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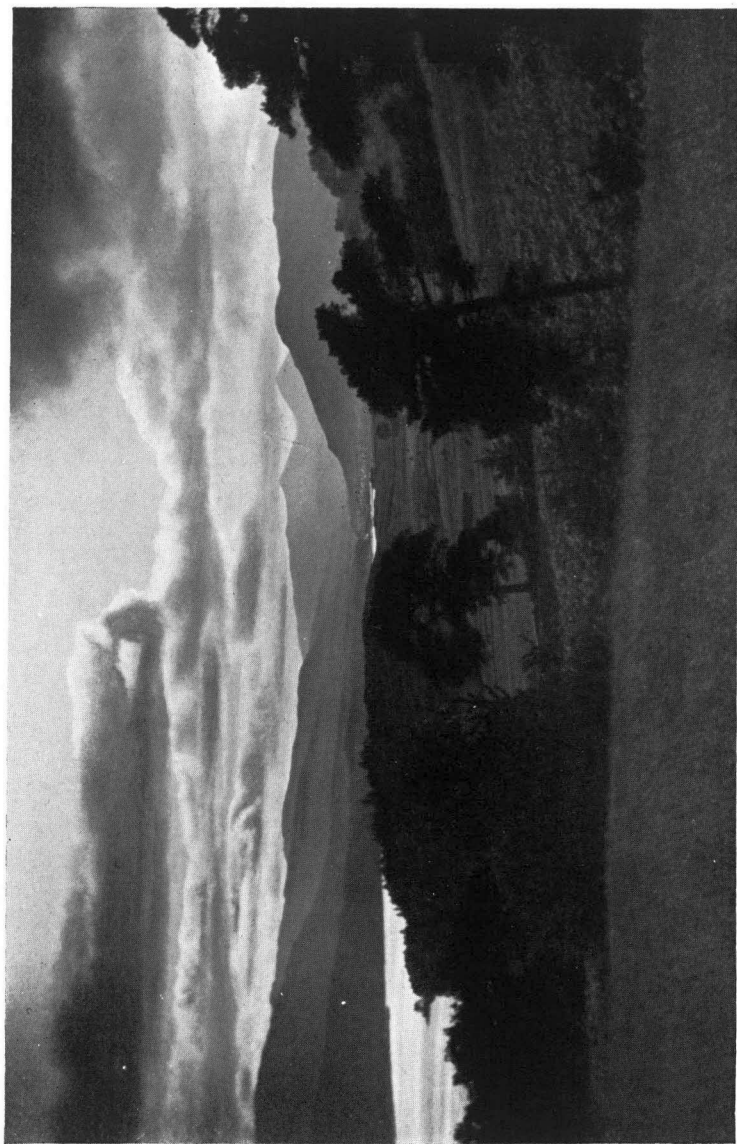
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August 1920

LOCH TAY, KILLIN, STOBINIAN AND BEN MORE

Percy Donald

THE SCOTTISH Mountaineering Club Journal.

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NO. 119.

DAYS THAT ARE PAST.

By J. GALL INGLIS.

II.—KYLE AKIN IN 1882.

IN 1882 the Mallaig Railway was non-existent, and Skye was only accessible by steamer from Oban, or by rail via Nairn, Inverness, and Strone Ferry, thence either by steamer down Loch Carron to Broadford or Portree, or by mail gig over steep hills to Balmacara and Kyle of Loch Alsh—a long round with numerous changes. In any case a night had to be spent somewhere on the road, and as the steamer would drop us at our destination, we naturally adopted that route and boarded the *Clansman* at Oban about 6 A.M., after spending the night in the train. It was our first experience of the West Coast north of Loch Linnhe, and after leaving Tobermory—the last pier till Broadford—we watched with much interest the various “calls” as we went along—the waiting ferryboat dancing on the swell, the amazing variety of merchandise lowered into it, oars, rowlocks, timber, fish boxes, trunks, furniture even, and unfailingly, huge flat baskets, their lids closed with long iron pins. We wondered much what was in this ubiquitous receptacle: later, it transpired that they contained the bread on which the population would have to exist for the next two or three days, by which time it would be four or five days old, having been baked in Glasgow the day before it was received. But strange to say it did not get dry.

It was with some excitement, mixed with trepidation,

that we approached Kyle Akin, for we did not know what might be before us. A house had been taken for six weeks, but there was considerable possibility that the accommodation might be more or less primitive. Even Arran, in these days, was very notorious on this account; what might be expected in Skye? But to our great relief, on landing from the ferryboat about 4 P.M., we were directed to a comfortable modern two-storied house on the village green: the older part of the village, however, beside the pier, was mostly very primitive—poor thatched cottages, many in bad disrepair, with the smallest of windows. There was a post office (without telegraph) and the present hotel.

We youngsters had been sent on in advance to try our 'prentice hands at being "on our own," and found conditions such as we had never encountered before. There was no bakery in the village, but groceries and Glasgow bread were available at a good general store. There was also a butcher, but he only "killed" when the previous killing was exhausted—and sometimes not even then. To this day I have never met with such joints as he supplied to us: it would have taken a professor of anatomy to have carved them properly, and so unsatisfactory was the carving that we often preferred to live on fowls, which, however, were mostly very small and had to be used in pairs. One day when the letters came in—from Broadford, by mail cart, I think—after 11 o'clock, to our consternation we learned that four hungry gentlemen would arrive that day for 1 o'clock dinner, a whole day sooner than had been arranged. The letter had taken two or three days in transit, although written only some fifty miles or so away. The house-keeper was nonplussed: the meat provided for the morrow was too new-killed for immediate use, but a happy thought struck her. The executioner was sent forth among the fowls running in the yard, and a wholesale massacre of the innocents provided the means of feeding the arrivals, who at that very moment were seen walking up the pier.

