

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with regret that the Club records the death of the following members and a former member:

Mrs Janet R. Taggart (OL 1939)	Mr John B. Dalby (O 1961)
Mrs Margaret Henderson (A 1977)	Mr James T. Kelman (A 1982)
Mr John J. Gordon (O 1951)	Mrs Edith A. Murray
Miss Helen M.E. Duncan (OL 1931)	Miss Stella M. Alexander (OL 1950)

### JANET R. TAGGART

When entering my name for a Club outing, I always hoped that Jan would be there too! She was a very cheerful companion and, although latterly she found the going rather difficult, she never complained.

Jan joined the Cairngorm Club in 1939 and, on Day and Easter Meets, succeeded in climbing many Munros. In recent years, like other octogenarians, she was glad to keep in touch with the Club by attending Indoor Meets and borrowing books from our 'mobile' library.

Her ready kindness and thoughtfulness will be remembered with pleasure by those who knew her, including the young people whom she encouraged to enjoy hill-climbing. Her bravery and independence during her last few years of ill-health were amazing.

Jan had a house facing the Princess Royal and Duke of Fife Memorial Park at Braemar. Club members and other friends were always made welcome there and many were pleased to receive a 'V' sticker from her, for the day of the Braemar Gathering.

Jan leaves happy memories behind her but is sorely missed.

R.K.J.

### HELEN M.E. DUNCAN

With the sudden death of Helen Duncan as the result of a road accident, we have lost a member whose family connections with the Club go back to its earliest days. When her father, Dr. George Duncan, first led her up a hill at Braemar, he warned her that she should not stop to pick berries as nobody would wait for her. Since then she has climbed many hills, particularly with her friend Inez Pittendrieh. They were both regular attenders at the New Year and Easter Meets until family obligations intervened.

The fact that Helen owned a car when most of us were dependent on trains and buses, made access to the hills less difficult. She was a very encouraging companion and her knowledge of the Scottish hills was fairly comprehensive. Her friends will miss her very much.

R.K.J.



*Footnote - Club members will also be interested in some additional information about Helen Duncan and her family which has been provided by H.M.R.W. In CCJ No 74, facing p.186 there is a group photograph which includes her (Easter Meet 1933 at Kinlochewe); also the frontispiece of the same issue is a reproduction of what is described as 'Liathach: A Composite Photograph' for which she shared responsibility with Miss Agnes M. Pittendriugh. An elder brother, James Lindsay Duncan was also a member of the Club before he died at the age of 49 in 1954. He initiated the idea of a Shelter Stone visitors' book and also implemented and monitored it: see CCJ No 64 p.212, CCJ No 69 p.117, CCJ No 92 p.212. The Duncan family's strong Club connection is filled out in CCJ No 90 p.96 and CCJ No 95 p.118 - Editor.*

#### EDITH AGNES MURRAY

Mrs. Murray, described in The Times as mountaineer, explorer and music teacher, was a member of the Cairngorm Club for over 30 years.

She was born in Glasgow on February 16th 1898 and attended the Girls' Park School, before studying at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she received her L.R.A.M. Diploma in 1919. As a young woman, she climbed some of the toughest mountains in the Alps and pioneered routes with her sister Maud and became a founder member of the Ladies' Alpine Club in 1927. Two years later, she married George Murray, an equally ardent mountaineer and they climbed the Matterhorn on their honeymoon.

When, in 1932, he was appointed Director of Desert Surveys (later the Topographical Survey) in Egypt, she played a very active part in his work. Together they explored the Egyptian deserts, mapping nearly the whole of Egyptian territory (apart from the Nile Valley) and climbing the mountains of Sinai and the Red Sea coast. For her share in his work, she was later awarded a Life Fellowship of the Royal Geographical Society under the Wilton Bequest in 1966. George Murray wrote 'Dare me to the Desert' on his life's work and the Cairngorm Club Library was presented with a copy.

During the war, Edith served, for a time, in the household of King Farouk, teaching his three daughters to play the piano. She also worked in the Censorship Department and was mentioned in dispatches. After 1945, Edith was on the staff of the Higher Institute of Music in Cairo. When she and her husband had to leave Egypt in 1951, victims of revolutionary nationalism, they came to Aberdeen, where Edith taught in the High School for Girls from 1952 until she retired in 1968. An accomplished pianist, Mrs. Murray gave great pleasure in recitals with her colleagues. She continued to give private lessons to many children and adults in her neighbourhood, until her death.

Her many pupils revealed her skill in teaching and her influence on them was lasting.

Mrs. Murray was so modest and unassuming that few of us knew of her

distinguished and interesting background, except when notable friends like Freya Stark came to visit her in Aberdeen. She proved a most loyal companion, introducing many friends to the mountains and revealing qualities of courage, character and faithfulness, combined with good humour and tolerance and she deserved the affection she gained.

Many of us have very happy memories of Edith with her husband George and a very large Airedale dog!

T.C.W.

