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May 1927

ON THE S.E. RIDGE OF CONA'MHEALL, LOOKING N.W.

J. A. Parker

THE SCOTTISH Mountaineering Club Journal.

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BEINN DEARG, ROSS-SHIRE, AND SEANA BHRAIGH.

BY J. A. PARKER.

THE fine hills comprising the Beinn Dearg group have received scant notice in the *Journal*, and any articles which have appeared have been almost entirely confined to Beinn Dearg itself. This state of matters is doubtless due to the remoteness of the hills from civilisation, and also to the fact that they lie in closely guarded deer forests. The nearest inn is that of Aultguish on the Garve-Ullapool road, which is a small and very desolate house standing on the north side of one of the dreariest roads in the Highlands. There is no luxury; but the good people of the inn make up for that by kindness, and I have pleasant recollections of the week that I spent there last May. With a car Aultguish is possibly the most convenient centre from which to explore the Beinn Dearg group. Without a car the proposition would be vastly different.

I arrived at Aultguish on Saturday, the 21st May, and not liking to take my car out on the Sunday, for fear of offending the good people of the inn, I made the round of Am Faochagach on foot, and a very fair round it was. First a hard walk along the Ullapool road for three and a half miles to the suspension bridge across the Glascarnoch River on the Strathderie path. This bridge is about 75 feet span, and being of the very slimmest con-

struction of the fencing wire type, its crossing (the river was in flood) was the only part of the day's expedition which partook of the sensational. From the bridge I made a bee-line up the hill-side to the top of Creag Rainich and then along the summit ridge for two and a quarter miles to the top of Am Faochagach. The hill has no striking features; but the view from it of the eastern face of the Beinn Dearg group is very striking. From the summit I struck out a south-east course along the Meall Gorm shoulder and then down to the Allt Glas Toll Mòr and into Strath Vaich, the final drop into the latter through some fine old trees being rather picturesque. A good road was joined at Strath Vaich Lodge, which took me down to the main road about a mile and a half east of Aultguish. The total round was about 18 miles. And then on getting back to the inn I was asked, "Why did you not take your car out!"

Monday was very wet, and all that I did was to exhaust the hotel library. Tuesday was devoted to three of the western Fannichs—A'Chailleach, Sgùrr Breac, and Sgùrr nan Each—as the weather did not appear to be good enough for Beinn Dearg. The two former are very fine hills with bold north faces; but the last is simply a summit on the long south ridge, or shoulder, of Sgùrr nan Clach Geala. They were, of course, climbed from the east end of Loch a'Bhraoin, and the keeper there amused me with his description of the Lawson-Munro night out on the western slopes of Meall a'Chrasgaidh in 1901.*

There was no doubt about the weather on Wednesday and Beinn Dearg was the order for the day. The car was taken to the east end of Loch Droma and left there to be called for. Taking "cover" as far as possible, in view of Sang's forbidding article in Vol. XII., I then followed the usual route to the summit of Beinn Dearg, namely, by the path round the east end of Meall Féith Dhiongaig to the Allt a'Gharbhrain, then up the hill-side to the south end of Loch nan Eilean, and so on to the summit. This

* See *S.M.C.J.*, VI., 152-160.

was reached at noon, the car having been left at 9.20. There was a slight mist on the top, and a compass course had to be set down to the watershed at the head of Glen Lael. There is a first-class drystone wall all the way. From the watershed I walked up to the top of Meall nan Ceapràichean (no cairn), and then back and on to the top of Cona' Mheall, the ground being of the simplest nature and requiring no description. The features of the walk were, of course, the very fine views of Beinn Dearg (now clear of mist) and of Loch a'Choire Ghrànda. The top of Cona' Mheall (small cairn) was reached at 2.45 P.M., a lot of time having been spent taking photographs.

My route off Cona' Mheall was by way of its south-east shoulder, and this proved to be extraordinary interesting. It is quite narrow in places, with one or two steep bits, and commands at all times magnificent views across Coire Ghrànda to Beinn Dearg. The ridge is about half a mile long, and terminates in a little knob at the head of some very steep rocks, dropping down to Glen Làir. These rocks appear to be sound, and would, I think, give a good climb and afford a very interesting route to the summit of Beinn Dearg. Being alone I did not attempt to go down the rocks; but descended by a very steep scree and grass gully on the south-west side of the ridge and then, at a suitable place, escaped on to the south-west face and down it by an easy route to the outlet of Loch a'Choire Ghrànda. The whole of the south-west face of the Cona' Mheall ridge is very precipitous, the north-east side is of easier inclination, and could be descended anywhere. I had this latter fact fully in view when I began the ridge, in case I might not be able to get off the nose.

From the Loch I traversed across the slopes of Beinn Dearg to Loch nan Eilean, and thence down to the ruined houses at Loch a'Gharbhrain, and so back to the car (6.15 P.M.) and home.

Thursday was to be a much bigger day, and was to be devoted to Seana Bhraigh. I wonder how many members of the Club have been on the top of this hill or even seen

it! The only mention of it in the *Journal* is its entry in Munro's Tables in Vol. I. And all the information about it that I could get from the leading authority in Edinburgh on "separate mountains," was that it was a long distance from anywhere, which is, of course, quite apparent from the maps. This, coupled with a statement made by the same gifted authority in an early number of the *Journal*, from which I inferred that Seana Bhraigh was simply a "great, flat, undulating upland," led me to believe that its conquest would be a mighty laborious and uninteresting walk. I was fortunate in getting a perfect day for its ascent, more especially as the approach to it from the 2,250 contour is extremely intricate.

I took the car down to Inverlael, and after changing into climbing boots, started up the glen at 10.5 A.M. There is a very rough road as far as the ruined house at Glensguaib, from which a most excellent stalker's path strikes up the west end of Druim na Saobhaidhe. After reaching the 1,500 level the path strikes away to the left, crosses the stream, and ultimately enters the Coir'an Lochain Sgeirich. This is a very curious place, being a narrow valley with a string of little lochs and overhung on the south by the steep crags which form the northern end of Eididh nan Clach Geala.

Somewhere about the highest of the lochs I lost the path, which is hereabouts rather indefinite, although I was told in the evening at Inverlael that it continues to Glenbeg shooting-box. For the next mile the country was extraordinary complicated, consisting of small, rough, rocky hillocks fringing the south side of Gleann a'Chadha Dheirg. This glen is a pretty wild place, and I have seen nothing quite like it in Scotland, and it reminded me very much, on a small scale, of some of the cirques in the central Pyrenees. It is a deep trench about 1,250 feet deep, guarded on both sides by precipices which continue right round the head of the glen, up which there are two steep zigzag paths in gullies in the face of the precipice.

Rounding the head of the cirque, I tackled the final slope of Seana Bhraigh, which is just an easy inclined plane of grass. The summit cairn was reached at 1.50 P.M. and

commands a magnificent panorama. The north-east face of Seana Bhraigh is far from being an easy inclined plane, but, on the other hand, drops down almost vertically to Loch Luchd Choire 1,500 feet below. Surely this corrie must be one of the grandest in Scotland, enclosed as it is on the south by the precipices of Seana Bhraigh and shut in on the east by the jutting-out headland of Creag an Duine, which rises up steeply for nearly 2,000 feet above Loch a'Choire Mhòir. The Creag shows a well-defined pinnacle, and after lunch I walked round the edge of the corrie to investigate it, more especially as it looked as if it might exceed the 3,000 feet level! I found that the pinnacle was the end of a very sharp ridge, with one or two seemingly awkward drops to the neck at the foot of the pinnacle. I question if the pinnacle can be climbed from the actual neck, but there is apparently a fairly easy traverse from the neck on to its east face, and so up to the top. Being alone I did not try, but contented myself with proving that the height of the Creag is *less* than 3,000 feet and must be about 2,950 feet. The east face of the ridge leading out to the Creag is almost as steep as the west face, and the pinnacle must look extraordinarily well from the north; but Coiremor is a terrible distance from anywhere. The only routes of approach would seem to be either from Ullapool up Glen Achall to Rhidarroch Old Lodge and thence across the hills to Coiremor, or from Oykeil Bridge up Strath Muilzie; but the writer has no information as to the condition of the roads. The whole district is under deer, and is strictly preserved.

After finishing my inspection of the Creag I made what was practically a straight line for the summit of Egidh nan Clach Geala, and then down its long western shoulder to Druim na Saobhaidhe and so to Inverlael, which was reached at half-past six. Here a kind friend, on learning what I had done, took me over to his house for a wonderful tea, which freshened me up for the drive back to Aultguish. And two days later I left for Aberdeen, well pleased with my week's doings in the "Forbidden Mountains."

APPENDIX (*The Place-Names*).

The Rev. A. E. Robertson has very kindly supplied me with the meanings of several of the place-names mentioned in the above article as follows:—

Aultguish, *Pine wood burn*. Am Faochagach, *The place of the whelk*. Creag Rainich, *The bracken-clad crag*. Meall Féith Dhiongaig, *The hill of the bog of the goats*. Meall nan Ceapràichean, *The hill of the tillages*. Cona'mheall, *The double (peaked) hill*. Loch a'Choire Ghrànda, *The loch of the dark (forbidding) corrie*. Seana Bhraigh, *The old brae*. Coir'an Lochain Sgeirich, *The corrie of the rocky lochlet*. Eididh nan Clach Geala, *The covering of white stones*. Gleann a'Chadha Dheirg, *The glen of the red pass*. Loch Luchd Choire, *The loch of the people of the corrie (?)*. Creag an Duine, *The crag of the man (the man's crag)*.

Many of these names are most appropriate.

J. A. P.



May 1927

LOCH LUCHD CHOIRE AND CREAG AN DUINE
FROM NEAR THE SUMMIT OF SEANA BHRAIGH

J. A. Parker



May 1927

LOCH A'CHOIRE GHRÀNDA
FROM THE S.E. RIDGE OF CONA'MHEALL

J. A. Parker

THE GLENCOE ROAD.

BY SIR JOHN STIRLING MAXWELL, Bart.

THE Editor asks me to contribute an article on the Glencoe Road. I hesitate, because the question appears to be settled for better or worse. Yet it may be worth while to record the facts so that the error here committed, if error it be, may be in less danger of being repeated.

The relevant facts appear to be as follows: The Glencoe Road, like other roads passing through fine scenery, has been much used in recent years by a class of traffic for which it was never intended, that of the motor tourist. Its condition engaged the notice of the County Council and the Ministry of Transport. It was clear that the road must be remade and tarred and widened in places, and that the steep gradient at the Studdie (though no worse than the Devil's Elbow or Rest and be Thankful) could with advantage be reduced. The County Council felt a very natural reluctance to bear the expense of work which only the tourist traffic rendered necessary, and asked the Ministry to refund the cost. They neither wanted nor asked for a new road.

Meanwhile Lochiel and other devoted champions of the Highlands had advocated the construction of a western arterial road from Glasgow to Inverness on the lines of the road then about to be constructed by Blair Atholl and Kingussie. They hoped thus to relieve the ratepayers of the cost of reconstructing the 87 miles of road from Kinlochleven through the Great Glen to Inverness—a necessary task, but one quite beyond the means of a Highland county. They did not press and never would have pressed for reconstruction on the scale of the Blair Atholl-Kingussie Road. To the surprise of all concerned the Ministry was captivated by the grandiose idea thus cautiously put forward.

In justice to the Ministry and its able road chief, Sir Henry Maybury, it must be remembered that they

would have failed lamentably in their duty if they had simply relieved local authorities of the expense of maintaining their roads. It was their duty to make sure that the taxpayers' money was not spent without effecting a permanent improvement, and their constant adherence to this policy is greatly to their credit. The question is whether they have not in certain cases, and especially in the case under review, pressed betterment to the point of extravagance. To this, the crux of the whole question, we will return in a moment. Meanwhile let us resume the narrative.

The Ministry informed the Argyll County Council that they could not relieve them of the expense of improving the existing road, but were prepared to construct, without contribution from the county, a new road from Tyndrum to the foot of Glencoe—a distance of 30 miles. Though this road was to be only 18 feet wide, the bridges and culverts were to be built to carry 20-ton loads, and the gradient was nowhere to exceed 1 in 25. The County Council accepted this offer and the survey of the new road was begun. This was three years ago.

In the summer and autumn of 1926 the new road between Blair Atholl and Kingussie began to take shape. Its ruthless engineering delighted the road hog, but filled with dismay those who loved the beautiful country through which it passed. At Loch Alvie and at other points, scenes which had inspired generations of artists were completely swept away. No one could fail to observe how the hills, hitherto regarded as imposing and wild, were dwarfed and tamed by these ambitious works, or how the character of the countryside was changed when the familiar grey bridges were replaced by concrete structures—daring, frank, ingenious—but quite outside the local traditions and far more conspicuous than any feature with which Nature had endowed the landscape. Yet the necessity for a first-class road was recognised. The change was accepted in silence. The Ministry was given credit for making the journey by road safer and more comfortable, even if it had robbed it of half its charm.

Last year the rumour spread that something of the same kind was threatening Glencoe. A question in the House of Commons elicited the fact that some £20,000 had already been spent in surveying a new road. Red pegs began to appear on the lonely moors. It was seen that the road was to follow an entirely new line from Bridge of Orchy to King's House, ignoring the inns and houses on the old route. The cost was estimated at £512,000. The engineering was to be even more drastic than that of the central road. A note of warning was sounded in *The Times* by Mr V. A. Malcolmson. It was followed by a spate of letters in the Scots and English Press.

