

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE Forty-seventh Annual General Meeting was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 30, 1935, at 6 P.M. Mr William Malcolm presided.

The minutes approved, the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer presented the accounts for 1934-1935; these were adopted.

Office-bearers were elected as follows:—

Hon. President—Professor J. Norman Collie.

President—Dr D. P. Levack.

Vice-Presidents—Messrs A. Leslie Hay and E. Birnie Reid.

Hon. Editor—Mr William A. Ewen.

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

Hon. Librarian—Mr James A. Parker.

Committee—Miss Margaret Skakle, Mr H. G. Dason, Mr J. McCoss,
Mr J. E. Bothwell, Miss A. M. Pittendrigh, Mr R. P. Yunnie,
Mr H. D. Welsh, Mrs E. J. Hendry, and Mr W. Malcolm.

Mr James McCoss proposed that Rule 15 be altered to read: “ The office-bearers of the Club shall be a President, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer (or an Honorary Secretary and Treasurer), an Honorary Editor, and an Honorary Librarian ”; and that Rule 27 be altered to read: “ A Special General Meeting, convened as provided for in Rule 25, shall have power by at least two-thirds of those present and voting (with a minimum of 15 recorded votes) to alter or add to the existing Rules of the Club.”

The alterations were unanimously agreed to.

Meets and Excursions were arranged as under:—

New Year Meet	Braemar.
Easter Meet	Glencoe.
Spring Holiday Excursion .	Cairnwell district.

Excursions to Lochnagar were fixed for February 2 and 23, and March 8. Three Informal Social evenings were arranged for January 27, February 25, and March 25. [The first of these was cancelled owing to the death of King George V.]

Other excursions arranged include:—

Saturday, May 16	Coillebharr Hill.
Saturday, June 6	Benaquhallie.
Sunday, May 31	Mayar and Dreish.
Sunday, July 5	Strathdon.
Saturday and Sunday, June 20 and 21	Lairig an Laoigh Pass (from Nethybridge).

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

THE Forty-seventh Annual Dinner was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 30, 1935, at 7 P.M., Mr William Malcolm presiding.

Eighty-five members and guests were present. Mr G. T. Glover, S.M.C., and Mr R. M. Adam, of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, were guests of the Club.

Mr William Malcolm proposed "The Club," and gave a brief résumé of the Club activities for the year. It was noticeable that this year a greater number of members seemed to know the words of the Club song!

In giving the toast of "Our Guests," Dr D. P. Levack tactlessly, in the presence of the S.M.C. representative, stressed the point that the Cairngorm Club is the oldest mountaineering club in Scotland. In an amusing reply for the guests, Mr Glover deftly parried the blow.

After dinner the company listened to a most enjoyable lecture by Mr Adam, whose artistry with a camera and whose intimate knowledge of the bird and plant life of the hills contributed in very large part to the success of the function. Ranging far and wide over the Scottish Highlands, Mr Adam showed some unsurpassed views of mountain scenery. On the call of Mr A. Leslie Hay, the lecturer was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

SUMMER EXCURSIONS, 1935.

CLOCHNABEN—MAY 26, 1935.

TEN members and guests left Aberdeen at 9.45 A.M. and arrived at the foot of Greystane Hill about 11 A.M. The ascent was made in ideal weather over Greystane Hill, Threestane Hill, and Mount Shade, the summit being reached about 12.45. A very fine view was obtained in all directions, the most distant hills visible being the Lomonds, about 57 miles away. Miscellaneous scrambling was indulged in both on the Cloch and on the small outcrop near the summit. The descent of No. 2 Chimney was found none too easy. A 60-foot rope was found to be too short. Several members climbed the south-east gully and some interesting short climbing problems were found on the smaller outcrop.

The descent was made by the tourist track to Feughside Inn, which was reached at 5.30 P.M.

BEN RINNES—JUNE 1, 1935.

ELEVEN members left Aberdeen by the 1.20 P.M. Speyside excursion train, arriving at Aberlour at 2.58 P.M. The party reached Ben Rinnes

Distillery by taxi, previously arranged for by the Hon. Secretary. Climbing by way of Babys Hill and Scurran of Well, where a short halt was made, the summit was reached at 5.15 P.M. The climbing conditions were perfect, but the distant views were obscured by haze. At 6.30 P.M. a start was made for Dufftown, which was reached via the east ridge at 9 P.M.—W. M.

BEN AVON—JUNE 15 AND 16, 1935.

THE party left Aberdeen at 7.35 P.M. The journey up Deeside was made under conditions which were far from promising. Heavy rain, ragged black storm clouds, and a remarkable series of rainbows made a dramatic prelude to our excursion. However, all was clear and calm when we left Invercauld House at 10.15 P.M., and very soon the moon rose. The Bealach Dearg stables were reached at 11.30 P.M. and we settled down to "sleep," that is, to talk and eat, and set out once more at 1.15 A.M. On the ascent of Stùc Garbh Mhòr we saw the full moon hanging in the gap between Càrn Eas and Creag an Dail Beag. To a "sensible" person this may sound either melodramatic or sentimental, but to us it was full of magic. The chief value of hill climbing is that it restores a true sense of values to jaded town dwellers. The first top of Ben Avon was reached at 3.50 A.M. beneath a clear sky, a level sea of white cloud stretched from the foot of our hill to the northern horizon. A few hills, such as Ben Rinnes, lifted their black backs out of the undulating sea of white, like black porpoises. The southern half of our world was free of mist, except for a few wisps lying in the valley of the Dee. Such was the scene upon which the sun rose. Conditions were so calm and beautiful that we decided not to hurry off the top, and we scrambled over the numerous tors which are such a feature of Ben Avon.

We descended by Càrn Eas and Gleann an't Slugain, reaching Invercauld House at 11.45 A.M. Eight members made the circuit of the tops in the opposite direction. By courtesy of the late Col. A. H. Farquharson, we were allowed to take the bus as far as Invercauld House.—A. R. M.

