

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE Forty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 28, 1936, Dr D. P. Levack, President, in the chair.

The accounts for the year to October 31 were read and approved.
Office-bearers were elected as follows:—

Hon. President—Professor J. Norman Collie.

President—Dr David P. Levack.

Vice-Presidents—Messrs E. Birnie Reid and Hugh D. Welsh.

Hon. Editor—Mr William A. Ewen.

Hon. Librarian—Mr James A. Parker.

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

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

THE Forty-eighth Annual Dinner of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel on the evening of Saturday, November 28, 1936. The President was in the Chair, and some ninety-six members and their friends made the evening as enjoyable as ever. In his speech proposing the toast of the Club, the President made reference to the various excursions and expeditions of the past year, and spoke of the continued high level of the membership, and the sound financial state of the Club's affairs. He announced that, through Mr Yunnie, the most generous promise of a sum of £50 had been made by an anonymous friend of the Club, for the purpose of starting a fund for the building of a Club Hut somewhere in the Cairngorms. In expressing the gratitude of the members, the President asked Mr Yunnie to convey to their unknown friend the warm appreciation of this most unexpected and generous offer.

Following a racy speech by Mr E. Birnie Reid, proposing the health of the guests, Colonel David Rorie made a characteristic reply, in which he gave more than one instance of personal experience in climbing, illustrating these events by the dry humour and pointed remarks and the delightful expression of wit which has made his after-dinner speeches famous.

At the end of the Dinner, Miss Dugan gave a short lecture, illustrated by a number of magnificent lantern slides from the collection of the late Mr Dugan.

The President, in introducing Miss Dugan, said that he felt sure the members of the Club would be delighted to hear her again and to see many of the pictures which the Club had enjoyed so much on the occasion of her previous addresses.

Miss Dugan charmed every one by the delightful manner in which she presented the pictures and by the ease of description which she employed throughout the lecture.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Dugan, who was thanked most warmly on behalf of the Club by Mr Duff.

In the course of the evening a most enjoyable programme of songs was contributed by Mr Bertie J. Grant, the music being played once more by Mr A. C. Simpson.—D. P. L.

SUMMER EXCURSIONS, 1936.

TILLYFOURIE TO TORPHINS—JUNE 6, 1936.

A PARTY of twelve members and guests left Aberdeen by bus at 1.45 P.M., arriving at Tillyfourie at 2.50 P.M. (via Kemnay). We then proceeded through the wood on the south side of the road, through which quite a good track led over the White Hill. Crossing a deep heather stretch on the moor, we went over the Green Hill, where we arrived at 4 P.M. Remaining on the hill too long, we decided to cut part of our programme and make straight for Torphins.

After a tour of a number of farms, we arrived at Tornaveen School and on to the main Tarland road. Mr Angus secured for us permission to proceed by the private road to Findiack House, from which we reached the main Torphins road via the Beltie Bridge. Here we walked what Mr Griffith is pleased to call $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, but I have grave fears that he was sleep-walking for at least 8 miles. Tea was very welcome at the Learney Arms, and Aberdeen was reached at 9 P.M.—E. J. H.

LAIRIG AN LAOIGH—JUNE 20 TO 21, 1936.

A PARTY of twenty-three members and sixteen guests, leaving Aberdeen by the 1.20 P.M. excursion train on Saturday, June 20, set out at 5.10 P.M. from Nethybridge, by way of Forest Lodge, to the first rendezvous of the expedition at Ryvoan bothie. Here there was ample time, for those who wished to make it, for a visit to the Green Loch, before the departure of the whole party up the gradual, easy rise to the summit of Ben Bynack, which the rear-guard reached by 11 P.M. Here Miss Archibald, Messrs Cardno, Train, and Lawson left the main party and visited A' Chòinneach, and spent about two hours at Loch Avon. In the morning they climbed

Beinn Mheadhoin, and, while the others descended by Coire Etchachan, Lawson continued over Derry Cairngorm to Glen Derry.

The main party found twilight well past by the time they reached the Barns of Bynack, and it was decided to bivouac on this site until light returned. Ample "bedroom" accommodation was to be found under the Barns and, since a glorious night sky promised that running water would certainly not be laid on in each room, the party settled down to enjoy such comfortable conditions as one could ever hope for above the 3,000-foot contour. One great miracle falls to be recorded: Mrs Hendry magically evoked not the spirit but the physical presence of bacon and eggs, enough to feed the whole party, and, kindling a new and friendlier evening star, distilled unbelievable fragrances into the night wind. After an hour's rest the party decided to split again, Mrs Hendry and E. W. Smith leaving the Barns about 1 P.M. and traversing A' Chòinneach to the Avon. They continued to the Shelter Stone and descended by Coire Etchachan. Miss Hoggarth and Miss Jackson did not stop at the Barns but carried on down the Lairig an Laoigh.