The attack on the road was so widely supported and the defence so unconvincing that the London correspondents began to tell their readers that the whole project was to be reconsidered. At this stage the local M.P.'s contributed a touch of unexpected but ominous humour. The member for Inverness-shire expressed in an interview his abhorrence of the scheme. Next day he explained that he had meant the reverse of what he said and announced himself as a supporter of the road. The member for Argyll was even more unfortunate. He denounced the scheme in an eloquent letter to the Press, but retracted all he had said a few days later. How the course of these straws was diverted we need not inquire, but they served to show that a promise to spend half a million of public money in a poor county could not lightly be withdrawn. The newly-formed Association for the Preservation of Rural Scotland now intervened under the able leadership of Lord Constable. The project as a whole lay outside the scope of its work, but the Association suggested certain modifications designed to protect the beautiful gorge at the Studdie from interference. Sir Henry Maybury courteously agreed to consider these, and after a meeting with representatives of the Association, undertook to accept them, provided they found favour with the Argyll County Council. This body has, however, declined to reopen the question and insists, as it has every right to do, on the scheme being carried out in the form approved. Thus is the controversy ended.

Here a confession falls to be made and an apology. The county of Argyll has taken it amiss that the critics of the scheme approached the Ministry instead of the County Council. No discourtesy was intended. It was supposed that the matter had passed out of the hands of the county. But the fact that the procedure appeared discourteous is enough to condemn it. No one was more to blame and no one regrets it more than the writer. This unfortunate misunderstanding had, of course, no influence on the Council's decision, though it may partly account for the almost barbaric exuberance with which it was given.

I shall not attempt here to deal with the arguments for or against the new road. It is a complicated question on which the members of the Mountaineering Club have no doubt formed their own opinions. To my mind, prejudiced I admit by a wish to keep the Highlands as they are and a strong conviction that their wildness and comparative remoteness are important assets to an industrial country, it seems the height of folly to spend half a million of the taxpayers' money in defacing a lonely moorland and attracting crowds of mere trippers to a glen whose charm lies in its austere solitude and tragic memories. The trippers have the great roads all over the country from Land's End to John o' Groats. Develop these as much as you please. But let us remember that Scotland is a very small country. This tripping may be only a phase. As education grows in the best sense and with it a true appreciation of the gifts of Nature, the genuine tourists will more and more secede from the ranks of the mere trippers. Our generation inherited the Highlands unspoilt. The changes of our time have already deprived great areas of their pristine bloom. It is surely our duty to protect what remains (and especially places of special beauty and interest like Glencoe) from changes which will diminish their value for those, an ever-increasing number, who are by tradition and training fitted to draw the highest kind of enjoyment from them.

If this new road were necessary we should accept it and pay for it, however regretfully, as we have the road

in Central Scotland. But there is no longer any pretence that it is anything but a tourist road. The project of carrying it on to Inverness has dropped since the county of Inverness cannot afford the contribution demanded of it. Its defenders, hard put to it, talk of the development of the Western Highlands. If that were the object the coast route would have been preferred. This road can have no effect on the development of the West Highlands north of Fort William. Had that been intended it would have been taken direct from King's House to Kinlochleven. Some describe the hardship the inhabitants of Kinlochleven endure through the use of the present road in winter. They have a good road to Fort William and a railway thence to Glasgow. Surely no one will seriously argue that every village of 3,000 inhabitants can claim an expenditure of half a million from the public purse to improve their char-a-banc service to Glasgow.

My own view, if I may venture to give it, is that this road ought to have been frankly treated as a tourist road and improved so as to provide reasonable facilities for vehicles of such weight as the existing culverts and bridges would carry. Even in its present state the road has in recent years been used every day by scores of cars all through the summer and autumn. The steep gradient at the Studdie could have been reduced by cutting the rock at the summit and increasing the length of the hairpin bends, yet left steep enough to add a spice of adventure to the journey. The Alpine character of the road which contributes more than some people realise to the majesty of the scene would thus have been retained. The gorge at the Studdie would have remained untouched. The tourist would still have enjoyed the striking view from the shoulder of Clachlet and the charming drive round the shore of Loch Tulla. In the glen itself the sheep fanks and other marks of its ancient civilization which the new road sweeps away or cuts to pieces would have survived. Glencoe seen from the Studdie would have been the same Glencoe which has inspired so many generations of Scotsmen.

This same question is bound to come up again and

again in other parts of the Highlands. I am certain that in the end a new class of tourist road will have to be devised, financed from the Road Fund, but constructed to a standard far less exacting than that on which the Ministry now insists. Meanwhile, the critics have gained one point. The bridges and retaining walls of the new road are to be faced with stone in place of concrete as was intended before their intervention.

AN GEARANACH AND AN GARBHANACH.

BY J. GALL INGLIS.

IN Munro's Tables no less than seven tops are recorded as having an elevation of "3,200 feet approx.," and little evidence is yet available as to their real sequence in height. Two of these, An Gearanach and An Garbhanach, are tops of the same mountain, and when I was unexpectedly held up at Fort William when on my way to the Cluanie Meet of 1926 I resolved, in the interests of cartography, to try and settle which of the two was the real top.

On a sunny April day my son and I motored to the end of the Glen Nevis road, then, donning our big hob-nailers, we proceeded along the path to the Nevis Gorge. Eighteen years had elapsed since the September day when I first visited the Gorge, accompanied by my wife, and I well remembered the half-dismay with which, on that occasion, we had found a sheet of paper nailed to a tree just before the entrance to the Gorge, with the following legend written on it in four-inch letters:—

PATH ONLY FIT FOR THE S. M. C.

We had gone on rather dubiously, being shod with cycling shoes only, but found that recent blasting had eliminated practically all danger: now, when we reached the *mauvais pas*, iron handrails were found to have been fixed at the bad part, so that anyone can traverse that portion with confidence.

At the end of the Gorge we crossed the footbridge, followed the path past the keeper's house, rounded the head of a nasty bog at the foot of the great cliff of the Steall Waterfall, and mounted a rough, steep slope which led us to the narrow V-shaped entrance of a small

corrie which indents the north side of An Gearanach. Scrambling along the rocky banks of the burn, the corrie presently opened out before us; its western side was bounded by a long, smooth, black wall of rock with hardly a ledge, extending upwards till well on to the 3,000-foot contour, while the floor of the corrie was literally carpeted with wild hyacinth, which at one season of the year must make a perfect blaze of colour on the hillside.

Our obvious route was up very steep slopes to a col on the ridge, just beyond where the wall of rock ended. As we toiled upwards, I could not help thinking that in snow this slope would give very arduous work in kicking or cutting steps, as some 1,700 feet at a considerable and fairly constant angle would have to be surmounted. But of snow there was none to be seen, and it was only some 2,800 feet up, in a steep, narrow half-gully leading to the ridge, that the first patch was seen. Never have I seen so little snow on the hills at Easter; even on Ben Nevis, a few days before, there was hardly a trace of it on the path till some 3,700 feet.

From the col the remainder of the climb was simple, and not steep—a succession of grassy steps. The top of An Gearanach proved to be a well-defined grassy peak, and the aneroid measured 3,240* feet above sea level. As the day was warm, the temperature-error was probably almost negligible, so that Munro's estimate of "nearly 3,250 feet" is evidently not far out. I eagerly looked for An Garbhanach, a rocky point half a mile away, at the end of a fairly level narrowish ridge. At first glance it seemed on a level with where we stood, but on looking beyond to the horizon there could be no doubt as to its true place; it was lower than An Gearanach, and must yield its position as "separate mountain"—accorded to it in virtue of alphabetical priority—to its brother top, for far

* Allowing 75 feet for a probable excess of height due to falling barometer. If the fall only took place in the late afternoon, as is rather probable, then the height of the hill will be about 3,300 feet. The 1-inch O.S. makes the ridge fall below 3,000 feet, but the aneroid registered barely 100 feet of dip between the tops.

away on the horizon behind it were two high peaks with a deep col between them (Ben Cruachan probably), and this col was seen well above the level of An Garbhanach. The lower height was confirmed later by the aneroid.

When we walked along the grassy ridge joining the two peaks, I rather wondered at Munro's note in the Tables as to the "extremely narrow" ridge. Narrow it certainly was, and it fell steeply in grassy slopes on the east, and in grass slopes broken by rocks on the west, but there seemed nothing specially noteworthy about it. However, a few hundred yards before the summit of An Garbhanach the character of the ridge suddenly changed; it became rocky and precipitous on each side, narrowing at last to a broken knife-arrête—recalling in some ways the "Black Men" on Beinn Eighe—which barred further direct progress, as we had no rope. It took some stiff scrambling before we could get past it by descending on the west side, but at last we attained the sharp top of An Garbhanach, which is well named, as it falls precipitously on every side. The aneroid registered 3,230 feet, 10 feet below An Gearanach, but as there was no high-up reference point available, both heights are not absolutely to be depended on. I looked longingly at Am Bodach, which loomed up a mile away, and would have furnished the desired verification, but discretion forbade. The dip between the two peaks was great, and though below us was a long, broad, level corrie, which apparently would give easy access to the Glen Nevis path, we knew from what we had seen on the way up that this corrie literally ended in the air—like no other corrie I have seen in Scotland—suddenly ending at the top of a great wall of ledgy rock at a high angle,* over which the burn in the corrie precipitates itself in the Steall Waterfall. The only other routes back from Am Bodach involved long circuits, so, regretfully, we turned for home—just as well, as we found later.

When we got down to the Nevis again, to save traversing

* The President tells me that this cliff can be descended, but it involves much tedious labour.

the bog we had crossed in the morning, we resolved to wade the river, and join the good path on the other side. Oh, that icy water! With no snow on the hills, I had never imagined a river would run so cold. More than once I was sorely tempted to turn back, but pride forbade, and at last the ordeal was over. Putting on our boots again, we set off for our car. A few hundred yards on we turned a corner. Judge our chagrin to find ourselves beside a footbridge! All our sufferings might have been avoided. I think this bridge must have been erected since my last visit, as I have only recollection of the one we had crossed in the morning.

The car was reached about 5 o'clock, and as car designers persist in designing clutches and accelerators and footbrakes without regard to the size of a mountaineer's (outward) nether extremities, I had, perforce, to change my footgear. While thus engaged, I looked back at our hill: to my astonishment, dark, jagged-edged clouds covered it for a thousand feet or more, driving along at a great rate. Well was it we had not gone on! It was, I think, the most startling change of conditions I have ever known. An hour and a half before there had been little wind, and not the slightest indication of any sudden change in the weather had been noticed when we were on the tops.

It will be seen from the above that An Gearanach and An Garbhanach are interesting hills well worthy of a visit under either winter or summer conditions. The views to the east, south, and west are extensive; to the north Ben Nevis blocks out the view, looming up bulky, and, on the whole, uninteresting, being too near to be seen to advantage.

THE TRAMP.

BY J. H. GRIEVE.

To every climber there comes a time when Alpine peaks or rock pinnacles can no longer be attacked with confidence. His sense of balance must diminish ; his muscular power wanes ; his joints stiffen. The technique is there ; the spirit is willing ; but, alas, the flesh is weak !

The lure of the hills, however, is as strong as ever ; stronger, perhaps, because he knows that, with the passing of every year, they will beckon to him more and more in vain.

“ Ah ! make the most of what we yet may spend.”

But to the climber, who has become nothing more than a tramp, there are compensations at times, just as the spectator, who has played it, sees most of the game. The following incident in the writer's experience will show what is meant :—

On a winter's day, after nothing more than a stiff walk, a great part of it through thin mist, I reached the top of Monte Ebro, one of the highest peaks in the Northern Apennines. A few hundred feet from the summit I came out of the clouds into brilliant sunshine, and saw a truly magnificent sight. Below, in every direction, stretched a milk-white sea of cloud, bathed in the sunlight, its surface stirred by changing eddies of wind. Then I lifted my gaze to the farther distance, and involuntarily gasped. A hundred miles away, lifting their summits above that white sea, the Alps, clad in their winter mantle of snow : a glorious semicircle of loveliness, that stretched from the Alpes Maritimes, by way of Mont Blanc, beautiful Monte Rosa, and other giants, right round to where they reached the head of the Adriatic.

It was cold on that summit, and I had 5,000 feet to descend before darkness set in. But I lingered there, drinking in the beauty of the whole thing, and picking out old friends—Monte Grappa, hinge of the line that in 1917 barred the barbarians' march on Rome ; Monte

Asalone; Monte Nero. In front, the whiteness of purity; behind, in the shadow of the hill, where the mist whirled on the slopes, blackness of the pit. And to me, a tramp, who must avoid ice and rock, had "the God of the high places" revealed this vision.

But it is not necessary for the tramp to go to Italy to reap a reward. Payment may not be on so lavish a scale in Scotland; but it is there, waiting for those who are not earth-bound by motors or laziness, or both. And, indeed, Scotland's hills are kind to the tramp, for there is always an easy way up; a way that calls for no mountaineering. And climber and tramp reach the same summit.

Even in thick mist many of them can be safely tackled, provided the tramp uses ordinary precautions, which include carrying map, compass, and aneroid. To steer a course to a summit, or along a saddle under such conditions has an attraction all its own, which the earth-dweller on roads can never experience. This form of amusement is, in the writer's opinion, best undertaken alone. The talk of a companion may be as distracting as talking to the man at the wheel. Ben Lawers and Ben Cruachan are two among many that the tramp has thus climbed in thick mist—the one in summer, and the other in the depth of winter. In neither case was he rewarded by a view from the summit; but the successful accomplishment of the ascent, under such conditions, was sufficient reward.

