

SKI NOTES.

THE spring of 1941 being exceptional for the amount and the length of time that skiable snow lay on the Cairngorms and adjacent foothills, it may be interesting to record some of the runs made by myself and other members of the Cairngorm and Etchachan Clubs.

Ski-ing was possible for about five months in 1941. From about New Year's Day onwards there was always sufficient snow, if it was followed inland, to obtain fairly good sport.

In January and February day trips were made to various slopes between Aberdeen and Banchory, the best of these being undoubtedly on the north-east side of Kerloch, on which several fast runs on hard uncrusted snow were obtained. As the snow receded, the slopes above Glenmuick House and the higher reaches of Geallaig above Coilacreich Inn came into favour. The latter, though facing south, held the snow till the end of March. The panorama of the snow-plastered precipices of Lochnagar viewed as one skied between snow-laden pines lent an enchantment almost Alpine to these slopes.

In February and March, although on arriving at Braemar we heard that wonderful runs had been obtained by visitors just a day or two before, luck seemed to run against us, and at week-ends sticky snow and mist were invariably our portion.

On the Saturday of the Easter Meet of the Club at Braemar in 1941 several enthusiasts ascended on ski from the Garbh Allt Falls, via the Feindallacher Burn and the Allt a' Choire Dhuibh to the crest above the Stuic Buttress on Lochnagar. The run down, although interesting, was made on rather sticky snow. On the Sunday, after watching the 9 A.M. bus passing the hotel door in the mistaken impression that there

was a 9.10 A.M. one following, a car was hired which conveyed the ski-ing party to Glenclunie Lodge *en route* for the north slopes of Càrn an Tuirc. These proved to be rather terrifying in steepness at first sight, but under the snow conditions then prevailing some fine but, again, rather sticky runs were obtained.

Càrn an Tuirc was again attacked on the Monday, but this time faster snow and occasional glimpses of the sun made the day much more enjoyable.

The following week-end the Stuic was again climbed, a fresh 6 inches of snow and a sunny day combining to give fast "spring" snow, the snowline having by this time receded to above the Ballochbuie Forest. The next day, the snow being in such excellent condition, a start was made from the road above the Devil's Elbow, and from there onwards ski were used to traverse Meall Odhar, Glas Maol, Cairn of Claise, and Càrn an Tuirc, with a final run right down to Loch Callater on fast "spring" snow most of the way, with only one or two patches of soft blown snow. This was undoubtedly my finest run of the year, although the other member of the party thought that perhaps it was equalled by the descent of Ben Macdhui at the May Holiday. This latter trip, at which I unfortunately was not present, finished the ski-ing season, though until the middle of June there was still sufficient snow on Ben Macdhui to have yielded good running.

To conclude, one of the main reasons why naturally lazy people like myself enjoyed the 1941 season was that very seldom did one get corrugated shoulders from the manual labour of actually carrying the ski.

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