Before we learned the ropes, there were some awkward

experiences. One day on going out to get the dinner, the butcher had no meat of any kind. The store had run out of both tinned meat and bacon, and nothing was to be had in the village except bread and potatoes. So I was despatched to the pier to catch some fish—usually saithe or rock cod of fair size were to be had—but, of course, that day of all others nothing bigger than 3 or 4 inches would touch the bait, so at 12.30 I returned empty-handed. Meanwhile, however, some one had heard of our plight and offered a few herrings, so we fared not so badly. Ever afterwards we took care to provide for two days ahead.

We found ourselves in a very primitive world. One would have thought that people living at the road-entrance to Skye would have sufficient intercourse with the mainland to possess at least a working knowledge of English. But evidently there was little road traffic by the Kyle ferry; though the younger generation was bi-lingual, the middle-aged people spoke and understood English with difficulty, and the old people not at all, so that our communication with the natives was rather circumscribed.

Just after our arrival we found that the store butter was very coarse and salt, but they said fresh butter might be obtained from some of the cottars. My sister went out to prospect, and met a young woman carrying a basket covered with cabbage leaves. Guessing this was what she wanted she stopped the woman and asked, "Butter?"

The woman smiled and nodded.

"How much?" asked my sister.

"Ten . . . sheeling . . . pound," was the reply, the words coming out with difficulty, like one speaking a very unfamiliar foreign language.

My sister gasped, but a bright idea struck her: she held up a shilling, and the woman nodded and smiled. She had meant ten *pence* per pound, or possibly had said "ten" instead of "one."

We had a further instance of this wholesale lack of English, one Sunday, when we went to church at Broadford. There was no church at Kyle Akin, but a student of

the Auld Kirk held services every alternate Sunday during the summer in a hall on the village green; the other Sunday he went to some other place, the name of which I cannot recall.

One specially fine Sunday, when there was no service, we resolved to walk to Broadford and attend the Free Church there, and after a seven or eight mile walk came to the Auld Kirk, to which many people were flocking in their Sunday best. We went on, but there was no sign of the Free Kirk, so we stopped some well-dressed youngish-looking people who we judged would have the English, and asked them to direct us. But they only looked puzzled and replied in Gaelic, no doubt to tell us they did not understand what we wanted. We asked again and again, with the same result, and at last gave it up, and it was more by luck than anything that we at last found our church, which was already "in" when we reached it.

While writing this article, however, it suddenly occurred to me that there might be an explanation of this total lack of English among youngish well-dressed persons, that we had never thought of. It was now rather after the hour of meeting, and those we met, like ourselves, had probably come a considerable distance, from the remoter crofts, and so may well have had no occasion to learn English.

The ignorance of the people was lamentable. One day several heavy boatloads of men and women were seen coming over the ferry, and after no long stay they went back again. We supposed that they were guests attending a wedding or some other ceremony, but on making inquiry were told "Oh, no; there has been an epidemic of whooping cough on the mainland, and the patients have come over the water to complete their cure." We took it that this meant a kind of open-air cure; but happening to mention it to our landlord, he smiled and explained that it was an old Highland superstition. These people believed that they would not be rid of the whooping cough demon until they had crossed *running* water—à la Tam o' Shanter! The "running

water " aptly described the current of the narrow Kyle, which at certain states of the tide was very swift. It may be mentioned, in this connection, that the inhabitants of the village never knew from which direction the tide would flow. Sometimes it flowed from the Kyle of Loch Alsh, at other times from the Sound of Raasay, and we were told that the Ordnance Survey officials had stayed there for a considerable time to try and find out some law regulating it—but unsuccessfully, if I remember right.

There were a number of sick folk in the village, but no doctor—the nearest was at Broadford. I suppose the divinity student or our landlord had told my mother of some of them, for she paid them occasional visits in their damp, unhealthy cottages near the pier. One old bed-ridden fellow, hearing we came from Edinburgh, told her in broken English that he had once been in Edinburgh and had got a " kiss " there. What this meant we could not divine, and his reference to " Mr Officer," as having something to do with it; but happening to mention the matter to an Edinburgh advocate who was staying in the village, he told us that " Mr Officer " was a proper name—that of the Procurator-fiscal of the day. We never learned, however, what had brought the old man to the notice of that official.

There was also a poor woman who had a baby very ill with bronchitis. The doctor came, and prescribed a poultice on the chest; when my mother went in to hear what the doctor had said, she found the poor wee thing with the poultice on its stomach! It may have been ignorance of English, but we ascribed it with most probability to ignorance of anatomy.

With such treatment, small wonder that the baby died, so we had the experience of a real primitive Highland funeral, the general fashion of which had probably not changed for centuries. My brother and I were invited to represent our mother, for, if I remember right, no women were present except immediate relatives. We went into the humble stone or brick-floored cottage, which had its small windows darkened, and were received by the father—a blear-eyed man, a bit of a ne'er-do-weel

I am afraid. Whisky and oatcakes were set out on a table, of which each guest partook as he came in, but we two lads were only offered the cakes, a hint having been dropped by our landlord. There was a short service in Gaelic, then the little coffin was taken out into the street, where all the men in the village, I suppose, were assembled. There was no hearse, and presently two men shouldered the coffin, and started off on the eight-mile tramp to the cemetery at Broadford. All the men followed, and we went with them, wondering if all were going to Broadford.

To our surprise, after going a few hundred yards, the procession stopped, and the bearers of the coffin were changed; after another interval these again were changed, and so on until all the villagers had shared in the toil. Then a man turned to us and asked us to come and put our hands under the coffin, and nominally assist. Our landlord whispered to us that it was the custom for all present to do so, and that we should do it, for it would please the people. So for a few steps we did so, and then our landlord whispered that was sufficient.

Two miles from the village we reached a bridge, and the procession halted. I have sometimes wondered if this was another instance of the "running water" superstition, for it is in my mind—but I may be mistaken—that none of the party except the actual mourners crossed it. Presently the coffin was taken up again and a small group moved on, leaving the rest of us gazing reverently after them as they receded into the distance. Never will I forget that sight: drizzle was beginning to fall from the gloomy grey skies of the Misty Isle, and the broken moorland, with its straight lonely road stretching far into the distance without sign of human habitation, seemed the very emblem of desolation—one felt that it was as if Nature herself desired to join the company of mourners. And the simple ceremonial, so different from the prancing horses, jingling harness, and nodding plumes of the town funerals of the period, gave us the feeling that we had indeed stepped back into a previous age.