Against such successes must be set no fewer than three failures to reach the top of Cruach Ardrain, twice from Ben More Glen and once from Crianlarich. But Cruach Ardrain is not a hill to be treated without some respect, for there are cliffs down which the unwary might easily come to grief; and the tramp must acquire—preferably not by sad experience—the knowledge of when it is wiser to turn back.

What a perfect little hill it is! Much as the tramp likes Ben Cruachan, Schiehallion, and a host of others, Cruach Ardrain ranks highest in his affections; possibly because it has made him turn back oftener than any

other. It does not afford the view that Ben More gives on a clear day, when North Sea to Atlantic, Northern Highlands to the Mull of Galloway, can be seen; it is too close to the Big Ben for that. But if I had to choose one last hill to climb, my choice would be Cruach Ardrain.

Of necessity, the tramp has often to walk alone. Of the companions who used to climb with him many years ago, some have passed over the Divide; some have become earth-bound by that abomination of the tramp—the motor. Tramping has gone out of fashion—the more’s the pity. Indeed, in the last two years, in climbing something like fifteen hills, the tramp has met only one couple—a pair of young fools, unsuitably clad, met 2,000 feet from the summit of Schiehallion, when he was on his way down, and they up, at 3 o’clock on a September afternoon. Without map, compass, or aneroid, they had no idea how much farther they had to go. He told them; and they were persuaded to give up all idea of reaching the top.

The tramp would like to see the Scottish hills dotted with climbers. There is a moral as well as a physical uplift among them. Scotland will lose much if its habits of the past are lightly thrown away. How much better if we could say of the youth of our country, *ascensiones in corde suo disposuit*!

THE CAIRNGORM DISASTER.

BY PROFESSOR J. W. GREGORY, F.R.S.

THE still unsolved Cairngorm tragedy of the New Year has cost the lives of two most promising men, Thomas Baird, one of the Junior Staff of the Geological Department of Glasgow University, and Secretary of the University Geological Society, and Hugh Barrie, a medical student at the same University. They were both men of good physique, active members of the Officers' Training Corps, where, as in all other University institutions to which they belonged, they were most popular. They were both men of literary tastes, and contributors of poems to the University Magazine. Baird had exceptional powers of endurance, and in his geological excursions he was in the habit of bringing back a greater weight of specimens than most men care to carry. I sometimes chaffed him on his waste of energy in continuing to bear his heavy rucksack full of rocks during a halt, and this indifference to a heavy burden illustrated his physical strength. Baird was especially interested in the problems of mountain geology, and cherished the ambition of some day taking part in an expedition in one of the higher mountain ranges in Asia, and with this object he sought such experience of mountaineering and ice craft as he could gain in Scotland in winter. He and Barrie had both had practice in ice work, and their projected excursion to the Cairngorms contained nothing unduly perilous to a couple of young athletes with their mountain experience. Baird said he would be careful, and there was nothing in their enterprise to justify the charge of reckless hardihood. The fact that, as far as can be inferred, they had almost completed their programme showed that it was not beyond their powers, and the tragedy was probably due to an accident on the way back from the last climb on their programme.

Baird and Barrie went to Aviemore on the 28th of December. There they purchased an adequate supply

of food. They had intended to use the lower bothy in Glen Eunach as headquarters. The proprietor had kindly given them permission to use the hut, but as he then realised that the application should have been made to the shooting tenant, Baird obtained the further permission by telegraph. The keeper, in the absence of instructions, had no authority to lend the key of the hut, but he kindly recommended them to an empty house beside his parents' home at Achnagoichan, where Baird and Barrie spent the night of Wednesday the 28th. They left some luggage and one ice-axe there, and said they would return on Sunday, 1st January. They started early on the Thursday morning, and later in the day MacKenzie, the keeper, saw their footprints on the track to the Lairig Ghru. Nothing further is certainly known of their movements until Baird was found alive but practically unconscious a little south of the lower bothy in Glen Eunach on the morning of Monday the 2nd. He was found by Messrs Crum and Maconochie of Perth, who carried him into the hut. Crum rushed to summon medical help from Aviemore, but Baird died a few minutes later.

How the two climbers spent the time from Thursday morning till Sunday is at present conjectural, but the only available explanation is that they crossed the Lairig Ghru and spent the three nights at the Corrour bothy. Their programme was to climb Ben Muich Dhui and Cairntoul. The weather during the three days was fine and calm, and I feel little doubt that they devoted the Friday and Saturday to the ascent of the two summits. It is true that one search party which visited the Corrour bothy found no trace of its occupation by them. Mr Wilson and Mr Robertson, who have also visited the bothy, searched the walls with a candle on the chance of finding their names among the many written on the walls. Baird was an exceptionally tidy camper, and they were not likely to have left any litter in the bothy, and as no recognisable trace of its occupation had been left by two men who were there before Christmas, the negative evidence is of little value. Footprints, moreover, were

found beside the bothy, and they are more likely to be those of Baird or Barrie than of the visitors before Christmas.

The morning of 1st January opened with the continued fair, calm weather, and the two men probably left the hut at daybreak and climbed Braeriach. They would have had plenty of time to reach the summit by noon. They would no doubt have planned to get off the mountain at least an hour before dusk in order to have time to reach Achnagoichan in daylight. The available information suggests that an accident happened during the descent of Braeriach. Had it happened in the morning or during the ascent Baird would probably have gone for help to Luibeg and Derry Lodge. Coire Dhondail, on the eastern side of Loch Eunach, has been suggested as the site of the accident, but that seems to me less likely unless they had climbed Braeriach on the Friday or Saturday, and had devoted Sunday morning to Cairntoul. They might then have tried to gain Glen Eunach through the Coire Dhondail; but I should expect them, partly owing to the comparative difficulty of finding the way into that corrie in the winter from the east, to return via the summit of Braeriach.

The fact that Baird was found in Glen Eunach indicates that the accident happened nearer help from the Aviemore than from the Braemar side. Baird was found without his rucksack, so that he had probably discarded all impediments in the efforts to gain help. The fact that he reached Glen Eunach utterly exhausted, and that he had been caught in the blizzard which broke over the mountain about 4 P.M., and began at Aviemore about 7 P.M., shows that he had been engaged in the late part of the Sunday in some strenuous effort. One significant fact is that he had with him only Barrie's light walking-stick. Dr Balfour, of Aviemore, who made a magnificent effort to reach the bothy in time, tells me that the fingers of Baird's left hand were badly scratched at the tips, and that there was a sharp tear on the inside of one finger, and that one of his knees was bruised and scratched. The injuries suggest that he had saved himself in a fall

by catching hold of rock or rough ice with his left hand. The climbers may have fallen when Barrie was leading and was carrying the axe. Baird may then have spent most of the afternoon either trying to find Barrie, or, if he found him, trying to help him along, and then finding that his own strength was going, and recognising the approaching storm, he rushed for aid. It has been suggested that Baird left the ice-axe at the scene of the accident as a landmark, but I cannot help thinking that Baird would have used the stick for this purpose, as with the ice-axe he could certainly have descended the icy north-western spur of Braeriach more speedily and safely. The absence of the axe suggests that Baird had been separated from it by some accident. The most likely accident would have been either a fall through a cornice or a slip when traversing a steep ice slope near the summit of the Braeriach ridge. If they were roped at the time, the ice-axe may have been lost, but Baird's rucksack would probably be found at the place.

On the news of the disaster reaching Aviemore, all possible efforts to find Barrie were promptly made under the organisation of Mr John MacKenzie and Constable M'Lean. A large party on the following Sunday searched the slopes of Glen Eunach and of the north-western side of Braeriach, but the bad weather rendered these efforts unsuccessful. Mr MacKenzie and Constable M'Lean on the first calm day climbed to the summit of Braeriach, but without finding any trace. Barrie may have fallen into a deep snow-drift, and the storms of the following days may have covered all traces of their route and their equipment. A renewed search will be made as soon as the lessening of the snow is likely to reveal its secret.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—On the eve of going to press, news of the discovery of Mr Barrie's body near the upper bothy has been received. It has not, however, been possible to obtain from Professor Gregory any further comment.]

FROM DALNESS TO MAMLORN.

BY A. G. HUTCHISON.

THE Glasgow Fair week-end was still to come. This was a comforting thought, especially at a moment when the Cuillins were fading in the distance and there was nothing left of a holiday in Skye save its fair memory. We came to a decision there and then on the boat that a long overdue call on Buchaille Etive should be paid in order to renew an acquaintance made several years ago. Rutherford and I therefore made our plans during the following fortnight, and as a result were walking *en route* for Kingshouse one bright July morning complete with bags and grub.

We had left the train at Bridge of Orchy. There were many "gangrel bodies" on the road that morning. We passed them making their breakfasts in little hollows among the heather; Rover Scouts, private campers, cyclists with their machines festooned with luggage, and common tramps like ourselves. Most were making for the north, where the road runs invitingly into the horizon over the shoulder of the Clachlets. "Are ye for Ben Achallader?" was the query in answer to a "Good morning" in one instance, this probably on account of the rope which was slung over Rutherford's shoulder. Apparently this mountain has achieved distinction for difficulty and danger among the laity, no doubt due to its recent notoriety. Steady going, with one halt for refreshment by Corrie Bà, brought us to Kingshouse about one o'clock, and after a fruitless quest for eggs we went on to Coupal Bridge. Kingshouse Inn has been treated to a new coat of whitewash, and we were pleasantly surprised to learn that it has been taken over by new hands. Long may the new regime prosper. At Coupal Bridge we dumped our rucksacks, prepared a meal, and lazed for an hour and a half before setting off for Buchaille. It was a most attractive afternoon, of the sort one visualises so often but more rarely sees. Cloud

shadows chased one another over the seamed faced above us, and in the other direction the Moor of Rannoch, bathed in sunshine, reflected the blue of the sky in its many lochans. We did not hurry on our way to the rocks, but eventually reached the foot of the Crowberry Ridge about half-past four. Neither of us had been on this particular climb before, and so it was decided this was the occasion on which to put that omission right. We reached the Abraham Ledge very much sooner than we expected, and made a halt there. The Abraham Pitch was then prospected—for a future occasion! At the moment we did not feel worthy enough, so turned to investigate the corner which leads to Greig's Ledge. We took the latter, and traversed into Naismith's Chimney, and then back again and up the good, easy rocks on the crest of the ridge above the *mauvais pas*. The shadows were beginning to creep up the glens as we finished the scramble to the top of the Crowberry Tower, crossed the neck, and a few minutes later stepped into the sunlight on the top of Buchaille. It takes a very able pen to write with success on the view from a West Highland mountain on a clear summer evening. We were able to see the Cuillins in one direction and Ben Lomond in the other, and from a hazy mass of hills in the north-east, which we took for the Cairngorms, to the Paps of Jura. We lay there for an hour, argued as to the tops in view, photographed, and watched a pair of eagles soaring in wide circles high above us. Perhaps they were buzzards—who knows? Rutherford and I have seen so many buzzards that we decided these should be eagles. Thoughts of dinner finally roused us from an evening reverie, and we made our way down into Glen Etive and back to Coupal Bridge. Maggi soup, relic of a Swiss holiday and friend of all who bivouac, was prepared and left to boil. We meanwhile sampled the delights of Harrison's Pool and wallowed in the tepid water. It was the perfect finish to a good day. In this place there was the unusual luxury of a wood fire for cooking. Generally there is nothing but wet grass or heather to burn, when a Primus stove has to do the necessary work. However, on this occasion

we cooked everything to a turn, including ourselves, over a fire of twigs, and retired to bed on the heather above the pool with kippered faces and smarting eyes, but feeling we had done a good night's work. But for a brief assault by midges when the breeze died away, we spent a peaceful night, to awaken with the sun climbing over the shoulder of "Old Screwloose." A morning dip and breakfast over, we hoisted our rucksacks on to our shoulders and made off across the moor towards the slopes of Sron Creise. At the burn in the corrie we had our last drink and soak, for the day was broiling, and then we set our faces to the toilsome ascent. We eventually won the top by the sweat of our brows, the sun being quite merciless. The rocks on this end of the Clachlet look sound and good, and we saw several interesting though easy-looking ridges. We had no time for exploration here, however, since there was much ground to cover before the end of the day. Without halting, therefore, we continued upwards to the first top on the main ridge of the Clachlet, and there we did stop for a short time. In a few minutes after the "breather" we resumed our way now along the ridge on more or less level ground, and very pleasant going it was, since there was a cool breeze which tempered the sun's scorching heat. By 11.30 we reached the main top and there halved one of our two oranges and disposed of several greengages. The view was as perfect as that of the previous evening; we could still see Skye and pick out the outline of Blaven and Clach Glas, scene of another such brilliant day a fortnight before. Of course, obviously, the best time to do Clachlet is at Easter, under snow. We could imagine the snow cornices hanging over the corrie edge. However, the next best thing was a summer Sunday walk, and there must be few better places in the South-West Highlands for high-level walking, where there is such a comprehensive view, and also the advantage of travelling for so considerable a distance over 3,000 feet. And so, sucking our last greengage stones to allay the increasing demands of thirst, we turned from the main top towards the Bealach Fuar-chataidh by which we could cross over to the Black