The main party left the Barns at 2.10 A.M. and remained on A' Chòinneach to see the sun rise at 4 A.M., a most glorious experience, as the pink light of dawn sank slowly down the snow-flecked slopes of Ben Macdhui, leaving the hollow of Loch Avon still full of darkness. A scramble down a steep heather-covered slope led to a ford over the Avon, whence a well-marked track soon took us to the head of the Lairig an Laoigh, which we reached at 6.10 A.M. The walk down Glen Derry showed the hills at their summer best, the low sun throwing up all the detail of the rock structure in Coire Etchachan to perfection. Groups reached Derry Lodge from 7.30 to 9 A.M., and here found that as many as wished it could be taken down to the Linn of Dee in a private car, which operated a sort of "shuttle" service, through the great kindness of the friend of the Club who drove it. The whole party assembled at Linn of Dee, where a bus waited to take members to breakfast at the Invercauld Hotel. After one of the memorable Invercauld breakfasts, a specially chartered bus took on those of the party who did not wish to stay longer in Braemar, arriving in Aberdeen about 2 P.M. The whole expedition was carried through under splendid conditions of weather, and for several guests present who had no previous experience of the higher Cairngorms it was an ideal introduction to the pleasure of all-night hill walking.—H. D. G.

COCK BRIDGE, STRATHDON—JULY 5, 1936.

Present.—Misses E. O. Alexander, L. W. Archibald, M. Daniel, E. Davidson, N. Y. Dick, M. W. Johnston, E. Rodger, H. Ross, C. H. Wisely; Messrs H. D. Griffith, J. MacHardy, R. O. Mackay, A. S.

Middleton, R. L. Mitchell, H. D. Welsh. *Guests.*—Mrs J. M. Griffiths, Misses F. R. Mitchell, C. Sheekey; Messrs M. D. Deane, J. D. Easson, R. Mitchell.

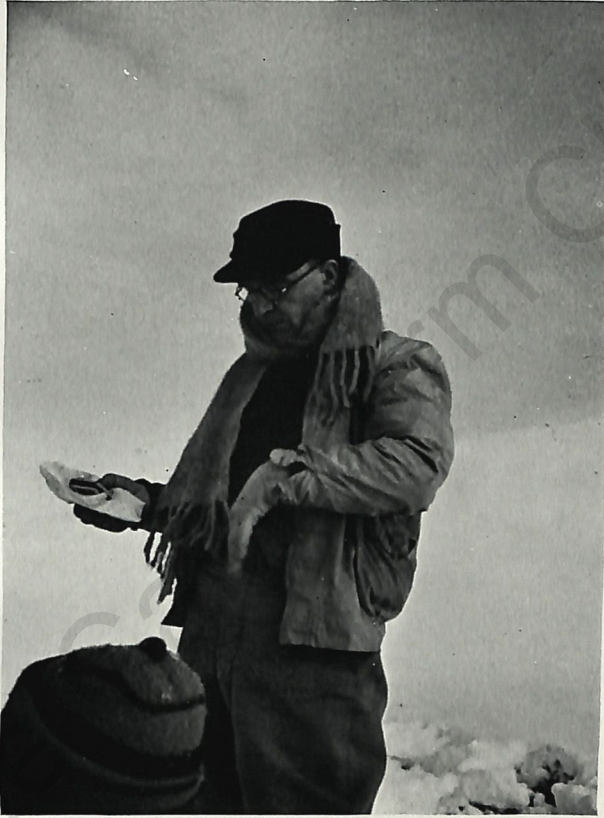
A company of twenty-one were given a cheery send-off by Mrs A. W. Hendry at 8.45 A.M. at Queen's Cross on a gloriously fine morning. The run up to Cock Bridge via Alford, Kildrummy, and Bellabeg was much enjoyed because of the delightful scenery on all sides. Here and there the bell heather spread a rich carpet, and the numerous companies of graceful birches in the great stretches of luxuriant bracken hinted at a rich autumn pageant.

The day's efforts began with the examination of the ruins of Corgarff Castle, set at the foot of Càrn Oighreag, and overlooking the confluence of the Allt a' Choilich with the Don, keeping a watch on the old military road over the Lecht to Tomintoul and the north.

Here Daniel, Rodger, Easson, MacHardy, and Middleton left for Inchroary, via Delnadamp Lodge, and the hills on the north side of the Don. From Lagganauld, Càrn Bad a' Ghuail was climbed and a north-easterly direction was kept along the ridge, the following tops being surmounted on the way, Craig Veann, Druim na Cuaich, Tolm Bùirich, Càrn Ealasaid, and Beinn a' Chruinnich. Specially fine was the view westwards to the Cairngorm group. A descent was made to the Lecht road at its highest point, 2,090 feet, and the highway followed to Allargue Hotel.

