in good condition and little wind, the climbing was pleasant. A solitary climber was soon met descending from Doireann, so Dr. Sellar, who had already done that Ben, returned with him in order to ascend Beinn Dothaidh. The other three continued up into the mist and, after finding one false summit, succeeded in arriving at the true cairn. Shortly afterwards the mist cleared and delightful views were obtained of valleys and hills. There was so little wind that no shelter was necessary to light up and get the pipes going. A couple of hours or more were enjoyed loitering on the ridge or glissading on its slopes, and it was with regret that finally the party glissaded into the Coire and so back to Bridge of Orchy.

2. Dason, Ewen, Garrow, and the Misses Duncan, Pittendrigh, A. Stewart, and M. Stewart, motored down Glen Lochy and ascended Beinn Laoigh (3,708 ft.) *via* the Beinn a Chleibh Col. At one point on the ridge the precaution of roping was taken and some step-cutting had to be done. They were fortunate in having delightful views from the summit ridge.

3. Mrs. Mackenzie and the Misses Daniel, Brown, Mitchell, and Martin motored to Bridge of Orchy and walked round Loch Tulla. The views were much admired and were enhanced by the fine reflections in the loch.

4. Miss Rust motored to Bridge of Orchy with the declared intention of walking down Glen Orchy to Dalmally. It is rumoured that she was seen later bouncing down the Glen on the back of a motor cycle, but whether she had been trying to improve her Gaelic or catch a train is not known.

Sunday, April 1.—1. Malcolm, Palmer, Mrs. Mackenzie, and Misses Daniel, Brown, Mitchell, Martin, McDowell, and Rust left about 10 a.m. and ascended An Caisteal (3,265 ft.) by way of the Twisting Ridge. Conditions were ideal and all summits clear of mist. Near the top a solitary climber was met who had come from Beinn a Chroin and was *en route* for Beinn Ghabhair. Good views were obtained in all directions, and Lochs Lomond and Katrine were



Easter, 1934.

W. Malcolm.

BEINN DOIREANN FROM THE DOTHAIDH COIRE.



Easter, 1934.

BEN MORE AND STOBINIAN FROM AN CAISTEAL.

Miss I. Rust.

visible. A leisurely descent was made by the Stob Glas ridge. Many detours were made to indulge in glissading, the snow being in good condition for this sport. One of the party, not content with snow sports, boldly ventured on a frozen pond without testing the thickness of the ice. The result was more entertaining to the on-lookers than to the party concerned. The Allt Andoran was crossed at about the 1,250 ft. level, and the main road reached by the advance party by a bridge crossing the Falloch about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Crianlarich. The remainder crossed by a bridge at the bend of the Falloch, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Crianlarich.

2. R. T. Sellar, Dr. Sellar, and Scott, S.M.C., motored to Bridge of Orchy and were joined there by four members of the Perth Junior Mountaineering Club, of which Dr. Sellar is President. After some discussion, it was decided to tackle Buchaille Etive Mor, and the party motored up the Glencoe Road to its junction with the Glen Etive Road. After motoring three miles down the Glen Etive Road, they found themselves opposite the Col on Buchaille Etive Mor. From there the ascent was made to the top of the Col and thence along the Ridge to Stob Dearg, the highest point of the mountain. Weather conditions were ideal and good views were obtained of Ben Nevis and the Glencoe mountains, with a glimpse of Loch Leven and the head of Loch Linnhe. Away to the south-east the Ben Achaladair Group looked very fine, still in their winter garb. The snow was very soft until about 3,000 ft. contour, but above this altitude the going was good. Dr. Sellar, Scott, and some of the Perth members traversed the whole mountain, doing the south-west summit: altitude, according to Bartholomew's Map, 3,129 ft. A very pleasant day on the hills was the finding of all the party on their return to the waiting cars.