(To be continued.)

CURVATURE AND VISIBILITY.

By JAMES A. PARKER, M.Inst.C.E.

THE object of this article, and the accompanying table and diagram, is to provide simple methods of finding approximate solutions to the following problems:—

1. Given the heights and relative positions of three hills which are in line. Can No. 3 be seen from the top of No. 1 over the top of No. 2 or will the latter hide it?
2. If No. 3 is visible, how much of it will be seen?
3. If Nos. 2 and 3 as seen from the top of No. 1 appear to be on the same level, and if the heights of only two of the three hills are known. What is the height of the remaining hill?
4. What is the distance of the visible sea horizon from a known height?

With the aid of the large diagram approximate solutions to the above problems may be obtained graphically in a few seconds. With the use of the table the problems may be solved more accurately by calculation, but still only approximately. Were there no such thing as atmospheric refraction it would, of course, be possible to obtain correct solutions by calculation. Refraction, however, renders accurate work impossible, and the best that can be done is to assume a fair average value for its effect and to work therefrom.

Professor W. J. Macquorn Rankine (1)* considered that a fair average value for the effect of atmospheric refraction in this country would be one-sixth of the curvature of the earth's surface. In other words, if, owing to the curvature of the earth, a point on the surface of the sea were 60 feet vertically below a line drawn tangentially to the surface of the sea at the observer's station, the line of sight from the observer directed horizontally along the tangent would be curved downwards

* Numbers in brackets refer to notes on p. 323.

by refraction, and over the point referred to would be only 50 feet above sea-level. Rankine's allowance was adopted by the late Mr G. Gordon Jenkins, M.Inst.C.E., of Aberdeen (2). Ing. Alfredo Galassini of Italy (3) adopted an allowance of 1:7·67 for Alpine conditions. As the result of numerous calculations I have found Rankine's allowance of one-sixth to be sufficiently accurate for Scottish conditions, and it has therefore been adopted in the following notes.

Explanation of Fig. 1.—The curved line SOS represents the profile of the surface of the sea (or of the surface of the earth if assumed to be perfectly level). O is the observer's station, and from it the horizontal line OT has been drawn tangentially to SOS. The curved line OR represents a horizontal line of sight from O bent downwards by refraction so that vertical heights from it to OT will be one-sixth of the corresponding heights from OS to OT. For example, on the vertical line AD, AB is one-sixth of AD.

For purposes of calculation, etc., a diagram on which the line of sight is curved would be of no practical use. It will therefore be convenient to regard the actual sea-level line OS as being raised up vertically by one-sixth of its vertical distance below OT, namely, to the curved line OE, and at the same time the curved line of sight OR being raised by the same extent to coincide with OT. The vertical relations between the lines OT and OE will be the same as those between OR and OS, so that the former, which is straight, may be adopted as the line of sight and the latter as the surface of the sea. On such a modified diagram all lines of sight may be represented by straight lines, with the result that calculations and graphical methods become very simple.

Vertical heights from the actual surface of the sea (*i.e.*, from the line OS) to the tangent OT at horizontal distances from O, which are small compared with the diameter of the earth, are given by the formula :—

Height in feet = $0\cdot667$ (distance in statute miles)².

With the allowance of one-sixth for refraction, the formula for vertical heights from the actual surface of

the sea to the curved line of sight (*i.e.*, from OS to OR) is therefore :—

Height in feet = $0.556 (\text{distance in statute miles})^2$.

This is the formula given by Rankine and Jenkins (4) which will be used throughout the following notes as being the value of heights from the amended sea-level OE to the tangent OT. To put the position clearly, $AC = BD = 0.556 OA^2$.

The heights so calculated for distances from 1 to 120 miles are given in the second columns of the table on p. 324. And it should be noted at once that these distances are the distances of the visible sea horizon for the heights opposite each. Thus the distance of the visible sea horizon from a height of 2,002 feet is 60 statute miles (5).

*Explanation of the Diagram.**—It is drawn to the scale of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to 1 mile horizontal, and 1 inch to 1,000 feet vertical. The lettering corresponds with that on Fig. 1. The horizontal line OT is divided up into single statute miles from 1 to 110, and through the mileage points so marked vertical lines have been drawn on which the heights given in the table have been plotted downwards from OT. The points so obtained have then been joined up by the curved line OE, which thus represents the profile of the surface of the sea (or level surface of the earth) as raised up to suit the refraction allowance of one-sixth as already explained. This line is the datum line of the diagram, and from it all heights are to be measured vertically upwards.

On the vertical lines at 0 miles and 110 miles, scales of feet have been marked reading upwards from the line OE, with 200-foot intervals, to 4,400 feet. These scales have then been joined by curved lines drawn concentric to the line OE, thus ruling the diagram with a series of curved lines at 200-foot vertical intervals above the line OE. These lines are, in a way, a series of 200-foot contour lines above the datum line OE.

* Unfolded copies of the Diagram, on thicker paper, may be obtained from Mr J. C. S. Ewen, Manse of Liberton, Edinburgh, 9. Price 1s. 6d. post free.—ED.

Use of Diagram.—I have used the diagram frequently of late in connection with the designing of a proposed Indicator for Tinto Hill, and have found the following method to be the simplest for determining the inter-visibility of two hilltops, "A" and "B." On the diagram mark the summit of "A" on the 0 miles vertical, and the summit of "B" on the vertical corresponding to its distance from "A." Join these two points by a straight line (a fine dark thread is best) which is the line of sight, the height of which above the datum line can at once be read off at any intermediate point. On a suitable contoured map draw a straight line from "A" to "B" and note the highest intervening points and their distances from "A." An examination of the line of sight on the diagram will then show whether or not that line clears all these points: if it does, "B" will be visible from "A." If the "B" end of the line of sight be then lowered until the line touches the dominant intervening height, the extent of the summit of "B" which is visible from "A" can at once be ascertained. The following example should make the above method clear.

