

wondered whether our faith in Taylor was altogether justified; certainly he was the one who exhibited most surprise when it was demonstrated that the thing really did work.

By June 1950 the work was sufficiently far advanced for the cottage to be opened to members, which was done without ceremony. The cost of equipment and renovations was met from the Works Fund, to which members had been asked to send donations. These amounted to £142. 16s. 0d., and the cost of furnishings and repairs to £211. 12s. 6d. A copy of the regulations governing the use of the cottage was posted to members, together with a description of the facilities offered. Mr William MacDougall, Bellaneye, Inverey, holds a key for use in an emergency but all bookings must be made through the Honorary Custodian. The following table of distances may be useful in planning excursions:

Altanour, Glen Ey	5½ m.	(Cycle or foot-slog.)
Auchelie, ,, (nursery ski slopes.)	2½ m.	,,
Derry Lodge <i>via</i> Canadian Bridge	4 m.	(Car or cycle.)
White Bridge <i>via</i> Linn of Dee	4 m.	,,
Linn of Quoich	3½ m.	,,
Invercauld Bridge	8 m.	,,
Loch Callater Cottage	10 m.	,,
Glen Clunie Lodge	11 m.	,,

I append a list of members who took part in the work and helped to keep costs at a minimum. They approached their various tasks in holiday spirit and at least appeared to enjoy themselves. They were: Misses A. W. F. Arthur, H. M. E. Duncan, R. K. Jackson, M. Hoggarth, E. J. Lawrence, A. M. Pittendrigh, and Messrs Bain, I. and W. Brooker, Cameron, Cordingley, Crawford, Duff, Dyer, Hendry, Hunter, Lorimer, Lyall, McAndrew, McConnach, A. and J. MacGregor, McKenzie, McLellan, G. Mathieson, A. S. Middleton, Morgan, Semple, A. M. Thomson; my own part in the task was to set Taylor going—and then to restrain him when he appeared to be going too far! I should also mention the energetic Mr Fenton, of Abadan, a holiday-maker looking for exercise. It was provided.

W. A. E.

NEW CLIMBS.

Pinnacle Gully, No. 1, Lochnagar.—A first winter ascent of this gully was made by T. W. Patey and C. Morrison on January 27, 1951, in three and a half hours. The climb was on steep hard snow throughout and presented little difficulty. The rock crevasse on the original summer route was filled with black ice and an exposed traverse to the right over ice-covered slabs immediately below had to be made. The ascent from the saddle to the Pinnacle was complicated by iced rocks and required care.

Douglas-Gibson Gully, Lochnagar.—First winter ascent. G. B. Leslie and T. W. Patey, December 28, 1950. Snow in excellent condition. The first obstacle was a 20-foot ice pitch (the cave pitch in summer), climbed on the right close to the wall of the gully. Further steep snow led to the terminal cliffs 200 feet below the top (2 hours). The upper 200 feet occupied seven hours and was continuously hard and exposed. An awkward traverse on to the left wall, along a shelf of hard snow, led to the foot of a steep 15-foot pitch from which fragile snow was removed to permit an ascent on the ice-covered rocks below. At the top, excavation revealed a stance on a small ledge below the crux on the summer route. Here, however, the snow was extremely steep and the party diverged upwards and to the right, across the upper edge of the prominent slab on the wall of the gully. This was covered by several feet of hard snow set at a high angle. A run out of 90 feet led to a small cave above and to the right of the slab. Following an unsuccessful attempt on the chimney above the cave, the party traversed several feet to the left on to the back of a steep rib, which runs parallel to the summer route. The climbing at this point was critical as only about a foot of hard snow covered the slabs. Sixty feet of climbing on the rib led to deeper snow where a stance was necessary to safeguard the leader on the final 15 feet to the cornice. This proved one of the hardest sections of the climb as the snow steepened almost to the vertical and an ice axe was used as foothold to attain a large snow cave below the cornice. The second belayed at the back of the cave while the leader, after much hard work, fashioned a tunnel 3 to 4 feet in depth in the roof of the cave, through which the party climbed to the welcome security of the summit plateau.

Tough-Brown Traverse, Lochnagar.—Variation. October 1, 1950. W. D. Brooker and J. Morgan. From the Terrace by the 1936 route to the Ledge; instead of going right on to the big slab, they went left of the overhang where the difficulties soon eased off and they arrived at the belay 90 feet above the Terrace.

Polyphemus Gully, Lochnagar.—From the point where the original route leaves the gully, continue up past an insecure looking solitary chokestone to a cave. Climb a few feet on the right wall to a corner. Above this straddle up the gully bed for 30 feet to a platform. The next pitch is a 40-foot chimney with an overhung top. Avoid the overhang by moving out to the left. Here the ordinary route is regained. New section about 180 feet (D.). W. D. Brooker and S. McPherson, August 13, 1950.

