

IN MEMORIAM

ARTHUR R. BROWN

At the time of his death in March 1955, Sheriff Arthur R. Brown, a life member, was the senior member of the Club, and the last whose membership commenced in the nineteenth century. It was on the summit of Lochnagar at midnight on June 22, 1897, the night of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, and exactly ten years after the Club was conceived, that Arthur Brown was admitted to membership at a meeting under the presidency of Mr John A. McHardy. He knew the Cairngorms well and twice climbed in Switzerland, although his brother William Brown is much better known because of his ascent of the Tough-Brown Ridge.

Sheriff Brown carried on practice as an advocate in Edinburgh until about 1925, when he took up office as Sheriff-Substitute in Lanarkshire.

W. M. ALEXANDER

By the death at the age of 78 of William M. Alexander, M.A., B.L., LL.D., on January 16, 1959, the North-East of Scotland was deprived of one of its most able scholars. His knowledge of European and certain non-European languages, and of canon law, was profound, while he was also a keen student of geology, botany and astronomy. Dr Alexander wrote authoritatively on the academic system in medieval Europe, and took an active part in the production of the periodical *Scottish Gaelic Studies*. In 1936 his joint interest in languages and astronomy took him to Omsk in Siberia with the University of Aberdeen expedition to study the total eclipse of the sun. He is probably best known for his monograph on "The Place Names of Aberdeenshire" published by the Third Spalding Club in 1952, an outstanding study in toponymy and etymology, a copy of which he presented to the Club Library. He was honoured in 1952 by the degree of Doctor of Laws by his Alma Mater, the University of Aberdeen, where he had graduated in arts and law before studying at the University of Bonn. In his early days he was closely associated with his brother, the late Sir Henry Alexander, on the Aberdeen Free Press.

Dr Alexander joined the Club in 1924, and served as Vice-President from 1930 to 1933. He was a strong hill walker and