

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

THE Fifty-third Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 29, 1941, Mr Hugh D. Welsh, President, in the Chair.

Accounts for the year were read and approved.

It was arranged to hold the New Year Meet at the Inver Hotel, Crathie, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to arrange other excursions as and when possible. An informal Social Evening was arranged to be held in the Caledonian Hotel, on Thursday, February 26, 1942, at which coloured Leica slides will be shown. An informal dance will be held in the Caledonian Hotel on Friday, March 20, 1942.

MEETS AND EXCURSIONS.

Sparsely attended New Year and Easter Meets were held in Braemar, the majority of those attending being quartered at the Fife Arms Hotel. On each occasion the principal excursion was to Ben Macdhui, in conditions which were exhilarating rather than pleasant. At New Year a heavy fall of snow precluded further trips to the high tops, and the ascent of Meall an Tionail became a considerable achievement. At Easter a severe thaw made conditions lower down rather unpleasant, but higher up, on Beinn a' Bhùird, Lochnagar, and the tops east of the Devil's Elbow, the snow was found to be in good condition.

An increase in the popularity of ski-ing in the Cairngorms and Deeside hills may be noted, possibly as a result of the rather heavier snowfalls of the last two years. During the Easter Meet the snow was in good condition above 2,500 feet, and some members report that they were out practically every week-end from New Year until the beginning of May, when good snow was found on Ben Macdhui. (See Ski Notes.)

R. L. M.

R. O. Mackay, with Donald McDonald, climbed Lochnagar from the Ballochbuie on New Year's Day. Snow had fallen during the morning and the going was soft and heavy to the top of the Black Shiel, where they arrived at noon. Thereafter steps had to be cut almost to the summit, which was reached at 1.45 P.M., by which time the weather had cleared and visibility was perfect. They reached Loch Callater Lodge, via the Allt a' Chlaiginn, at 5.20 P.M., encountering on the way a huge herd of deer.

On January 2 Mackay and J. B. McDonald climbed Beinn a' Bhùird by Clais Fhearnaig after a further fall of snow which made the going very heavy and delayed the party's return.

DAY EXCURSIONS, 1941.

From time to time it was possible to arrange excursions on a very small scale. The following is a note of these :—

February 9, Lochnagar.—Excursion arranged jointly with the Etchachan Club. The ascent was made from the Danzig Bridge. Soft snow made the early part very arduous, and a keen wind with blown snow made the climb from the top of the Black Shiel Burn quite an experience. Only a few of the party went as far as the Summit Cairn.

March 9, Clochnaben.—This was reached by service bus to Bridge of Feugh and thence "Shanks Naggie" to the top. It was a very pleasant outing, but the wind on the top did not encourage loitering.

June 8-9, Lochnagar (overnight excursion).—Two small parties set out, one from Glen Callater, the other from the Danzig Bridge, both returning by Glen Muick.

July 5-6, Ben Macdhui (overnight excursion).—A small party left from Braemar on Saturday evening—had supper at Derry Lodge and reached the Shelter Stone at dusk. The weather was very wet. They found two young Polish soldiers on leave "in possession," but managed to spend a fairly comfortable if sleepless night. The ascent by the Garbh Uisge was made in fine weather until the summit plateau was reached, when more rain was again encountered.

E. W. S.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON EXCURSIONS.

We had five very enjoyable Saturday afternoon excursions, the number of those taking part varying from five to nine. In February we went by bus to Cairnwell, a farm on the Stonehaven road, and waded through snow to Boswell's Monument. Those who wore climbing boots found them a great asset, but few of us had thought them necessary for such a lowly ascent. A golden retriever, which came as a "guest," added to our entertainment by his antics in the snow. We came down by Kincausie to the South Deeside Road.

In March a slightly higher elevation was reached by taking the North Deeside bus to Park, crossing the river, walking up the road east of Durris House, and tramping over undulating, heathery ground to

Cairnmorearn. The Slug Road, by which we returned, is a hard road, but it was easy swinging downhill along it.

Another delightful cross-country walk was taken in April, when we set off by bus for Stonehaven and walked by the Slug Road to the Roman camp at Raedykes. From there we journeyed by the route that the Romans followed when they strove to penetrate the north-east of Scotland, save that, instead of following in their steps to Culter, we took a more westerly path which led us to the south Deeside road at Park Bridge Road. An earlier relic than the Roman camp was seen in a Stone Circle, and a much later relic in the ruins of crofts deserted within the last century, while the modern planting of the Forestry Commissioners gladdened the prospect.

The June excursion to the Hill of Fare had to be modified because of transport difficulties, but in July four members walked from Kemnay to Pitcaple by the route which goes over the Mither Tap of Bennachie without unduly inconveniencing other members of the public who were travelling. Two others travelled by morning train to Oyne, covered most of the tops, and returned to Aberdeen by the evening train without contacting the main party.

We have thoroughly appreciated these explorations of country nearer town, and they have widened our horizon for the afternoon walks which many members plan for themselves.

R. K. J.

Indoor Meets were held in the Caledonian Hotel on January 30, February 28, and March 24, 1941. At the first there was a show of lantern slides. A large number of Lochnagar and the Cairngorms, from photographs taken by the late Henry Dugan, whose photographic skill is familiar to members from *Journal* illustrations, was lent by his daughter, Mrs A. H. Sommerville. A selection from the Club's collection was given, and included a number of historic interest recently presented by Mr George McIntyre, a Club member for fifty years.

The February Meet was the occasion of the Club Dance, a feature of the Club's activities which proved enjoyable and popular, though war-time conditions affected the attendance.

At the third gathering J. B. McDonald took a very large company by colour cine-film over the Cairngorms and Lochnagar at all seasons, many new shots being included. Of special interest was a film depicting a deer stalk from the sighting of the stag to the conveyance of the carcass to the larder. The details of the gralloch, an operation a mere name till then to many of the gathering, were very realistic. Of great interest, too, was a series portraying eaglets in their eyrie, a film taken with much labour and patience.

H. D. W.