Monday, April 2.—Dr. J. A. Sellar and Mr. Scott (Member of the S.M.C.) motored to Achaladair farm. From there they walked along the railway for three miles and made the ascent of Beinn a Chreachain (3,540 ft.). They then walked along the ridge of Meall Buidhe and ascended Beinn Achaladair (3,404 ft.). The climb from the Col to the north top of Achaladair was very steep and covered with a lot of snow, but this was in quite good condition. From the north top the ridge was followed to the south top (3,288 ft.), and then the face of the mountain descended to Achaladair farm, where they were hospitably regaled with tea by Mr. and Mrs. Smith. The whole excursion was accomplished in five hours. Views were excellent and no mist was encountered.

Malcolm and R. T. Sellar left for home about 10.45 a.m., Dason Ewen, and Palmer motored down Glencoe to take photographs, while most of the ladies took walks around Crianlarich preparatory to leaving by the afternoon train.

The Meet was fortunate in enjoying good weather, and most of

the members present expressed the hope that there would be another Meet in the same district at a not too distant date. Thanks are due to those members who generously put their cars at the service of the Club, and to the proprietress of the hotel, and her assistants, who attended to the comforts of everyone.

SPRING HOLIDAY EXCURSION, 1934—MOUNT KEEN.

THE fierce storm of rain and wind that swept Deeside on the Sunday before the holiday (Monday, May 7) held out little hope of fine weather on the Monday, but the optimists who left Aberdeen for Mount Keen were not disappointed, and were favoured with one of the finest days it is possible to enjoy on the hills.

The following members and guests were present:—

W. Malcolm (*President*), J. A. Parker (*Past-President*), R. H. Calvert, H. G. Dason, D. P. Douglas, G. McIntyre, R. T. Sellar, McHardy, Mrs. Sinclair, Mrs. Mackenzie, Misses Archibald, Hay, Patterson, and Daniels; *Guests*—I. F. Cameron, Misses Bothwell, A. Donaldson, M. Donaldson, Penfold, and Sinclair.

By permission of Lord Glentanar, the party were allowed to motor to Shiel of Glen Tanar, and the drive up the beautiful glen was a fitting prelude to the more arduous work later. The Tanar was much swollen by the previous day's rain, and, the foot plank for crossing having been swept away, it was some little time before a crossing could be made, and only the lucky ones succeeded in effecting this dryshod. Once across the stream there were no further difficulties and, with the sun shining in a beautifully clear atmosphere, and a pleasant breeze blowing, the track was easily ascended and the summit cairn reached exactly at noon. About an hour was spent at the cairn, taking lunch and enjoying the fine view. To the westward the whole range of the Cairngorms was perfectly clear, Ben Macdhui appearing as a snowy dome of unblemished whiteness. Nearer at hand, Lochnagar, also carrying a lot of snow, quickly drew attention. Round to the southward glasses enabled the Isle of May to be distinguished, and Aberdeen was located by a red roof at Torry and the top of the Girdleness. The descent was made in a north-westerly direction direct to the Falls of Tanar. Large patches of snow on this face encouraged attempts at glissading but, as the snow was rather soft, the attempts were not very successful. With the swollen stream and the sun shining on the water, the Falls appeared at their best and proved well worth a visit. From the Falls a walk of a mile and a quarter down the valley brought the party back to the cars. Here they were joined by two members, Mrs. McKenzie and Miss Daniels, who, braving the previous day's storm, had walked from Aboyne, *via* the Fungle, to Tarfside, spent the night there, and returned by Glen Mark and the Mounth path over Mount Keen. All the party returned down the Glen to Aboyne and so to Aberdeen, well pleased with the enjoyable outing.—W. M.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON EXCURSIONS, 1934.

MAY 27—MOUNT BATTOCK.