Mount. Down on this bealach, which is also one of the heads of Corrie Bà, we saw many deer, in fact we disturbed a regular conventicle held on the bealach, and, as we approached, two long lines moved off in opposite directions, one towards the north and the other along the hillside above the Sanctuary. A short ascent took us on to the back of Aonach Mor, and, going in a southerly direction, we gradually gained height until we reached the junction of this ridge with Sron a Guibhas, below the final peak of Stob Ghabhar. We thought of one luscious orange now in the depths of Rutherford's rucksack and so soon destined for eternity on the top of Stob Ghabhar, so no time was wasted in reaching that place. The exercise of revolving a greengage stone in one's mouth, excellent though the effect may be, becomes monotonous after a while. It was now 2 o'clock, and we spent one hour on the top and then Rutherford remembered that he had to catch a train that evening at Crianlarich at 6.45 P.M.! There was also the question of a bathe, and that was really more important we felt, so once more, the way resumed, a bee-line was taken for Inveroran. In three-quarters of an hour we were at the Allt Toaig looking for a suitable pool. If we left here at 4 o'clock that would give us comfortable time to reach Bridge of Orchy, where Rutherford would beg, borrow, or steal a lift to Crianlarich. Theoretically, the first part of the plan was possible, practically, not at all. The pool, though shallow, was ideal for "cross-channel sailings" if one floated carefully; then we had tea after the bathe, so it was not until after 4.30 that we again moved off. "Bridge of Orchy as the crow flies," was now the slogan, and in a short time we reached Inveroran Bridge, having cut all corners on the way. The old drove road was now followed over the hill, and we dropped down to the ancient crossing-place, arriving there at five minutes to six. At six precisely Rutherford was seated, waving his handkerchief, in the rear seat of a car being rapidly borne out of sight up the road. There was no such thing as a car for hire in Bridge of Orchy, so seizing the only chance of catching his train at Crianlarich that

fortune had presented, had taken it and stopped a passing car. He caught his train. As for the remainder of the party, to him Coire Dothaidh looked most attractive, so the evening bivouac was made at its entrance beside the burn. The sun was setting in a blaze of glory behind Stob Ghabhar, and there was a blue mistiness of nightfall over the "ancient vale of Glen Urquhay" to make the closing scene of a brilliant and colourful day. By-and-by the chattering of the burn seemed to cease as the deep slumber of the hills claimed its due. The original plan next day was to follow through the glens behind Beinn Dothaidh, and to cross Creag Mhòr and Beinn Chalum to Crianlarich. This was chiefly in order to see Loch Lyon and the glen of that name. However, crossing country via glens and doing the same over mountain ridges are two totally different things, and so the plan of walking in the sweltering heat of a third day through the passes of Mamlorn was abandoned. There was no royal route like the Clachlets from Beinn Dothaidh to Crianlarich. Instead, the morning was spent pleasantly in walking from Beinn Dothaidh to Beinn Achallader, lunching there on some raisins, and then walking back to Corrie Dothaidh. The afternoon was spent chiefly in a burn. An excellent substitute for tea, which had been exhausted, was found in Maggi Scotch Broth, and after this refreshment the rucksack was packed for the last time and tracks made for Bridge of Orchy Station. It had been a lazy day, a comfortable finish to an otherwise strenuous week-end.



A. G. Hutchison

LOOKING NORTH FROM BEALACH FUAR-CHATAIDH



January 1928

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2ND DECEMBER 1927.

THERE is always plenty of work for the Committee at their Annual Meeting in October, and 1927 was no exception to the general rule. Under the able chairmanship of Mr WILLIAM DOUGLAS they settled down in the Club Room to their task with a praiseworthy determination to see the thing through were it humanly possible. Two and a half hours of concentrated effort saw the bulk of the spade work done, and a promised dinner cooling off at the North British Station Hotel three-quarters of a mile away.

Their chief difficulty was the appointment of an Editor to take the place left vacant by the greatly regretted death of Mr G. B. Green. An effort to continue the Hon. Secretary in his then dual capacity having been met with an emphatic refusal, a small special committee was formed with instructions to find an Editor or die in the attempt. We [this is a Secretarial and not an Editorial plural] are happy to think that they are still alive and that their hunt has been crowned with success in the person of Mr John (otherwise Jack) MacRobert. Another matter, more dangled before their eyes than submitted to the Committee for immediate decision, was the preparation of rules for the proposed Charles Inglis Clark Hut. The Secretary sedulously opposed discussion on this subject, asking only for the appointment of three separate sub-committees to report back on the plans, upkeep, and management. These sub-committees were duly nominated, but as matters have since transpired to make it still a question whether the generous donors of the Hut will be prepared to face the enormous expense involved in its erection, only one of them has, so far, been called into actual being, and it met but once, and decided on a complete revisal of the plans to reduce the cost of transport

of building material and construction to a more reasonable figure.

The general business, having been digested by the Committee, is passed on, in a peptonised form, to the Annual General Meeting, which this year gathered at Glasgow on Friday, 2nd December, at the Central Station Hotel. Mr F. S. GOGGS, the President, took the chair at 6.30, and business was commenced by the Secretary reading the Minutes of last Annual General Meeting.

This inaudible formality allows the meeting to gather and exchange greetings, and by the time approval is moved, the meeting is more or less prepared to face the serious portion of the agenda inaugurated by the Hon. Treasurer's review of the financial situation. No matter how the membership may grow and the income increase, the expenditure may be trusted to keep pace with it, and even beat it at the post by several heads. 1927 proved its paces with distinction! The *Journal*, the Treasurer told the Club, had cost too much, and the Club Room had been an unjustifiable extravagance. Every year saw the Club's credit balance decreasing, and the only thing that could be considered in the nature of a consolation was that the Club Funds were not down quite so badly as they had been in 1926. Taking heart in this comparative success in the struggle for economy, the Hon. Treasurer, serene in the knowledge that this was his last year of office, and that the morrow would see the burden of finance transferred to younger shoulders, entered lightheartedly on to the brighter side of things, pointing out that the commutation scheme, though probably by now sadly in need of reconstruction, had advanced to the point of showing an increase to 119 life members, giving a sum of £5. 3s. 11d. per head. The Guide-Book Fund was also a matter for congratulation, in so far as the stock of unsold numbers was gradually diminishing, and both Vol. I., Section E, and Vol. III., Section A, were showing profits on sales. The Memorial Number, Vol. I., Section A, would, even were it sold out, never show a profit, as it was purchasable under cost price. As a matter of fact, there is now only a handful of these books left and,

the type having been taken down, there is no chance of a second impression. The Ben Nevis Indicator Fund had been closed down, and the small surplus left over transferred, as arranged, to the Guide-Book Fund.

As the Hon. Treasurer resumed his seat, the meeting, doubtless chastened by the thought of its financial embarrassments, suddenly diverged into the question of including tips to waiters in the dinner money. As this had nothing whatever to do with the matter in hand, quite a spirited discussion arose in no time, and might have continued indefinitely had the President and Hon. Treasurer not proved equal to the occasion. The President obtained a ruling that the meeting would greatly prefer not to pay any tips at all, and if they must, then let the pill be gilded by wrapping it deftly in the dinner money. The Hon. Treasurer expressed himself as delighted to accept the amendment, and nothing further was done!

The actuarial position of the Commutation Fund was raised, and Mr S. F. M. CUMMING, who was responsible for the last report, told the meeting that he would recommend a review every seven years at least, suggesting a start next year. Mr ANDERSON made a suggestion that Guides should be exhibited for sale in some of the hotels. This will be done in the case of the Cairngorm Guide if demand seems to justify the risk of loss involved.

On the motion of Mr DAVID CLAPPERTON, the Hon. Treasurer's report was adopted, and a very hearty vote of thanks passed to him for his long service in the office.

There followed the SECRETARY'S report on the year's doings. He reminded the meeting that the Club had lost five members through the deaths of H. P. Cain, G. B. Green, R. Lamb, H. Raeburn, and Thomas Shaw, and one by the resignation of J. A. Garrick. They had, however, added nine new members to the list as a result of the November Postal Ballot, making the membership strength at the close of the year 232, the highest figure yet reached in the annals of the Club. The Committee had also passed one of its ordinary members, Mr Brant, up to the Honorary List. He referred to the increase of work passing through the Secretarial Office, due to the

negotiations for the Club Hut site and the correspondence incident to the editing and publication of the November *Journal*. He expressed himself as confident that considerable labour might be saved were the Committee to meet more often than once a year only, and drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that the store of printed rules issued in 1922 was now exhausted and there were no copies for new members. Before the rules were reprinted, he thought it might be of advantage to have them revised by a special committee, the new issue to embody the regulations for the management of the Charles Inglis Clark Hut. He told the meeting that he had taken upon himself the responsibility of conveying to the newly-formed Mountain Club of India, in exchange for the kindly message sent by them, the greetings and felicitations of the President and members of the S.M.C.

He reminded the meeting of the hospitality extended to the Club by the various kindred clubs in England, and referred to the great kindness experienced by our representatives fortunate enough to attend these festive gatherings. As a Club, we always asked our hosts back, and even included some who didn't invite us. He referred to the success of the Meets at Arrochar and Ballachulish; the latter had been exceptionally well attended.

He stated that he had been approached by the Society for the Preservation of Rural Scotland, then in course of formation, to know whether the S.M.C. would be prepared to join in the scheme. He had attended the preliminary meeting, and Mr R. W. Martin had attended the second. They were of opinion that the general purpose of the Society was sound, although the present scheme of management, if persisted in, might prove extravagant and faulty. If kept on the right lines, they saw no reason why the Society should not eventually prove a power in the right direction, and they hoped that the meeting might see its way to authorise the S.M.C. to join the Society and send a couple of representatives to their meetings to watch over the Club's interests. Later, the Hon. Secretary and Mr R. W. Martin were chosen as these representatives, the meeting having signified its

approval of the Club joining issue with the Society in its endeavours.

He told the meeting that on behalf of the Club he had caused wreaths to be sent in their name to Mr Raeburn's, Mr Cain's, and Mr Green's funerals.

At the close of his report, the Hon. Secretary referred specially to the generous assistance accorded to him throughout the year by Mr Alex. Harrison, to whom he felt greatly indebted, and at the request of the Chairman a very hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Secretary and Mr Harrison, with instructions that it be specially minuted.

In connection with business arising out of the report, a question was raised by Mr MAYLARD on the advisability, at this stage, of limiting the Club's membership. Several members joined in the discussion that followed; some appearing to favour limitation through stiffening the entrance qualifications, and some pointing out that at the present rate of progress there was little cause for taking action meantime. This policy of *laissez-faire* finding the approbation of the majority, the matter was dropped, and the Secretary instructed to read the report on the *Journal*.

The SECRETARY, on rising, explained to the meeting the awkward predicament in which the Committee found itself on the death of their greatly esteemed Editor, Mr Green. It seemed impossible to find a successor on short notice, and it was equally important that the continuity of issue should be strictly maintained if possible. He said he regretted to inform the Club that even his best efforts had been unsuccessful in keeping the expenditure on the issue of 104 within the margin set down by the Committee, therefore the Club must be prepared to face an exceptional increase on publication costs. He was in the fortunate position of being able to pass on to the new Editor the routine papers and a few articles submitted for publication, including one already in proof. A vote of thanks was passed to the Secretary for his action in this instance, and his report was adopted.

Mr G. MURRAY LAWSON next delivered his report as Hon. Librarian for the Club-Room Library and Slide

Collection, which latter he described as being extended and kept in good condition by the constant attention of the officials. He detailed the recent additions made in the form of gifts and purchases, making special mention of a couple of pictures kindly presented by Mr G. R. Donald, of Dundee, and explained to the meeting that in his opinion the strictures of the Hon. Treasurer were unfounded, as over and above the rent, which was a constant charge, he had received for the Club through the sale of back *Journal* numbers, more than he and the Hon. Custodian of Slides had expended on additions and upkeep during the year. The meeting passed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Lawson and Mr Percy Donald for their labours on the Club's behalf. Since Mr Lawson's statement to the meeting, an interesting addition has been made to the Club furniture in the shape of a presentation bookcase by Minty's, Oxford, generously given by the Misses Raeburn in memory of the late Harold Raeburn. This has just been put in place, and is to accommodate the *A.C. Journal* and some current publications.

The PRESIDENT then put to the meeting the election of Office-Bearers for the current year. These are as follows:—President, Mr F. S. Goggs; Vice-Presidents, Rev. A. E. Robertson and Mr Harry MacRobert; Hon. Editor, Mr Jack MacRobert; Hon. Librarian, Mr G. Murray Lawson; Hon. Secretary, Mr G. Sang; Hon. Treasurer, Mr E. C. Thomson; Hon. Custodian of Slides, Mr P. Donald. Committee: Messrs P. Donald, J. Harrison, J. S. M. Jack, L. St C. Bartholomew, A. G. Hutchison, D. P. Levack, R. C. Paterson, D. F. Pilkington, and J. A. Scott.

All these Office-Bearers were duly re-elected, as also were the Trustees of the Club Funds.