EXCURSION TO BROAD CAIRN—JUNE 30, 1935.

ON its arrival at Ballater, the bus appeared to be comfortably full. At second glance, however, it was noted that the four front seats were occupied by the Presidential stick, the Presidential rucksack, the Presidential boots, and the President. The party numbered 11. (The percentage of active members would therefore appear to be, approximately, to the nearest whole number, 3.)

A jovial party and jovial weather. In the accepted formula-Parkerii for the description of common or garden ascents, "We saw no eagles!" The one stirring incident was the bus ride to Spital (10.45 A.M.).

The ridge was gained at the Black Burn and followed to the summit (1.45 P.M.); the Coire Chas path was taken on the descent. The Presidential rucksack ceased to function at the first steep slope; the string "broke." The contents were distributed, but the proprietary rights, alas, were retained. Proceeding at a fast pace, the President reached the summit at the head of his party and annexed the sunniest corner. Lunch disposed of, a visit to some of the neighbouring peaks was mooted. For a moment it seemed as if the suggestion might be taken seriously! After a suitable period of complete relaxation, the President was able to lead the descent—from the rear. A Junior member arrived at Lochend at 6 P.M., as we were about to leave. It is thought that he had mislaid his notice and got mixed up with the Midnight Excursion. A good outing and one which merited a larger attendance of members.—W. A. E.

NEW YEAR MEET, 1936.

ON Saturday evening, December 28, 1935, the President, Dr D. P. Levack, the Vice-President, Mr E. Birnie Reid, and two members, Miss Archibald and Mr Ian Rose, arrived at the Invercauld Arms Hotel, Braemar. On Sunday, December 29, this party made an ascent of Lochnagar by the Ballochbuie. The conditions were perfect: a calm day, brilliant sunshine, and hard frost, with the snow sufficiently packed to render walking easy.

Leaving the upper limits of the forest by the usual path from that side, the party crossed the upper reaches of the Garrawalt and moved over to the base of the Stuic Buttress, with the object of making an ascent. This was found to be impossible after ascending some 200 feet, for the rocks were coated inches deep and completely obscured by blue ice, the result of successive thawing and freezing during the preceding few days. The attempt was abandoned and the party crossed the Sandy Loch Corrie and made a direct ascent of the west slope of Lochnagar, the snow being in perfect condition. They came out on the summit plateau, practically opposite the head of the Black Spout, where the ice formation on the rocks was of the most wonderful description. The indicator and the summit rocks also presented a fantastic spectacle, fully 18 inches of ice formation covering everything. The view was perfect and the weather remained clear and calm. Four other climbers appeared from the Allt-na-giubhsaich side of the mountain, having had equally enjoyable conditions for climbing. The party left the summit at 3.10 P.M. The following is the time-table of the expedition:—

Sunday, December 29, 1935.

Braemar	depart	9.20 A.M.
Danzig Bridge	{ arrive	9.30 A.M.
	{ depart	9.35 A.M.
Foot of Staic		12.30 P.M.
Off Buttress		12.55 P.M.
Across Corrie of Sandy Loch		1.5 P.M.
Lunch	{ arrive	1.20 P.M.
	{ depart	1.50 P.M.
Black Spout		2.30 P.M.
Lochnagar	{ arrive	2.40 P.M.
	{ depart	3.10 P.M.
Danzig Bridge	{ arrive	4.55 P.M.
	{ depart	5.00 P.M.
Braemar		5.15 P.M.

On the Sunday evening three other members and a guest arrived, Mrs Hendry with Miss Netta Y. Dick, and also Miss Mearns and Mr Roy Symmers.

On Monday, December 30, the party of eight made an ascent of Càrn-an-Tuirc, and a traverse of the ridge south from that point to Glas Maol. The weather conditions were extremely poor, a sudden thaw having set in during the night, and thick mist obscuring everything down to about 1,800 feet. The ascent was begun from the Sheann Spittal Bridge, and the left bank of the Allt a' Gharbh-choire was followed to the west side of the Càrn-an-Tuirc. Leaving the burn, everything was blotted out by mist, and a direct course to the summit was set by map and compass and the ascent completed without difficulty, although the snow was somewhat sodden. So thick was the mist that the horizon was limited to less than 50 yards. From the Càrn-an-Tuirc it was decided to steer for the head of Corrie Kander, so that from that point a new bearing south might be laid for the summit of Cairn na Glasha. The time required to reach the cliffs of Kander was calculated at approximately twenty minutes, and with three compasses checking the bearings *en route*, the Corrie was reached almost to the minute. A second course was laid from this to the summit of Cairn na Glasha, and again with three compasses checking the bearing, the party walked on to the boundary line between Aberdeen and Angus, less than 200 yards north of the cairn. From this point it was unnecessary to do any compass and map work as the boundary fence led ultimately to the top of Glas Maol. At this summit the mist was again so thick that even from the well-known right-angled bend of the fence the cairn could not be seen.

The descent was made by the boundary fence, over the summit of Meall Odhar, and so to the top of the Devil's Elbow, between which and the Sheann Spittal Bridge the road was blocked by several drifts

of snow. Throughout the whole day visibility was practically *nil*, only occasional glimpses being seen through the mist from the ridges.

The following is the time-table for the day:—

Monday, December 30, 1935.

Braemar	depart	9.30 A.M.
Sheann Spittal Bridge		9.50 A.M.
Summit of Càrn-an-Tuirc	{ arrive	11.50 A.M.
	{ depart	12.5 P.M.
Corrie Kander		12.20 P.M.
Cairn na Glasha	{ arrive	1.00 P.M.
	{ depart	1.20 P.M.
Glas Maol	{ arrive	2.25 P.M.
	{ depart	2.35 P.M.
Meall Odhar		3.00 P.M.
Cairnwell Road		3.35 P.M.
Arrival at cars		4.15 P.M.

