

FIFTY YEARS OF THE CAIRNGORM CLUB.

THE story of the founding of the Cairngorm Club has already been told twice in the *Journal*. Dr Lippe contributed to the first issue a brief history of events from the historic gathering on Maghan na Banaraich in 1887 to the excursion to Clochnaben in 1892. Again, in 1910, it is recorded in James Gray Kyd's "Twenty-one Years of Our Club" (*C.C.J.*, Vol. VI., pp. 177-187). It would be impossible though perhaps desirable to reprint Dr Lippe's version, reflecting as it does the genial personality of one of our founders, but this review of fifty years already threatens to assume unwieldy proportions. Wherever possible, however, references are quoted so that readers interested in any of the events chronicled may read the originals in full.

The party which ascended Ben Macdhui to participate in the Queen Victoria Jubilee celebrations comprised Alexander Copland, A. I. M'Connochie, Rev. Robert Lippe, LL.D., W. A. Hawes, Rev. C. C. Macdonald and W. Anderson. In the early morning of June 23, 1887, they descended to the Shelter Stone to rest for a few hours before proceeding to the ascent of Cairngorm; Dr Lippe returned alone to Deeside, parting from the company near the mouth of the Féith Buidhe, on the Maghan na Banaraich, the Dairymaid's Field. To quote from Dr Lippe's account, "Before finally taking our several ways, we spontaneously and unanimously agreed to form ourselves into the Cairngorm Club, the name being naturally suggested by the monarch mountain so full in view in the foreground, and calmly looking down on our meeting. Office-bearers were elected by acclamation, and with that generous and genial absence of exclusive selfishness which has always characterized our society, we resolved to open our ranks to the admission of men and women of heroic spirit, and possessed of souls open to the influences and

enjoyment of nature pure and simple as displayed among our loftiest mountains."

"Like other bantlings," he continues, "it required for a time nourishment and nursing," but, eighteen months later, on January 9, 1889, the Club was officially founded in the Bath Hotel, Aberdeen, the Office-bearers elected at the Dairymaid's Field being formally re-elected. The list read:

<i>President</i>	-	-	James Bryce, LL.D., M.P. for South Aberdeen.
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	-	-	Alexander Cruickshank, LL.D. Rev. George A. Smith, M.A.
<i>Chairman</i>	-	-	Alexander Copland.
<i>Secretary</i>	-	-	Alex. Inkson M'Connochie.
<i>Treasurer</i>	-	-	Robert Harvey.
<i>Committee</i>	-	-	Robert Anderson. Charles Brown. T. R. Gillies. W. J. Jamieson. Rev. Robert Lippe. Rev. C. C. Macdonald. John Roy, LL.D. Charles Ruxton. Rev. Robert Semple. George Skakle.

The list occupied the front page of a single sheet folded once; the second and third pages were devoted to the Rules, numbering in all thirteen, the fifth, relating to the objects of the Club, occupying almost one page. (The 1939 revision of the Rules brings their total number to 45!) The fourth page, or back cover, had a pencil sketch of the Cairngorms from the south-east. Few copies of this very interesting document are now in existence—it was printed, apparently, in June 1889.

The club was more than fortunate in its first Chairman and in its first Secretary, but gained an even wider prestige in having Mr James Bryce (later Viscount Bryce of Dechmont) as the first Honorary President. Lord Bryce, whose Parliamentary career was specially identified with the Access to Mountains Bill—which our legislators are still considering!—"made his mark in literature and science

early in life and later established his pre-eminence as a statesman." With reference to the time when he was British Ambassador in Washington, Mr D. W. Freshfield wrote of him, "His highest claim to the regard of posterity will be that he was a chief instrument in forging the chain of friendship between the two nations who, united, can keep the Peace of the World" (*The Alpine Journal*, Vol. XXXIV., p. 304). The same writer suggests that he was more of a popular figure in America, where he was "our Mr Bryce," than he was in his own country. He died on January 22, 1922, in his eighty-fourth year. A memorial notice appears in *C.C.J.*, Vol. X., pp. 219-222. Of the founders, who were for the most part well advanced in years (*e.g.*, Copland was sixty-two, Lippe fifty-seven at the time of the founding), none survive to-day; M'Connochie, who was thirty-seven at the founding, missed the Jubilee by three years. Of the original members, there remains only Dr John Clarke, who was Chairman of the Club from 1910 to 1912.

