

reward, and not the drink which he so dearly wanted but which he could so ill afford.

Bob studied chemistry at Edinburgh University and graduated B.Sc. with 1st Class Honours in 1931, when he joined the staff of the newly formed Macaulay Institute for Soil Research where he remained till his retirement in 1975. He was Head of the Department of Spectrochemistry from 1937 to 1968, Deputy Director from 1955 to 1968, Director from 1968 to 1975, and a Fellow of the Institute from 1975 until his death.

As a Department of Agriculture for Scotland Research Scholar carrying out research on soils and soil colloids, first at the Macaulay Institute and then for a year in Zurich, he was awarded the degree of Ph.D. by Aberdeen University in 1934. It was while in Zurich that his interest in spectrochemistry began and to which he devoted his career.

He was a world-wide authority on his subject and gave lectures in the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the U.S.S.R. and many European countries, and produced some 90 publications. In recognition of his contribution to the advancement of the knowledge of trace element problems, he was awarded the Research Medal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and for his service to trace element analysis, the Society for Analytical Chemistry's Gold Medal in 1975.

He is survived by his brother, David, to whom we are most grateful for the gift of a large number of Cairngorm Club and Alpine Club Journals and other mountaineering publications and maps.

S.M.

DR. JOHN H.F. CRAWFORD

Within weeks of his return from service in the Falklands as Ship's Surgeon on the R.F.A. 'Resource', the news of John's sudden death at the age of 63 came as a tremendous shock, all the more so as he was spending his leave buying a new car, planning his annual continental tour and various other trips, after which it was his intention to return to the R.F.A. for another tour of duty.

He joined the Club in 1935 and during his student days was a very active member and served on the committee from 1945-1949 and from 1966-1969. He attended Easter Meets and Annual Dinners whenever possible and his incredible memory made it possible for him to recite in chronological order the venue of every Easter Meet from the time he had joined the Club. It had been one of his ambitions to climb all the Munros but lack of time and latterly lack of stamina denied him this satisfaction.

His medical studies spanned the period from 1938 to 1951, interrupted by five years in the R.A.M.C. and the Enniskillen Fusiliers. He spent thirteen years in general practice in Invergowrie, retiring from there in 1964, after which he was in the fortunate position of being able to combine his medical knowledge with his thirst for world travel. He

worked for a short time as G.P. with a cousin in South Africa, then as ship's doctor on several cruises, the final one ending in disaster when the ship went on fire resulting in the deaths of a number of the crew, which affected him deeply. Since 1972 he had been with the R.F.A. At the time of his death John was eagerly waiting to substantiate the fact that he was the only holder of both the Burma Star and the Falkland Islands Medal.

On first acquaintance, John gave the impression of being a jovial, ebullient figure with a never-ending fund of stories and ceaseless chatter, the life and soul of any gathering, which indeed he was, but underneath there lay an entirely different personality — one of deep religious conviction, who showed great consideration for and kindness to those less fortunate than himself.

To those of us who knew John best, the Club will never be the same again, for a unique and colourful personality has gone from our midst.

S.M.

WILLIAM A. EWEN

Hon. Mem. 1966. Com. 1931-34, 1954-56, 1958-60. Vice Pr. 1947-49
Editor 1934-53.

A Club excursion to Lochnagar via the Danzig Shiel provided an early memory of Bill Ewen. I had hacked my amateurish way up the shallow gully which runs out on the plateau just NE of the summit and stopped to have a look down and around. I saw a small group headed by Bill coming over the ridge and into the gully. He was using his axe single handed, cutting a groove one way and cutting another on the way back. His steps synchronised with his cutting as he strolled casually up and along. I watched for some time fascinated by the precision and artistry of the performance.

Later on, as I came to know him better, I realised that his combination of precision and artistry was evident in everything that he did, said or wrote. It was not cultivated or deliberate; it just happened. It was just Bill and he could not have done anything any other way.

As a young man of enquiring mind growing up in Ballater, it was inevitable that he should explore the surrounding hills and streams and graduate to stiffer problems. Over the years there had been sporadic interest in rock climbing in the NE corrie of Lochnagar but it took the exploits of Bill Ewen and his partners to really open the eyes of the climbing world to the possibilities there. In the short space of four years he was involved in nine 'first ascents' and besides putting Lochnagar on the map, put himself into the climbing elite.

I did not know him then but I cannot help feeling that the precision and artistry to which I have already referred, played a considerable part in his success.