Can the Cheviot (2,676 feet) be seen from the south summit of Lochnagar (3,768 feet)? The distance is 108 miles. Mark the height 3,768 feet on the 0 miles vertical and the height 2,676 feet on the 108 miles vertical and join the two points by a straight line. On a suitable map draw a straight line from Lochnagar to the Cheviot and it will be seen that the only possible conflicting profile is that of the eastern shoulder of the Lammermuirs, Heart Law (1,283 feet), 78 miles distant from Lochnagar, which the line of sight on the diagram clears by about 400 feet. The Cheviot will therefore be well seen from Lochnagar. If the Cheviot end of the line of sight be then lowered until the line just touches the top of Heart Law, it will be found that about 530 feet of the upper part of the Cheviot should be visible. This result is in agreement with the view of the Cheviot that I had from Lochnagar on 22nd July 1922 and, incidentally, shows that the allowance of one-sixth for refraction is about right.

The above is the graphical method of solving questions Nos. 1 and 2 on p. 317. Regarding question No. 3, it is evident that if a straight line be drawn across the diagram passing through two known heights in their proper verticals, that the position of the line is rigidly fixed and that the unknown third height may at once be read off where the line cuts its vertical. Regarding question No. 4, all that is required is to draw from the given height on the vertical above 0 miles a straight line tangentially to OE. The mileage of the point of contact will be the distance of the visible sea horizon from the given height. The point of contact is difficult to locate accurately on account of the flatness of the curved line OE, and it is better to use the table.

As additional examples it may be of interest to deal with two cases which are mentioned in "The Islands of Scotland Guide Book":—

Page 27—Visibility of Ben Nevis from Caisteal Abhail. The data and results are as follows:—

	Height. Feet.	Distance. Miles.	Line of Sight. Feet.
Caisteal Abhail	2817	0	2,817
Cruachan-Chochuill profile . c.	3,000	55	3,200
Bidean nam Bian shoulder . c.	3,600	68	3,780
Ben Nevis	4,406	79	4,406

This shows that the line of sight from Caisteal Abhail to the top of Ben Nevis will clear both the intervening profiles by about a couple of hundred feet and that the top of Ben Nevis will therefore be visible. Conversely Caisteal Abhail will be seen from Ben Nevis, as is shown on Mr Shearer's Panorama.

Page 87—Can Slieve Snaght (2,019 feet) in Co. Donegal be seen from the top of Beinn Ruigh Choinnich (902 feet) in South Uist? The distance is 134 miles. Solution: from the height of 902 feet above 0 miles draw a straight line tangentially to OE and produce it until it reaches the height of 2,019 feet above OE. It will be found to do so at the distance of 101 miles from 0 miles or 33 miles short of Slieve Snaght. The latter will therefore be a long way below the horizon and be invisible unless there should be an abnormal uplift due to mirage or excessive refraction.

Explanation of Fig. 2.—In order to obtain slightly

more accurate results, or to solve cases extending beyond the limit (110 miles) of the diagram, simple calculations have to be resorted to. The method is explained on Fig. 2, which shows the working out of the Lochnagar-Cheviot problem.

OJ is 78 miles and OK is 108 miles, and (from the table) JN is 3,383 feet and KQ is 6,485 feet. Above the point N mark off NL equal to 1,283 feet, and above the point Q mark off QM equal to 2,676 feet. L and M thus represent the tops of Heart Law and the Cheviot respectively. Above O mark off OF equal to 3,768 feet, and through F draw FH parallel to OT cutting the verticals above J and K at G and H. Then we have:—

GL = $3,768 + 3,383 - 1,283$, and is therefore 5,868 feet.

HM = $3,768 + 6,485 - 2,676$, and is therefore 7,577 feet.

From F draw a line through L cutting HQ at P. By simple proportion it will be found that HP equals 8,125 feet, which is 548 feet greater than HM. As M represents the summit of the Cheviot this means that the line of sight from F will strike the Cheviot about 548 feet below the summit, a result which is in close agreement with that obtained graphically from the diagram.

Cases may occur in which the points L and M may lie between the lines OT and FH, or even be above the latter line. They can also be solved by simple proportion in the same manner as the above.

The calculation for the South Uist-Ireland problem with the use of the table is simply:

Sea horizon from Beinn Ruigh Choinnich	
(902 feet)	40½ miles.
Sea horizon from Slieve Snaght (2,019 feet)	60½ miles.
Total	101 miles.

Therefore the lines of sight from the two hills to their sea horizons fail to meet by 33 miles, and the hills are invisible from each other.

In conclusion I feel it right to acknowledge that in the preparation of the above notes I have derived material assistance from the articles by Ing. Alfredo Galassini and the late Mr G. Gordon Jenkins, which are referred to in the notes.

NOTES REFERRED TO IN THE TEXT.

(1) See W. J. Macquorn Rankine's "Manual of Civil Engineering," 13th edition, 1880, pp. 2, 87, and 88.

(2) Mr G. Gordon Jenkins, M.Inst.C.E., published an article on "Curvature and Refraction" in the *Cairngorm Club Journal* for July 1917, vol. ix., p. 27. The article included a table of heights and distances up to 90 miles, and a diagram showing the working out of an individual case, viz., from the Blue Hill, Aberdeen, to Morrone at Braemar. Mr Jenkins republished the article, along with several others, in 1917 in a small book entitled "Hill Views from Aberdeen."