The remainder kept up the long heathery stretch of Càrn Oighreag (2,310 feet) to the accompaniment of two or three showers of fine drizzle. The short descent to the col on the other side leading to the rise of the Brown Cow Hill was rewarded by the finding of extensive patches of the true Cranberry (*Oxycoccus palustris*), whose tiny red flowers with reflexed petals dotted the surface of sphagnum. Other patches were noted elsewhere during the day. The summit cairn on the broad back of the Brown Cow (2,721 feet) called for a long halt, and enjoyment of the extensive and entrancing panorama. So far, the going was heavy on account of the yielding nature of the sphagnum underlying the heather, and the sun was very hot. Avern, or Cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*), was exceedingly plentiful all over and showed promise of a rich harvest of fruit. Hares were raised in large numbers. One kept so close to its form that the whole party gathered round a few feet from it, and it was not until it was almost touched that it sprang away, only to halt again a few yards off.

The view from the Brown Cow was very satisfying. Most striking was the graceful massif of Lochnagar lifting its glistening rocks above wooded foot-hills into a blue sky thronged with slowly moving white clouds. Here and there a snow patch dazzled and cloud shadows crept across the long, hot ridges. Northwards Tolm Bùirich and Càrn Ealasaid slumbered in the heat and, beyond their tops, the hills of Ross peeped mistily blue. East, the winding Don, and a tumbled maze



R. L. Mitchell

“LOOK WHAT THEY’VE GIVEN ME FOR LUNCH!”

of brown hills, with blue Morven and the distant peak of Benachie overtopping all. Across the face of Culardoch to the south could be seen the old drove road from Loch Builg to the Dee, now long disused.

From the Brown Cow, a descent was made westward to Càrn Ulie and along to Meikle Geal Charn (2,633 feet), from which an impressive view was obtained of the wave-broken surface of Loch Builg. Between Meikle and Little Geal Charn the unusual spectacle of a small herd of deer leaping the 6-foot march fence from a standing take-off was witnessed. Here, too, in the deep moss hags at the head of Meoir Veannaich, a fine rich mahogany-coloured fox was disturbed. A descent on the north side of Little Geal Charn to the 2,000-foot contour led the party to the Well of Don, the first water crossed or sampled during the day. The descent to the Don was made by the Corrie of Culchavie and Càrn Leitir na Cloiche. Two miles of hot, dusty road led to Allargue Hotel, where the Secretary, W. Garden, and J. A. Parker welcomed the party.

So ended the programme of official excursions for the year. Those who had attended most, if not all, of the official outings were satisfied with what they had done and seen, and were looking forward with keenness to the programme for 1937.—H. D. W.

THE NEW YEAR MEET.

ON New Year's Day a party of nineteen set out to climb Lochnagar from the Ballochbuie. The ascent through the forest proved very delightful, but on reaching the upper limit of the trees it was soon obvious that the weather was likely to be fairly severe, as an extremely strong wind was blowing from the south-west, rising to gale force at times, and driving clouds of frozen snow across the open ground. Shortly after emerging from the upper limits of the forest, two members decided to retrace their steps, and some little time later, at about 3,000 feet, seven others decided not to go on. The remainder of the party continued the ascent, but ten only reached the summit. There the weather conditions were extremely severe, and it was impossible to see very far in the blinding drift, and without very much delay these members retraced their steps. In the meantime five other members, who had tackled the mountain from Callater, found that they were aided in their ascent by the gale, but were quite unable to face into it on attempting to make the return journey, and they too descended by the north side of the hill through the Ballochbuie. In spite of the severe weather the day's expedition was thoroughly enjoyed by every one.

Another party of six attempted to climb Ben Macdhui, four managed to struggle up to the top of the Sròn Riach, while two contented themselves by climbing into Coire Lochan Uaine. This expedition also found the weather conditions extremely severe, with drifting frozen

snow and a strong gale, and it was almost impossible to see except in the immediate neighbourhood of the party. In the lower parts of the valley it was found that the drifts were gathering, rapidly making the going extremely arduous, while near the top of the ridge it was quite obvious that the crossing of the plateau to the summit would have been a very uncomfortable and almost impossible feat.

Four other members proceeded up Glen Clunie and climbed the lesser height of Sgòr Mòr. They also met the severe weather, but bagged their peak, and had the satisfaction of knowing that they were amongst the few select who had achieved the object of their expedition.

Two other members contented themselves with a vigorous walk round by the Linn of Dee. They declared that they, of course, enjoyed themselves better than any other of the expeditions.

Three members who did not climb did excellent service in providing transport for some of the Lochnagar party.

On Saturday a party proceeded to Beinn Bhreac and had a pleasant walk over the plateau to Beinn a' Chaorruinn on firm snow but in indifferent weather. A party of seven motored to Derry Lodge and, in heavy sleet and rain, attempted to ascend Ben Macdui by the Sròn Riach ridge. A strong head wind, together with sodden, deep snow in the glen, added to the general discomfort, and although the snow conditions on the exposed ridge improved, progress against the gale was slow, and when the ice-glazed rocks at the top of the ridge were reached, it was generally agreed that continuance was out of the question. During the descent the weather cleared and here and there the snow-covered hills were lit by the declining sun.