The Committee had suggested that the Meets in 1929 should be held during Easter at Aviemore, and for New Year at Crianlarich. These suggestions were adopted by the meeting, and the Secretary was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

This concluded the general business, and the PRESIDENT next asked the attention of the meeting to a suggestion

made by the Committee for the alteration of Rule No. 26 and the deletion from Rule No. 43 of the word "three." He asked the Hon. Secretary to explain to the meeting the reason for these suggested alterations. The SECRETARY obediently pointed out to the meeting that, as at present constituted, the smooth rotation of alteration in the composition of the Committee was interrupted by the terms of the present rule, and that it was felt that continuity of management would be best served were the rule drafted so as to allow the three senior members only to retire annually; if there were more than three of equal seniority, then the three to retire to be chosen by drawing lots in terms of Rule No. 27—and only one Vice-President to retire at a time. He also explained that the President, being elected for two years, should serve for two years, and not be called upon to face a second election during his term of office. The meeting approved the reasons advanced, and by the requisite majority agreed to the alteration of the rules as printed in the agenda. The Secretary also explained that it was felt to be somewhat invidious that the hands of the Committee should be tied in the matter of inviting guests to the Annual Dinner. He showed that, were the ordinary rules of hospitality to be fulfilled, representatives from the five or six English Clubs must be invited to the dinner, and it was more than possible that they might all accept, and, over and above, the Committee might, on occasion, deem it advisable to have at the feast some lay guest of distinction. He asked, therefore, that the word "three" be expunged from the rule, and the confidence of the meeting be freely given to the members acting as their representatives in arranging the Dinner. Full agreement with this request was expressed by those present, and both alterations therefore go forward to the rules.

The PRESIDENT next called upon Mr James H. B. Bell to move the appointment of a special Assistant Guide-Book Committee, but as Mr Bell was not there to respond, the motion fell. As, however, this matter is under consideration by the Club Committee, who have agreed on its general terms, and foresee the benefit likely to accrue

to Guide-Book Section Editions through the working of a Special Committee, the matter will be dealt with under the powers delegated to the Committee and the Sectional Editors, and will probably form a subject for discussion at the next Annual Meeting.

At the request of the President, the HON. SECRETARY made a statement to the meeting of the present position of the arrangements for the erection of the proposed Charles Inglis Clark Hut. He explained that a competent architect had been selected to draw up plans, and this had been done with due regard to the sum which the generous donors were prepared to advance. When, however, the contractors had been approached for estimates, the charges for transport of material, and housing and feeding of workmen during erection, had proved so excessive that curtailment of plans became essential. A modified plan had now been drawn up, and estimates for construction were being prepared, which, it was hoped, would reduce the cost to a reasonable figure. All arrangements had been made with the owners of the site, and provided satisfactory estimates were obtained, the Club might look forward to the construction being carried through in the spring and summer of 1928. Since the meeting, things have moved a step further, and there is every expectation of the work being put in hand so soon as the ground is sufficiently free from snow to allow a start to be made.

This concluding the business, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the President on the motion of Mr CLAPPERTON, and the meeting adjourned to participate in a lengthy stroll round the hotel corridors, towards the end of which certain members expressed the hope of finding the dining-room this side of the Broomielaw.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

THE Thirty-ninth Annual Dinner of the Club was held in Glasgow, following the Annual Meeting.

The President occupied the Chair, and there were in all 80 members and guests present. Amongst the guests

were Mr H. H. Bellhouse, President of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club; Mr R. H. Thouless, of the Rucksack Club; and Mr A. J. Clark, of the Climbers' Club.

After the toast of "The King and the Imperial Forces" had been duly honoured, on the call of the President, he submitted the toast of the "S.M.C."

The presence of another Englishman in the Presidential Chair gave rise to a double sense of self-satisfaction. The feeling that the Scot is not, after all, narrow-minded, even when following an essentially national pastime—national at least from a geographical point of view; and again, an accentuated feeling of pride that our Scottish mountains have the capacity to attract, amongst their most devoted worshippers, climbers from across the Border of such distinction and personal charm. Needless to say, the President proposed the toast in a manner worthy of the subject and of the qualities which we have just attributed to him, emphasising in the course of his speech the ethical and moral value and education to be obtained by penetrating into the solitudes of the mountains.

G. A. Solly, another welcome invader, standing with his feet in the murky Mersey, with his arms around our Scottish crags, and his heart in the Highlands, proposed "The Kindred Societies," and welcomed the guests from the English clubs with a cordiality almost Scottish.

H. H. Bellhouse, replying (as he said himself without a drop of Scotch), was nevertheless able to express in warm terms his appreciation of the reception given by the members of the Scottish Mountaineering Club to those on his side of the Border.

Interesting acknowledgments were also given by R. H. Thouless and A. J. Clark, who reported a new difficulty of climbing in South Africa, where the rock on Table Mountain is sometimes too hot to hold.

The item of the menu called "Haggis and Nips" was, through a destruction of the former in the process of cooking, confined almost entirely to its second, but not perhaps secondary aspect, with the result that there was found no Scotsman capable of contributing to the toast

list. Whether this was due to disappointment at the absence of the haggis, or a resulting disproportion of "Nips," or possibly to unbounded satisfaction with the efforts of our English colleagues, remains a matter of speculation.

A musical programme in which J. S. M. Jack, R. A. Brown, and Pape took part, provided a welcome relief from [You mean "addition to"—ED.] the entertainment derived from the toast list!

On the morning after, the only activity recorded was a visit to the Cobbler by the President, Sang, Ling, Solly, C. E. Bell, H. MacRobert, J. MacRobert, and D. T. MacLay. The ascent was made from Glen Croe under dull but pleasant conditions. Mist on the top prevented any view.

NEW YEAR MEET, 1928—LOCH AWE.

THE following members and guests were present:—

Members.—F. S. Goggs (President), Arthur, J. H. B. Bell, Burt, Clapperton, Corbett, Percy Donald, Elton, A. Harrison, J. Harrison, Hutchison, J. S. M. Jack, Lawson, Ling, Martin, Matheson, Morrison, Mowat, H. MacRobert, J. MacRobert, McLaren, Parry, Philip, D. F. Pilkington, Rev. A. E. Robertson, A. W. Russell, Colin Russell, Sang, J. A. Scott, A. G. Smith, Speirs, Gilbert Thomson, T. E. Thomson, and Sheriff Valentine.

Guests.—Ian Jack, A. D. MacNab, J. S. Roberts, A. P. A. Robertson, Robinson, K. M. Steven, and J. P. Watson, jun.

The weather during December at Loch Awe had been the driest on record, and muir burning was in progress when the first parties arrived at the hotel. Unfortunately, this condition of things ceased on the 31st December, and the New Year was heralded with the usual Scottish meteorological phenomena—much mist, some frost, some snow, and a tolerable amount of rain. Notwithstanding the dry spell which preceded the Meet, the slopes of Cruachan and his neighbours were profusely clad in ice,



January 1928

BEINN LAOIGH FROM BEINN LURACHAN

G. Sang



January 1928

BEINN LAOIGH FROM SHOULDER OF BEINN DUBGH CRAIG ABOVE CONONISH

J. E. MacLaren

a fact which many members found to their cost. The ridges were covered with good hard snow, which made going a real treat once these were reached.

Friday, 30th December.

The Harrisons, J. S. Roberts, and Scott, and Buchanan of the Junior Club, arrived at Tyndrum by the early morning train from Edinburgh and ascended Ben Laoigh via the Central Gully. They found much ice in the Gully, and had plenty cutting to do before they reached the summit. Buchanan proceeded to Crianlarich, and the others arrived at Loch Awe by the afternoon train.

Parry did Beinn Sgulaire from Creggan, returned to his starting-point, and trained to Loch Awe.

Saturday, 31st December.

Clapperton and the Rev. A. E. Robertson ascended Beinn a' Bhuidh from the Horse Shoe Corrie.

Goggs, J. S. M. Jack, Ian Jack, and MacNab arrived at midday, and after lunch also ascended Beinn a' Bhuidh.

Arthur, the Harrisons, and Roberts traversed Cruachan, going out of their way to take in Sron an Isean. They returned by train from Taynuilt.

Burt, Lawson, Ling, the MacRoberts, Matheson, Philip, Pilkington, and Sang also traversed Cruachan, but on a more modified plan. Sron an Isean and the Taynuilt Peak were omitted. Some of the party descended from the Main Peak by the Corrie, others finished by bagging Meall Cuanail, while Sang, swept up in the path of Arthur and company, found himself at Taynuilt.

J. H. B. Bell, Corbett, Parry, and A. P. A. Robertson did a climb on a buttress on the north-east face of Beinn Eunaich, a description of which appears elsewhere in the *Journal*.

Speirs and Elton put in a strenuous day on Ben Lui, which they climbed by the Central Gully. Five hours were occupied from the Leadmines to the summit.

Martin, A. G. Smith, T. E. Thomson, and J. P.

Watson found a short iced gully on the west side of the a' Chochuill-Cruachan Col with several pitches by means of which they ascended Sron an Isean. They returned by Beinn a' Bhuidh and Monadh Driseig.

In the evening old talents revealed themselves with renewed freshness, and new talents were discovered in various quarters. Song, story, and the drama (as represented by Gilbert Thomson featuring "Lord Ullin's Daughter") cheered the dying hours of the Old Year.

Sunday, 1st January.

Mowat and K. M. Steven did Cruach Ardrain by the Y Gully, and reached Loch Awe in the evening by car.

Elton, Ling, the MacRoberts, and Speirs motored to the Brander Burn, and extricating themselves from the car with difficulty, managed the Taynuilt Peak. Elton, H. MacRobert, and Speirs finished over the Main Top and Meall Cuanail, and all foregathered again at the car.

Donald, who had expressed his intention of doing no "Munroes" at the Meet, persuaded Corbett and Pilkington to accompany him to Beinn Donachain.

Goggs, J. S. M. Jack, Ian Jack, MacNab, and A. W. Russell were on Meall Cuanail and the Main Peak, and descended by the Corrie.

Bell, Parry, and A. P. A. Robertson traversed from Beinn a' Bhuidh to Stob Damh and descended by the Corrie. On arriving at the Loch they bathed, just to show their contempt for the weather.

Morrison and the Rev. A. E. Robertson visited the Cruachan Corrie by the High Level Route from the hotel, and returned the same way.

Martin, Colin Russell, A. G. Smith, T. E. Thomson, and J. P. Watson were on Meall Cuanail and the Main Top. They experienced difficulty in finding the main ridge in the mist, and returned by the way they came, bagging Meall Cuanail twice in the same day.

Burt, Lawson, Matheson, and Philip, forming one party, and the Harrisons another, did Beinn Eunaich.

The parties met in a vain attempt in the mist to discover the whereabouts of the Eunaich-a' Chochuill Col. The latter party refused to stay for lunch, and the former party followed the latter's tracks, and were greatly relieved to find that they led home.

Clapperton, Sang, and Gilbert Thomson, seeking *otium cum dignitate*, represented the Club at church in Dalmally.

In the evening A. E. M'Laren arrived, and the joyful strains of his pipes were heard after dinner.

Monday, 2nd January.

Goggs, J. S. M. Jack, Ian Jack, A. W. Russell, and Colin Russell ascended Beinn a' Chochuill from Glen Noe, and returned by the ridge. History does not relate how they found themselves in Glen Noe.

Clapperton, Corbett, Ling, and Sang were also on Beinn a' Chochuill.

Martin, A. G. Smith, J. P. Watson, and T. E. Thomson unsuccessfully attempted a gully somewhere in the vicinity of Beinn Eunaich, and finally reached the summit by an easier way. They returned over Beinn a' Chochuill.

Parry and A. P. A. Robertson had a rock climb on the north-east face of Beinn a' Bhuiridh. Bell, who originally formed one of the party, found another way up, and all foregathered on the top.

Matheson and Pilkington climbed a snow and ice gully in the same neighbourhood, and Burt, Donald, and Lawson also had a gully climb which led out a little to the west of the summit of Monadh Driseig.

Morrison walked a considerable distance up Glen Strae and back.

Hutchison and Robinson arrived in the evening from Crianlarich, having been on Ben Lui during the day.

Tuesday, 3rd January.

Goggs and Sheriff Valentine were on Beinn Eunaich, reaching the summit by way of the Lurachan Col in Glen Strae. Hutchison and Robinson traversed from Beinn

a' Bhuiridh to the Main Peak, and returned by the Cruachan Corrie.

Morrison was in the Horse Shoe Corrie.

Bell, Burt, Lawson, and Matheson walked to the Brander Burn, from which point they ascended the Taynuilt Peak and the Main Peak. A belt of mist lay on the lower slope, but once the 1,000-foot contour was passed, the party emerged into brilliant sunlight, which lasted almost to the top, when Cruachan was once more enveloped in his blanket. Bell, having indulged in a snow, or rather ice, bath on the Taynuilt Peak, duly recorded by camera, was full of energy and, accompanied by Matheson, bagged Drochaid Ghlas. The party returned by the Corrie.

Sang and Donald were on Beinn Lurachan.

The following morning saw the departure of the remaining members, with the exception of Sheriff Valentine, who was looking forward to a few more days among the hills before returning to his duties at Perth.

As is invariably the case at Loch Awe, the Meet was a thorough success, and the attentiveness and kindness of the hotel management and staff were much appreciated.

G. M. L.

BEAVER BUTTRESS, EUNAICH.

THIS entertaining first ascent was effected by Messrs Corbett, Parry, Robinson, and the author on 31st December 1927. There was very hard frost and a certain amount of powder snow on the rock ledges. The rock buttress is situated on the true left side of the Black Shoot, and overhangs on the other side a shorter ice-filled gully. The climbing extends to 400 feet or so, and occupied us three hours exclusive of time for lunch. We started for the Black Shoot and wished to avoid the lower pitch of frozen vegetation. I led before lunch and Parry thereafter. The first pitch was a 10-foot vertical corner with an upward traverse to the left to where one could look down into the Black Shoot above the first pitch.