(3) Ing. Alfredo Galassini published an important paper entitled "Metodo per lo studio degli orizzonti" in *Bollettino del Club Alpino Italiano*, vol. xxviii., 1895, p. 283. The article is very elaborate and gives full details of the calculations by which the various formulæ were arrived at. It includes a table of heights and distances, in metres and kilometres, up to 370 kilometres. The diagram which accompanies the article also extends to 370 kilometres and reads to 5,000 metres vertically. The diagram is drawn to a somewhat small scale (1:2,000,000 horizontal and 1:100,000 vertical), and is therefore of little use for graphic purposes. Attached to the diagram there is, on thin tracing paper, a profile from Monte Cimone to Il Gran Paradiso via the intervening height of M. Aserei, with the working out of that case done both graphically and by calculation. Mr Jenkins had certainly not seen Ing. Galassini's article. Personally, I am indebted to it for the idea of the general diagram, but my diagram is drawn to a much larger scale (1:253,440 horizontal and 1:12,000 vertical), and may therefore be used graphically with a reasonable degree of accuracy.

(4) Ing. Galassini's formula is

$$\text{Height in metres} = 0.068284 (\text{distance in kilometres})^2,$$

which converted into feet and miles becomes

$$\text{Height in feet} = 0.580 (\text{distance in statute miles})^2.$$

(5) It is important to note that all distances in my article are given in statute miles of 5,280 feet and not in nautical miles of 6,083 feet, as is usually done in tables of the distance of the visible horizon.

TABLE.

Vertical heights from a horizontal line of sight to the surface of the sea with an allowance of one-sixth for refraction, calculated from the formula :

$$\text{Height in feet} = 0.556 (\text{distance in statute miles})^2.$$

Distance. Miles.	Height. Feet.	Distance. Miles.	Height. Feet.	Distance. Miles.	Height. Feet.
1	0.556	41	935	81	3,648
2	2.22	42	981	82	3,738
3	5.00	43	1,028	83	3,830
4	8.90	44	1,076	84	3,923
5	13.90	45	1,126	85	4,017
6	20.02	46	1,176	86	4,112
7	27.24	47	1,228	87	4,208
8	35.58	48	1,281	88	4,306
9	45.04	49	1,335	89	4,404
10	55.60	50	1,390	90	4,504
11	67.3	51	1,446	91	4,604
12	80.1	52	1,503	92	4,706
13	94.0	53	1,562	93	4,809
14	109.0	54	1,621	94	4,913
15	125.1	55	1,682	95	5,018
16	142.3	56	1,744	96	5,124
17	160.7	57	1,806	97	5,231
18	180.2	58	1,870	98	5,340
19	200.8	59	1,935	99	5,449
20	222.4	60	2,002	100	5,560
21	245	61	2,069	101	5,672
22	269	62	2,137	102	5,785
23	294	63	2,207	103	5,899
24	320	64	2,277	104	6,014
25	347	65	2,349	105	6,130
26	376	66	2,422	106	6,247
27	405	67	2,496	107	6,366
28	436	68	2,571	108	6,485
29	468	69	2,647	109	6,606
30	500	70	2,724	110	6,728
31	534	71	2,803	111	6,851
32	569	72	2,882	112	6,974
33	605	73	2,963	113	7,100
34	643	74	3,045	114	7,226
35	681	75	3,127	115	7,353
36	721	76	3,211	116	7,482
37	761	77	3,296	117	7,611
38	803	78	3,383	118	7,742
39	846	79	3,470	119	7,874
40	890	80	3,558	120	8,006

To obtain the height for a distance greater than 120 miles take the height for half the distance and multiply by four.

LAOIGH: LOST AND WON.

By K. K. HUNTER.

So much stirring reading appears in this *Journal* nowadays of new and startling climbs on those peaks which form the principal attraction for the rock enthusiast in Scotland, climbs quite beyond the occasional frequenter of the hills or of the man who thinks in smaller terms than Crowberry Ridges, that it does not seem out of place to record an account of what amounts to some very ordinary successes and failures on a well-known snow ascent.

Personally, after a perusal of one of these exciting articles, I find myself in a state of semi-prostration, hands clammy, heart beating and knees trembling, whilst I am torn between two desires, the one to go and emulate the amazing feats of these ultramontaines and so save my self-respect, and the other to decline very firmly any future invitation to accompany a party on anything exceeding the difficulty of the Curved Ridge and that only as second or third man of a strong and trusted bunch of companions.

Incidentally, after Harrison's excellent article on the precautions which should be taken in attempting climbs or expeditions of some length in the short winter days, it may be some consolation to know of occasions when parties have turned back reluctantly from knowledge that the reserve of time and energy was running precious low.

Such observations may be of some useful indication to those younger readers who plan, as I have so often planned, to do something out of the ordinary, only to be frustrated by the very obvious limitations of the human frame, especially at New Year time.

It was Hutchison who first introduced me to this delectable mountain in March 1923, a day which will live long in my memory. That grand north face of

Laoigh, which so long holds the snow after the neighbouring mountains have shed their wintry coat, is ever a tempting bait.

We saved ourselves the first part of a weary tramp by using a motor bike and sidecar, quite an undertaking in itself, as far as Coninish farm, and, as we set off on foot from the farm, the day was full of promise. The mist was dispersing under the influence of bright sun which broke occasionally through, and we lingered often as we watched it rise off Dubhchraig and Oss, but the greatest moment of the day was when we stopped for a rest well up in the corrie. We had turned to admire the view and when, in the shadow of the mountain, our circulations called for further action and we turned again to our objective, the mist above us parted to show the summit ridge outlined like a golden etching by the sun against a clear blue sky—truly a wonderful sight.

As an introduction to snow climbing it was almost beyond perfection.

A party which had been on the mountain two days previously had obligingly left very adequate steps up the central couloir which, on this occasion, was of hard frozen snow, and we saved so much time by using these on the lower part of the climb that we were able to include Ben Oss in our day's bag as well.

The complete contrast between the ascent of the icy couloir in the shadow and the summer-like conditions on the southern slopes of Oss was almost unbelievable.

We were more sunburnt in a few hours that day than a fortnight by the sea usually accomplishes.

