

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE Fifty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on Saturday, November 28, 1942, the President, Mr Hugh D. Welsh, in the Chair.

The President referred to the death of Professor Collie, deploring the loss of our very distinguished Honorary President and describing some of his more remarkable achievements. After discussion it was decided to postpone the election of an Honorary President until after the war.

The Statement of the Accounts for the year ending October 31, 1942, was not posted to members, as is usually done, but may be seen at the Secretary's office. A brief summary of the situation is set out below:—

Balance at credit of—

1. Revenue - - - - -	£31 3 7
2. Life Membership Fund - - - - -	64 2 3
3. General Works' Fund - - - - -	48 10 9

All funds show increase over the amounts at credit at October 31, 1941.

Membership at October 31, 1942:—

Ordinary Members - - - - -	219
Junior Members - - - - -	4
Associate Members - - - - -	1
Life Members - - - - -	16
	<hr/>
	240

One Life Member and three Ordinary Members enrolled during the year. Forty-one members, so far as is known, are now on service with H.M. Forces. Thirty-two names appear in the last issue of the *Journal*, the others are: Misses I. E. Spalding and M. G. Fyfe; Messrs J. R. Blair, A. S. Howie, W. Lawson, J. H. Calder MacLeod, Ian C. Ritchie, J. S. Shand, and C. H. Wilson.

It was the general opinion of the meeting that Meets and Excursions were not really necessary. Nevertheless, the Committee co-opted five more members (replacing, *pro tem.*, Messrs Bothwell, Levack, Lorimer, and Lawson, who are on service, and Miss Hay) to carry on the work of this austerly A.G.M. A Sub-Committee was appointed to arrange for Indoor Meetings of the Club during the winter months.

It is scarcely necessary to add that there was no Annual Dinner. Even the customary vote of thanks to the Chairman was overlooked,



MR JAMES L. GEDDES.

By the death of Mr James L. Geddes, of Craigentoul, Murtle, the Club has lost one of its oldest members. Born in 1851, he was associated for sixty years with the Culter Mills Paper Company, in the development of which he played a leading part. Taking an active interest in the welfare of the local community, he served on various public bodies, and founded the Culter and Drumoak Nursing Association.

He joined the Cairngorm Club in 1890, the year following the founding of the Club, and very few of our members go back as far as his day. Colonel Godfrey P. Geddes recalls a day on Ben Macdhuì with him in 1924, and he set a good pace even at the age of seventy-three. Most of his climbing was done prior to the last war, but in his day he had covered most of the Cairngorms, although Lochnagar, Mount Keen, and Morven were his favourite excursions.

SECOND-HAND.

A Cairngorm Club, affiliated to the Scottish Ramblers' Federation and to the S.Y.H.A., with its headquarters in Glasgow, has apparently been in existence for some months. It styles itself the Glasgow Cairngorm Club, thereby hoping, presumably, to avoid confusion with The Cairngorm Club. Nevertheless, we think that the Glasgow body should, if only in its own interest, have given more thought to naming the baby. The leading city has failed to display any very great originality in this instance.

A statement circulating here to the effect that the Glasgow Club is so-named with the permission of The Cairngorm Club is, of course, without foundation.

MEETS AND EXCURSIONS, 1942.

What was probably to be the last New Year Meet for the duration was held at the Inver Hotel, Crathie, from December 31, 1941, to January 4, 1942. The limited accommodation at the hotel was fully occupied and there was some overflow into neighbouring cottages. On New Year's Day eleven members and guests were on Lochnagar in moderately good conditions. On the following day Cairn Taggart was one of the hills visited, whilst on the 3rd the party was on Ben Macdhuì. The soft slush on the summit plateau near the Stob was particularly objectionable, being some 9 inches deep, but better snow took the party down to and over Loch Etchachan. It rained on the last day, and whilst one or two enthusiasts went out for a soaking, it was really much more comfortable at the sitting-room fire—after Col. Butchart had got it going. Others present at the outings included Misses Wood, Davidson, Crowder, and Meikle, and Messrs Lawson, McArthur, Mitchell, Ramsden, Scott, Smith, and Whitehouse.

R. L. M.



The Easter Meet was also held at the Inver Hotel, Crathie, Miss Bothwell and Messrs Whitehouse, Ramsden, and Train attending; there was an even more impressive attendance at Braemar, viz., the President, who went there believing the Inver Hotel to be full, Col. Butchart and ski. The parties did make contact, however, in spite of mist and bad weather. Butchart visited all the more promising snow patches in the district, but apart from a visit to Ben Macdhuì the other members were content to view the distant snows from lower and drier altitudes.

Z.

An excursion to Lochnagar was arranged on Sunday, March 1. The party spent Saturday night at the Inver Hotel. An early start was made by Balmoral and Gelder Lodge. The snow was soft until the slopes of the West Buttress were reached. Visibility was variable, as there was considerable low cloud at times, but the summit cairn was reached and the return made by the Black Shiel Burn and the wood-cutters' bridge over the Dee near the Hotel. It was a very fine day indeed, especially in retrospect, as it turned out that the other projected excursions had, for reasons connected with travel restrictions and other war-time activities, to be abandoned.

The Saturday afternoon excursions fared similarly, as it became impossible to get bus transport even as far as Hill of Fare. The only walks completed "according to plan" were over Brimmond Hill and the Fungle.

E. W. S.

#### INDOOR MEETINGS.

Indoor Meets were held in the Caledonian Hotel on February 26 and March 20, 1942. At the first Dr A. Fraser Ross showed a collection of beautiful Kodachrome slides of Lochnagar and the Cairngorms, with several studies of Alpine plants. A large audience was very appreciative of the pictures which, apart from their excellent technical qualities, exhibited unusual artistic perception. The second was the occasion of the Club Dance, which was well attended.