STARTING from Golden Square on a delightful spring morning, we made for the Bucket Mill in the Forest of Birse, via Lower Deeside Road and Bridge of Feugh. At the Bucket Mill the party took to the heather, at first through birch and pine woods, but soon were clear of the trees and on to a well-defined path over Glaspits. The first halt was called just before reaching the watershed, then off again to ford the Aven and tackle the heather slopes and bog holes that lay between them and the summit. The cairn was reached at 12.30. Visibility was very good, especially seawards. We were able to pick up the Isle of May and Berwick Law to the south-east. The whole coast line from Aberdeen to Fife Ness was very distinct. A chilly breeze gave little encouragement to linger on the top, and the descent to the Loch of Tennet, the source both of the Waters of the Tennet and the Aven, was soon begun. After a rest in a wind-sheltered nook, we followed the Water of the Aven in its winding way to the point where we had forded it on the outward journey; another rest, and off over Glaspits again to the waiting car. We arrived back at the footbridge over the Feugh at 3.30. As tea had been ordered for 5 o'clock at the Feughside Inn, we whiled away the time practicing both wet and dry, but mostly wet, crossings of the stream. Tea at Whitestones was really a great success, although we were relegated to the barn. The fine evening made leaving the only regrettable part of the whole day.

The Company consisted of:—members: W. Malcolm, R. H. Calvert, H. Johnston, Dr. Martin, R. T. Medd, J. McHardy, Malcolm Smith, E. W. Smith, A. Taylor, H. W. Welsh, and R. P. Yunnie, Misses Archibald, Brown, Daniel, McHardy, Paterson, and Stewart; guests: J. D. Easson, R. Johnston, G. C. Welsh, Misses Grant, Johnston, and Shinnie.

JUNE 2—FASHEILACH.

ON Saturday, June 2, at 3.30 p.m., two cars drew up beside the little wooden bridge just beyond the Linn of Muick. Few would have guessed as the cars disclosed the occupants that this was a Meet of the Cairngorm Club. The party, consisting of seven ladies, was the Misses Archibald, Browne, Jackson, Johnston, Mavor, Pittendrigh, and Stewart. The hill to be climbed was Fasheilach (2,362 ft.). The party followed the stream Allt an Sneachda. Just after they set off, another car, in which was Mr. and Miss Collie, arrived. Unfortunately Mr. Collie was "tied to a train on the hill," so these two accompanied the party only part of the way. The summit was reached about 5.15 p.m. and there the climbers enjoyed a fine

view of the neighbouring hills, the most outstanding being Lochnagar, which had all but lost its winter garb. The party arrived at the cars shortly after seven. Two members, Miss Pittendrigh and Miss Stewart, descended along the ridge to the west of the stream already mentioned, while the others traversed Druim Cholzie. Everyone agreed it had been a most enjoyable outing, and, as we made our way homewards after a most satisfying tea at Mr. Dason's, our thoughts wandered back to Fasheilach and to the many tiny baby grouse which we had so unwillingly disturbed that afternoon.—L. A.

JUNE 9.—CARN A' GHILLE CHEARR (2,329 FT.).

THE following members and guests attended this Meet, travelling by the Speyside excursion to Advie :—Mr. Calvert, W. Malcolm, C. S. McLay, Dr. Martin, M. Smith, Misses Archibald, Brown, Jackson, Johnston, and Skakle; *Guests*—Dr. Coppock and Miss Gibson.

Although this hill is probably little known to Club members, the Meet, in the fine weather conditions prevailing, proved a very enjoyable one. Thanks to the courtesy of the Railway Company, the party travelled in reserved, first-class carriages and the train was specially stopped at Advie station, which was reached at 3.30 p.m. Turning left, just outside the station, a shady footpath led in about $\frac{5}{8}$ of a mile to the main road, which was crossed and a rough track followed up the valley of the Seileach Burn. Half-a-mile from the road a cottage on the side of Knockfrink produced a "brain wave" in our M.C., and she disappeared inside, to cause results which evolved later. By rough tracks and through short heather the ridge to the west of the Seileach Burn was followed, and in due course the summit reached at 5.30 p.m. Not satisfied with the position of the Cairn, two learned members immediately started to erect a new one on what they considered to be the true summit, and around this the party enjoyed a half hour's halt. Owing to a heat haze the distant view was not seen to advantage, the Cairngorms being only just visible. The descent was made by the branch of the Seileach rising between Carn a' Ghille Chearr and Creag an Tarmachain, and by 7.10 the afore-mentioned cottage was reached. The result of our M.C.'s brain-wave now became apparent. Outside the cottage was a well-spread table, and very soon the good housewife was kept busy replenishing teapots, as twelve hearty members did their best to reduce the load on the table. Thoroughly refreshed with this Highland hospitality, the party leisurely continued the descent to the station in time for the train, which arrived about 8.30 p.m. On the journey back to town there was plenty of evidence that hill-climbing does not produce "brain-fag," as several new words were invented which have not yet appeared in the dictionary.—W. M.