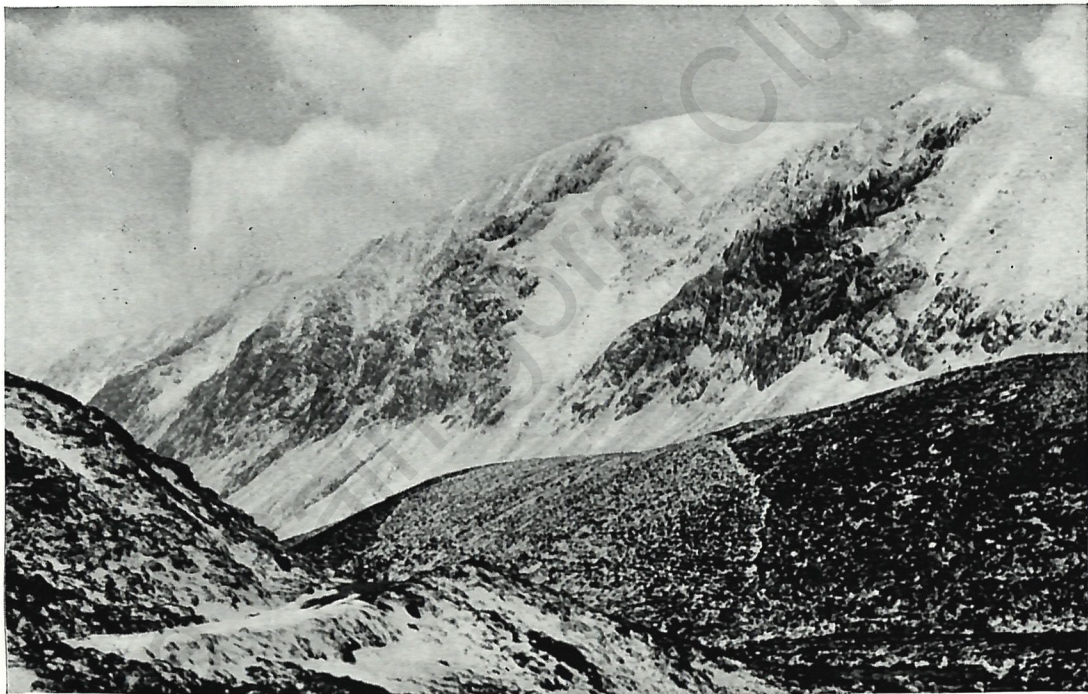
On Tuesday, December 31, Messrs Symmers, Rose, and Martin, Mrs Hendry, and the Misses Dick, Archibald, and Mearns, climbed Càrn a' Mhaim, 3,320 feet. The going up the Lui was quite good, but the snow was rather soft in places at the lower levels. It became much harder higher up and provided an excellent walking surface. The weather was quite good, the day bright and dry until nearly the 3,000-foot level, when the cold became very intense and at the summit was absolutely arctic. There was nothing very remarkable throughout the expedition, and the party returned to the hotel after a very pleasant day.

In the evening a party of eighteen sat down to dinner, and through the happy thought of Mr Roy Symmers, the Club had the privilege of entertaining Miss Maggie Gruer, of Inverey. The evening passed quickly with the usual festivities associated with such an occasion in the Invercauld Arms Hotel, including vigorous dancing and certain official ceremonies, culminating with Mrs Gregor's hospitable provision for the usual toasts at midnight. Mrs Gregor once more welcomed the Club to the Invercauld Arms, and upon the call of the President the health of the hostess and her daughters was toasted with acclamation.

Although this was really the final effort of the evening, an aftermath was held in the lounge and vast quantities of tea disappeared in a surprising manner, although some members preferred not to mix their drinks. The party wound up somewhere in the region of 1.30 A.M.

New Year's Day, 1936.

Members showed no inclination to rise early, but in due course the following party started out: Mr and Mrs Angus, Dr Martin, Messrs



GLEANN EINICH

A. Duncan

Smith, Hutcheson, and Malcolm, and Misses Duncan, Pittendrigh, Archibald, and Hay. Walking up Glen Callater as far as the bridge the ascent was made to Loch Phàdruig. The loch was coated with clear ice, which appeared to be about six inches thick. Crossing the loch, Creag Phàdruig was then climbed, and a good view of Loch Callater obtained. After taking lunch near the summit, the shortest route was taken to the top of Meall an-t-Slugain (2,771 feet). Though dull and inclined to be rainy in the valleys, the conditions on the higher ridges were pleasant for walking and good views were obtained. The return was made over Creag na Dearcaige, and down the crest of the somewhat steep ridge to the River Callater, which was reached about half a mile from Auchallater. Two intrepid lady members crossed the somewhat swollen river in order to gain the road, but the "safety first" party were content to follow the rough track on the north side of the stream.

Thursday, January 2.

Messrs Hutcheson, Smith, Malcolm, Martin, and Lawson walked up Glen Connie and Glen Cristie Beag, entering mist about 2,250-foot level. Where the track disappeared in snow near the col, a compass course was set for the summit of Càrn Liath (2,676 feet), and the cairn reached without difficulty. A course was then set for Duncan Gray's Corrie, and after descending a short distance the mist cleared and very fine views were obtained of the Cairngorm group. The north face of Càrn Liath was then contoured at about the 2,000-foot level, and a descent made to the Dee at its junction with the Dalvorar Burn, and so back to Inverey and the hospitality of Maggie Gruer. It should be noted that Càrn Liath must be a very fine viewpoint in clear weather.

Mr and Mrs Angus must have "slept in," but later they revived their scout learning and did some detective work. Walking up Glen Ey they came on tracks, and following these up, declared that there was unmistakable evidence that a party wearing boots had ascended Glen Cristie that day. After tea all the remaining members at the meet returned to town.