The first official meet of the Club, on July 9, 1889, was also the first mountaineering meet to be held in Scotland. At the outset only one annual meet was held—in July—although two day excursions were also arranged. Naturally the 1889 meet had Cairngorm as the objective. Twenty-seven members went to Nethybridge and four climbed from Braemar. Of the six founders, only M'Connochie, who appears to have been responsible for the hot lunch of soup and boiled beef, served at the Marquis's Well, near the summit, attended the meet. In the autumn of 1889 the Club paid its first official visit to Lochnagar; details of the luncheon menu on this occasion are not preserved!

Among the events of 1890 Dr Lippe records an unofficial ascent of Ben Macdhui on January 3; the first Annual Meeting followed on February 20, on which date the first Dinner was held in the Palace Hotel. No similar gathering was held until December 1920, "apart from the dinners following upon excursions, which at first were more formal than they have become latterly" (*C.C.J.*, Vol. X., p. 81). The high-light of the year, however, was the first spring excursion, held on May 5, 1890. Mount Keen was the

objective and the party reached the record total of 162 persons, including a boy of six, a man of seventy-six and forty-five ladies. The party, according to a newspaper account of the day, "grouped themselves picturesquely on the sheltered side of the cairn, for it blew fiercely and bitterly on the east side." A formal meeting of the Club was held on the summit, Mr Copland presiding. Several new members were admitted by the time-honoured ceremony of "douping," once well known in Aberdeen through the records of burgess making at the riding of the marches (Illustration, *C.C.J.*, Vol. V., p. 115).

It is evident that the Committee had not anticipated such a multitudinous response to their invitation; not only had the Secretary pronounced it an "easy day for a lady," but the excursion was previously announced in the Press, which, incidentally, refers to this year-old Club as "that famous body of mountaineers." Thus early was the Club a celebrated institution. (We had, of course, members connected with both local papers—the *Free Press* and the *Aberdeen Journal*!). The Committee took immediate steps to deal with this outbreak of mass-mountaineering. (In those days it was called picnic-mountaineering.) Thereafter members were permitted to bring only one friend—preferably one qualifying for membership!—and then only "when arrangements permitted."

Although the first number of the *Journal* did not appear until July 1893, before then various monographs were issued prior to excursions, embodying notes on topography, geology, botany, local history, folk-lore and the etymology of place-names. They still form valuable and interesting documents, being the first publication by a mountaineering club in Scotland, and were largely the work of Inkson M'Connochie, assisted, on occasion, by other members of the Committee. In the second of the series, *à propos* of the intention to continue issuing monographs until a complete description of the Cairngorms had been presented to members, M'Connochie remarks, "This will, it is believed, so far meet one of the objects of the Club—the publication of any work on the Cairngorm mountains the Committee may deem suitable."



A CLUB MEET, 1890

(This was specified in a third subsection to the objects of the Club in the original constitution.)

The first monograph was entitled "The Cairngorm Club Excursion to Mount Keen," May 5, 1890, and ran to eleven pages, seven pages of small type being devoted to Glen Tanner and Mount Keen. The Secretary's letter, accompanying the monograph, differed very little except in point of fare costs and Club subscription (then 2s. 6d.) from those now issued by William Garden. It also contained, however, a time-table for the day, running to fifteen items, some of which may prove startling to the moderns.

7.30 A.M.—Train leaves Aberdeen.

11.45 A.M.—Arrive at Coirebhruach—Sandwiches and Milk.

11.55 A.M.—Leave to ascend Mount Keen.

1.30 P.M.—Arrive at the summit of Mount Keen.

3.0 P.M.—Arrive at Coirebhruach.

Coirebhruach is seen during a great part of the descent, and it will tend to the comfort and convenience of excursionists if they will kindly arrange to arrive by detachments at intervals for luncheon, so that the service may be prompt and complete.

