

## IN MEMORIAM.

JAMES McCOSS.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr James McCoss, an Honorary Member and Past President of the Club. McCoss joined the Club in 1912 and from the first took a keen interest in all its activities. He was a true lover of the hills and enjoyed camping in some of the wildest and most inaccessible parts of the Cairngorms.

He was elected to the Committee of the Club in 1919 and was amongst the pioneers who introduced rock and snow as opposed to ordinary hill-climbing amongst Club members. Snow-climbing meets were arranged for the early months of the year and he did much to teach the younger members the correct use of rope and axe. Saturday afternoon outings were also arranged to the cliffs near Cove for practice rock climbs, and some of these are described by McCoss in his article, "Some Kincardineshire Coast Climbs," in Vol. VII of the *Journal*. He was a regular contributor of interesting articles to the *Journal* and for many years seldom failed to turn up at the various meets of the Club. In 1931 he was elected President of the Club, and during the three years he filled this office was responsible for much of the success of the various activities of the Club. Many members who attended the New Year Meets at Braemar will recall his sturdy figure piping in the New Year's Dinner, for he was no mean performer on the bagpipes. McCoss had not confined his climbing entirely to this country, and in an article in Vol. XIV of the *Journal* gives an interesting account of an ascent of the Matterhorn, which he found no more difficult technically than some of the climbs on Lochnagar, though of course a good deal more physical effort was required.

Besides his climbing interests it is probably not so well-known that McCoss was a keen student of astronomy, as this was a subject he seldom discussed, knowing that the

average listener was not interested. In one of his articles in the *Journal*, "The Ascent of Mt. Huygens," he has happily combined astronomy and climbing by describing the scientific problem of reaching the moon and climbing one of its 18,000-foot mountains. The writer once had the pleasure of examining some of McCoss's astronomical work and was amazed at the mathematical problems he had tackled and the accuracy with which they were worked out. Though he chose a commercial career, one could not help wondering if he would not have made a successful scientist.

During the first world war McCoss joined the North Scottish R.G.A. and was in action at Messines, Ypres, and at Vimy Ridge. He also served in the army of occupation.

W. M.

#### DORIS RHIND.

ON August 7, 1952, Doris Rhind came to Dundonell with the intention of climbing An Teallach. On August 9, while proceeding along the ridge with two friends, she made a step from a rocky portion to a ledge below. She appeared to lose her balance and fell, first over rocks and then into a mist-filled gully, which at that point descends steeply to Loch Toll an Lochain. She was killed apparently instantaneously. An R.A.F. Mountain Rescue Party arrived late on Sunday and located the body, which was brought down on Monday, August 11.

After graduating at Aberdeen University Doris taught science and mathematics at Torry Junior Secondary School and was to have held a similar position at Aberdeen High School for Girls after the summer vacation. Children knew her as a jolly companion and a good sport, and she was liked and respected by both staff and pupils. She was a member of the Central School F.P.'s Club and served not only on their Committee but also as Secretary of their Dramatic Club. Trinity Church also had in her a willing and enthusiastic worker and loyal supporter, and her loss will be felt keenly by these various organisations.