

A HILL WALK.

BY W. MALCOLM.

EXAMINING the 1-inch Ordnance map for a convenient hill walk west of the Cryne Corse Mounth, which had become somewhat familiar to the writer, a track was noticed starting near the Brig of Bogendreep and leading over to Auchinblae.

Leaving town by 9.30 bus for Strachan, the road was followed to the Brig. The track is shown as starting on the east side of the Brig and about 100 feet above it, but taking the line of least resistance the cart track was followed from the bridge. In 200 or 300 yards along this track, and where it starts to descend to the river, a gate on the left (the second gate from the bridge) was crossed and a pleasant rising path followed through the wood to a fence at the south end of the wood. Here the track became indistinct, but rising gradually in a south-east direction another fence is crossed, and a distinct track followed on the uphill side of this fence. Leading round the base of the Craig of Dalfro there is no difficulty in following this till it crosses the stream between the Craig of Dalfro and Hare Hill. Just before reaching this stream the track to Pitreadie is seen striking off on the left. The other side of the stream the track (shown on map) leading round the base of Hare Hill was not detected, nor could it be seen on the hillside in front, but an indistinct track appeared to lead upwards to Hare Hill. This was followed, and soon became a slight track between shooting butts. At the highest butt (about 900 feet) the track vanished, but a few yards to the east a cut path was found. This led without difficulty almost to the summit of Hare Hill and then stopped abruptly. A visit to the Cairn was made, and from this point a track could be seen leading from the vicinity of the Dye up the Builg Burn. From the Cairn a S.S.E. course was followed through the rough to meet this track,

which was followed without difficulty to where it crosses the burn. From here to the Col the track appeared indistinct but the route fairly obvious. This was not followed, but a direct ascent made to the top of Tipperweir (1,440 feet), from which the track leading down to the Bervie water can be seen quite clearly. Tipperweir was descended in an easterly direction to the track, which was then followed through a pretty glen on the east side of the stream to the first farm at Corsebauld. From here the bus route between Auchinblae and Stonehaven can be reached by road in $1\frac{1}{8}$ miles. Total distance from Strachan, $9\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

For those bound for Auchinblae and who dislike road tramping, cross the foot-bridge over the Bervie water just before Corsebauld, and 50 feet up the hillside a grass track is found leading to Tipperty. A road turns down to Tipperty, but leave this on the left and follow a slight track across the field by the fence. Cross a small watercourse and continue by the fence over the rising ground till the school comes in sight. The road can then be followed past Glenfarquhar Lodge till Auchinblae is seen, then, if the state of cultivation in the fields permits, avoid the road and take a straight line for Auchinblae. Total distance, Strachan to Auchinblae, about 11 miles.

The route makes a pleasant hill walk, and may be combined with the ascent of Hill of Gothie and Goyle Hill, although the "going" between Tipperweir and Hill of Gothie did not appear too good.

Perhaps some reader better acquainted with this walk will answer the following points:—

1. What is the best way of reaching the start of the track at Brig of Bogendreep?
2. Whence comes the cut path found at the highest shooting butt?
3. Is there a track as shown on 1-inch map round the base of Hare Hill?

[On Bartholomew's $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch sheet Hare Hill is called Bawd Hill. The track shown on the 1-inch map round the base of Hare Hill can be seen indistinctly from the base of the hill to the south. It is good in

parts and easily visible, but some sections have become overgrown with deep heather. It appears to have run round the base, losing height as it turned east, until it reached the Builg Burn. There is a small wooden bridge over the Builg about three-quarters of a mile from the Dye, and possibly the old path connected with this bridge, although at the moment there is no sign of the path near the bridge itself.—J. S. C.]