The last item has a wholly delectable quality in which limits even to Victorian capacity are tacitly admitted. Members may have inferred the thoroughness of the organisation from the existence of an almost complete set of photographs of early meets, all obviously the work of professional photographers. This was not a matter to be left to the chance snapshotter, as will be seen from an extract from the Secretary's letter: "The party will be photographed *immediately on arrival* at the Mansion House, Forest of Glen Tana, also at the Cairn on Mount Keen, and at luncheon." (*C.C.J.*, Vol. XIV., contains photographs of the 1889 Lochnagar Meet at p. 148 and of the 1890 Loch Einich Meet at p. 70).

Whereas the Mount Keen excursion had been recommended as an exceptionally suitable one for ladies, the excursion to Braeriach and Cairn Toul on July 14, 1890, was confined to members and to friends qualifying for membership. The monograph runs to twenty-eight pages, compiled mainly by M'Connachie, and contains ample

evidence of an enormous amount of patient research on his part. To this monograph Alexander Copland contributed a note on Geology and Dr John Roy a List of Plants found on Braeriach and Cairn Toul. Enough has been said, perhaps, to show the value of these monographs to the climbers of the day, a value which they, in large part, retain. The following is a complete list of the monographs issued :—

- Excursion to Mount Keen, 1890.
- Excursion to Braeriach and Cairn Toul, 1890.
- Excursion to Tap o' Noth, 1890.
- Excursion to Morven, 1891.
- Excursion to Beinn a' Bhuid and Ben Avon, 1891.
- Excursion to Ben Rinnes, 1891.
- Excursion to Ben Muich Dhui and Cairngorm, 1892.

There was no monograph on Lochnagar, nor on Clochnaben and Mount Battock, visited on September 26, 1892. In 1893, in the first issue of the *Journal*, Dr Lippe's historic article on the founding, already alluded to, included notes on the Club excursions to that date. (A complete list of the excursions up to July 1919 will be found in *C.C.J.*, Vol. IX., pp. 295-298.) With these monographs, then, M'Connochie's Guides and the new Ordnance Survey maps, the climber of 1890 was very well informed on the topography of the new playground.

The Ordnance Survey of our district was conducted between 1858 and 1870, and various sheets of the Cairngorm area were published between 1870 and 1877. The one commonly used was a simple outline, contoured at 50 feet, at every 100 feet to 1,000 feet, and thereafter at every 250 feet, a rather plain black and white affair in contrast with modern maps. Of the other styles, those hachured in black give a wonderful picture of the relief but look a trifle severe. (The latest Tourist Edition of the Cairngorms was based on this map.) The "coloured" sheets of the Cairngorms, hachured in light brown with contours in red, and the Tourist Edition of Deeside appeared later (between 1874 and 1877). It is to the publication of these that one would be inclined to trace the beginnings of the Club; the map is a powerful stimulus to exploration. Round about 1880, Copland, M'Connochie,

Robert Anderson, W. J. Jamieson, and others of our members-to-be, inspired probably by John Hill Burton, were making frequent visits to the Cairngorms and Lochnagar. By 1885, when M'Connochie's "Ben Muich Dhui" was published, the time was ripe for the founding of a climbing club; the *Aberdeen Free Press* of 1886 ran a series of articles on "Cairngorm Wanderings," the first of which opens, "The Cairngorms are yearly becoming more popular, especially to Aberdonians." While not underestimating the value of the work done by M'Connochie and others, the pen picture is generally less of a reality than the map. To the early climbers, no less than to us, the map "rolled out like a carpet of magic and glory and surprise."

To-day one seldom hears of climbers encountering adventure through "walking off the map," a not uncommon occurrence in 1890, when the Cairngorms were covered by four sheets of the Ordnance Survey maps, the four sheets meeting near the summit of Ben Macdhui. In 1895 the Club, with the approval of the Ordnance Survey, published a one-sheet map of the Cairngorms on a scale of 1 inch to the mile and embodying the relative portions of the four Ordnance Survey sheets. The map (25×24 inches) included the whole range (but not Lochnagar) and differed from the regular Ordnance Survey maps only by the inclusion of a number of place-names of minor importance not in the official publications (*e.g.*, Coire Domhain; the Stag's Rock, Cairngorm; Stucan Dubha of Beinn Mheadhoin; and many others, mostly derived, one would assume, from gamekeepers and other local residents). It remained the only single-sheet map of the area until 1922, when the Ordnance Survey, acting on the suggestion of J. A. Parker, published a layer-coloured edition (32×22 inches) with contours at intervals of 50 feet. The limits of the map were fixed so as to include all the adjacent villages and the Braemar routes to the summit of Lochnagar. This was superseded by the beautiful "Relief" Edition of 1936.

