

at a local level of traditions and conditions throughout the country. Most of the local reports were prepared by ministers and he used to remark humorously that, as Convener of the Church of Scotland's Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, he was in a strong position to put pressure on any minister who might be dilatory in submitting his report!

His interests covered a wide field: he was chairman of the Scots Ancestry Research Society, a member of the Council of the National Trust for Scotland, and a director of the Scottish Rights of Way Society Ltd.

He joined the Cairngorm Club in 1901 and was secretary of the Club and editor of the *Journal* from 1910 to 1912. To mark the Club's coming-of-age he contributed an article entitled 'Twenty-one Years of our Club' in the issue of January 1910 (vol. vi, no. 34).

One of the pioneers of ski-ing in Britain, he also retained his interest in hill-walking throughout his life. In 1958 he published a booklet on *The Drove Roads and Bridle Paths around Braemar* and dedicated it to the Cairngorm Club 'through which I first learned the wonder of the hills more than sixty years ago'. In a concluding chapter on the changing character of Braemar, he wrote that there was one feature which could never change and that was the strength of the everlasting hills, which had been the greatest inspiration in his life. The booklet, which ran to three editions, contains a great deal of interesting information about the various passes through the Cairngorms and many walks in the Braemar area. Times are given for each walk 'but the fact that they are those taken by the author after attaining sixty-five years suggests that they probably overstate the times which would be required by the young and vigorous'.

GEORGE A. ROBERTS

George Arthur Roberts strove for complete proficiency in everything he did. Of his varied and sometimes conflicting interests, that in the Scottish hills took pride of place. The war interrupted his climbing shortly after he joined the Club in 1939, but on his return to the family furnishing business he was soon back in the Cairngorms. He took up serious rock-climbing and in 1947, with his brother Ian, made a new route from Raeburn's Gully to the Tough-Brown Ridge of Lochnagar, at a time when the interest of most climbers was in established routes. His experience widened to include winter and summer climbing in many areas, particularly on Skye rock. He was elected to the Scottish Mountaineering Club in 1958 and, in the following year, was entrusted

with the reorganisation of the mountain rescue service in the Aberdeen area. Subsequently he became secretary of the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland and a vice-chairman of the Association of Scottish Climbing Clubs. During this period George regularly attended Club excursions and annual dinners. He served for two spells on the committee and was Vice-President from 1959 to 1962.

His interest in the hills was complemented by a considerable photographic ability; landscapes and portraits submitted to exhibitions and portfolios gained numerous awards. His musical talent found expression in the violin and in choral singing. The competence with which he operated an amateur radio transmitter stemmed from his war service in the Royal Air Force, in which, after surviving the sinking of the *Lancastria* by bombing off St. Nazaire, he served in India and Assam. His call-sign GM3NOV was recognized by enthusiasts in the five continents, and it was instructive to spend an evening in his 'shack' in Great Southern Road while his calls brought responses from all over the world. After the early death of his wife Margaret, who had also been a Club member, George turned more and more to this interest.

Later, angling became his primary outdoor activity. On his off-day on a climbing trip, more active colleagues would on occasion find a meal of freshly-caught trout awaiting their return to camp.

George Roberts will be remembered by Club members for his mountaineering and his companionship: his death in September 1970, in his 55th year, was a sad loss not only to his son, his father and his brothers, but also to the many who had enjoyed his company and his counsel in the hills.

As this number was being prepared for press, we heard with regret of the death of Lt.-Col. H. J. Butchart, a long standing and much respected member of the Club. He was recently made an Honorary Member. A full tribute will appear in the next issue of the *Journal*.