Ardath Chimney, Coire Sputan Dearg.—Falls into Anchor Gully from the right hand side of No. 2 Buttress (D.). J. Tewnion and M. Smith. Straight cut chimney for about 150 feet, thereafter falling back into a grassy depression. Climb starts with a chokestone climbed on the left. Piled blocks, requiring care, follow to a good stance and belay below a small chokestone. Above rises the smooth water-worn gully bed, with good holds on the left for 20 feet where an awkward step right to a platform with belay must be made. Above this, small

rock pitches can be found on the right, followed by scrambling to the summit.

Janus Chimney, Coire Sputan Dearg.—The conspicuous chimney on the lower section of Janus Buttress (D.) E. L. Smith, T. Shaw, and A. Cameron, July 1, 1950. Climb starts with a bulging chokestone climbed on the left. Two moss-covered blocks follow and then loose vegetation to a small cave. The hardest move is to get round the bulge of the chokestone above. Climb the left wall. (Thread belay available). A short easy pitch leads to the upper buttress.

Clach Dhian Chimney, Shelter Stone Crag.—Six hundred feet. M.S., W. D. Brooker and J. W. Morgan, June 24, 1950. This is chimney referred to in the Cairngorms Guide under West Wall Route. Previous ascents were not made wholly in the chimney apparently. The first chokestone pitch was climbed by a crack on the left and a groove then led to easy ground. The second pitch was passed by a rib on the right wall, and on returning to the gully, the left of twin chimneys was climbed. The gully then peters out and an exit was made to the left. The next 200 feet was climbed by zigzagging up to the foot of the vertical upper wall of the Crag. An easy but sensational shelf led to the top of the lowest of the three towers seen on the skyline from the Stone. The final wall (150 feet) was climbed first by a fan-shaped slabby staircase (100 feet) and then by two parallel cracks and an overhang (crux).

Deep-Cut Chimney, Ben Macdhui.—The conspicuous vertical-looking chimney on the buttress to the right of Hell's Lum. I. M. Brooker and Miss M. Newbigging, September 1950. Start up the grassy fault in the rock curving to the left towards the crack. There were a number of steep rock pitches, with much vegetation, and most of these were climbed by back and foot methods. Higher up the rock was rather loose; 150 feet from the top the crack goes very deep into the rock and the outlet is blocked by chokestones, leaving too small an opening to wriggle through. It is quite remarkable rock scenery as the chimney is almost a tunnel through the rock. Escape on the right wall was engineered by a very hard and exposed mantelshelf movement and further quite difficult climbing to the summit.

Pine Tree Buttress, Cairn Gorm.—Five hundred feet (D.). W. D. Brooker and J. W. Morgan, July 25, 1950. This buttress lies to the right of Serrated Rib and just to the left of a gully housing three big pitches, roughly north of the Shelter Stone. At the foot is a long curving tongue of broken rock. Above this the route gradually diverges right to the edge of the gully. A short traverse left and a difficult groove lead to easier ground. Higher up, a steep, clean wall on the left of the crest enables one to turn a huge overhang. The climb ends at an easy 20-foot wall.

Juniper Buttress, Coire Etchachan.—I. M. Brooker and Miss M. Newbigging, July 6, 1950. To the right of the Bastion (see below). Pioneer Route is on the buttress to the right (Creagan a' Choire Etchachan). Start at lowest rocks. Climb 50 feet. Then at 80 feet (hard pitch) two ways are possible: (a) astride a smooth, exposed nose

of rock—stocking soles; or (b) a strenuous chimney move to the right. An easy 50-foot pitch is followed by three 20-foot pitches separated by ledges—all well protected but quite hard on very good rock. Scrambling to the top. Rock good throughout. 450 feet (V.D.).

Flanking Ribs Route, Coire Etchachan.—450 feet (S.). W. D. Brooker and D. A. Sutherland, March 26, 1950. Start up the slabby chimney at the right of the cliff. Fifty feet up, climb the left wall to platform (belay). Avoid overhang above on the left and carry on for 60 feet (belay). Climb wall above for 80 feet (flake belay). Step left and follow ill-defined rib up slabs and heathery cracks of continuous difficulty, trending right at the top. The line of overhangs looms above, so a traverse was made to the steep, narrow rib bounding the chimney on the right. Follow the rib until a small tower rears up. The crux follows. Ascend to a square recess and from there up a groove and on to the sloping roof. A mossy crack leads to easier ground. Two hundred feet of scrambling to the summit.