D. P. L. and W. M.

EXCURSIONS TO LOCHNAGAR.

FEBRUARY 2 AND 23, AND MARCH 8, 1936.

ON each occasion the weather conditions were of the worst; snow fell almost continuously on all three days, and on the first and second excursions the parties failed to reach the top. As mentioned elsewhere, the public road up Glen Muick was blocked with snow for two months; the bus parties therefore started from the Danzig Shiel. On the third occasion the main party succeeded from the Danzig Shiel, and Dr Garrow's party, starting from Allt-na-giubhsaich, also reached the summit. Cardno, Hall, and Soper (guest) crossed the hill from the

Dubh Loch and saw nothing. The party had thoughtfully provided itself with a map, but the compass they had intended to take was left at Stonehaven. Dr Garrow's party was fortunate enough to see a Glory, but the general impression was that wings would, in the conditions, have been more useful than haloes. Having failed, save on the third occasion, to do a Beinn, we propose to let W. M. describe the assault on, and eventual conquest of, a Cnapan.

FEBRUARY 23, 1936.

THIRTY-SIX members and guests took part in this outing. The majority left town by bus at 7.30 A.M. on rather a hopeless looking rainy morning. Before Banchory was passed the rain had turned to snow, which continued most of the day. At Ballater and beyond, the whole landscape was under snow and had a mid-winter appearance. The road up the east side of the Muick being impassable, the party motored to the Danzig Shiel Bridge and started the circuit of Lochnagar via the Black Shiel Burn route. There was no wind in the forest and, with the trees picturesquely draped with snow, walking was a delight. When the forest was left behind, conditions changed. Visibility was soon reduced to about a hundred yards and a cold east wind added to the discomfort. Steering a south-easterly course, steady progress was made up the slopes of Cnapan Nathraichean, the wind increasing and visibility decreasing as height was gained. Presently, descending ground in front and the wind shifting more ahead seemed to indicate that a point was reached a little beyond the summit of the Cnapan. Conditions here were decidedly unpleasant, and it was unanimously decided to beat a retreat. This was most easily accomplished by following the tracks in the snow. These were, however, lost at one point, and the shelter of the forest was eventually reached somewhat to the east of the line of ascent. Members then got rid of their surplus energy, some by walking to Braemar, others by snowball fighting. Three members broke off from the main party with the intention of going towards the Stuiic. When asked on their return where they had got to, the leader's reply was that he hadn't the foggiest notion. This is certain, that all got to Braemar in good time to enjoy Mrs Gregor's hearty hospitality at the Invercauld, and it is rumoured that a record was created by one member in the number of helpings of eggs and bacon consumed.—W. M.

MARCH 22, 1936.

Present.—Mrs A. W. Hendry, Mrs E. J. Christie, M. Daniel, M. C. Donaldson, W. Hay, L. Murray, J. B. Patterson, E. Rodger, C. H. Wisely; Messrs E. B. Davies, W. Duff, R. Hart, W. Malcolm, J. M'Hardy, E. W. Smith, and H. D. Welsh.

A most enjoyable and successful excursion to Lochnagar was suggested and organised by Mrs Hendry. The party numbered 16, left Aberdeen by bus at 8.30 A.M., and in due course arrived at Ballater

under very promising weather conditions, though mist occasionally hid the high tops. The road to Spital of Muick was in fairly good condition as far as the Linn, in spite of the cutting up caused by heavy timber traffic. The felling of the trees on the east side of the road came in for uncomplimentary remarks, especially as to the quite unnecessary destruction of the deer fencing which surely could have been removed instead of buckled and hopelessly damaged by the trees thrown upon it. The Linn of Muick was a wonderful spectacle owing to the large volume of water coming over. Beyond the Linn the road was very soft in places, and frequently the whole party had to leave the bus, spread heather under the wheels, and push lustily behind. Two or three times the bus sank to the foot-boards, and there was some doubt as to whether it could be extricated—and spades were far away. The driver did nobly, but was anxious to know whether the return journey would be made by the same route. Eventually bus and party arrived at Spital in good heart about 11.15 A.M. (This was the first vehicle to reach Spital since January 20, the road being impassable for two months.) Snow was plentiful on Lochnagar and the lower hills were extensively covered. The air was mild, cloud was abundant and low and covered the highest tops.

Leaving at 11.30, good time was made up the path by the Allt-nagiubhsaich. Ski marks were frequent on the snow along the burn side. Davies, Hart, and Welsh kept to the regular route to the Foxes' Well, obtaining delightful views of the snow sculpture along the steep bank of the burn below. The rest of the party left the path just below the first fork in the burn, crossed the water, and made a bee-line through deep, dampish, soft snow for the Well. Smith was the first arrival there, then Davies, Hart, and Welsh, the main party arriving soon after. It was now 12.55 and it was considered that, notwithstanding the soft conditions, progress had been very good. Lunch was partaken of in chill sunshine on a heathery patch. Cold, driving mist obscured the sun and stirred the party to action. Half the party descended to the loch with the intention of reaching the summit by the north buttress; the other half kept up the deep snow on the Ladder and came out on the plateau into a wet, stiff breeze. Far below could be seen Ewen and Archibald, mere specks among the avalanche debris that had come down from each gully. (Among the "névé" blocks in the avalanche fans was observed one spherical mass over 10 feet in diameter. The lines of fracture where two large slab avalanches had peeled off the lower slopes—under Red Spout and Douglas gullies—were visible from the Meikle Pap Col.)