On this occasion, too, we were refreshed by a cup of tea at the farm before the exciting journey back to Crianlarich, a hospitality which is now debarred by the fact of the house being unoccupied.

The second ascent was in complete contrast to the first. It was later in the year, almost at the close of April 1924.

The day was mild, windy and wet, the mist hanging very low on the mountain. The snow was soft and had retreated well up the corrie, and we made several attempts

before we found the couloir. But two splendid attractions materialised, first a splendid cornice which was attacked in two places at once, the party being sufficiently large, five all told, to warrant such division, and second, a gloriously exhilarating glissade from almost the summit right down to the lower limits of the snow line. The snow was in such a condition that it would not have mattered if climber and axe had parted company or if, as some of us have witnessed, the glissader had come down chin first.

New Year, 1925, again saw the writer on the mountain. The Club Meet was at Loch Awe, and, with the impetuosity of youth, it had been planned to leave the early train at Tyndrum along with Alastair Frazer (S.M.C.) and walk to Dalmally over Laoigh and Beinn a' Chleibh. The weather was so wild that we almost tackled Oss by mistake, conditions were almost that of a blizzard, and, although we turned before we had climbed many feet up the corrie, we returned to Tyndrum literally dead beat. So much for plans made without due thought to the previous Christmas festivities. Nevertheless I believe that Burt, on that same day, actually accomplished what we had set out to do and accomplished it safely, too. (Query—did he have a Christmas dinner ?)

In a Glasgow evening paper of New Year's Day, 1927, there appeared a stirring article called "Mountaineers in Training." A sub-editor did good work with what I believe are known as sub-headings.

"To the Snow Level," "Cutting a Thousand Steps," "Wedding-cake Cairn," and so on, inviting the reader to delve into what proved to be my first adventure into print, the account of my fourth visit to Laoigh.

Snow conditions were almost as ideal as in 1923, but no previous party had left their tracks.

Steps had to be cut for almost the whole ascent and served to improve a very necessary part of the training badly needed by the writer at that time.

Is it not often the case that one may spend several winters on the hills and reckon oneself a climber without really knowing how to wield an ice-axe ?

Perhaps the most arduous part of the day, though, was the return by motor bike from the farm. My companion and I both had solo machines, and we were bucketed about like a couple of ninepins. Finally I fell down a steep slope with the bike on top of me, whilst my fellow-adventurer plunged into the river following the failure of his light.

A long gap now ensues. Years spent abroad and farther south than Glasgow made an enforced absence from our old friend.

New Year, 1934, however, saw Dunn and Wilson (J.M.C.S.) plodding up the track from Tyndrum, whilst I encouraged them with accounts, in full detail, of previous climbs.

Dunn grunted occasionally, Wilson was silent; perhaps they foresaw a repetition of the previous time when I had stepped off the 5.50 A.M. from Glasgow with Christmas dinner not so far behind. Anyhow, as may be remembered, snow was scarce, the pitch in the couloir took up valuable time, and when, some few hundred feet from the top, we struck thin, unsatisfactory snow, better counsel prevailed and we beat a retreat.

The day was vile too—we were wet and dripping by the time we effected our descent, and a new member of the party, a flask, was brought into play.

However, nothing daunted, the mountain was won—that sounds fine—some five weeks later on another of those glorious days when the snow was in perfect condition and some useful step-cutting was needed.

A fine cornice also yielded excellent sport. We each had our whack at this but had to desist in response to agonised shouts from below where another party were getting the benefit of a miniature bombardment.

On this occasion a car was called into use and, as can be gathered from the previous expeditions, mechanical locomotion as far as the farm is not to be despised.

Lastly, the fogs drove Dunn and myself out for a week-end at Crianlarich last November, a quiet week-end

when, as is so often the case, our old friend Laoigh beckoned once again.

Hardly a trace of snow was to be seen on the neighbouring hills, but the central couloir was quite nicely filled.

The same car made light work of the first part of the track and a delightful climb ensued.

Age giving way gracefully to youth, I was shown how to surmount the half-covered pitch in record time and make light work of thin hard snow farther up. Weather conditions were ideal, no wind, fine views and a clear mountain, all tantamount to an invitation to go back at the earliest opportunity despite the call to peak-bag, or to confine the day to something easier or near at hand. Hail, Laoigh!

ROPING DOWN.

BY E. A. M. WEDDERBURN.

THE technique of roping down is not much practised in Britain, partly because we so often take the easy way off our mountain, and partly because, if we do climb down, the rocks are so short that to rope down would save little time and, indeed, would be a form of vandalism. But anyone who climbs, or hopes to climb, on bigger mountains would do well to practise roping down at home. The traverse of the Grepon, for example, necessitates an extremely severe piece of climbing unless one ropes down the Grand Gendarme, and the traverse of the Drus, in the ordinary direction, would take ages if all the pitches of the Petit Dru were climbed down. Moreover, knowledge of and familiarity with the theory and practice of roping down may help to extricate a party from a serious position; with plenty of rope one can work wonders. I do not propose to go into the technique of roping down from piton to piton with perhaps hardly a foothold for several rope lengths, that is a sport for the specialist, but the following remarks may be of use—they are the result of experience and experiment.

Terminology.—Anyone with even a vague idea of the French language must shudder at such phrases as “rappelling 50 feet” or “using a rappel rope”; such expressions are an unjustifiable extreme of metonymy. Similarly, to talk of “abseiling” (or even less accurately, “abzeiling”) is to introduce into our language an unnecessary word of teutonic extraction with an English ending. Let us, therefore, talk about “roping down”; with the use of a spare rope or line, before our climbing vocabulary is further permanently disfigured by foreign importations.

Rope or Line.—For ordinary climbs, where no roping down is expected and where the route is well known, a spare rope may be superfluous, but if a glacier is to be crossed a second rope is a very pleasant thing to have.