H. D. W.

#### VIEW FROM CLACHNABEN.

On an exceptionally clear day in September 1942 I spent some hours on the summit of Clachnaben, and while examining the southern horizon with a ten-magnification glass noticed a tower on a hill-top, invisible to my unaided eye, just visible above the western slope of Craigancash (1,772 feet), the south-west spur of Sturdy Hill.

On returning home and studying the appropriate maps I decided that the Tower lay somewhere within the angle contained between Inchkeith and the Forth Bridge.



An appeal to authority, in the person of our Past President, Mr J. A. Parker, produced the suggestion that I had probably seen Corstorphine Hill and Tower, just west of Edinburgh.

I next checked the possibility of seeing Corstorphine, allowing for curvature and refraction, according to the article in the *Club Journal*, Vol. IX., contributed by the late Gordon Jenkins.

By taking the height of Corstorphine Hill from the 1-inch scale map and of the rock summit of Clachnaben from the Brimmond Hill Indicator, and by using the differences of the latitude and longitude of the two hills for obtaining the distance, the following data were obtained:—

Corstorphine Hill, 532 feet, Clachnaben at 13 feet below the summit rock, 1,950 feet; distance between,  $74\frac{1}{2}$  miles; line of sight crossing the west slope of Craigancash at  $5\frac{3}{8}$  miles from Clachnaben at a height of about 1,625 feet.

Using the above data and allowing curvature and refraction as per Jenkin's Table showed that Corstorphine Hill should be visible from just below the rock summit of Clachnaben by the amount of about 33 feet, which appears to agree closely with what was seen.

Neither the height nor position of the summit rock of Clachnaben are given on the 6-inch scale Ordnance Survey map, and it is hoped someone will check the height of this rock above the 1,900 feet top shown.

Those who are interested in similar problems to the above should obtain the excellent diagram designed by Mr J. A. Parker and published in an article entitled "Curvature and Visibility," contributed by him to the *S.M.C. Journal*, Vol. XX., April 1935.

With the aid of this diagram one can easily solve such questions approximately by a graphic method once the correct data *re* heights, etc., have been obtained.

W. M.

#### LOCHNAGAR.

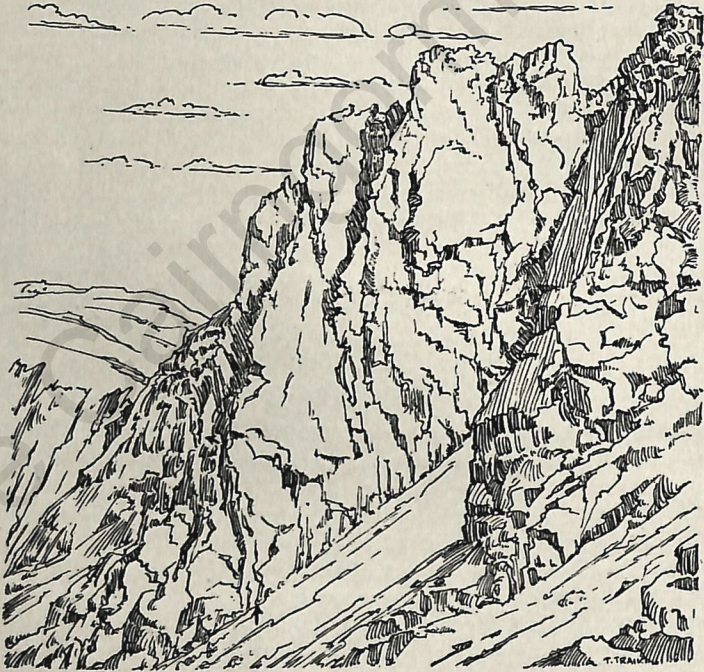
*Polyphemus Gully*.—In August 1942 W. Hendry and F. Wilson climbed the gully and found that the rock tooth, or spike, on the main pitch has now disappeared, along with the boulders that formerly crowned the pitch ("S.M.C. Guide to the Cairngorms," p. 217). Their route lies to the right of the original and is apparently rather easier. The great chokestones pitch, avoided by the original party, was climbed for half its height, until progress was barred at a narrow cave in an overhanging wall. An attempt to climb the right wall was frustrated half-way up by large loose blocks, the removal of which would allow of ascent. Escape was found on the vertical left wall, above which the original route was joined.

*Tough-Brown Traverse*.—In October 1942 Hendry and Lumsden followed the old Tough-Brown route, with various deviations, and report finding a somewhat easier and more direct way than that followed by Symmers and Ewen in 1931. In particular, while the leader climbed the wall above the great terrace leading out of Parallel Gully B in the



orthodox unorthodox way, the second man climbed the chimney at the end of that terrace. The first party must have seen it, the second did not like it, but Hendry reports that it is not more than difficult. It appears to have mellowed with the years!

The name Tough-Brown Ridge was formerly applied to this climb, but the pioneers, forced far to the left, reached the ridge proper only after a long upward traverse. The ridge proper was climbed in July 1941 by Dr J. H. B. Bell and Miss N. Forsyth. Dr Bell agrees that the new climb should be called the Tough-Brown Ridge, to preserve the old associations, and that the original route should be altered, to avoid confusion, to Tough-Brown Traverse. For notes on this and other climbs on Lochnagar see *S.M.C.J.*, Vol. XXIII., p. 28 (April 1942, No. 133).



THE MITRE RIDGE