All the way to the summit footprints were plentiful, wet mist drove past, breaking now and then to reveal entrancing glimpses of heavy cornices and ice-draped rocks. The Indicator was reached by the Ladder contingent about 3.15, the others joining them soon after. The wind was bitter, but ensconced in the lee of the summit rocks the party basked in the sunshine until about 3.45. The view to the northern

corrie, with the Staic Buttress soaring above ice-covered Loch nan Eun, was very impressive. Tumbled sunlight cloud covered the ridge, breaking away in silent cataracts to the depths below. Most enthralling, too, was the sun-splashed panorama of the whole Cairngorm range under a canopy of slow-marching clouds. Mist again enveloped the summit plateau on the return, but before the distant view was obscured an interesting picture was presented. Away to the north Beinn a' Bhùird and Ben Avon crouched below a broad band of slate-coloured cloud. Above this, brilliantly lit by the sun, was a long bank of cloud, built up into peaks, towers, and pinnacles, as if it were a great range of snow-cloud mountains.

The return journey was performed in good time, glissading on the Ladder adding to the enjoyment. In the valley the air was warm and the burns much swollen. Spital of Muick was reached at 5.30 and the run to Ballater accomplished without difficulty or a repetition of the incidents of the outward journey. At the Loirston Hotel the company were warmly welcomed by Mr and Mrs Lamond, who did everything in their power to enable wet apparel to be dried or changed, and generally make all thoroughly comfortable. A substantial tea, to which full justice was given, was tastefully served in delightfully attractive surroundings, in the presence of a fire of generous proportions. So ended a perfect day.—H. D. W.

EASTER MEET, 1936.

THE Easter Meet of the Club was held at Glencoe from Thursday, April 9, to Tuesday, April 14, 1936, and was attended by eighteen members and guests.

It should be mentioned at once that the Club was most fortunate in deciding to go to Glencoe, for three reasons. Firstly, the country was new to many of those who attended the Meet. Secondly, the nature of the mountains and the type of climbing enjoyed was quite a change from the usual experience in the Cairngorms. Thirdly, the accommodation in Ballachulish Hotel was such as to make it impossible for even the most exacting sybarite to find fault in any way, and it is well to record how hospitably the members were received by both Mr M'Queen and his manageress, Mrs Bannerman, both of whom made it a personal matter to see that everything was done to make the party thoroughly at home during the week-end.

On the Friday a party of nine made an ascent of the southern end of the Aonach Eagach ridge, from a point directly opposite Loch Achtriochtan in Glencoe. One member turned back after some 800 feet had been climbed, and the eight other members made a complete traverse of the ridge from Sgòr nam Fiannaidh (3,168 feet) over Meall Garbh to Meall Dearg (3,118 feet). The expedition was fortunate in having a very calm day with a relatively high temperature, and

although the sky remained somewhat cloudy with only occasional patches of sunshine, the view from the ridge in every direction was perfectly clear. To the north, Ben Nevis with the Càrn Mhòr Dearg arête stood out boldly and clear-cut with its unbroken mantle of snow against the somewhat grey northern sky. All the neighbouring peaks in that region were clearly visible. To the west the sun gleamed frequently on the waters between the mainland and Mull, while in the immediate surroundings of Glencoe the details of the rocky faces, snow-filled gullies, and sharp snow ridges of all the neighbouring mountains stood out perfectly. Indeed, the day was a perfect one from the point of visibility. In the intervals between the more difficult and often quite spectacular bits of climbing, every one would pause to gaze around upon what is undoubtedly one of the finest mountain areas in the country.

The party climbed well, no particular difficulty was encountered, although the rope was used to assist one or two members, especially at one point when a gendarme confronted the party at an extremely narrow portion of the ridge with a nasty drop beyond. By common consent, this particular stretch was christened "the dirty two hundred yards." Every one carried an ice-axe, but it must be confessed that the axes proved quite a nuisance at times, and a considerable amount of passing up and down had to be done at odd intervals, while at least three members had no slings. This error was rectified before the next day's climbing, by ingenious manipulation of $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch lampwick, purchased in an emporium in Ballachulish.

The party descended by a knee-breaking slope into the gully with the stream, which comes down to the road just below the new bridge in the gorge. A certain amount of juggling with the cars took place as they had been left beside Loch Achtriochtan. The first member down kindly borrowed a car and went back to meet the last members, who were slogging down the road.

It was agreed by all that the day was one of the most pleasant, strenuous, and interesting that had been experienced by any member of the party.

On Saturday, the party having been augmented by more arrivals on Friday night, two climbs were made. A party of five ascended Buachaille Etive Mòr from a point in Glen Etive a mile south of Stob Dearg (3,345 feet), the main top of the mountain. The day was again perfect, much colder but with brilliant sunshine and white, fleecy clouds. The brightness of the snow, in the quickly passing bursts of light, was almost painful to the eyes. A strong north-west wind blew steadily all day. Rannoch lay outspread like a map, and the clearness of the view in various directions was obscured by innumerable heather fires. Four climbers were met on the summit, having ascended the Great Gully. They belonged to the Dundee Ramblers, and another two of their party were apparently far below on the Crowberry Ridge. They were not seen. From Stob Dearg a traverse of the whole ridge

southwards as far as Stob na Brùige (3,120 feet), and a long oblique descent into Glen Etive from that top, completed a day which certainly equalled the previous one from the point of view of interest, although the climbing was much less strenuous.