The publication of a Club Journal was strongly recommended at the first Annual General Meeting—Alexander Copland warmly advocating the project—and arrangements

were left in the hands of the Committee. Although M'Connochie was already Secretary, his appointment as Editor of the *Journal* was inevitable, his enthusiasm for everything pertaining to hills, as shown by his own contributions, being remarkable. He retained the combined post for the long period of eighteen years, producing the first six volumes. Some notes on *Journal* Editors appear in *C.C.J.*, Vol. XIV., pp. 40-41; the list given there reads:—

1889-1910—Alex. Inkson M'Connochie.

1911-1912—James G. Kyd.

1912-1914—James B. Gillies.

1915-1923—Robert Anderson.

1924-1926—Henry Alexander.

1927-1934—Edward W. Watt.

It would be impossible to deal adequately with the *Journal* and its contributors within the limits of this article. As a number of issues are now out of print it is thought that an article on past contributions should now be made available to members. This, it is hoped, will appear in the next issue.

At first the post of Secretary and Editor was combined, and remained so until the death of Captain J. B. Gillies in the war, after which the posts of Secretary and Treasurer were combined, Robert Anderson being appointed to edit the *Journal*. To these early issues our members contributed a vast store of information, mainly on the Cairngorms but ranging, also, far afield and beyond the confines of Scotland. M'Connochie, Dr Forsyth and others covered the topographical side in minute detail; Copland, Dr Semple and Alexander Cruickshank were interested in visibility and produced, as a result, the panoramas from Ben Macdhui, the Blue Hill and Brimmond. Continuing the work commenced in the monographs, the early *Journals* cover the widest variety of topics. Although not members the following distinguished contributors are represented: C. G. Cash, Sir Hugh T. Munro, E. A. Baker, A. L. Bagley, Seton Gordon, John Milne, LL.D., and G. Gordon Jenkins, C.E.

In the early volumes there is little mention of rock-

climbing and, with regard to snow, the only interest evinced related simply and solely to its accumulation. The novelty and variety of interest in the glens and corries was sufficient; and members tended to follow the pursuits of the founders, who, as has been noted, were beyond the age for gymnastics. In any case, the inaccessibility of the main rock faces and the unsatisfactory nature of the rock itself have always militated against exploration of the cliffs. At the same time, there were certain outstanding achievements worthy of note. William Douglas, with J. H. Gibson (non-member), attempted the Douglas-Gibson Gully of Lochnagar on March 12, 1893. They did not succeed, but the attempt at that date was quite remarkable. These early climbers appeared anxious to commence with the really difficult routes: in 1895 William Tough and William Brown climbed the Tough-Brown Ridge, a climb not repeated for thirty-six years. Further attempts were made on the Douglas-Gibson Gully by Brown and George Duncan, by Harold Raeburn, William Garden and Duncan, without success. Raeburn, who was not a member, climbed the gully named after him in 1898 and the West Gully in 1902. In the Cairngorms Hugh Stewart and party climbed the Castle Gates and Forefinger Pinnacle Gullies in 1904, but it was not until the years immediately preceding the war that we see any very wide interest being taken in the rocks. While several articles deal with climbing in the Cuillin and elsewhere, the early climbers had little use for the ice axe or for what Copland refers to as "life-preserving ropes." Howard Drummond, who contributed various articles on rock-climbing to the *Journal*, James McCoss and W. B. Meff were exploring the crags at the head of Loch Avon. Parker, Henry Alexander, McCoss and others made several new climbs on the Braeriach cliffs both prior to and after the war, by which date snow climbing had come into its own. 1927 was the start of a new period of exploration, and between then and 1934 a dozen new routes were found on Lochnagar; the Douglas-Gibson Gully was climbed for the first time by Charles Ludwig, to whom also fell a new route on the Mitre Ridge, Beinn a' Bhùird. Several