On the 3rd a party of eight went to the Cairnwell, where Parker declared that the wind was too strong and that he would have to go straight back to the car. Without further explanation, Parker led the way to Càrn Aosda. Bothwell, Drysdale, and Miss Anderson motored to the Baddoch, climbed Sòcach Mòr, proceeded to An Sòcach, and descended to the col between the latter and Beinn Iutharn Beag, returning down the glen. Hutcheon, Dyer, and Smith climbed the left-hand gully in Corrie Kander and came home over Càrn an Tuirc. Mitchell, Welsh, Misses Hay and Dick ascended Càrn na Moine by the Allt Cristie Mor, coming down on the Glen Dee side at Inverey. It was a mild day, the long heather was fairly dry, and the view of the snow-clad Cairngorms carrying considerable cloud was very fine.

Some forty-two members attended the Meet.

D. P. L. and H. D. W.

LOCHNAGAR—FEBRUARY 21, 1937.

Present.—Mrs E. J. Hendry, Mrs A. W. Garrow, Misses H. Mearns, M. Daniel, E. Davidson, W. Hay, D. L. Johnson, M. Brown, M. J. S. Lawson; Messrs F. C. Garrow, R. L. Mitchell, R. T. Medd, I. C.

Ritchie, J. E. Bothwell, W. M. Duff, D. P. Levack, E. W. Smith, J. MacHardy, R. Bain, R. H. Calvert, R. Reid, A. Howie, W. Lawson, A. S. Middleton, H. D. Welsh. *Guests.*—Messrs P. O. Leggat, W. S. Veitch, G. Lorimer, G. Dinnie.

The first snow-climbing excursion on Lochnagar for 1937 took place on Sunday, February 21, when a company of twenty-nine members and guests enjoyed a successful expedition. Leaving Aberdeen at 8 A.M. in ideal weather, two buses conveyed the party up Glen Muick in the hope that snow conditions would permit the conveyances reaching Spittal of Muick. Linn of Muick Cottage, just below the Falls, was the highest point that could be reached with safety, and here the party crossed the river by means of the foot-bridge below the house, and in hot sunshine trudged up the 3 miles of snow-covered road to Allt-na-giubhsaich in intermittent light snow showers. All round, the hills were heavily covered, sparkingly beautiful against a bright blue sky. Beyond the plantation at Allt-na-giubhsaich the snow was deep, and a strong westerly wind swept clouds of fine, dry powdery snow off the surface. The extensive cornices along the course of the Allt-na-giubhsaich Burn were extraordinarily fine, lit up as they were by the sun shining through the smoke of the wind-blown snow. From the col below the Fox's Well the ascent was made right into the wind, to a great extent on a hard icy surface, interrupted now and again by stretches of powdery drifts into which one sank deeply. Most of the time little of the party could be made out owing to the snow-cloud enveloping them. Below the Well, which was invisible, five of the party retraced their steps, and the remainder, backs to the stiff gale, consumed a cold lunch on the crest just below the col between Meikle Pap and Cuidhe Crom. The view from this point across the smoking slopes, across to Allt-na-giubhsaich and beyond, was very beautiful, the deeply covered hill masses brilliantly sunlit and set against a blue sky flecked lightly with delicate clouds.

The majority of the party under Dr Levack laboriously climbed the steep icy slope of the Ladder to the crest, where, curiously enough, it was milder and less wind-swept. The main corrie was filled by a cloud of fine snow blown off the summit plateau, and nothing was to be seen below. The going was almost entirely over a hard surface, but thick wind-carried snow powder obscured the view in all directions. In due course the summit rocks on Cac Càrn Beag were reached, and these were found to be beautifully patterned by icicles, and icy flowers, plumes, and feathers. The enormous cornices on the cliff edge were revealed from time to time, and great care had to be exercised.

The rest of the party who did not ascend to the summit descended a little into the main corrie and were rewarded by an impressive view of the ice-covered loch, with the heavily plastered cliffs soaring up into the snow-cloud. They climbed up Meikle Pap, from the summit of which, in a stiff gale, an extensive view was obtained.

The descent to Allt-na-giubhsaich was uneventful, the speed being increased by glissades down the Ladder.

Ballater was reached about 6.45 P.M., and a substantial tea, with the traditional bacon and eggs, consumed in the delightfully warm and homely dining-room of the Loirston Hotel. The run to Aberdeen was made in good time, the arrival there being about 10 P.M.—H. D. W.

LOCHNAGAR—MARCH 7, 1937.

Present.—Misses L. M. Murray, M. Daniel, E. Rodger, W. Hay, C. H. Wisely, E. J. Christie, M. Hoggarth; Messrs W. Malcolm, E. W. Smith, R. Reid, R. L. Mitchell, W. M. Duff, H. D. Welsh.
Guest.—P. Johnston.