The Black Shoot looked uninviting and we stuck to the Buttress, moving upwards to the right. Then we proceeded straight up for a bit, came to an awkward section, and had to traverse to the right again. The snow had to be cleared off the narrow rock ledges and belays were not abundant. There followed a very awkward crossing of a chimney and a short upward climb to a ledge which led right round to a point overlooking the ice-filled gully bounding the buttress. Here we lunched. As we could not proceed straight up or into the gully we had to traverse back to the left for some way. Then came a very fine lead of Parry's up a 15-feet severe pitch when I was reduced to using an axe for foothold. There was another severe pitch straight ahead where I had to steady the leader. This was an awkward upward traverse to the left with very little in the way of hold. The real difficulty was 10 feet high, and the leader went on another 15 feet to safety. I fancy that the last two pitches would be difficult even in summer. Above this was easier ground. We unroped and soon scrambled to the top of the buttress.

J. H. BELL.

CLUB-ROOM.

On 22nd November 1927 E. C. Thomson described "A Short Holiday in County Kerry," and on 17th January 1928 Dr Inglis Clark described "The Climbs of Ben Nevis."

The Misses Raeburn have presented the Club with a bookcase in memory of their brother, the late Mr Harold Raeburn. It is a handsome and useful gift, and will be treasured by the members in memory of their late friend. The Club greatly appreciates the gift and the kindness of the donors.

LIBRARY.

Since the *Journal* was last published the Library has increased as follows:—

By gift from Mr Denis F. Pilkington of three volumes of "Ball's Alpine Guide" to the Central and Western Alps, and six sheets of the French Survey Maps of the Alps. The Club takes this opportunity of thanking Mr Pilkington for his gift.

The "Guide to Great Langdale and Buttermere," compiled by Messrs George Basterfield and A. R. Thomson, has been presented by the Fell and Rock Climbing Club.

There has been acquired by purchase (second-hand but in good condition) the following:—

"Climbing Adventures in Four Continents." Samuel Turner.

"Recollections of an Old Mountaineer." Walter Larden.

"Climbs in the New Zealand Alps." Edward A. Fitzgerald.

"Peaks and Precipices: Scrambles in the Dolomites and Savoy." Guido Rey.

"Ascent of Mount St Elias (Alaska)." H.R.H. Prince Luigi Amedeo di Savoia, Duke of the Abruzzi.

The following publications have been received since the last issue:—

Alpine Journal. Vol. XXXIX., No. 235.

Guide de la Chaîne du Mont-Blanc. (Third Edition.) Luis Kurz.

Club Alpino Accademico Italiano. 1924-1926.

- Climbers' Club Journal. Vol. III., No. 1. 1926.
La Montagne. October 1927 to February 1928.
Harvard Mountaineering. Vol. I., No. 1. June 1927.
Bulletin de Club Alpin Belge. December 1925 to June 1927.
Sangaku. Vol. XXI., 1927, No. 3 ; Vol. XXII., 1927, No. 1.
Les Alpes. Vol. III., October to December 1927 ; Vol. IV., January and February 1928.
Italian Alpine Club. September to December 1927.
Bulletin Pyrénéen. January to March 1928.
Mazama. Vol. IX., No. 12.
Cairngorm Club Journal. Vol. XI., No. 66.

SLIDE COLLECTION.

The Club is indebted for slides to Dr W. I. Clark (4 panoramas), the Rev. Colin Campbell (249 slides), and Messrs J. H. Bell (2 slides), G. Sang (6 slides), and W. A. Mounsey (19 slides), and for the loan of negatives to Dr W. I. Clark and Messrs T. M. Cherry and M. Matheson.

REVIEWS.

The *Glasgow Evening News* of 13th January 1928 contains an eloquent tribute to the memory of the students lost on the Cairngorms, under the signature Monadh Ruadh. In the course of this article the writer discusses the right of the public to the enjoyment of the hills, and writes:—

“ . . . Now as to the right of . . . Scotsmen to tread their native land, and especially its glens and mountains, far and lone, of which this Glen and this Ben are probably the most grand of all, surely no question may arise so long as we remain a liberty-loving race. And, as your contributor so expressively says, ‘there never was a Scottish mountaineer who was not a gentleman, considerate of the hunter’s interests, and eager to preserve the sanctity of the wilds.’ Moreover, he is not exclusive of spirit in his enjoyment of the hills, for he is always friendly and companionable.

“Whatever of minor trespass may be alleged against the climber’s passage over the mountain deer-forests, the charge arises usually as the outcome of alienating animus, from an interpretation of special privilege on the part of the shooting tenant, which somewhat surpasses his due rights. . . .”

There is much to be said for the view that private rights of property should not extend rigidly to the mountains and glens of the Highlands so as to exclude the comparatively rare visits of climbers and pedestrians. At the same time we, as a Club, have always had regard to the rights of proprietors and tenants, and have never found these exercised in such a way as to hamper the free enjoyment of the Highland hills.

In 1893 Professor Ramsay, describing the inception of the Club, wrote as follows (Vol. IV., p. 89):—

. . . “In my opening remarks at the original meeting of 11th February 1889, I laid strong emphasis on the fact that I and my friends had no desire to see the proposed Club mixed up with any attempt to force rights-of-way. We did not desire the Club to become a stravaiging or marauding Club, insisting on going everywhere at every season, with or without leave, and indifferent to the rights and the enjoyments of farmers, proprietors, and sportsmen. That position, I am thankful to say, the Club has consistently maintained. In our winter climbs we have been welcomed and assisted wherever we went: in our summer climbs our members have not treated the mountains as exclusively their own, and have recognised that they are capable of affording more kinds of sport than one. Deer-stalking is a rare and noble sport, identified for centuries with the Highlands; a sport in which a considerable part of the Highland population are interested in various ways, and it is a sport for which a certain amount of quiet and exclusiveness is essential. Where such exclusiveness has

been excessive and beyond the necessary requirements of sport, it has too often been the result of the want of consideration on the part of tourists themselves, who, pushing themselves in everywhere, after the true fashion of the Briton when he is away from his own home, in thoughtlessness or defiance, and with no particular end to serve except that of pleasing themselves and asserting their independence, have frequently spoilt sport, when a little inquiry or forbearance would have pointed out to them some other direction in which they could have got all the pleasure they wanted for themselves without interfering with the pleasure of any other person."

For our part, therefore, while we sympathise with Monadh Ruadh in objecting to any rigid exercise of private ownership in the Glens and the Bens we do not depart from the principle laid down by Professor Ramsay.

Monadh Ruadh, however, goes further than a mere plea for access when he asks that a hut erected and maintained by an individual should be left open for public use, which in all probability would mean abuse. In reference to the Lower Bothy in Glen Eanaich he writes:—

"Had the lower Eanaich bothy been granted them as a base of operations—and there is no reason within the bounds of right reason and our native humanity why it should not, none but the strictures of the shooting lessee of the Glen, out of the season—a different tale might have been told of their outing on the Monadh Ruadh.

"Is there any adequate reason for turning this grand and solitudinous Glen into a place of padlocks and fetters? Would it not be fair, while making secure against the stoutest blast of wind the door of the bothy, by means of an iron bar turning on a swivel into end-clasps, as at Corrou, to leave it thus accessible for the hill-climber in his hour of necessity?"

If, in our natural sympathy for the unfortunate victims referred to, we are inclined to the suggestion, it would be well to test our sincerity by asking the question: "Are we prepared to leave the proposed Club Hut on Ben Nevis open for the use of the public?"

The Alpine Journal, Vol. XXXIX., November 1927, No. 235.

This is an excellent number, packed with articles of interest. The Editor has a note on the annoying restrictions in force on the Italian frontiers and the closing of the passes into Italy, which can be borne out by the present reviewer, who, with his companion, was stopped on the glacier and made to show papers, although on an expedition authorised by the Italian authorities.

Major Minchinton gives an interesting account of the explorations of the Survey party, led by Major Kenneth Mason in 1926, to discover the source of the Shaksgam River and to explore the country north of the Karakoram Range, resulting in the mapping of 1,200 miles of unexplored country, and the discovery of the source of the river.

The value of the geographical results is attested by the award of the Founder's Medal, the highest honour the Royal Geographical Society can bestow, to the leader of the expedition.

This is followed by an unpublished letter of the late Miss Gertrude Bell on her ascents of Les Écrins and Mont Pelvoux in Dauphiné, a charming account, written in a racy style and with the modesty of the great mountaineer which she was.

The President gives the history and relates his experiences on the Charmoz and Grépon; the first guideless ascent of the Charmoz and the first guideless traverse from north to south fell to his party, as also the first guideless ascent of the Grépon from C.P., a notable record.

Our member, Geoffrey Howard, follows with an amusing paper, "Illusions," read before the Club, and written with all his accustomed verve and wit, not without a substratum of profound philosophy.

H. E. L. Porter gives a splendidly illustrated story of his climbs on Mt. Jasman and its satellites in New Zealand, when some great work was done in company with Marcel Kurz, the well-known Swiss climber and cartographer. They were a strong combination and did some fine work.

Captain Farrar has a note on the western arête of the Meije, with a photograph, and makes reference to an article by our late member, Harold Raeburn, who was very interested in this ridge.

The In Memoriam notices make melancholy reading in that they record the deaths by accident of two active and competent mountaineers, Major Minchinton, from whose pen an article appears earlier in the *Journal*, and Raymond Bicknell, Vice-President, who spoke at our annual dinner in 1926, killed on the South Aiguille d'Arves. The others who are mentioned had passed the allotted span.

The New Expeditions are interesting, and it is good to record that our younger members are again taking their place in the list of new and difficult ascents, which of late have been falling to foreign climbers.

F. S. Smythe did some fine guideless work, the first ascent of the Brenva by the face and the first guideless ascent of the Aiguille du Plau by the East face. In this ascent he was ably seconded by our member, J. H. B. Bell, and they are to be congratulated on a fine climb. The conditions were very difficult, and they only reached the summit at 3 P.M. on the *second* day, having bivouacked on the rocks 800 feet below the summit.

Alpine Notes contain much useful information. The rest of the number is made up of Reviews and Correspondence, in which our own doughty controversialist, P. J. H. Unna, takes part. The illustrations, as usual, are admirable.

W. N. L.

" The Cairngorms."

Section A of Vol. II. of the " Guide Book " is now out. Though the title taken for the Section is " The Cairngorms," the Section covers not merely the Cairngorms proper, lying north of the Dee and east of the Spey, but also the Mounth, or Grampians, lying south of the Dee and east of the Drumochter Pass.

The whole vast area from the Mither Tap of Bennachie in the east, to Ben Rinnes in the north, Sgòran Dubh in the west, Ben-y-Gloe in the south-west, and Mount Blair in the south has been most comprehensively dealt with.

The best centres are described and the routes and paths detailed, while in the more important cases the distances and times are given; there are notes on the Geology, the Fauna, the Flora, and the Place names; there is a wealth of local sayings and rhymes and matters of historical interest, and the whole is amplified by a most comprehensive bibliography.

Finally, there are seven panoramas, forty-four photographs and diagrams (including a diagram of the Ben Macdhui indicator), and a map.

J. C. T.

The Cairngorm Club Journal, Vol. XI., No. 66.

An account by Mr J. A. Parker of his completing the ascent of all the " Munroes " appears in this number, and we must heartily congratulate him on the fulfilment of his self-imposed task. The photographs illustrating the article are excellent, but why include Slieve League, Co. Donegal?

Other articles of interest are " Two Climbs on Lochnagar," by G. Roy Symmers, and an account of the recent fatality in the Cairngorms.

The Ladies' Scottish Climbing Club, Twentieth Annual Record.

We have to acknowledge the above record of the L.S.C.C., and to congratulate the members on their very admirable performance for the year 1927.

We note that the Club *Journal* is to appear in 1929, and look forward to reading a more detailed account of the Club's activities.

G. M. L.

EXCURSIONS AND NOTES.

The Editor will be glad to receive brief notices of any noteworthy expeditions. These are not meant to supersede longer articles, but many members who may not care to undertake the one will have no difficulty in imparting information in the other form.



CLIMBS IN SCOTLAND OUTSIDE OF MEETS.

Saturday, 3rd April.

IN company of Miss Burt, Miss Bell, and J. F. A. Burt, a delightful day was spent on Ben Lui. The ascent was made under conditions of falling snow by the Central Couloir. Sunday, 4th April, was occupied by an ascent of Narnain from Arrochar, followed by the traverse of the three peaks of the Cobbler, in good conditions.

29th May.

Along with Mr H. F. B. Sharp, an ascent was made of the Crowberry Ridge on Buchaille Etive. The north wall traverse was followed, avoiding Abraham's Ledge on account of a very cold wind and falling sleet. The following day we proceeded down Glencoe and climbed Shadbolt's Chimney on Cruach Dubh. The published description of the climb was somewhat difficult to follow. The upper rocks were rather loose, but it is a magnificent climb.

25th June.

Along with Miss Bell and Mr H. F. B. Sharp, Corrie Arden was visited. The day was very wet. The gully to the left of the Pinnacle Buttress (facing) was climbed chiefly in snow, but with some entertaining waterfall pitches. An abortive attempt was made at a traverse on to the face of the pinnacle. The top of the pinnacle was visited from above, and then the summit of Crag Meggie in a blizzard. We descended by the window down Corrie Arden.

