

bridge crosses the burn and the pine trees begin. It was 10.30 a.m. when we reached the Lodge, to be greeted by our worthy Huts Custodian with the good news that there was plenty of hot water on tap for all. After an excellent breakfast and short rest, we left Derry Lodge by our Mini-bus for the Craigindarroch Hotel at Ballatar where we completed a memorable mid-summer meet with an excellent lunch.

I cannot conclude this account of our Meet without recording our indebtedness to our Vice-President, George Page, for his happy inspiration in hiring the Mini-bus and to his son, Graeme, who drove it most skilfully. The original Meet to Glen Lochy having had to be cancelled because of lack of numbers, we might once again have had no meet at all.

R. A. GERSTENBERG.

THE CLUB LIBRARY

THE Cairngorm Club Library evolved gradually and in a rather informal manner until 1929, when the President at that time, Mr J. A. Parker, compiled a catalogue which appeared in the *Journal* (Vol. 12, p. 87). The introductory paragraph commented that "Local mountaineering literature and maps are of special interest, but any works on mountaineering subjects will be most welcome", indicating the intended scope of the library. It also suggests that expansion was expected to be largely by voluntary contributions of books and maps from members. From the same source we learn of the presentation by Messrs Parker and Garden of the bookcase which still serves to house most of the books, although the journals have long since overflowed into a much less splendid cupboard.

The first formal recognition of the status of the library was made at the 1930 Annual General Meeting, at which J. E. Bothwell was appointed Honorary Librarian and an annual grant of £5 for the purchase of books was approved. This sum remained unchanged for over 20 years, when the Committee resolved to increase the amount to £10 per annum. This is the sum currently available, but fortunately in recent years many books received for review in the *Journal* have passed to the library and the journals of kindred clubs are received on an exchange basis. For this reason alone, the lack of material to enable the *Journal* to be produced regularly (at one time it appeared twice a year!) is to be deplored.

J. A. Parker succeeded J. E. Bothwell in 1932, although the office of Librarian was not fully recognised until the 1935 Annual Meeting, when the Librarian became one of the Office-Bearers of the Club and a member of committee. Mr Parker continued in office until 1941, when William Garden, then Honorary Secretary, took over for the period of the war, being in turn succeeded by the present Librarian in 1945.

The second library catalogue was prepared and issued to members in 1950. It included some 170 titles, compared with only 30 books in 1929. That now presented details over 380 titles, and indicates the increased interest in the library and the active support of many members who have presented books. The range, too, has been widened far beyond the items of local interest mentioned in the preface to the first catalogue. This listed only one book concerned with mountains outwith Great Britain—and that a ski guide.

The Club is particularly indebted to our Honorary President, Hugh D. Welsh, for the gift of over 90 volumes, many of them standard works on the Scottish Hills and on mountaineering in general, including many of the books of Seton Gordon and Frank Smythe. A collection of some 24 books, mostly published in the nineteenth century, on the Highlands and related Scottish subjects from the library of the late Mr A. C. W. Lowe was generously donated to the Club by Mrs Ann Edge. Numerous other members have presented books and journals to the Club.

The collection of journals of kindred clubs is a particularly valuable part of the library. Many of these comprise complete runs and provide an irreplaceable source of information on the development of climbing in Britain.

The records of the use of the library since 1931 survive and it is possible to analyse the changes in the number of borrowings throughout the years:

1931—14	1940— 17	1949—120	1958—149
1932—36	1941— 18	1950—159	1959—185
1933—29	1942— 7	1951—162	1960—155
1934—46	1943— 7	1952—233	1961—147
1935—33	1944— 12	1953—272	1962—188
1936—47	1945— 21	1954—239	1963—216
1937—37	1946— 48	1955—192	1964—209
1938—26	1947— 95	1956—242	1965— 61
1939—41	1948—186	1957—176	1966— 59

It is interesting to compare the annual average of about 40 borrowings in the 1930s with some 200 in the 1950s and early 1960s. The sudden fall in 1965 can be ascribed at least in part to restricted access resulting from the closing of the library earlier in the evening and on Saturdays. Since 1967, accommodation problems have reduced access to one evening per month, with serious consequences to the utility of the library and the number of borrowings, which have fallen to near those of the war years. It is to be hoped that this state of affairs can be rectified in the near future by improvement in location or in conditions of access.

At first the library was accommodated in the Secretary's Office, and when Mr Bothwell took over from Mr Garden in 1950 it was transferred to 34 Bridge Street, where it has remained up to the present. The Club is most grateful to Mr Bothwell for providing this accommodation and for continuing to make it available even after his own removal to Advocates Hall.

The Catalogue which accompanies this record of the library's history has been prepared from the Librarian's files since, as a result of the recent difficulty of access, a considerable number of volumes have been in the hands of members longer than the rules allow and it has not been possible to recall and check them all. Perhaps this Catalogue will encourage members to make an effort to return any Club books and journals that adorn their own shelves !