

IN MEMORIAM

R. M. WILLIAMSON

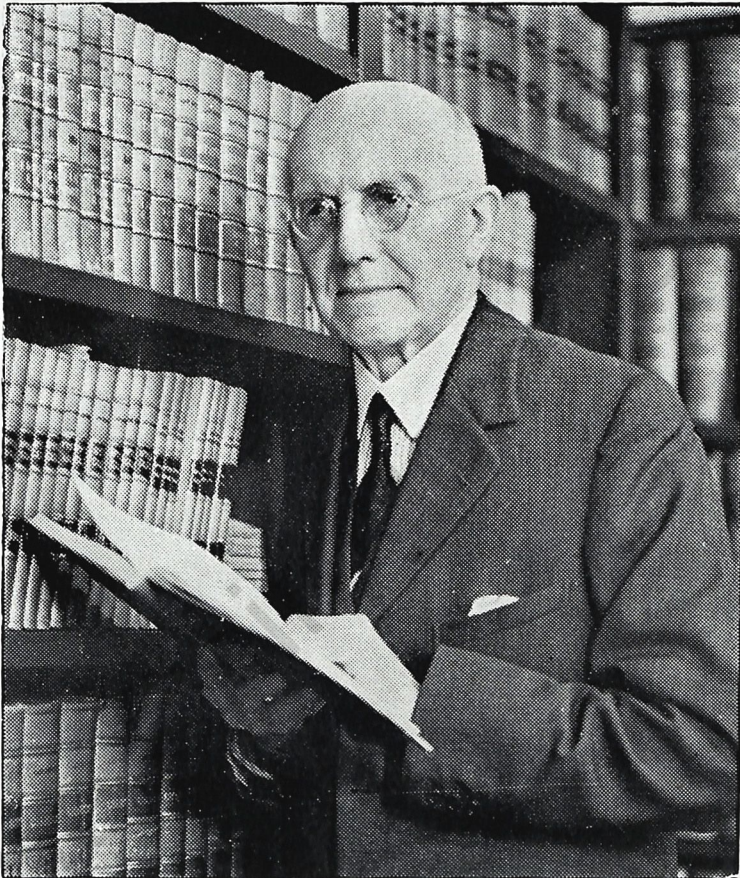
DR R. M. WILLIAMSON, C.B.E., our oldest member who joined the Club in 1892 and became Honorary President in 1947, died in November 1955 at the age of 88. He was senior partner of the firm of Paull & Williamson's, Advocates in Aberdeen, and an Honorary Sheriff-Substitute. Earlier, he had lectured in Constitutional Law and History at the University of Aberdeen, and was a member of the Senatus from 1925 until he gave up his University connections in 1933. For twenty-five years he was Chairman of the Managers of Aberdeen Savings Bank. In 1939 his services to the University and the community were recognised when the Degree of LL.D. was conferred on him, while in 1950 he received the C.B.E.

Dr Williamson's interest in the hills dated from his student days in Aberdeen, when with his brothers and other companions he made what would now be considered quite prodigious hill walks and climbs, without the benefit of motor transport. His favourite areas were around Braemar, Speyside, and Clova, where he often stayed with "Mammie" Birss at the Glen Clova Hotel. His wife also was a keen mountaineer and often accompanied him on outings, astonishing many of our members of the time by her ability.

For some thirty years up to 1939 the Williamsons went almost every year to Switzerland, preferably to the Oberland, and he returned thrice more after the war at an age of over 80. Dr Williamson, at an annual dinner following his sixtieth year of membership, gave an interesting and amusing account of some of these holidays, which were also the subject of two articles in Vol. 9 of the *Journal*.

Dr Williamson was professionally engaged in opposition to the Loch Avon scheme for the Aberdeen water supply favoured by the Town Council in the early years of the century and, as the objectors' Law Agent, contributed to the rejection of the Provisional Order, thereby saving Loch Avon from being relegated to the status of public reservoir.

His interest in the Club, which was maintained to the end, was illustrated on the occasion of a Club Excursion to Loch Lee in September 1946, when he asked unobtrusively to be allowed to defray all the expenses of the outing.



R. M. WILLIAMSON

Aberdeen Press and Journal

Following Lord Macmillan, Norman Collie, and James Parker as Honorary President was a difficult task, but one which R. M. Williamson performed with grace and dignity. To his family—Mrs Williamson predeceased him some years ago—we offer our sincere sympathy in their sorrow.

E. W. WATT

EDWARD W. WATT, one of the oldest members of the Club, died on April 19, 1955. To his many activities in other directions he combined a long fidelity to the Cairngorm Club and its interests. He became a member in 1912, served on the Committee from 1924 to 1926, and edited the *Cairngorm Club Journal* from 1924 to 1926, being well equipped for such a duty by his long and varied experience in journalism. Many times he spent his annual holiday at Braemar.

Himself in youth a participant in most of the games and recreations of early years, he remained throughout his life devoted to the interests of young people. He was actively connected with the Boys' Brigade, in which he was Vice-President and Treasurer of the Aberdeen Battalion. He was the first Chairman of the Aberdeen Juvenile Court; and amongst the other bodies with which he was connected were the Scottish Council of Social Service and the National Fitness Association for Scotland. He was an original member of the Scottish Central Probation Council.

In 1901 he joined the 1st Volunteer Battalion, Gordon Highlanders; and when the territorials took the place of the volunteers he commanded the University Company of the 4th Gordons. He was mobilised in 1914 as Captain, and served with the battalion in France and Belgium, retiring in 1921 with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Most members will be acquainted with his activities in civic affairs. He entered Aberdeen Town Council in 1927; and after being in succession Bailie and City Treasurer, he became Lord Provost in 1935.

One remembers Edward Watt with pleasure as having been present, now a good many years ago, at various of the Club's excursions as well as at many of its annual dinners. He brought to these occasions the same easy and agreeable personality which made him a highly acceptable colleague on the many committees of which he was a member in the course of his career. His portrait, a public appreciation of his service as Lord Provost, hangs in Aberdeen Art Gallery.

W. M. A.