The second winter excursion to Lochnagar took place in exceptionally good weather conditions. The party departed from Queen's Cross soon after 8 A.M. to a chorus of blackbirds and thrushes, under a lightly clouded blue sky and, even at that hour, warm sunshine. Beyond Banchory the landscape was heavily snow-covered, and beyond Ballater, where the snow was very deep, the road was just passable for a single line of traffic, the cuttings in the drifts emphasising the severity of the conditions. Through the courtesy of H.M. the King, permission had been given the Club to go through the Royal Forest. The bus was left at the Danzig Shiel Bridge, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles below Braemar. Here the Ballochbuie Forest was entered, and the heavily snow-laden firs presented a wonderful spectacle. Deer were down in great numbers round the Lodge. The going through the trees, once the snow-ploughed road was left, was very heavy indeed, owing to the dry powdery nature of the snow, and for practically the whole way to the upper tree-line at about 1,800 feet, the party ploughed through snow which was seldom below the knees and was in places waist-deep. The surface was crisp, and sparkled and scintillated in the strong sunshine; there was no breeze. Above the tree-line the snow hardened, and in places there was hard ice, polished by wind action. Progress had been extremely slow, and it was seen that there was no time to attempt the summit of Lochnagar. Not to be denied a summit, an ascent was made of Cnapan Nathraichean (2,703 feet)—or Càrn Fiaclan on the older maps—on the north side of the Blacksheil Burn. Here there was a slight icy breeze, and a halt was called at the ice-flower covered rocks. The snow-covered panorama presented was astonishingly extensive and clear. In particular the north and north-west view was one to be long remembered. Every one of the Cairngorm group was sharply defined, so much so that the shadows cast by the enormous cornices were clearly visible. From Morven in the east to Beinn a' Ghlo in the west, the whole multitude of mountains and hills was a sight seldom seen at this time. Of Lochnagar itself little was to be seen on account of cloud and snow showers. The northern

corrie and the Staic buttress occasionally showed themselves. The descent was made by way of the upward track, and Braemar was reached about 6 P.M.—H. D. W.

LOCHNAGAR—MARCH 21, 1937.

Present.—Misses W. Hay, L. M. Murray, E. L. Davidson, D. L. Johnson; Messrs R. L. Mitchell, R. Bain, R. P. Yunnice, E. W. Smith, N. Dyer, R. H. Calvert, H. D. Welsh. *Guests.*—Miss N. Norrie; Messrs I. K. M. Esslemont, H. T. Martin, E. B. Davies.

Good weather again favoured the third excursion to Lochnagar, which was still under a very heavy snow covering. The route was by Danzig Shiel and the Ballochbuie Forest, but a new line of ascent was taken. The path to the Falls of Garbh Allt was followed, and the stream crossed by the bridge at the falls. A long slant through the forest was made to the south-east high up above the Allt Lochan nan Eun, the upper tree limit being reached near the junction of this stream and the Blacksheil Burn. Up to this point the snow was compacted to a great extent under a good icy crust, so that the going was much easier and more rapid than on the previous excursion. The heavier members of the party sank knee-deep in places. The gully of the Blacksheil was completely snow-filled, except at one point of about 30 yards. The steep slope of Meall an Tionail had to be negotiated carefully owing to the hard, icy nature of the snow, and ice-axes came into operation frequently. The boulders on the upper slopes were almost completely covered, and the final ascent of the north-west buttress, leading to the culminating rocks of Lochnagar, called for care. The whole way up from the upper tree limit was ideal for climbing owing to the crisp, icy nature of the deep snow. The Indicator was reached just four hours after the party had left the bus. The summit rocks and Indicator, buried under a great mass of ice-flowers and plumes, presented a remarkable spectacle. The view was wide and distant, but storm cloud and heavy snow showers blotted out the Cairngorm giants. The Lochnagar corrie precipices were magnificently beautiful and crowned with heavy cornices. The northern corrie was drifted up with wreaths of great depth, and the Staic Buttress, heavily corniced, was an outstanding object. Mist came out of the north soon after the party gathered at the summit, and a blizzard swept over. Glissading added greatly to the rapidity of the descent, which was made into the Blacksheil Corrie where the peat hags were levelled over with crisp snow. The stream was crossed at the same point as on the ascent, and the upward track followed through the forest to the Falls of Garbh Allt. The bus was reached again after an absence of six and a half hours. Arrival at Aberdeen at 9 P.M. closed what was one of the most enjoyable and successful visits to Lochnagar during the winter season.—H. D. W.

THE EASTER MEET, GLENCOE, 1937.

No information regarding the Easter Meet at Ballachulish has so far reached me, although an effort on my part to stir up lethargic contributors produced the reply that the weather was wonderful! In Aberdeenshire the roads were snow-bound and conditions Arctic, so that the few who did attend may be reckoned fortunate. Apparently, however, the remarkable weather enjoyed reduced those attending to such a state of prostration that no report of their activities, if any, is available for the *Journal*.