MIDNIGHT EXCURSION.

JUNE 16-17—LARIG GHRU.

THE following members and guests assembled at Aviemore on Saturday evening, June 16 :—W. Malcolm (President), A. L. Hay (Vice-President), Dr. D. P. Levack (Vice-President), E. W. Smith, J. E. Bothwell, R. P. Yunnie, J. McHardy, Dr. A. R. Martin, H. Johnston, W. Lawson, J. A. Chisholm, H. C. Dugan, M. Smith, R. H. Calvert, N. Dyer, Mrs. E. J. Hendry, Mrs. Dr. Levack, Misses Archibald, Brown, Hay, Telfer, Mearns, J. Patterson, N. Stewart, E. Rodger ; guests : Mr. J. A. Hopkins, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Burness, Mrs. Sutherland, Misses Ingram, A. M. Donaldson, Green, Chapman, Roger.

The party left Aviemore in ideal weather about 7 p.m. As the path was followed, through the Rothiemurchus forest, the Cairngorms, with their corries outlined with snow, made a perfect picture through the clear atmosphere. After a short halt at the Club's Druidh Bridge, the ascent was continued and, the trees being left behind, many stops were made to admire the backward view of the setting sun and the beautiful colouring in the Larig valley. The only hitch in the programme occurred at this time, the sun refusing to set according to the President's schedule. Hasty calculations, involving the latitude of London and Aviemore, finally proved that the sun was not at fault. Soon after sunset, clouds coming up from the S.W. covered the sky and obscured the high tops. Near the 2,500 feet level and about three-quarters of a mile from the summit of the pass, a halt was made, the time now being about 11.30 p.m., and the half-light making walking difficult without artificial light. Sizzling bacon and eggs near the summit of the Larig was an unexpected treat for supper, and many blessings were bestowed on the hostess who provided them. Later, if the Spectre of Ben Macdhui had looked down, he would have seen strange lights wandering about, as members searched for the least uncomfortable beds in which to try and sleep. Soon the silence was only broken by the sound of the wind on the Lurchers' Crag, an occasionally falling stone, and the croak of ptarmigan. About 2.30 a.m. the party were again on the move, many lanterns being in evidence, although at no time was artificial light essential. At the summit of the pass a few of the party followed a track too far to the right, and when a heavy shower came on found themselves on a treacherous track two or three hundred feet above the first Pool of Dee, and had to face a steep descent over wet boulders. For a short while the weather looked very threatening, the clouds being down to the 3,000 feet level, and at times filling the pass behind. Fortunately, as the light increased the rain passed over and did not again trouble, although the hill tops were never visible. The contrast in the amount of water in the Dee valley compared with that on the Aviemore side was striking. The Allt Choire Mhoir and Allt Clach

nan Tailliar were running full with water from the snow fields just visible above, and required care in crossing. At Derry Lodge the kind offer of a lift by a thoughtful car owner meeting the party was not despised by a few whose enthusiasm for walking had begun to wane. The remainder walked on to the Linn o' Dee, the last arriving by 8.20 a.m. Here a bus met the party, and before 9 a.m. all were obliterating the traces of travel before partaking of the excellent breakfast provided by Mrs. Gregor. The outing was in all respects a most enjoyable one.

THE SPECTRE OF THE BROCKEN.