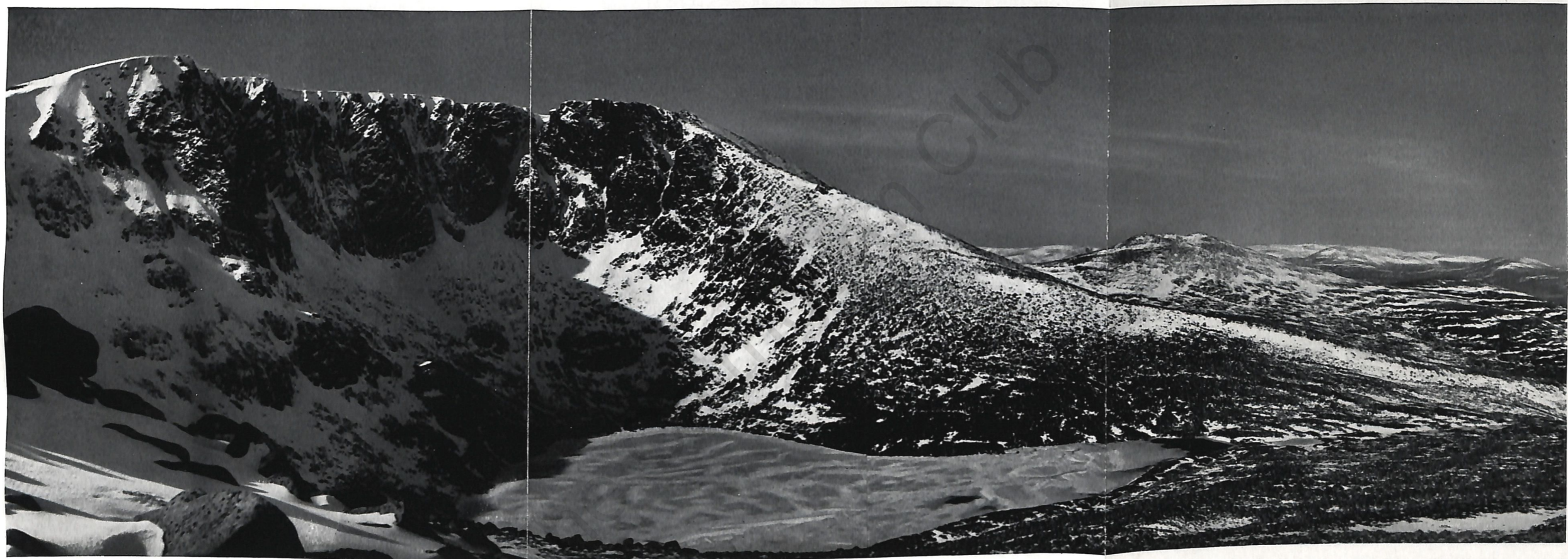
of the gullies of Lochnagar were climbed under winter conditions, and, now that we have had a series of snow-climbing excursions (initiated by McCoss in 1932), it is anticipated that there will soon be little left to do in the North-east Corrie of Lochnagar at all events. Although it has been a long tale of "the uniformly scandalous condition of the snow," the Douglas-Gibson was again attempted (unsuccessfully) this last winter. Leaving the question of transport aside, the modern climber has fewer difficulties to contend with than his predecessors. For the attitude of gamekeepers the reader is referred to that delightful story, "A Case for Forbearance," in Vol. XII., pp. 35-38. And Parker relates that in 1906 his party received permission to climb Cairn Toul provided it was accompanied by the keeper—Donald Fraser of Derry Lodge!

The *Journal* was issued twice yearly until 1924, after which it appeared annually, with the exception of the years 1929, 1931, and 1932, when we had two per annum. From the more modern and easily accessible issues (*vide* Low!) only a few of the more interesting items are selected. Brief mention may be made of the first and only "At Home," held on December 19, 1905—the forerunner of the Social Evenings of the 1930's. In 1910 the Club celebrated its coming-of-age with an ascent of Cairngorm; M'Connochie, John McGregor, and Thomas Kyd, who had attended the 1889 Meet, were also present on this occasion; of the others, the only surviving members are J. R. Leslie Gray, George McIntyre, and J. D. W. Stewart. In his article, "Twenty-one Years of Our Club" (Vol. VI., pp. 177-187), James G. Kyd gives a summary of events between the founding and 1910. By this time apparently the custom of serving hot lunch at 4,000 feet had been discontinued!