Robert, the devil who sits by my elbow when contributors are more difficult than usual, insists that information of the party's activities is not really necessary to the writing of a note on the Easter Meet. Deaf to my denial, he continues that anyone gifted with a little imagination and a map of the district could write up a satisfactory account of the affair, particularly as the weather conditions were those prevailing on the Ordnance Map. I take it that what Robert means is that members interested to know what may have been done at the Meet should consult the 1-inch Ordnance Map, Sheet (Scotland) 54.

While shifting the responsibility for this beggarly account of empty sentences to the shoulders of the elusive Robert, the imp reminds me that a number of members are displeased with the average Meet report, on the grounds that "the jungle of names—mountains and men—is as uninteresting as the procession of a's and b's in a binomial expansion." Craftily he urges me to present this account of the Easter Meet as specially written for their benefit, and draws my attention to the at once obvious fact that it contains no names, neither of mountains nor of men (although Robert is, apparently, of the male persuasion!). They should skip the other Meet reports, therefore, these having been written for the less critical, and possibly larger, section of our community. They, at least, will appreciate that this policy of omitting all names is the first step towards the abolition of the *Journal* and the editorial demise. (I refuse to divulge Robert's opinion upon that!)

The poor attendance at the Meet may have been largely the result of road and weather conditions, but the new venture in running a Spring Holiday Meet may also have played a part. And it will be well to bear in mind, for future occasions, that this was the second consecutive Easter at Glencoe.—W. A. E.

SPRING HOLIDAY MEET—APRIL 30 TO MAY 4, 1937.

THIS meet, held at Braemar, was a new departure in the annals of the Club, and had been arranged specially in place of the one-day excursion as hitherto. The attendance was somewhat disappointing, but what was lacking in numbers was counterbalanced by enthusiasm. The

weather was ideal, conditions underfoot were excellent, and these, coupled with the magnificence of the snow-covered mountains, provided one of the most successful and enjoyable meets in the records of the Club.

Saturday saw Messrs Carle, Mitchell, Parker, and Welsh on Càrn a' Mhaim and Ben Macdhuì, making the ascent by Luibeg. The descent was made by Coire Etchachan and Glen Derry, with a side-step to Coire Sputan Dearg. Snow was extensive both as regards area and depth and in excellent condition; weather conditions were perfect and the panoramas were magnificently impressive. The streams could only be crossed by snow bridges, so swollen were they, and the wreck of the upper Derry foot-bridge compelled the party to plough their way through long heather among peaty knolls in the fir forest to Derry Lodge. However, the spectacle of the Derry Burn in turbulent spate compensated for any discomfort experienced.

The President and Mrs Levack had arrived during the afternoon, as had also Misses E. Davidson, L. Murray, N. Norrie, E. Rodger, and Mr R. H. Calvert, and were at dinner when the climbers returned.

Sunday was another glorious day. H. D. Welsh returned to Càrn a' Mhaim and Ben Macdhuì with Misses Murray and Rodger and Mr Calvert, who were making their first ascent of these two mountains. As a point from which to obtain an impressive view of the Cairngorms, Càrn a' Mhaim is hard to beat, and we would urge members to make the ascent of this seldom visited mountain. Perched as one is on the edge of the deep ditch of Glen Dee and looking across to the steeply rising faces of Beinn Bhrotain, The Devil's Point, Cairn Toul, and Braeriach, one obtains a peculiar sense of height and depth seldom realised elsewhere in the group. Not only is the ridge of Càrn a' Mhaim a unique viewpoint, it is the only one of its kind in the Cairngorms, and though nowhere difficult, is narrow enough to be exhilarating.

Messrs Levack, Parker, Mitchell, and Carle, with Misses Norrie and Davidson, set out for Glas Maol.

Leaving the cars at the summit, the party divided. Four members climbed Meall Odhar (3,019 feet) and Glas Maol (3,502 feet) by the usual route up the boundary fence. There was very little snow, and the patches remaining were wet and rapidly melting away. A moderate amount of snow still remained about the top of the shallow corrie on the north-west side of Glas Maol, but the cornice had broken away in most places. What remained gave an indication of the extraordinary amount of snow which must have been present during the height of winter. From the summit plateau, which was clear of snow, the party went eastwards over the mountain, and gained the track of the Monega Pass as it runs south from the back of the Cairn of Claise. The track runs a little east behind Glas Maol, and then again swings south on the western shoulder of Monega Hill (2,917 feet). Leaving the track, the party made for the cairn of Monega Hill, from which a magnificent view can be got of the Glen Isla, Caenlochan Glen, and Canness Glen.

Returning from this point, instead of ascending Glas Maol, a wide detour was made, traversing the back of the mountain towards the south-west, and the party came out on the ridge south of Glas Maol, making for Creag Leacach (3,238 feet). Here one member decided to break off, and he returned by a fairly direct route to the cars. The other three members continued the traverse of the ridge and finished on the summit of Carn Ait (2,828 feet) before making the very steep descent to the road, three-quarters of a mile below the Devil's Elbow. This last short bit of road proved very trying in the heat and with the constant stream of cars passing up and down.

