



DR J. R. LEVACK

accepted the situation and put Dr Clarke across the river in his boat.

In 1913, at the age of sixty, with Dr M'Intyre and with his son Ian respectively, he twice climbed the four Cairngorms. He did them once—Cairngorm, Ben Muich Dhui, Cairntoul, Braeriach, and once in the reverse order. Finally, in 1932, from Speyside, at the age of seventy-nine, he did a 20-mile walk, including Braeriach and down over Angel's Peak. His long walks when approaching the age of eighty caused his family considerable anxiety, and about that age he became more moderate, and contented himself with his 5 miles a day, whatever the weather. He kept this up until within a month or two of his death, and I played round Balgownie with him in April 1939 in exactly two hours. His firm belief was that a man could not be healthy unless his body was continually surrounded by oxygen, and the health he enjoyed seemed to bear out the truth of this.

As has been recorded in the *Journal*, he was instrumental in the building of a new bridge over the Allt-na-Beinne, which was opened in 1912, and which has since proved a great boon to walkers up the Larig. He also collected money and erected an Indicator on Eildon Top. He went latterly every spring to Melrose for a change of air, and enjoyed to the last his walks among the milder hills of the South.

J. B.

JOHN R. LEVACK.

By the death of John R. Levack the Club has lost one of its outstanding personalities. While indifferent health had of recent years prevented him from attending Club functions as regularly as he did in the past, he was happily able to attend the Informal Meeting which replaced the 1939 Dinner. He died at his home, 10 Golden Square, on Saturday, September 7, 1940, in his seventieth year.

Born at Lossiemouth, he was educated at Robert Gordon's College and at Aberdeen University, where he graduated M.B., C.M., in 1891. He was immediately attracted to

radiology, and after a period of research work in collaboration with the late Sir James Mackenzie Davidson became, in 1925, Lecturer in Radiology and Electro-therapeutics at Aberdeen University. He rapidly enhanced his reputation in this field by his work in the X-ray department of the Royal Infirmary, and during the Great War he served in the R.A.M.C.(T.F.) as Medical Officer-in-Charge of the X-ray and Electrical Departments of the 1st Scottish General Hospital. He was promoted Major in 1915.

Dr Levack joined the Club in 1905 and became Chairman in 1918, a position he filled with distinction until 1925. One of the innovations for which he was responsible was the holding of a Dinner after the Annual General Meeting of 1921. This was the first Club Dinner held since 1890, immediately after the formation of the Club, and continued to be held until the 1939 break. While Chairman he rarely missed any Club meet or other function, and even when his climbing activities had ceased he maintained a close association with the Club.

He contributed many notes and articles to the *Journal*, notably on rock and snow climbing on the Deeside hills; to Vol. VI., notes on a visit to the Cuillin Hills, first visited in 1904 with William Garden; to Vol. VII., a further article on Skye; and to Vol. XII., "Lochnagar: Some Reminiscences." He had been on the summit some sixty times, often making the journey from Ballater or Braemar in an open pony trap. He comments on the miseries inseparable from this, the only available form of transport, but he refused to allow the weather to interfere with his plans. Indeed, he goes on to describe how he chose a day with mist down to 1,500 feet for an ascent of Lochnagar to give two young climbers some practice in map and compass work. They got it! Many years later one of the young climbers contributed an article on Compass and Map Reading to the *Journal*.

With Garden and Parker he did much to encourage the growth of mountaineering in the north-east, lecturing to Club and other audiences and producing some magnificent slides of Scottish mountain scenery. The success of his

efforts in this direction is measured by the very considerable rise in the Club membership during his term of office.

Photographs of Dr Levack appear in the *Journal* at Vol. IX. (1920) and at Vol. XI. (1925).

SIR HENRY ALEXANDER, LL.D.

THE death of Sir Henry Alexander at his residence, 31 Queen's Road, Aberdeen, on April 7, 1940, came as a great shock both to his relatives and fellow-citizens alike, on account of its alarming suddenness. In the manner of his passing, however, none can regret that there was no lingering illness, for the best that we can wish for those we love is that they may be spared prolonged and hopeless ill-health.

Sir Henry was born in Aberdeen on June 20, 1875. He belonged to a family which for many years held a distinguished position in the public life of his native city, and particularly in Aberdeen journalism. He received his education at Aberdeen Grammar School and Aberdeen University, graduating M.A. in 1895. His interest in educational affairs as author, editor, and administrator led to his receiving from his University the honorary degree of LL.D. in 1935. He was Convener of the Editorial Committee of *The Aberdeen University Review*, 1914-28. In 1914 he succeeded his father, the late Mr Henry Alexander, as Editor of the *Aberdeen Free Press*, a post from which he retired in 1922 when that newspaper became merged in the *Aberdeen Daily Journal*. He was Lord Provost of the City of Aberdeen from 1932 to 1935, and an *ex officio* member of the University Court since 1932, having latterly acted as Assessor to Admiral Sir Edward Evans, the re-elected Rector of the University. He was D.L. and J.P. for the County of the City of Aberdeen. He was President of the following, namely, the Territorial Army Association of the City of Aberdeen, the Aberdeen Branch of the British Red Cross Society, the National Lifeboat Institution (Aberdeen Branch), the City of Aberdeen Playing Fields Association,