1912 was marked by the construction, by the Club, of the foot-bridge across the Allt na Beinne Moire,* an essential

* There appears to be no doubt at all that the spelling Bienne, used on the plate affixed to the bridge, is wrong. The form used in the

Selo H.P. Film, Zeiss Polarizing filter, 1/100 sec., f8, 11.30 A.M. March, bright sun, with deep shadows in the corrie. Parts of three negatives.



March 1939

LOCHNAGAR: NORTH-EAST CORRIE

R. L. Mitchell

link in the Lairig Ghru route. Previously the bridge was of wooden construction and, at that date, in a dangerous condition. The then Chairman, Dr John Clarke, was a prime mover in the project and, with the generous assistance of members and friends and the co-operation of the laird, Sheriff Grant of Rothiemurchus, the scheme went rapidly ahead. The bridge was the work of J. A. Parker; this was the first of many occasions on which Parker was able to combine his enthusiasm for the hills with his engineering experience to the public advantage. The new bridge was opened on August 3, 1912 (*C.C.J.*, Vol. VII., pp. 235-240).

This was the last gathering of the Club attended by the first Chairman, Alexander Copland. In his eighty-seventh year he walked a good part of the way from Coylum Bridge to the new bridge and made a "breezy little speech." He died a fortnight later. An account of his work and association with the Club appears in the same volume (VII., pp. 191-198). On January 28 of the following year the Club lost yet another of its founders—the Rev. Robert Lippe. Professional duties had prevented him from attending many of the Club excursions and consequently he occupied a less conspicuous place than either Copland or M'Connochie. Some amazing tales are still told of Robert Lippe, who, with his limp and long black Inverness cape, was a well-known figure in Inverey. He was wont to leave Mrs Gruer's at Inverey with the observation, intended to be reassuring, "I'll be back sometime." When he was late, which was frequently, Mrs Gruer would go out to the road and put her ear to the ground. On hearing his footsteps, easily recognized, she would return to the house, concealing that she had been in the least anxious. On one occasion he met a friend on Ben Macdhui and went down with him to Speyside, returning

O.S. map is now Am Beanaidh. It has not, of course, been possible to conform to O.S. spelling throughout the article.

The Larig Ghru of the bridge plate may constitute further errors. The old Learg Ghruamach has been successively Leirg Gruamaich, Làirig Ghruamach, Larig Ghru, Làirig Dhrù ("after Professor Watson's decisive [*sic*] pronouncement," *C.C.J.*, Vol. VIII., p. 180) and now, Lairig Ghru. He was a wise man who put forward the suggestion (not acted upon) that the inscription should be in Latin!

to his wondering friends on the Dee two days later! Strangest of all is the story of his having spent the night in a hole dug in a snow-drift at Loch Etchachan, where he had spent the time feeding the ptarmigan with his lunch! Himself so much at home among the hills, it never seemed to occur to him that others might be anxious about him during his long absences.

With the outbreak of the Great War the Club's activities practically ceased. Office-bearers continued to serve "for the duration," and the *Journal* was carried on, naturally, under considerable difficulties. Forty-seven of our members joined up, and of these several served with distinction, while nine were killed or died of wounds. At that time the Club numbered only half its present total.