Two other members climbed the Cairnwell (3,059 feet) by a more or less direct route from the road. From there they made a circle towards the west and north round by Loch Vrotachan and so back to the Cairnwell road, walking in towards Braemar until they were overtaken by the cars with the rest of the party.

Monday broke misty but cleared up, with the promise of another good day. Parker did a solitary climb of four tops lying between Glen Dee and Glen Lui to the south of Luibeg—Sgòr Mòr (2,666 feet), Càrn Mor (2,057 feet), Sgòr Dubh (2,429 feet), and Càrn an'Ic Duibhe (2,062 feet). The remainder, joined by J. S. Cardno, went through the Ballochbuie Forest by way of the Falls of Garbh Allt to the Blacksheil Burn, which was crossed about 2,250 feet by a snow bridge. Meall an Tionail was rounded on the west side, and here Cardno, Mitchell, Calvert, and Miss Murray broke off for the Stuic Buttress. The remainder, E. Rodger, E. Davidson, Carle, and Welsh, kept on to the summit of Cac Càrn Beag. All agreed to meet on the summit, but owing to the intense cold the second party found half an hour's wait long enough and descended to the Garbh Allt. The Stuic party were prevented from completing the ascent to the crest by their inexperience and general conditions and returned in their tracks without incident. The whole party gathered at the Garbh Allt at 4.30 and returned to Braemar.

Not the least enjoyable feature of the meet was the social aspect. These few days together enabled members to get to know one another and interchange ideas and experiences. The suggested Club hut was built over and over again, furnished and provisioned, and various sites suggested, discussed, and discarded! The subscription list, compiled by the Honorary Librarian, was a marvel of engineering and ingenuity, and one wished it were true!—H. D. W.

CARNFERG—MAY 22, 1937.

Members.—Misses E. L. Davidson, F. R. Mitchell, M. D. Hoggarth, R. K. Jackson, E. J. Christie, E. Rodger, M. C. Donaldson, A. M. Donaldson, M. Johnstone, W. Hay, C. H. Wisely; Mrs J. M. Griffith;

Messrs W. Mackay, R. H. Calvert, A. W. Carle, R. Mitchell, M. Smith, H. D. Griffith, T. Train, H. D. Welsh. *Guests.*—Misses A. Sinclair, J. Thomson, M. D. F. Scatterty.

A party of twenty-three journeyed to Aboyne in brilliant sunshine, crossed the river by the suspension bridge, and took the road to the Fungle on the west side of Birsemore Hill. The fir woods, through which the path wound, were beautiful in the strong sunlight, and particular notice was taken of the abundance of lavender wood sorrel among the heather. Aloft, the breeze came through the tree-tops like the roar of distant surf. At Rest and be Thankful, a short halt was called to enjoy the view through the trees towards Aboyne. Soon the woods were left behind and a rough track followed through the heather on the open hill slope. The ascent to the summit of Carnferg (1,724 feet) over a gradual rise on short heather did not take long, but the view was disappointing owing to haze, though Morven, Lochnagar, and other hills carrying considerable snow could just be made out. A small herd of deer on the sky-line of Duchery Beg to the west added to the interest. As several members had to return to town by train leaving Aboyne soon after 8 P.M., instead of dropping down to Glencat and so to Ballogie and Marywell by the Burn of Cattie, or by Balfour to Birse, a line by way of the gathering ground of the Burn of Birse was followed. A short scramble among heathery moraines at the head of the burn took the party out on a road through the fir wood round Brackloch Craig, and so down to the road from Birse to Aboyne. A further walk of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles completed the excursion, which occupied about four and a half hours.—H. D. W.

WHITE BRIDGE EXCURSION—MAY 30, 1937.

Members.—Mrs E. J. Hendry, Mrs J. Angus, Misses M. Scatterty, F. R. Mitchell, E. Rodger, L. Murray, E. Davidson, W. Hay, E. J. Christie, E. Christie, C. H. Wisely, R. K. Jackson, N. D. Milne, M. W. Johnston, M. D. Hoggarth, M. Daniel, and D. L. Johnson; Messrs R. Mitchell, R. O. Mackay, A. S. Middleton, W. Malcolm, R. L. Mitchell, J. S. Cardno, E. W. Smith, H. D. Griffith, J. Angus, H. D. Welsh. *Guests.*—Misses M. Lawson, D. C. I. Wood, J. I. Stuart, M. Knox, M. Harper; Messrs I. K. M. Esslemont, G. Lorimer, J. C. Leask, H. T. Martin.