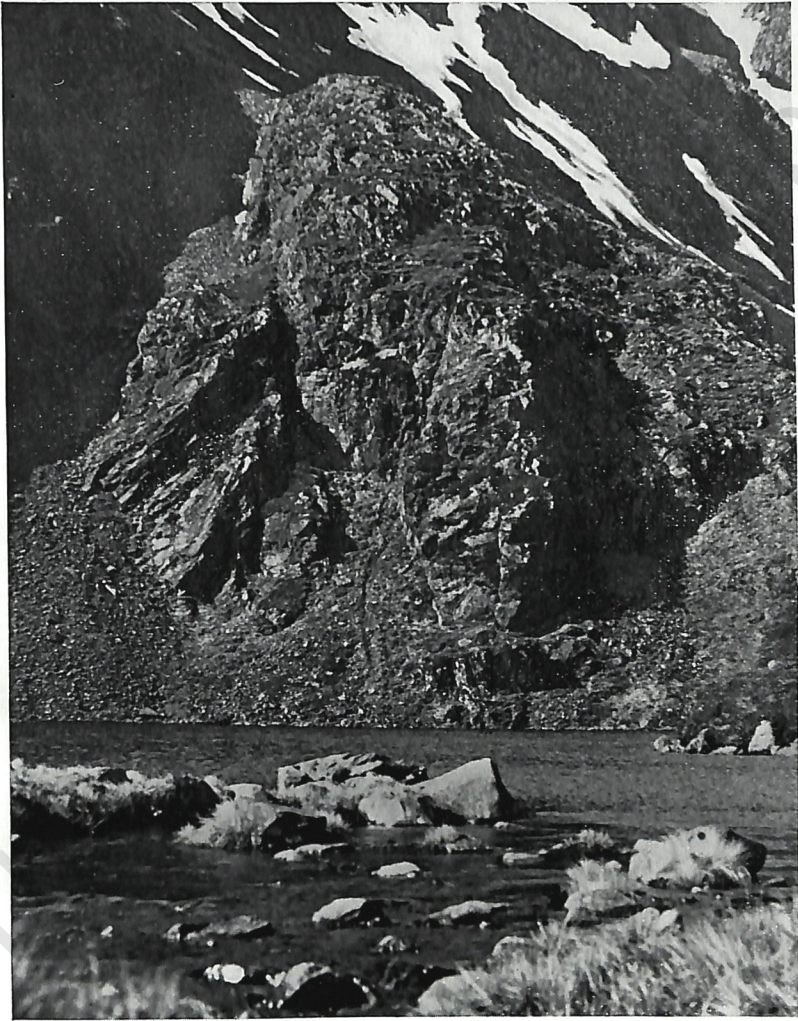
The second party motored to Kinlochleven and following the usual direct route made an ascent of Binnein Mòr, a mountain which is fairly inaccessible except from Loch Leven and one which is not visited very often. As from the Buachaille Etive, the views were perfect and the snow in good condition, with a specially perfect crest at one point. Incidentally, this mountain had been ascended by three members of the Club, Mr Parker, Mr Robert Sellar, and Dr Sellar, who had motored from their headquarters in Tyndrum on the previous day.

By Saturday night the party in the hotel had totalled eighteen, and the following day, although two strenuous days had already been accomplished, three groups set out. One party ascended Beinn a' Bheithir with its two tops, Sgòrr Dhonuill (3,284 feet) and Sgòrr Dhearg (3,362 feet). Two of the members did a snow-climb to the ridge, under excellent conditions. The remainder made the ascent by the ridge, and after a comparatively easy day returned to the hotel about 4 P.M. Four members of the party then left for home.

Two other parties attacked Bidean nam Bian. Four members made an ascent from the main corrie of the mountain to the col between An t-Sròn and the main top of Bidean itself. The weather having turned much colder, this party found the whole of the snow slope frozen hard in the sheltered north-facing corrie and any steps cut by previous parties filled level. The result was that the axe was used practically continuously, making the climb more strenuous than was anticipated, and the time-table distinctly behind calculation. Indeed, the party did not reach the top of the corrie until after 5 P.M. The second party had climbed directly up the face of An t-Sròn from the Glencoe Road. An attempt to climb a short snow gully near the top was ultimately abandoned, again because of the frozen nature of the snow, and some exciting moments were experienced in escaping off the snow slope on to very steep and rotten rocks at the side. Ultimately the summit of An t-Sròn (2,715 feet) was reached and, under magnificent conditions, the party made a complete traverse of the edge of the corrie to the main top of Bidean (3,766).

During the day no fewer than twenty-six climbers were seen at one time or another on the mountain. The view all round was perfect and the climbing conditions ideal. The second party descended by the route which they had taken on the way up, shouting encouragement to the four members still struggling on the snow slope three or four hundred feet below, and finally descending from the edge of the corrie by another snow slope a little farther to the north. This descent had to be made with care in a freezing wind in the late afternoon. Both parties were rather late in arriving back at the hotel after a most strenuous day.

D. P. L.



IN CORRIE KANDER

W. A. Ewen

IRREGULAR MEET.

A SMALL, subsidiary (*i.e.*, quite irregular) meet was held at Tyndrum over the Easter week-end. *Present*: Messrs J. A. Parker, J. A. Sellar, and R. T. Sellar. The following hills were ascended by one or more of the party: Meall Buidhe, Beinn Odhar, Sgùrr Eilde Beag, Binnein Mòr, Na Gruagaichean, Beinn Chuirn, Meall Odhar, Sròn nan Colan, and Beinn Laoigh. The most interesting trip was that to Binnein Mòr as the hill had plenty of snow and a rather sporting route was taken (by mistake) up the east face of Sgùrr Eilde Beag. On the return journey from Kinlochleven, in the gathering dusk, the Moor of Rannoch was found to be on fire "all over" and was a wonderful spectacle. No climbers were met on any of the hills except Beinn Laoigh, which was very popular, and on the summit there was standing room only and barely that. The two off days were devoted to visiting Inveraray (by car) and Arisaig (by train).

MAY HOLIDAY EXCURSION—MAY 4, 1936.

Present.—Miss E. Davidson, Messrs Duff, Hart, Middleton, Mitchell, H. D. Welsh, Miss Norrie, Mrs Duff, Mrs Hart, Mrs Fraser, Mrs Whelan, Messrs Brown, Davies, Fraser, and W. L. Welsh.