The Bastion, Coire Etchachan.—(S.). D. A. Sutherland and K. Winram, April 1, 1950. On big buttress on extreme left of the cliff, starting up a depression on the right side. The depression slants left and ends under an overhanging wall 150 feet up. A fine slab pitch round the corner of the wall leads to a tower 7 feet high. A wall pitch (50 feet) a few feet to the right follows. The route then went to the right. The side of a vertical rib was climbed and a very hard move to the right made. The left hand of two chimneys 10 feet apart was then climbed for 15 feet when a traverse right had to be made to complete the pitch. Above this some difficulty was experienced in getting lodged in a crack, which was climbed, followed by 40 feet of hard climbing (crux). At the top of this pitch is a huge V groove which can be avoided on the left by a big square cut chimney which leads to easy ground. 550 feet.

Crown Buttress, Garbh Choire Mòr, Braeriach.—400 feet (V.D.). K. Winram, C. Petrie, M. Smith, and J. Tewnton, August 13, 1950. On left hand side of Great Gully. Start at lowest rocks (cairn). Moderately difficult rock ribs are followed to a large block, climbed by a crack on the left. An awkward step right, into a groove, is followed by moderate scrambling to the foot of a groove 150 feet high. This is the high-light of the climb. The arête on the right is topped by the peculiar rock formation from which the buttress derives its name. Climb by back and foot methods for 40 feet to a bulge. A short vertical section follows and jamming and backing continues over a chokestone to a good stance (110-foot pitch). Forty feet of very loose rock lead to the plateau.

Lairig Ridge, Sròn na Lairig.—600 feet (D.). W. D. Brooker and J. Fowler; T. Shaw and A. Barrett, July 7, 1950. The longest and best defined of the rock ribs on the Sròn, opposite The Lurcher. Start at the lowest rocks on the right edge of a big wall to an overhang. Then traverse left and up a short wall to the slabs above. Easy for 100 feet to the first tower, the face of which is gained by a zigzag movement. Then right, round a corner and up a chimney to a nick behind

the tower. Follow the crest, which is sharp and has a series of towers. Rough, clean rock.

Consolation Gully, Garbh Choire, Beinn a' Bhùird.—400 feet (V.D.). J. Tewnton and K. Winram, July 30, 1950. The second definite gully to the left of the south-east gully (Mitre Ridge). A moderate pitch over slabs and piled blocks is climbed before the gully is entered. The first pitch is wet and mossy and the holds are not too reliable. The second starts with a 20-foot chimney, with a good stance on top, from which a mossy chokestone is climbed on the left. The third pitch is easier but about 100 feet long. The rock again tends to be loose. Belay below the chokestone. No great difficulty to summit.

Flake Buttress, Coire Sputan Dearg.—First winter ascent, April 10, 1950 W. D. Brooker and S. McPherson.

Pyramus Gully, Coire Bhrochain.—*Idem.* April 12.

NEW CLIMBING BOOKS.

- “Rock Climbs: Glencoe and Ardgour.” S.M.C. Guide; 1949; 7s. 6d.
- “The Southern Highlands.” S.M.C. Guide; 1949; 15s.
- “The Cairngorms”; 3rd Edition; S.M.C. Guide, 1950; 18s.
- “A Progress in Mountaineering,” by J. H. B. Bell. (Oliver & Boyd, 1950; 25s.).
- “Undiscovered Scotland,” by W. H. Murray. (Dent, 1951; 18s.).
- “Cairngorms on Foot and Ski,” by V. A. Firsoff. (Hale, 1950; 15s.).
- “The Mountaineer's Week-end Book,” by Showell Styles. (Seeley Service, 1951; 12s. 6d.).
- “Mountains beneath the Horizon,” by W. Bell. (Faber, 1950; 8s. 6d.).
- “Mountaineering Handbook,” S.A.C. (Paternoster Press, 1950; 8s. 6d.).
- “La Nature Alpine,” by R. Godefroy. (Press Univ. de France, 1948).
- “Le Cervin I, II,” by C. Gos. (Attinger, Neuchatel, 1948).
- “Climbs of My Youth,” by A. Roch. (Lindsay Drummond, 1949; 12s. 6d.).
- “First on the Rope,” by R. Frison-Roche. (Methuen, 1949; 10s. 6d.).
- “One Green Bottle,” by Elizabeth Coxhead. (Faber, 1951; 10s. 6d.).
- “Subterranean Climbers,” by P. Chevalier. (Faber, 1951; 16s.).

The three new S.M.C. guides will, for most members, occupy pride of place in the above list of new books, all of which have been added to the library through the generosity of the publishers. We must record our appreciation of this generosity, and regret that we have not space to deal adequately with them.

The first edition of the guide to the Southern Highlands, covering the area south of a line from Loch Rannoch to Loch Awe, and including in particular the Glen Lyon, Crianlarich, and Arrochar groups, has been long awaited. The rock climbs in the area are included in an