By hired and private cars and push-bike, the company gathered at the White Bridge shortly before 10 o'clock. The conditions were all that could be desired—bright sunshine, a blue sky with fleets of racing clouds casting shadows on the brilliantly lit snow-patched masses, and dry ground underfoot. The programme was a heavy one—Carn Cloich-mhuilinn, Beinn Bhrotain, Monadh Mòr, Cairn Toul, and Devil's Point—and very few of the company had previous knowledge of the

ground. One contingent kept to the west side of the Dee and the other section, following the Lairig path, crossed the river at a point just under a minor top of Càrn Cloich-mhuilinn. The well-known scarcity of places where the Dee can be crossed dry-shod was amply demonstrated, and some of the male members adopted the role of St Christopher in getting several of the ladies across. The party soon divided, and those with a good turn of speed, sound wind, and a reluctance to halt long at any point made rapid headway, and it was only now and again that the rest could make them out in the far distance.

Càrn Cloich-mhuilinn presented no difficulty, but it was decidedly cold on top, in spite of the brilliant sun: the ascent to Beinn Bhrotain was relieved by a climb up a long, steep staircase of snow, and it was a surprise to walk across the extensive grassy expanse below the summit, an area which perhaps explains the suggested meaning of the name—"the hill of the fattening"—indicating that when cattle were pastured on it in the old days they fed well. The short descent to the col at the foot of Monadh Mòr was interesting on account of the terraced formation of the weathered rocks and boulders. The ascent to Monadh Mòr proved less steep than it appeared, and the long back of the hill, rocky and stony, was relieved by a lengthy cornice of snow which eased the going considerably. Passing Loch nan Stuirteag, a long, steep, stony ascent led to Cairn Toul and thence round the crest of the Soldier's Corrie to the steeply sided Devil's Point.

It was only those blessed with speed and cursed with a decided aversion to halts who completed the round. The Tigers descended to Corrou and returned by the Lairig path. The remainder, who preferred to climb slowly and comfortably, descended into Glen Geusachan by the stream from Loch nan Stuirteag, a considerable portion of which ran through a striking snow tunnel. Glen Geusachan, especially at its upper end, is not exactly a place where one can hurry, on account of the maze of moraines and peat hags with buried fir roots and stumps. Apart from that, the general appearance of the glen has features of immense interest, especially the great rock faces that frown down from Beinn Bhrotain and Devil's Point on either hand, and invites one to linger. Particularly awe-inspiring was the havoc wrought on Beinn Bhrotain two years ago by a cloud-burst. The enormous channels gouged out of the face, and the acres of gravel and boulders spread out fanwise in the Glen floor, demonstrated in no uncertain manner the power of uncontrolled water.

The visibility during the whole day was remarkably good; only in the south-west was there any marring of the horizon. It would be difficult to enumerate what was most striking, but the vista from Càrn Cloich-mhuilinn up Glen Dee was a revelation; the glimpses down into Glen Geusachan between its high walls and the sweeping greenness of Glen Eidart and Glen Feshie were very beautiful. The western aspect of Devil's Point and Cairn Toul, so different from the appearance



ST CHRISTOPHER

On Tuesday fresh snow prevented an attempt on the Galenstock, so the day was spent in travelling down the Rhone valley, in perfect weather, to Martigny, and then over the Forclaz Col (4,950 feet) to Chamonix.

The latter pass, although not high, is not recommended for cars with a long wheel base. The road is only wide enough for one-way traffic, and the hairpin bends are very sharp.

On Wednesday afternoon Dyer, Hutcheon, and Smith, with a guide, ascended by cable rail to the hotel at the glacier station on the Aig du Midi and made an attempt on Mont Blanc (15,771 feet) on Thursday. Unfortunately, a cold wind on the summit ridge prevented the summit being reached.

On Friday a start was made for home down the Chamonix valley via Sallanches and Geneva, and the night spent at Orleans.

The next night Dieppe was reached, and on Sunday the crossing made from Boulogne to Folkestone, and on to Cambridge for the night.

Aberdeen was reached on Monday night.—W. M.

THE INDOOR MEETS.

ON Tuesday, January 26, 1937, Mr H. D. Welsh gave a most interesting talk and showed a very large number of lantern slides, taken over a period of many years and covering a wide area of mountains, including an expedition to Skye.

Mr Welsh's pictures were exceedingly good, and his very happy way of describing scenes and incidents without reference to notes appealed to every one in his audience, who accorded him a very hearty vote of thanks at the conclusion of his discourse.

The paper read by the President on February 22 is reproduced almost verbatim elsewhere in the *Journal*. The large and varied assortment of maps and diagrams to which Dr Levack made frequent reference it is not possible to reproduce here. Nor, of course, the little asides and counters by argumentative members of the audience. An instructive and enjoyable evening.

J. A. Parker took third trick at the wheel, and on Tuesday, March 23, circumnavigated Ireland—on the high level, of course. After a tricky bit of route finding among the lantern slides, Ireland was put precisely in its place, and Parker once again demonstrated his prodigious memory for topographical detail and for mountain heights. The slides presented were very carefully chosen to show the hills from different angles and frequently to include the point from which succeeding pictures were taken. The audience was duly appreciative of the very complete description thus presented.—D. P. L. and W. A. E.