

The popularity of hotel meets was emphasised by over forty members and guests going to Ullapool at Easter, where the Royal Hotel proved an excellent centre. Conditions were generally good, and most of the tops in the area, from Suilven in the north to An Teallach and the Fannichs in the south, were covered.

FARTHER AFIELD

A FEW accounts of what members did in the Alps during the 1953 season have been received. Others were abroad but have sent no information: it is hoped that this may be remedied in future years.

In July, Malcolm Smith, with G. R. Greig and C. Petrie in the Cogne area of the Graians, started with the Gran Sertz and Punta Nera-Punta Bianca from the Sella Hut and then traversed Mont Herbetet from the Herbetet Chalets. From the Bivacco Antoldi in the Valeille glen the party climbed the Tour du Grand St Pierre and crossed the Colle di Valletta, taking the Punta Tsissetta on the way. Finally the Punta Tersiva was climbed from the Grauzon Chalets.

T. W. Patey and J. M. Taylor had ten days at Chamonix in July and had a good season. Their opening climb, the Ryan-Lochmatter route on the east face of the Blaitiere, was acclaimed by a thunderstorm on the descent. After the north-north-east ridge of the Aiguille de l'M, fourteen hours were spent on the Republique Arête of the Grands Charmoz. Then from Charpoua they traversed the Verte by the Arête Sans Nom, descending the Whympier couloir (cf. *A.J.*, 59, 342). To round off, the Cardinal was climbed in moonlight.

Hamish and Millicent McArthur and Margaret Munro explored the Maritime Alps and the ranges northwards, from Nice to Chamonix. Mont Clapier, the first 3,000 metre peak north of the Mediterranean, and a few passes, led to Monte Viso, so well known as a feature of the southward view from the Valais. Then into France where, from Bonneval, after an ascent of the Aiguille Rouge, the glacier pass from Val d'Isere to Valsavaranche was crossed to Aosta. From Courmayeur, the Dent de Géant was climbed and thereafter the party went by the Col de Géant to the Requin and climbed the Aiguille du Plan. The final ascent was the Grepon by a variation of the C.P. route.

The Editor had three days climbing from the Weissmeis Hut in August with Toni and Margrit Biner. Following the short but exposed south-east face of the Jägihorn to initiate Margrit, the Fletschhorn and Laquinhorn were traversed. The third day was spent on the delightful Jägigrat with the south-east wall approach. Toni was a hard taskmaster and kept the party of three well to the head of the line of two-man ropes.

OFF THE ROPE

Two good friends of the Club have retired during the past year, and all will wish them a long and well-deserved retirement.

Mr John Robertson, stalker at Spittal of Muick, must be a familiar figure to almost all members. He has seen the development of Lochnagar climbing since before the Symmers-Ewen days and many first ascents have had their origin in John Robertson's barn. He has ever maintained cordial relations with climbers,

although sometimes unable to grant all the facilities he himself would have liked to provide. His services were always available for search and rescue, and on such occasions Mrs Robertson gladly provided any shelter and refreshment which was required. Fortunately they have not left the glen and we hope to hear their hearty greeting on many future outings.

Constable Alexander Florence, who retired in May 1954, has for a number of years kept the peace in Braemar. Unobtrusively efficient, his direct relations with climbers were normally confined to the fortunately infrequent rescue operations, when his co-operation with the Mountain Rescue services has been a model of what such should be. Some members will remember him as a keen hill walker before he was posted to Braemar. We wish him every success in his new venture in Culter.

MOUNTAIN SHELTER IN COIRE ETCHACHAN

WITH the kind permission of the Trustees of the late Duke of Fife a Mountain Shelter has been built in Coire Etchachan, about one mile below Loch Etchachan and 5 miles from Derry Lodge, at a height of about 2,500 feet. Funds subscribed by friends of the late Dr A. G. Hutchison of Aberdeen, who was killed in a cliff accident in Pembrokeshire in 1949, made its erection possible. The construction was carried out by W. J. Brown, builder, of Aberdeen, with assistance in transport of materials, etc., from members of local climbing clubs and others.

The shelter is open throughout the year except during the stalking season from mid-August to mid-October. It measures 12 feet by 9 feet internally, and is 7 feet high to the eaves. Walls are of local boulders and concrete, and the pitched roof is of timber and aluminium sheet. Fittings include a cooking bench, clothes rails, and a seat. There is no fireplace. It is hoped that misuse, such as damage to the fabric, failure to dispose of litter or tins, and similar nuisances will not necessitate the imposition of restrictions.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

THE Nature Conservancy were established by Royal Charter in 1949 and have statutory powers under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949. In England they are answerable to the Lord President of the Council, in Scotland to the Secretary of State. They have three functions: to give advice, to do research, and to establish and manage nature reserves. The Chairman of the Nature Conservancy is Mr A. B. Duncan of Tynron, Dumfriesshire, and the Director General, Mr E. M. Nicholson. The Headquarters are at 19 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1. In Scotland the Conservancy's affairs are in the hands of a Scottish Committee whose chairman is Professor J. R. Matthews, Regius Professor of Botany, University of Aberdeen. The Director of the Conservancy in Scotland is Dr John Berry. The Conservancy's three Nature Reserves in Scotland other than the Cairngorms are at Beinn Eighe, Wester Ross (10,450 acres), declared November 22, 1951; Morton Loch, Fife (47 acres), declared May 19, 1952; and Tentsmuir Point, Fife (92 acres), declared March 9, 1954.

THE CAIRNGORMS NATURE RESERVE CONSULTATIVE PANEL

THE following are members of the Cairngorms Consultative Panel set up by the Nature Conservancy to consider matters affecting public interests:—

Inverness County Council.
 Aberdeen County Council.
 Association of Scottish Climbing Clubs.
 Scottish Mountaineering Club.
 Cairngorm Club.
 Moray Mountaineering Club.
 Grampian Club.
 Etchachan Club.
 Scottish Ski Club.
 Scottish Tourist Board.
 Mountain Rescue Committee.
 Association for the Preservation of Rural Scotland.
 Scottish Youth Hostels Association.
 Scottish Council for Physical Recreation.
 Scottish Council for National Parks.
 Scottish Rights of Way Society.
 Camping Club of Great Britain and Ireland (including British Caravanners' Club, Scottish Canoe Association, Scottish Caravan Club, and Woodcraft Folk, Scottish Section).

THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND

THE National Trust for Scotland has just published at 2s. 6d. a booklet describing the Trust's property in the Kintail, Balmacara and Falls of Glomach area. The main text is by George Scott Moncreiff, with an introduction to the mountains by Tom Weir.

Membership of the Trust, which is open to all for an annual subscription of 10s., gives free access to all properties and to corresponding National Trust properties in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Other booklets, obtainable from 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 2, likely to be of interest to our members include those on Crathes Castle (2s.) Glencoe and Dalness (1s.), Glenfinnan (1s.), and Inverewe (2s.).