A proposal to recognize, in some suitable way, the work of Alexander Copland had been under consideration but took no definite shape until, on the occasion of the 1914 Summer Meet at Dalwhinnie, a suggestion to erect a mountain indicator on Ben Macdhui was put forward. This was to have been a bronze replica of Copland's panorama from Ben Macdhui, but the material finally adopted was stoneware, which Parker had seen used on the Pic du Midi de Bigorre. The advent of the war held up the proceedings, which were, however, not entirely abandoned. In 1915 Parker submitted his design for an indicator on Ben Macdhui and this was approved. Later, arising out of the erection of an indicator on Brimmond Hill to the memory of men of the Newhills district killed in action (June 2, 1917), the suggestion was made that an indicator on Lochnagar or a memorial plate on Ben Macdhui be erected to the memory of members killed in the war. The matter was held over until the end of the war, when it was decided to proceed with the Lochnagar indicator first, as Lochnagar was the more popular hill and an indicator there would be of greater utility. A full account of the proceedings, from the selection of the site to the culmination of the many and varied labours



April 1933

LOCH AVON

R. L. Mitchell

of Parker and his volunteer assistants, on July 12, 1924, when some 142 people saw the indicator unveiled, is given in the *Journal* (Vol. XI., pp. 1-2, 53-67).

Armed with the experience gained on Lochnagar, Parker proceeded to the greater difficulties of the Ben Macdhui scheme. This chapter in the Club's history concluded on August 1, 1925, when 136 attended the unveiling ceremony. "The Unveiling of the Ben Macdhui Indicator" appears in the *Journal*, Vol. XI., pp. 185-197. It may be of interest to add that the Brimmond Hill indicator was the work of the late G. Gordon Jenkins, whose authoritative articles on curvature and mountain inter-visibility appeared from time to time in the local press, in the *C.C.J.*, and, finally, in a little book, "Hill Views from Aberdeen," published in 1917.

The post-war years saw considerable changes in the Club. The Rules were completely revised and the entrance qualification greatly stiffened (previously one ascent to 3,000 feet had been sufficient); the Chairman disappeared and became President; Office-bearers ceased to hold office after three years. The Thirty-second Annual General Meeting was followed by a Dinner, virtually a new feature in Club proceedings, for, as has been previously noted, the only dinners held after the first were those following upon excursions. There was a rapid rise in the number of members and especially in the number of ladies admitted; in the lists issued with the *Journals* the number was never higher than six until Vol. IX., when there was an increase of one! Since then the numbers have been 13, 41, 54, 64 and 64. Perhaps an earlier writer's observation that ladies were "impeditive" to an excursion and that feathered hats were out of place at the Shelter Stone sufficed to keep the numbers down! More and more excursions were (and are) called for, due in part, perhaps, to the increased facilities offered by the motor car and later by the ubiquitous bus.

Few references have been made to other Clubs or to Scottish climbing in general, but this deficiency may be made good in the next issue of the *Journal*. Of Sir Henry Alexander's work in connection with the S.M.C. "Guide

to the Cairngorms," as on many other points of more modern history, nothing has been said. The 1937 "celebrations" at the Shelter Stone are also of too recent date to be elaborated here. (They are recorded—but not in full!—in *C.C.J.*, Vol. XIV., pp. 296-297). Our main concern has been with the era of celluloid collars and deer-stalker caps, of umbrellas and Albert chains, of horse-drawn brakes and 3 A.M. starts, when some ghillies were hostile while others acted as guides and hosts, when the rucksack was unknown, its place being taken by a leather portmanteau. In the days before the Ordnance Survey maps, before the railway, Alexander Copland started on his first pedestrian Highland tour: "Strapped upon my shoulders my leather portmanteau—measuring outside 18 inches long, 8 inches wide and 6 inches deep—it contained a nightshirt, an extra pair of stockings, a needle and thread and other necessary knick-knacks which sufficiently served my limited requirements."

With the closing of what we may call the "Indicator Period" and the beginning of a period which suggests renewed and more intensive exploration of the cliffs, the present historian ends his task. It seems a good point for the unknown chronicler in the Centenary Number to begin!

[In the preparation of this article I have had the valuable assistance of some of the older members, in particular of the President and of Mr J. A. Parker, whose criticism of the first draft of the above was simply devastating! It ought now to have the hall-mark of that accuracy which goes, at times, a point beyond endurance. For the further edification of posterity, I should add that Parker disclaims all responsibility for the error in spelling on the *Beinne* Bridge!—W. A. E.]



CAIRNGORM CLUB: PRESIDENTS, 1889-1939

Drawn by T. Train



February 1939

LOCHNAGAR: BLACK SPOUT CHIMNEYS

R. L. Mitchell