3rd September.

Mr H. F. B. Sharp and the writer had a magnificent day on Nevis. We left Fort William at 5.15 A.M., in rain, started to climb the lower section of the N.E. Buttress at 9.15 A.M. All was now dry and in good order. We started off correctly on the ledge on Raeburn's route. I am doubtful if we followed this route. We attained the true ridge of the lower section as soon as possible, and followed this

to the first platform. The rocks were splendid, though difficult in places. One and a quarter hours saw us on the platform. Above this we kept for 200 feet or so to the east side of the true arête and then traversed back, following the arête thereafter to the summit—not avoiding the mantrap. We rested on the summit from 12.15 to 1.15 P.M., and then started down the Tower Ridge. The passage of the Tower was accomplished on the west side, but not, I think, by the “Recess Route,” but by a rather difficult chimney which falls away on the downhill side of the summit of the Tower. We completed the expedition by bagging the Douglas Boulder and descending two vertical chimneys on its east face to easier ground. A bathe in Lochan Meall ánt Suidhe rounded off the day, and we were back at Achintee shortly after 7 P.M.

J. H. B. BELL.

FROM BRIDGE OF ORCHY TO AVIEMORE.

W. BINKS, Harrow, in describing a tour in Scotland last summer writes:—

“We started from Bridge of Orchy on 1st June and finished at Aviemore on 26th June, during which period we had twenty-four days’ walking. The total mileage was about 530, the average per day being 22. Our longest days were 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th June, when the distance covered amounted to 115 miles, or an average of 29 miles per day.

“For the two mountain climbs we managed to accomplish, viz., Ben Cruachan from Dalmally and Bidean nam Bian (with Beinn Fhada) from Clachaig Inn, the conditions were particularly good, and in the case of Cruachan almost ideal. Ben Cruachan indeed proved one of our greatest surprises as, although occupying an important place in the hierarchy of Scottish mountains, we had no idea the prospect it afforded was either so extensive or so exceptionally fine. Bidean nam Bian had still deep snow cornices running across the higher gullies, and the view, looking over these to the snow-capped hills in the distance, in colour effects was almost ethereal in its loveliness, and one which we are never likely to forget.

“In the superabundance of natural beauty which passed before us in our journey, it is by no means easy to say which scenes gave us the greatest pleasure, but among the more notable the following deserve special mention, viz.:—

“1. *Creagan on Loch Creran to Salachail*.—Terrific showers of rain compelled us frequently to seek shelter here, but this notwithstanding, we were greatly struck by the beauty of Glen Creran, and at times were inclined to compare it, not unfavourably, with Glen Affric. On traversing the latter again, however, at a later date—which we did this year in the contrary direction, *i.e.*, from west to east by way of the

Beallach—we were constrained to admit that, so far as our experience goes, Glen Affric stands absolutely unrivalled.

“2. *Salen on Loch Sunart to Kinlochmoidart and Glen Uiz and thence by coast path to Kinlochailort.*—For beauty and variety of interest this walk, which is apparently not very well known, would be hard to beat, especially the latter portion from Kinlochmoidart.

“3. *The mountain group at the head of Loch Nevis and the descent to Barrisdale Bay on Loch Hourn from the direction of Glen Dulochan.*—At Kylesmorar we were able to get the mailboat to the head of Loch Nevis and thus got that view from the sea.

“4. *Falls of Glomach.*—The river was in spate, and although it was impossible to get a full view of the sheer drop, we had a most magnificent sight.

“Altogether it was another glorious experience and another recommendation, if any were needed, of the advantages as a touring ground of your delightful country ayont the Tweed.”

The writer states that in arranging his Itinerary as follows he derived great assistance from “Hill Paths in Scotland,” by W. A. Smith (Macniven & Wallace):—

- June 1. Bridge of Orchy to Dalmally.
 „ 2. Ascent of Ben Cruachan and descent to Taynult.
 „ 3. Over Bonawe Ferry by Glen Salach to Creagan, and on to Portnacroish.
 „ 4. Creagan, Glen Creran, by the side of the R. Laroch to Ballachulish, and on to Clachaig Inn.
 „ 5. Ascent of Bidean nam Bian and Beinn Fhada.
 „ 6. Over Devil's Staircase to Kinlochleven and by Loch Leven to N. Ballachulish.
 „ 7. Onich, Cowan Ferry, Ardgour, Strontian, and Salen.
 „ 8. Acharacle, Kinlochmoidart, Glen Uiz, and by coast path to Kinlochailort.
 „ 9. Arisaig and Morar.
 „ 10. By L. Morar to S. Tarbet Bay, Kylesmorar, mailboat to head of L. Nevis and back to Kylesknoydart, and on by coast path to Inverie.
 „ 11. Glen Dulochan, Barrisdale House, Kinlochhourn, and by Glen Dubh Lochain and Arnisdale to Arnisdale.
 „ 12. Glenelg and up Glen Beg to Baloraid and back.
 „ 13. Kylerhea Ferry House and back, mailboat to Kylerhea, and on to Broadford.
 „ 14. Sligachan and up Glen Sligachan.
 „ 15. Camasunary, Loch Coruisk, and back over Drumhain to Sligachan.
 „ 16. At Sligachan.
 „ 17. Camasunary, Strathaird, round L. Slapin to Torran, and on to Broadford.
 „ 18. Kyleakin, Ferry to Kyle of Lochalsh, and by coast path to Balmacara.

- June 19. Aird Ferry, Dornie, and by L. Duich to Morvich (Cairngorm).
- „ 20. Falls of Glomach and back, Shiel Bridge and back.
- „ 21. Cannich by the Beallach, Glen Grivie, and Glen Affric.
- „ 22. Guishachan, Loch-na-Beinne-Baine, Torgyle, and Fort Augustus.
- „ 23. Glen Tarff, Lagan-a-bhainne, Corrieyairack Pass, Glen Shirra, and L. Laggan Hotel.
- „ 24. Newtonmore, Kingussie, and Aviemore.
- „ 25. Glen Eunach and towards Braeriach.
- „ 26. Loch an Eilean and back to Aviemore.
-

S.M.C. ABROAD.

THE members of the Club in Nigeria, C. E. Andreae and A. J. Rusk, held a very successful Easter Meet, 1927, at the Rest House, Addo, from Good Friday to Easter Monday inclusive. Addo, a small village well off the beaten track in the south-west corner of Nigeria, is in the centre of a remarkable group of hills. The general terrain, about 500 feet above the sea, is flat, open bush, out of which the various hills of bare rock rise up abruptly a further 500 to 1,000 feet. The general aspect of the several peaks is very reminiscent of Suilven end on—Andreae holds out for a sperm whale as the best description. The rock is of massive construction, and in texture is very like the rounded slabs to be found in the corries of the South Cuillin.

The “early morning train” was not called for, but in order to get away on the Thursday, one member put in twenty-four hours’ continuous work, thereby maintaining the nocturnal ante-Meet tradition of the Club.

On Good Friday an attack was made on the dominating landmark, Addo Rock, a distant view of whose towering cliffs had provided the original inspiration of the Meet. Possible routes were few, but an active watercourse was discovered near the north end, which gave a sporting climb of some 400 feet on to the whale’s back. This was followed for a mile or so over very interesting ground to the final wall guarding the main summit. An attempt was made to overcome this by a steep, narrow chimney, into which the party successively sidled. Combined tactics accounted for the first two pitches, but the final exit was barred by a smooth slab, and an airy abseil saw the party once more at the foot of the chimney, whence an easier route was followed to the summit. There is apparently a Tourist Route somewhere, as extensive village remains were found on the summit ridge, also a pool which the natives say is bottomless. We went down more or less the same way as we had come up, and reached the Rest

House before the heat of the day, having had some five hours' going on rock all told.

On Saturday a smaller peak a little further away was visited, and was found to present a more forbidding aspect. Apart from an obviously easy break at the south end, the rock was extremely smooth and steep, and it was only after four or five attempts that a feasible route was discovered. Some interesting and delicate work followed, and it was not without a sigh of relief that the final smooth bulge was overcome. Not a single hitch was found on the whole climb of some 300 feet, and the absence of really satisfactory holds made the upper part very impressive. The proceedings were viewed with silent contempt by a large crowd of our simian prototypes, whose agility put to shame our clumsy efforts. They obviously considered that the performance of the large white monkeys reflected little credit on their species.

On Easter Sunday we decided to have an off day, so promptly set off at a good four miles per hour for a peak at least twice as distant as either of the two previously attempted. The sun appeared early to scoff at our efforts, but nevertheless we soon found ourselves well up under the mountain. After much whommelling in a cave full of bats, Andreae emerged on to a steep, smooth slab of rock. This provided less amusement for the leader than for the second man, who promptly pushed the former up beyond all hope of descent, and sat down to await events. The gods were merciful, however, and after a struggle in which a three days' old beard took an active part, the difficulty was overcome. The rock generally was much smoother than on the two previous peaks, and the "cat-on-broken-glass" method, as recommended by the best textbooks, was employed throughout. Wonderful views of the surrounding peaks called for the attention of the photographer, but as no camera was forthcoming on this occasion, the artist bravely produced a sketch book and set to work beneath the shadows of his companion's helmet and an inquisitive hawk. The result did not raise particular enthusiasm, and it is thought that the likeness of a sperm whale led the artist to too lofty flights of imagination.

Our necessarily short expeditions did not call for elaborate preparations in the way of commissariat, and the canny Scot elected to carry only oranges, these being supplied gratis by the local king. Greek having apparently met Greek, however, they proved to be small, hard, and remarkably sour. The Sassenach subsequently brought a tin of Golden Syrup to bear on the juice of the offending oranges, thus providing an agreeable and refreshing drink.

And then the man with the gun girded his loins with the intention of procuring the evening meal. His success need not be mentioned, but he returned saying that he had enjoyed the exercise and that the sunset behind the hills beggared description.

The call of duty was heard on Monday, and the party returned to civilisation by motor lorry.

G. GRAHAM MACPHEE writes:—Last summer (1927) was my first holiday in the Alps as a climber. The weather was very unsettled throughout, and in the first fortnight my only tops were the Aiguille des Grands Montets, Aiguille d'Argentièrre, and the Moine.

The third week I joined another party to go over into Italy, and after four or five days spent at the Gamba Hut waiting for fine weather, two of us set off for the Pétéret Ridge. Unfortunately, the promise of fine weather was false, and the leader forced a descent from the Col de Pétéret in bad weather to return to the Gamba Hut, in a most severe storm, twenty-eight hours after we had left it. This climb appears to be the third ascent by this route, the first traverse of the Aiguille Blanche de Pétéret only, and the first successful descent from the Col de Pétéret.

After emerging successfully from the worst storm remembered in that district, the writer thought that a gentle walk back to the Montenvers was indicated, with perhaps an *aiguille* taken *en passant*. The leader, however, had other views.

We had a night in Courmayeur, then toiled up to the Torino Hut in the heat of the day, and found it crowded. With true mountain *camaraderie* and high spirits the other guests drank, sang, and shouted boisterously till 11.30 P.M. As our "breakfast" was ordered for midnight we did not get much sleep, and feeling not too fresh we set off at 12.30 A.M. in bright moonlight and still air. We made straight for the Col Maudit, and in two hours reached the bergschrund, which, contrary to expectations, was easily surmounted. Crampons were again worn, as on the previous climb they had seemed absolutely essential to speed and consequent safety. Thus shod, we walked up the steep snow, only requiring to cut steps on iced patches. We reached the col at 6.30 A.M., and found signs of more bad weather, so made sure of Mont Blanc de Tacul (7.45 A.M.). Left at 8.15, and went past the top of the Col Maudit to the Col du Mont Maudit (14,304 feet). The summit of Mont Blanc was reached with difficulty in a *tourmente* at 12.30 P.M. It was no place to linger in such weather, and we hurried down by the ordinary route. After consuming costly *café au lait* at the Grands Mulets, we traversed across by the Plan de l'Aiguille, to arrive at the Montenvers eighteen hours after leaving the Torino Hut. This is probably the first time Mont Blanc has been climbed by this route, the first ascent of the Col Maudit having been made in 1921 by the indefatigable Gugliermi brothers.

Other cols visited besides those mentioned, included Col de l'Innominate (10,200 feet), four times; Col des Flambeaux (11,178 feet), four times; Col du Géant, twice; Col du Dôme (13,911 feet); Col du Trident de la Brenva (12,119 feet). All were, of course, "guideless" climbs. The leader on the Aiguille Blanche and Col Maudit was F. S. Smythe.

During the remainder of my holiday it rained every day.

At Christmas a week was spent in the Austrian Tyrol. Being a

complete novice on ski I hardly hoped to do any expeditions, but on the fifth day we had a mild outing, St Anton, Galzigg (peak), Arlberg Pass, Stuben, Langen. The next was St Anton, Schindlerspitze, Ulmer Hütte (for the night), Valluga, Züers, Langen. The Ulmer Hütte is such a hut as one dreams of, with spring mattresses, central heating, and telephone, and a moderate tariff. The Valluga involved leaving ski and doing the last half hour on practically smooth ski-boots, rather a shock to one brought up in the "properly-nailed-boots" school. We descended by the route where another unfortunately fatal avalanche occurred five days later.

THE JUNIOR MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF SCOTLAND.

NEW YEAR MEET, 1928—CRIANLARICH.