ON December 28, 1933, a remarkably clear presentation of the Spectre of the Brocken was seen on Geallaig, the great hill mass lying between the Gairn and Dee beyond Ballater. The hill was under deep snow, and the writer made the ascent from Glen Gairn, following the course of the Milton Burn. The sky was cloudless, and the low winter sun rendered the air mild and warm, so mild indeed, that lying on the snow did not give one a sensation of chill. By the time the summit ridge was reached, about 11 a.m., mist was rising out of the valleys on both sides and travelling down towards Ballater. The writer was walking in an easterly direction, and was conscious of an accompanying figure on his left. At first little attention was paid to this, as it frequently happens that when on the hill he has a feeling he is not alone, but on this occasion the sensation was more pronounced and persistent, and, on glancing to the left, he was astounded to see a figure about twenty feet high keeping pace some distance away. It was a distinct shock, until it was realised what the figure meant. When the low sun pierced the mist rising from the Dee valley, the shadow of the observer was thrown upon the mist out of the Gairn, and when the sun was bright the head and shoulders of the figure were in the centre of a brilliant disc of rainbow colours, while the whole was surrounded by a complete circle of vivid rainbow, the centre of which was the disc, the figure standing on the circumference. When the sunlight lost its intensity, the rainbow colours disappeared and the shadow faded, but the whole showed up again when the sun was unobscured. For some distance, on both sides of the figure, the shadow of the hill top was outlined in a broad band of rainbow. The presentation lasted for a considerable period, and was a spectacle not easily forgotten.—H. D. W.

AITKEN'S TOWER OF SOUTER HEAD—FIRST ASCENT. THIS square pinnacle of rock at sea level is a well-defined landmark at Souter Head, and its ascent has been attempted on various occasions during the last twenty years, but without success. Its height is about 35 feet, and it is inaccessible by about ten feet at high tide. At low tide, however, one can reach its base on solid rock. The smooth face presented on the land side is obviously impossible, and the traverse on the left or north side will not go, because there are not any hand or footholds. The right or south side is the only possible

route, and this was the side ascended. On Saturday, June 23, 1934, J. A. Aitken, W. N. Aitken, Dr. Martin, and J. McCoss were at Souter Head and the Tower was contemplated. After a very ingenious and difficult manipulation of the rope, W. N. Aitken, who was wearing rubbers, volunteered to have a go at the ascent. He was tied on to both ends of an 80 foot rope. One end was laid over a crack, and the other end, which did service for half the climb, was then untied. One end was played out and the other was taken in. At the beginning of the traverse the hand holds, though good, are very small and footholds do not exist—a scratch on the rock is all that is possible. There is an overhang at the first corner, and at this point Aitken's fingers gave out. He was held in two directions, and nothing worse happened than wetting rather more than the soles of his shoes. Round the corner there is a magnificent slab handhold and Aitken used it. After untying one end of the rope, he made short work of the ascent, being safeguarded all the time. A pole was sent up on the rope and fixed on the summit with a handkerchief tied to it. The descent was made down the smooth face on a doubled rope. The climb requires not less than three of a party, and it may be classed as exceptionally difficult, and not for the novice.—J. McC.

INVEREY TO KINGUSSIE, SEPTEMBER, 1933.

For those who contemplate taking this fine walk for the first time, the following notes may be of interest :—

Inverey was left at 7.8 a.m. and no difficulty was found in following the route till the foot track leaves the hill road opposite Geldie Lodge. About a quarter of a mile from the ford of Geldie, leading to the Lodge, and where the road bends left towards the river, a small cairn is noticed on the right hand side of the road. The track, which is often invisible, starts here, and if the general direction of the road, before the bend, is followed on the hillside up a rise of 15 to 20 feet other small cairns can be seen, and by means of these a rough track may be followed for a good part of the way.

Roughly, the track runs parallel to the Geldie, which is at first about a quarter of a mile on the left, but gradually recedes to about half a mile by the time the bend of the Feshie river is sighted. The 1-inch scale map shows the track meeting the Feshie about half a mile above the junction of the Eidart with that river, but the writer did not succeed in finding this part of the track and descended the hillside directly to the junction of the two rivers.

Even after the exceptionally dry summer it was not possible to cross the Eidart without the water going over the tops of one's boots, so these were removed and the stream waded. Unexpectedly the water turned out to be painfully cold, and it was a distinct relief to halt for a few moments on some dry stones in mid stream. For those who prefer not to wade, it should be noted that a previous writer to the magazine has pointed out that if the Feshie is easier

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