Eleven of the party started from the summit of the Cairnwell road about 11 A.M. and traversed the tops of Meall Odhar, Glas Maol, and Cairn na Glasha to the top of the precipices at Ceann Mòr (Corrie Kander), where considerable time was spent. Extensive and deep snow was crossed over the whole area and wide and clear horizons rewarded the company to the east and north. Specially impressive was the clarity of the whole Cairngorm range from Ben Avon to Beinn Bhrotain. Loch Callater was viewed from the crest above it on the west, and the return was made over Càrn an Tuirc and the corries to the north and west of Cairn na Glasha and Meall Odhar, the point of departure being reached about 7 P.M. The snow was somewhat damp and the weather conditions ideal, especially during the afternoon. Glissading was indulged in by certain of the party for the first time.

The enjoyment and interest of the excursion were enhanced by the remarks by expert members of the party upon the complicated geological features of the terrain and the evidences of weather erosion of the peat and other formations. Other interesting objects observed aroused considerable speculation, and added to the value of the excursion.—
H. D. W.

COILLEBHARR HILL, ALFORD—MAY 16, 1936.

Members Present.—Mrs Hendry, Mrs J. Angus, Misses E. Davidson, E. J. Christie, H. Ross, H. M. Mearns, A. M. Pittendrigh, M. Johnston, D. Johnston, Messrs J. Angus, H. D. Griffith, W. Malcolm, H. D. Welsh. *Guests.*—Misses Cater, Hoggarth, J. Johnston.

The attendance at this excursion was disappointing, only thirteen members and three guests taking part. Most of the company travelled by special bus, while two private cars conveyed six persons. The route followed was the main road to Alford via Skene, and on to Bridge of Alford, where arrangements were made at the hotel there for tea later on. The two private cars carried on to the farm of Bithnie which lies at the base of Coillebharr on the north-east side, while the bus conveyed the rest of the party to Asloun, with the ivy-smothered castle ruin, on the east side, below which runs the Strow Burn. The accommodation road to Drumnafunner was followed till just short of that place, a field crossed, a drystone dyke scaled, and the party were on the heather. It was a dull day, with low, ragged cloud and a cold easterly wind, and visibility was very poor. The upper reach of the Strow Burn was crossed at about the 1,200-foot contour, and a short pull up through long, dusty heather led to the south top at 1,600 feet. The wind was chill and there was no view. All along the crest of the hill was the track made by carts evidently taking timber down. A short distance to the north of this top a larch plantation was entered, but it was a depressing experience. The trees were stunted and were smothered to the tops in black and grey fibrous lichen, like dirty wool. A drystone dyke running across the north face of the hill near the top was pointed out as being built by a former laird of Brux who was "out" in 1745, and to disguise himself, after his return, became a builder of stone dykes so as to escape the attentions of the soldiers. The main top, at 1,747 feet, was reached soon after, and here the contingent from Bithnie was met. Situated as it is, Coillebharr is a point from which a magnificent and varied view is obtained, but it was with great difficulty that features up to 6 miles distant could be made out. After sheltering as best as could be managed from the cold wind at the summit cairn, the company descended on the north-east side to Bithnie, crossed the Don there, and entered the bus, awaiting on the main road, for conveyance to Bridge of Alford Hotel for tea. This pleasant function over, the return journey was made to Aberdeen, which was reached at 8.30 P.M. To round off a pleasant outing two or three of the company patronised the second house at the Beach Pavilion!

There was little evidence of spring flowers on the hill, but anemone, primrose, petty whin, violet, and wood-sorrel were noticed, with inflorescence of blackberry and cranberry. Here and there on the larches on the summit were to be seen the red blooms, and low down on the north side, among the dead bracken and grey stones, the

crumpled fronds of the oak fern were thrusting up on their black stems. Gean, of course, was out in the valley, with flowering currant.

H. D. W.

CÀRN A' MHAIM, BEN MACDHUI, AND THE
SHELTER STONE—MAY 24, 1936.

Present.—Misses A. Donaldson, W. Hay, Messrs W. Malcolm, N. Dyer, E. B. Davies, E. W. Smith, H. D. Welsh.

An ideal informal excursion, in ideal conditions, to Càrn a' Mhaim and Ben Macdhui was held on Sunday, May 24. Two cars conveyed the party from Aberdeen at 7 A.M., arriving at Derry Lodge at 9.40. Following the path to Glen Dee to about the highest point of it, beyond the Luibeg Bridge, the company took to the heather, and after an easy climb up the ridge, the cairn at 3,329 feet was reached at 11.40. The wind was somewhat cold, but the panorama presented on all sides was magnificent in its majesty, especially the great range from Beinn Bhrotain north to Braeriach. There was remarkable clarity, and the great snow-clad masses were shown up in astonishing detail. The great bulk of Ben Macdhui, carrying abundant snow, appeared very near, and the upper part of the cliff above Lochan Uaine was clear-cut against an intense blue sky. There was a peculiar sense of height and depth experienced when one looked down into the gigantic ditch of Glen Dee. Traversing along the Càrn a' Mhaim ridge, and descending to the col to the north, the party tackled the steep slope east of the Tailors' Burn, the boulder stretch of the upper part enabling great speed to be made. The head of the Tailors' Burn was crossed over extensive and deep snow, enabling the party to come on the summit plateau just below the Sappers' Hut. The summit cairn was reached just before two o'clock. From here visibility was very good, except for a minute or two when a thin mist obscured all and shed a few hailstones. Malcolm left the party here and descended to Derry by the Sròn Riach ridge and Glen Luibeg. The rest descended over plentiful snow by the Feith Buidhe slabs to the Shelter Stone, arriving there at 3.45. The upper reaches of the corrie here presented a very impressive appearance. Names were entered in the visitors' book, the ascent made to Loch Etchachan, and the descent of the Coire to Derry commenced. The tramp to Derry was uneventful, but the conditions were ideal. The hill masses were lighted by a soft evening glow, a tumbled sky, a soft breeze. As the old firs at the lower end of Glen Derry were reached, the soft double note of the cuckoo welcomed the party back, a fitting ending to a perfect day. The Lodge was reached at 6.30, Braemar and a welcome meal at the Invercauld about 7, and Aberdeen soon after 10.—H. D. W.