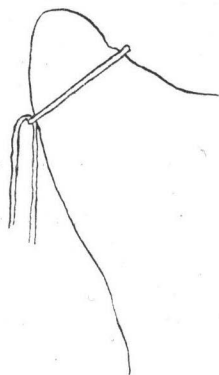
Where the climb may involve the party in unknown difficulties a spare rope is essential. The lighter line is sufficient, and I suggest that it is scarcely worth carrying a length of less than 120 feet. A plan which I have proved to be satisfactory in practice is to climb on a double 200-foot line. True, it needs rather more attention when moving together on rock, but it is most useful on a glacier, as a little thought will show, and it provides an adequate length for roping down although it will necessitate the last man descending unroped.

Practice—as usual makes perfect. A party that intends to do good climbs together should have a routine for roping down, *e.g.*, when the first man has reached the stance he should look round for the next belay and, while the last man is pulling down the rope, he should be placing the next rope loop. I have seen two parties of two leave the top of a fairly easy rock peak, the one immediately after the other, roping down the whole way. The first party reached the foot of the rocks in twenty minutes, while the second party (British, unfortunately) took one hour and forty minutes, because of slovenly rope work and time wasted between pitches.

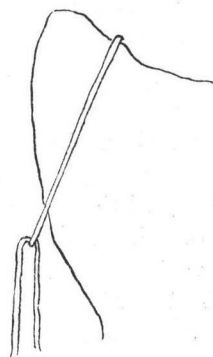
Placing the Rope.—Obviously it is unwise to rope down an unclimbable pitch unless one can see an escape below. If such a course is adopted, the party will do well to leave the double rope hanging so as to facilitate their retreat (here the Prussik knot will prove useful) until they have made sure that the descent can be completed by that route.

It is almost always unwise to put the double rope directly round a rock belay, partly because that weakens the strength of the rope and partly because, unless Nature has been very kind, the rope will jamb when it is being pulled off. If it does not jamb it will almost inevitably be worn by friction. In addition, the use of rope loops gives extra elasticity and extra strength besides reducing friction. If a simple rock belay is used, all sharp edges over which the rope will run must be broken smooth. A handkerchief or newspaper may be placed so as to protect the rope; but it is always better to use a rope

loop. Line is sufficiently strong for a loop, and stays on the belay better than rope. As most people do not like cutting a nice length it is advisable to carry a spare length for use as loops. Whether it is made of line or rope a loop should go twice round the belay, as this reduces the likelihood of its slipping off and makes the double rope more easily pulled down. After cutting off a suitable length the loop should be made using the fisherman's knot. Then the loop is placed round the belay double, taking care that both coils are of equal length. The knot should be below the belay. It must be remembered that the pull on the loop will come from



WRONG.



RIGHT.

FIG. 1.

almost directly below, in most cases, and the loops should be placed accordingly and should be big enough (Fig. 1). Then the double rope should be threaded through the double loop and thrown down, taking care that it does not catch. It is very useful to have the centre of the rope marked with a sewn-in thread. Next, see that the double rope reaches the next stance, and if it passes over any sharp edges, these should be broken smooth or something should be put in to protect the rope. It often happens, especially when roping down slabs, that the climber will swing away to the side, out of reach of his next stance, and if there is any chance of this, pitons should be placed to check the swing of the rope.

Descending on the Rope.—Never trust to your arms alone, however short the pitch to be roped down. There are numerous methods of winding the rope round oneself when roping down. The method that I have found best from the point of view of safety and comfort is to pass the rope between one's legs from the front, under the right thigh and round across one's chest and over the left shoulder and down one's back, holding the loose ropes with the right hand below one's thigh. The left hand holds the double rope at eye level, and if one wishes to stop, one simply pulls downwards and forwards with the right hand. To reduce the friction, bring the right hand upwards and backwards. One must, of course, practise this with the rope under either thigh as sometimes the rock necessitates one position or the other. While this is probably the best method, the "genevoise" method has much to recommend it. It is undoubtedly not so safe, but if it has been well practised it is nearly as secure as the method described above, and is very much quicker. I suggest that all but the last man might rope down "à la genevoise," and the last man, presuming the party to be roped, should use the safer method. The "genevoise" method is as follows: Pass the double rope under the right thigh from the front, and lead it over the right forearm, about the elbow, from inside. To descend, hold the double rope with both hands, the left uppermost, and sit on the rope, holding the body out from the rocks, with stiff legs, as horizontally as possible. With slow and regular movements slide down the rope, easing the rope with the right elbow. To slow down press the right elbow against the body and grip the double rope with both hands.

In all methods of roping down one must make as much use as possible of footholds, and must keep one's speed well under control. When roping down over an overhang one spins round in an alarming manner, which is rather fun.

Pulling down the Rope.—This is the true "rappel." The longer the distance roped down the greater the difficulty in pulling down the rope because of its elasticity

and the increased friction. First make sure that the two strands are not twisted—not always an easy matter. Then pull on one of the ends; which one depends on the configuration of the rock, but usually the inner one is the better. If nothing happens, jerk the other end, making waves travel up the rope, and pull on the inner rope as each wave reaches the rope loop. If nothing happens, try the reverse process. The last chance, short of climbing up, is to send waves up both ropes together in an attempt to jump the loop off the belay. But normally the rope will come at once, and should be pulled smoothly until the end is just coming out of the loop, when you should give a sharp pull, otherwise the short end is very apt to wind itself round the end on which you are pulling. Look out for stones which the rope may bring down. One thing worth mentioning is that if your rope jams when it is nearly pulled down you should cut it off as high as possible, otherwise a party climbing up that way might take it for a fixed rope with sad results.

Short Descents on the Climbing Rope.—Without untying, the last man may often find the climbing rope useful to help his descent, but this should not be done except on very short pitches. The obvious things to take care of here are that the rope is firmly fixed but that it will not jamb, and that the last man has enough rope for his manoeuvre.