THE following members were present :—Aikman, Baxter, Bowie, Buchanan, Dinsmore, Dixon, Donaldson, R. Gibson, Grieve, E. A. Hutchison, Inverarity, Lillie, MacFarlane, M'Innes, Mackay, MacLaren, Murdoch, Patullo, D. W. Robinson, T. G. Robinson, Rose, G. R. Speirs, D. H. Steven, G. C. Williams, W. B. Williams, and Wilson. *Guests*—Geddes, Glen, Shearer, Stevenson, and Stuart.

The S.M.C. was represented by Bartholomew, I. M. Campbell, and A. G. Hutchison.

The Meet was a most successful one. The early birds were an Edinburgh party, Bartholomew, Campbell, Geddes, Stuart, and Stevenson, who motored from Edinburgh to Crianlarich Hotel on Thursday afternoon, 29th December. Shortly after, Baxter and Inverarity arrived from Glasgow, having broken their journey at Strathyre and made the ascent of Stùc a Chròin, where they found that a stiff crust had formed over the snow, and their feet plunged through at each step. The evening was pleasantly spent, and was enlivened by an impromptu hornpipe performed by Bartholomew in snow-shoes. This was accorded a vociferous reception by those unfortunates whose toes were in his immediate proximity, but there was no demand for an encore.

On Friday the snow was in better condition, though what there was of it was confined chiefly to the middle

slopes of the hills, the tops and high ridges being covered mainly with fog-crystals and ice, exposed to high winds, and shrouded in mist. These conditions remained throughout the week-end, except that on Monday the thaw set in temporarily. The lower slopes had very little snow, but required care in descending, for patches of ice, often veiled by a film of snow, occurred far down into the valleys (the Dochart was frozen across), and the unwary sat down with some force and loss of dignity.

On Friday, 30th December, combined tactics having at length roused the Honorary President from his slumbers, Campbell, Bartholomew, Stevenson, and Geddes negotiated the Y-Gully on Cruach Ardrain, and found little difficulty; they returned over Stob Garbh. Baxter, Inverarity, and Stuart, leaving the road at Ben More farm, decapitated Ben More and Stobinian. No attempt was made to unearth the sardine tin about which so much has been heard from Wilson. Intermittent glissading took the party down Stobinian almost to the Ben More Burn.

The Friday evening trains brought numerous additions to the Meet, so that there was a much larger circle round the fire that night. The Club was fortunate in having Geddes at the Meet, and his spirited renderings of Gaelic airs on the violin were much enjoyed. Songs and choruses followed.

Saturday, 31st December, was all activity. G. C. Williams, G. R. Speirs, MacLaren, Dixon, Lillie, and Grieve attacked the Y-Gully, taking the left and shallower branch, and found it in deep snow, covering ice. From Cruach Ardrain they ascended Beinn Tulaichean and returned by the Ben More Burn. A. G. Hutchison and T. G. Robinson later in the day also climbed the Y-Gully, and Cruach Ardrain was visited by still another party,

Dinsmore, D. W. Robinson, and D. H. Steven, who approached it by way of Stob Garbh. Bartholomew, Campbell, Geddes, Rose, and Stuart ascended An Caisteal, but on or near the top Rose apparently became intrigued with a troop of Boys' Brigade, and there is no clear record of his subsequent movements. Buchanan, Mackay, Stevenson, and W. B. Williams climbed Ben More by the steep shoulder which comes down towards Ben More farm, and followed the ridge in thick mist to Stobinian. Meanwhile, north of the Dochart, Aikman, Baxter, and Inverarity, having caught (not without the usual sprint) the early train to Luib, groped their way to the top of Sgiath Chùil. Thence they passed on to Meall a' Churain, Beinn Cheathaich, and Meall Glas, finding them less formidable than their names.

By Saturday evening the full complement of the Meet had assembled, and a company of thirty-one members and friends sat down to the Annual Dinner of the J.M.C.S. The Honorary President, Bartholomew, occupied the chair and proposed the toast of "The King." Thereafter telegrams were read extending to the Club the greetings of the season from the Ladies' Scottish Climbing Club and the S.M.C. respectively. G. C. Williams, President of the Glasgow Section, proposed "The J.M.C.S." In an able speech, he referred to the very satisfactory manner in which the activities of the Club were being sustained at home, in various parts of the Empire, and in foreign lands. Some members had passed during the year into the S.M.C., but many more new members had taken the place of these. Williams hoped that the enthusiasm of the Club would be kept at a high level.

Buchanan proposed "The S.M.C." After explaining that this was his one-thousand-and-oneth speech in the course of the last fortnight—a remark received somewhat

dubiously—he complimented the Club on the fact that though Campbell was now in the S.M.C. he should choose nevertheless to attend the Meet of the J.C.M.S. Buchanan's closing words anent Campbell were of a more particular nature, but fortunately for the company the subjects of his remarks were hidden from view by the table-cloth.

Replying for the S.M.C., Campbell pointed out that he had been a member of the Senior Club for as long as two months, and his audience was gratified to learn that he had paid his subscription.

All now repaired to the drawing-room, which was taxed to the limit of its capacity. Geddes provided Gaelic music on the violin, rendered and applauded with gusto. There followed the Club Song from G. C. Williams, and that of the S.M.C., sung by A. G. Hutchison. Choruses were conducted from the fireplace in the usual inimitable manner by Bartholomew, who is a master in the use of the shovel; the tongs, too, in his hands made excellent castanets. True, in one frenzied passage the imminent danger to the lamp caused a sensation among those near by. But an excellent piece of work was finished in triumph, and the fire-irons were not greatly damaged. Dixon, at the piano, performed marvels of dexterity, and at one moment contemplated taking off his jacket.

A violin solo from Geddes, introducing a fairy dance, proved irresistible. A proposal for a reel in the snow was received with acclamation, and acted upon at once. The company marched down to the open space in front of the hotel. Geddes stood on a seat in the porch and struck up some wild music. The eightsomes, executed chiefly in carpet-slippers (Campbell's not excepted) were fast and furious, and Bartholomew's lighting effects were a distinct success. Somewhat involved foursomes followed, and then the sword-dance over crossed ice-axes,

while the gazing villagers ranged around, "and still their wonder grew." Even Ben More for one instant unshrouded himself and peeped down to watch the revellers.

Further celebrations were contemplated at midnight. But shortly after the reel an unaccountable gain was registered on Buchanan's watch—or was it an aneroid?—and he announced that it was exactly two and a half minutes before 1928. The hour obligingly rang out from an improvised belfry, and after "Auld Lang Syne" the company dispersed confusedly.

On Sunday, 1st January, the wind was stronger than ever, while the mist had crept still further down the slopes, and had assumed the colour of a fog at the Broomielaw. But most parties ventured further afield than on previous days, and the Club does not appear to have been represented at all at church. Donaldson, Glen, and Stevenson, having motored to Loch Tay, disappeared into the fastnesses of Beinn Ghlas, and, apparently using their axes as divining-rods for Munroes, eventually reached Ben Lawers. On the other hand, Ben Lui drew a number of parties, but most were baffled by the mists. Bartholomew, Campbell, and Mackay from Coninish searched in vain for the Central Gully, and then seem to have eaten some sandwiches under a boulder. E. A. Hutchison and Grieve found themselves at the col between Beinn Churain and Meall Odhar, and beat a retreat appalled. More successful were R. Gibson, M'Innes, Patullo, and Wilson, who failed to find the Central Gully but discovered instead a Consolation Gully in which they spent some happy moments, and claim to have reached the 3,000 feet level.

One party did reach the Central Gully of Ben Lui and, despite the conditions, made the ascent of it. The lower portions were straightforward, but in a short time

disagreeable frozen scree was encountered. The right branch of the gully was, however, followed till at length they emerged, about 4 o'clock, when darkness was already beginning to fall, at a point to the right of the summit cairn and about 200 feet below. Owing to the blinding gale which raged on the top and made progress to windward impossible, the party had to descend to the dip between Ben Lui and Beinn a' Chleibh, reaching Coninish and the motor car by way of the col between Ben Lui and Beinn Churain.

Nearer the hotel, the Y-Gully on Cruach Ardrain promised to attract several parties. First in the queue were Aikman and Baxter who, after an early start, found the right branch of the gully in soft snow, and more suitable for glissading than for ascent. From the summit they bore towards An Caisteal, but the early nightfall made it advisable before reaching the top to descend by the Falloch Burn. Buchanan, Geddes, and W. B. Williams also ascended the Y-Gully, after which they wandered cheerfully in quest of Beinn Tulaichean, but finding it was not there, returned to the hotel to think the matter over. Two parties, A. G. Hutchison, T. G. Robinson, Lillie, and Murdoch in the one, and G. R. Speirs and Shearer in the other, climbed Beinn Chaluim, while Beinn Dubhchraig was visited by Dinsmore, D. H. Steven, and D. W. Robinson.

On Monday, 2nd January, rain fell early, and there was the promise of a continued thaw. The Meet began now to dwindle away. Already on the previous day Stuart had pedalled off, with the pick of his ice-axe perilously near to his back tyre. Others now departed.

The inevitable Y-Gully was again climbed, this time by R. Gibson, M'Innes, Patullo, and Wilson, who afterwards glissaded down it. A massed party, Bartholomew, Campbell, Geddes, Mackay, Stevenson, and W. B.

Williams, visited Beinn Dubhchraig, ascending through the forest from the viaduct. Aikman, Baxter, and Lillie, starting in similar fashion, skirted Beinn Dubhchraig and climbed Beinn Oss, returning over Beinn Dubhchraig, while Dinsmore, MacFarlane, Shearer, and G. R. Speirs made the ascent of Beinn a' Chroin and An Caisteal.

Dixon, MacLaren, and G. C. Williams motored to the foot of Beinn Dòrain and climbed that mountain, the lower slopes of which were occasionally in sunshine, though they stoutly denied it. Bowie, D. W. Robinson, and D. H. Steven were also on Beinn Dòrain.

On Tuesday, 3rd January, the weather cleared. The snow was in good condition, the barometer remained high all day, and the views were magnificent. Most of the Meet had now dispersed, but the die-hards were still active. Dixon and MacLaren successfully scaled Beinn Oss and Beinn Dubhchraig. Bowie and J. A. Steven visited Beinn Tulaichean, Cruach Ardrain, and Stob Garbh. It is reported that from Beinn Tulaichean they busily enumerated the Munroes in sight, but lost count after reaching forty.

Thus the Meet ended.

In Memoriam.

IT came as a great shock to members, on returning from the New Year Meet, to hear of the tragedy in the Cairngorms. Thomas Baird and Hugh A. Barrie joined the Glasgow Section in November of last year, and had done a good deal of tramping and climbing together previous to that. Both were prominent figures at Glasgow University, where Baird was Assistant Geology Demonstrator, and Barrie was studying Medicine and was assistant editor of the University Magazine.

At the time of writing the cause of the accident is not known. Baird was discovered in an exhausted state close to the Glen Eunach bothy, and died before help arrived, and though an extensive search has been made, no trace has yet been found of his companion.

W. B. S.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—On the eve of going to press, news of the discovery of Mr Barrie's body near the upper bothy has been received.]

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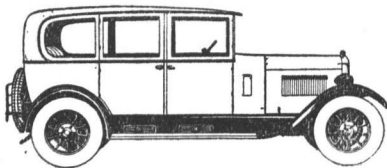
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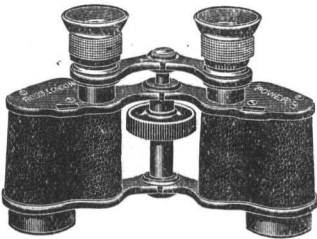
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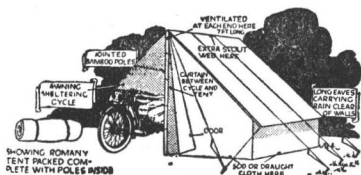
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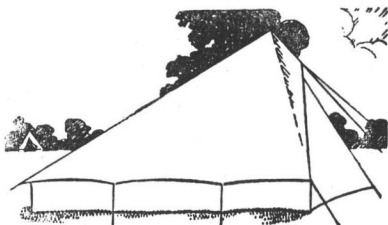


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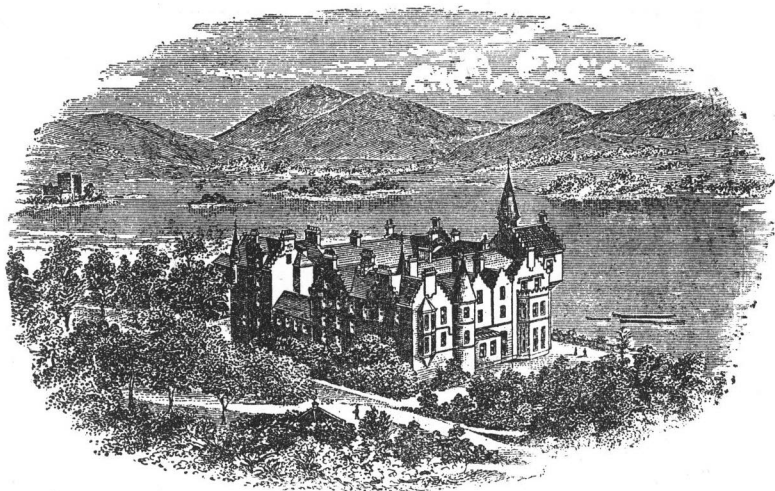
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