

in the mind for a very long time and which quite a few of us will be privileged to remember.

On the practical side, Margaret soothed or averted several nasty blisters on a number of hillsides with her special system of bandaging.

For those who only knew Margaret from a distance, she will be remembered for the energy and enthusiasm she put into all she undertook, and be respected for her knowledge, sense, ability and enjoyment of the hills.

Margaret, who joined the Cairngorm Club in 1965, also joined in many Club outings and was often at Muir Cottage. Latterly she became a great bothy enthusiast, and it was her ambition to stay in every mountain bothy in Scotland, especially the more remote ones.

For a great many years to come, certain places such as the Cuillin of Skye, where she climbed her 100th Munro in 1971, and so many hilltops and bothies, will hold fond memories of Margaret Gauld. For the many of us who knew her well, it will be these memories which pay tribute to a very special member of our Club.

J.M.M.

GEORGE EDMOND CROMBIE

We regret to record the death of George Edmond Crombie in December 1972. Although a comparative newcomer to the Club, he had known the Cairngorms well since boyhood. During family holidays spent at Braemar forty to fifty years ago he explored the glens and visited the tops in that area. After graduating, with honours in Classics, at Aberdeen University, in 1930 he entered the Indian Civil Service. In the Second World War he served in the Indian Army. After 1947 he was transferred to the Foreign Office and held a number of overseas appointments, which took him to, among other places, Canada and Gambia. On his retirement he returned to live in Aberdeen and joined the Cairngorm Club to renew his acquaintance with the Scottish hills. Many of us will have happy memories of his company on recent excursions.

J.E.B.

ANNE ELIZABETH ESSELMONT

Betty Esslemont died in Wick last September, after becoming suddenly ill at Bettyhill where she and her husband were on holiday.



As Betty Duncan she joined the Cairngorm Club in 1928. She had little opportunity of sharing in Club activities, however, as her marriage to Gordon Esslemont in 1929 took her to London. But for over forty years the Esslemont return to the hills of home was an annual pilgrimage. The lessons Betty learned in climbing and hill-walking as the eldest of Dr George Duncan's three children were unremittingly put into practice not only in Scotland and England but overseas. When her husband and she went on a post-retirement tour of the world, she climbed in Australia and Canada and her article in the last number of the Cairngorm Club Journal – 'Hill Walking in Distant Lands' – gives proof of her continuing interest, as do many of her poems.

In the Thistle Cottage Visitors' Book, Betty's name in a large childish hand first appears as one of the five Duncans who were Maggie Gruer's guests in August 1913. And regularly after that the name recurs, in the family group, with student friends, and later alongside that of her husband.

The long Duncan association with the Cairngorm Club – George Duncan himself joined in 1894 – is still actively maintained by the youngest of the family, Helen, who has been a member since 1931. To her as well as to Betty's husband and two sons we offer our sympathy in their loss.

L.D.

