



JAMES ALEXANDER PARKER
1864-1946

In Memoriam.

JAMES ALEXANDER PARKER, B.Sc., M.INST.C.E.
1864-1946.

It is with very deep regret I have to record the death of J. A. Parker, which took place at his home, 76 Rubislaw Den North, Aberdeen, on September 28, 1946. Ever since he joined the Club in 1907 he has been one of its most energetic and enthusiastic members. No further evidence of that is required than to refer to his many interesting and instructive articles which appear in the Club *Journal*, and to the Indicators on Ben Macdhui, Lochnagar, and the Blue Hill, which were all erected to his design and under his direct supervision. He also gave the Club the benefit of his professional knowledge when the Club rebuilt the bridge over the Allt na Beinne Moire.

Parker's mountaineering experience was very wide. He had made some fine ascents in the Alps and Pyrenees, and, when on his world tour, he visited the Japanese Alps and also the Canadian Rockies. He was, of course, a member of the Alpine Club. He had an intense love for the hills of his native land, and he was one of the very few who had all the "Munros" to his credit. It would not be too much to say that there is not a single hill in Scotland about which he could not give very accurate and full information as to how it might best be climbed.

Parker served on the Club Committee for many years, and whilst acting as Librarian he took on the laborious task of making a very full Catalogue of the Books and contributed towards the cost of buying a bookcase for the

climbing expedition his companions could rest assured that he would see it through, and well within the time allowed. He took some knowing, and to strangers he might possibly appear somewhat brusque, but to tried companions he was a reliable, staunch, and true friend.

WILLIAM GARDEN.

BESIDES looking back, as others do, to James Parker as a friend and companion on open-air excursions, it was my fortune to share with him what was perhaps the most characteristic of his indoor relaxations. To him any problem of applied mathematics was a thing entered on with zest and handled with a precision which one could only envy. Such problems were congenial to him. He welcomed them and he solved them, or, alternately, defined the limits of their solvability, not as a task, but as a pleasure. As is well known, he was the best authority on maps that we had in this part of the country. Geodesy also appealed to him, especially where there was a problem to be worked out. A frequent question asked him by people was: "Can so-and-so be seen from so-and-so?" This always gave him an opportunity of helping others out with the aid of his well-known curve. Whether easy or difficult, important or unimportant, every question of any kind received his careful attention, without haste and without delay. I saw him last—it was over a matter of great circle bearings—within a few hours of his death. The question was dealt with and disposed of as so many others had been dealt with before, and it seemed at the time to be just another of our accustomed contacts. From these contacts I derive to-day, in addition to pleasant personal recollections, an abiding admiration for his clarity of mind.

DAVID S. P. DOUGLAS.

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there are many enthusiasts who received their introduction to climbing in a party led by Bill. Quiet and unassuming, he possessed a remarkable patience for detail and an organising ability which was for ever planning new expeditions to the hills. His knowledge of the Scottish hills was very thorough, and there was hardly a "Munro" which had not been climbed by him. He had also climbed in Austria, and an account of his experiences there appeared in the *Journal*, Vol. XV, 1939, pp. 40-50.

Besides his interest in climbing, Bill was a keen skier, and displayed the same energy and enthusiasm in this field as he did in climbing. All his many friends will long remember his infectious enthusiasm for the mountains and the open air, and those who shared these activities with him will miss his comradeship whenever they revisit the hills which were so loved by him.

G. B.-S.

GEORGE L. McINTYRE.

GEORGE L. McINTYRE was one of the oldest members of the Club, joining in 1891. He died in April 1946 at the age of eighty-six. In his prime he was a climber of great energy and contributed a number of articles to the *Club Journal*. He served on the Committee from 1908 till 1920. Although he was not known to many Club members for a number of years past, he retained a keen interest in the Club and attended almost all the Indoor Meets, and, regularly, the Annual General Meetings. He was a photographer of considerable ability, and a number of his lantern slides are to be found in the Club collection.

H. D. W.