GLEN CLOVA—DREISH AND MAYAR—MAY 31, 1936.

Members Present.—Mrs Hendry, Mrs J. Angus, Mrs V. Train, Misses L. Archibald, E. J. Christie, M. Daniel, E. Davidson, C. H. Wisely, B. Bothwell, M. D. Hoggarth, R. K. Jackson, M. W. Johnston, Messrs W. Malcolm, E. W. Smith, R. L. Mitchell, J. MacHardy, T. Train, A. S. Middleton, H. D. Griffith, J. E. Bothwell, J. Angus, H. D. Welsh. *Guests.*—Misses M. Knox, A. B. Sinclair, J. Smith, Messrs E. B. Davies, G. K. Fraser, W. L. Welsh, L. A. Whelan.

Twenty-two members and seven guests left Aberdeen on May 31, at 8.30 A.M., *en route* to Glen Clova, travelling via Tannadice. There was a cold wind, with sudden squalls of rain, a sky full of bulky clouds brilliantly sunlit, with smirrs of wintry showers on the hills. The west side of Glen Esk was followed to Millton of Clova where the river was crossed, and a continuation made to Braedownie, which was reached at 11.30. From here the public path to Braemar was followed to just above the Burn of Kilbo where it enters the White Water in Glen Doll. Here the water was crossed, and a stiff pull up the grassy ridge to the rough track leading over the sky-line at the head of Kilbo, landed the party at 1.30 at an unnamed top at 2,746 feet, midway between Dreish and Mayar. On the way up, heavy showers of snow and soft hail swept down on a stinging wind out of the north, and coated the ground with white which soon melted when the sun came out. A brief halt was made here, and a short scramble through driving wintry showers led the company to the top of Mayar, at 3,043 feet, soon after two o'clock. A return was made to the first halt, and the sharp ascent to Dreish accomplished in high wind laden with snow and hail, the summit cairn was reached at 3.30. Six of the party descended to Braedownie along the crest of the crags to the bus, and the remainder carried on along the ridge south-eastwards over the Hill of Strone (2,778 feet) and Cairn Inks (2,483 feet), arriving at the Ogilvie Arms, Millton of Clova, at 5.30, after a steep descent to the river. During the whole day visibility was confined to great vistas between wintry showers. The upper corries of Glen Doll and Glen Esk with the impressive precipices and crags were very fine, especially when the wintry showers swept and swirled into and out of them. Their grimness was emphasised by the white squalls, and it was a great experience to see them under those conditions. There were long spells when the sun lit up all the slopes and corries, and the panoramas were very fine indeed, especially when rainbows blazed across the hill faces. After a substantial tea, the return journey was made via Edzell and Fettercairn without incident, except that certain members woke the echoes with selections from plantation songs, light opera, old favourites, and hymns and psalms, but nobody seemed to know the Club Song! Aberdeen was reached about 10 o'clock.—H. D. W.

SOCIAL EVENINGS.

FEBRUARY 25, 1936.

THE first Social meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel on Tuesday, February 25. Upon the suggestion of the Secretary, Dr Semple had been approached and consented most kindly to show a large series of lantern slides, taken during a recent summer holiday in Southern Austria and Bavaria. The Club should congratulate itself upon having the privilege of seeing such a magnificent collection of really beautiful photographs. Taken with a Leica camera, every one was perfect, and it was quite obvious that Dr Semple derived great pleasure and satisfaction from his photography. He confessed that he was not himself a mountaineer, but while not making actual mountain ascents, he and Mrs Semple had penetrated far into many of the beautiful valleys of the country through which they travelled, and he showed photographs of quite a large number of the mountains, as well as most interesting and picturesque pastoral scenes in the lower parts of the valleys. He showed also several photographs of architectural detail of buildings and memorials, and one or two exceedingly fine interior pictures, chosen obviously with an eye to artistic form and balance. Dr Semple described his holiday and his pictures in a most pleasant and informal manner, and explained, almost in detail, many of the places shown in his slides.

In thanking Dr Semple for his address the President said that the Club had seen a collection of photographs, each one of which was truly a picture, not made in any haphazard manner, but taken obviously from an artistic point of view. It was quite certain that Dr Semple's address would stimulate, in some of the members present, a desire to visit Bavaria and Austria, if only for the purpose of seeing at close quarters the magnificent scenery and truly wonderful mountains of that part of Europe. In the region round the Dolomites alone there were some of the finest mountain climbs and most sensational views in the whole of Europe.

The President also expressed the hope that the Club would again see some of Dr Semple's photographs, and asked the members present to accord him a most hearty vote of thanks.—D. P. L.

MARCH 25, 1936.

THE second Social meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel on Wednesday, March 25, when a large attendance of members enjoyed a talk by Dr William Brown.

Dr Brown, who was introduced by the President, showed a most interesting set of slides made from photographs which he had taken in

and around Braemar some twenty-five years ago. The climate then must have been much more severe, and snowstorms such as have been experienced this winter were the rule rather than the exception. Dr Brown showed magnificent views of stretches of the frozen Dee, and he had some particularly fine photographs of trees covered with hoar frost. Of great interest, too, were his pictures of deer, most of which were obtained at the expense of long, cold waits in the snow beside their feeding places. Dr Brown's talk was always interesting and sparkled with gleams of dry Scotch humour.

Dr J. R. Levack, in thanking the speaker, said that Dr Brown combined artistry with his photography to an unusual degree, and called for a vote of thanks which was warmly accorded.—J. S. C.