Metal Rings are often useful. Firstly, they reduce friction between the double rope and the rope ring; this is important when a very long pitch has to be roped down. Here the rope loop (double) and the rope are each threaded through the ring. Secondly, they may be used to allow the last man to be safeguarded from above while he ropes down. For this a double ring, a figure of eight, should be used, the lower eye carrying the double rope, and the upper the climbing rope and the rope loop. Two plain rings can be used instead of a double ring. This procedure should seldom be necessary. Thirdly, one can devise ingenious methods for roping down on a single rope with the aid of a ring and a light cord. For example, attach the end of the rope and of

a cord to a ring, and thread the rope through the rope loop and back through the ring, making a running noose. When you have roped down pull the cord and the ring down and loosen the rope. In practice this usually doesn't work, for the ring and rope jam too tightly, but if two rings are used it works better: the rope and cord are fixed as before, but there is a smaller ring threaded on the rope loop and the rope is passed through this. This small ring does not allow the larger ring to pass through and jam. This method is genuinely useful in emergencies and should be practised. The only snag is that in an emergency one is unlikely to have a suitable length of light cord. It might be added that the metal rings must be strong (karabiner will do), and that it is not so easy to rope down on a single as on a double rope.

On Snow and Ice.—Sometimes, but not often, one can advantageously rope down over snow and ice. Where there is an overhang, as on a bergschrund, the technique is the same as on rock except that a piton is used as a belay. On steep snow or ice, when there is not time to cut steps all the way, the party can rope down from a piton to the end of the rope where a large step is cut and the process repeated. Only experience can teach how to fix an ice piton, so I will not deal with that here. One ingenious idea was suggested to me by a Chamonix guide. You make a large loose socket for the ice piton and rope down steadily to an ice step or other stance on a single rope. Then with a flick of the rope the piton is jerked out and used again, thus saving pitons and doubling the effective length of your rope. I have tried this—but only in a very safe place—and it worked, but the piton had to be placed very carefully or else it came out prematurely. In general, when roping down on ice, a modification of the "genevoise" method is good and crampons help. Ice belays can be used instead of pitons but take at least fifteen minutes to cut, and often break off just as they are finished. I cannot seriously suggest that to rope down snow and ice slopes is good practice, but it may be a useful trick to have up your sleeve.

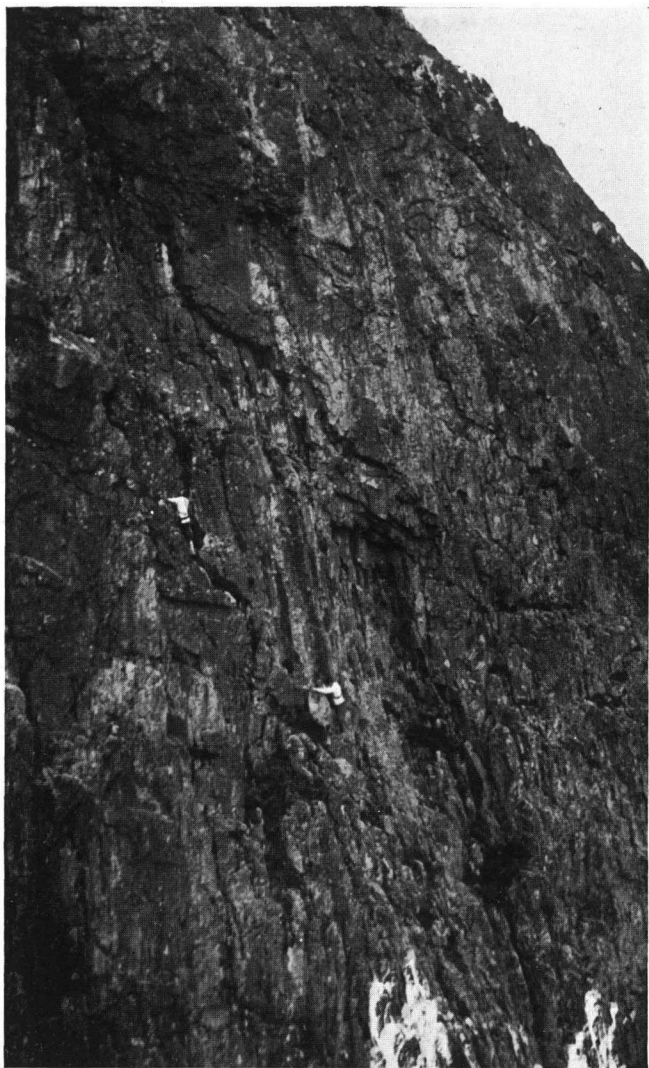
RANNOCH WALL.

By G. C. WILLIAMS.

THIS climb lies on the great east wall of the Crowberry Ridge, overlooking the Curved Ridge, with the Easy Gully between. The easiest and quickest approach to the start of the route follows the Curved Ridge as far as the long, nearly level section about half-way up, whence one is able to walk into the Easy Gully. About 20 yards further up the gully, an open chimney, on the upward side of a rib of rock and to the right of a smooth wall, constitutes the commencement of the climb.

A short ascent leads to the foot of the chimney, which is climbed for 35 feet to its top, and a further climb of 20 feet, trending right, brings one to a fairly large grass ledge with a corner on the right (belay). From the corner the face on the right is reached and climbed direct, on slabby rock, to a platform at 45 feet. A satisfactory belay will be found on the wall above. The route now follows a steeply sloping shelf which leads upward and to the left for 50 feet, ending just below a sloping rock ledge or slab, at the foot of a perpendicular 15-foot wall. (In the first picture the leader is seen half-way up the shelf.) There is a good belay on this wall, a few feet above the slab, to which the second may tie on whilst his leader negotiates the next pitch. This is the crux of the climb and begins with the ascent of the wall. In order to effect lodgment on the wall, it appears to be necessary to take off from a small stance a few feet up the corner on the left, from which the top of the wall is reached by balance climbing on poor holds. (In the second picture the second is seen on this point.) The pitch continues up a steep shallow groove which higher up develops into a chimney, giving exit on to a large sloping rock ledge. A short ascent leads to the crest of the ridge, and the finish of the climb, about 100 feet from the belay.

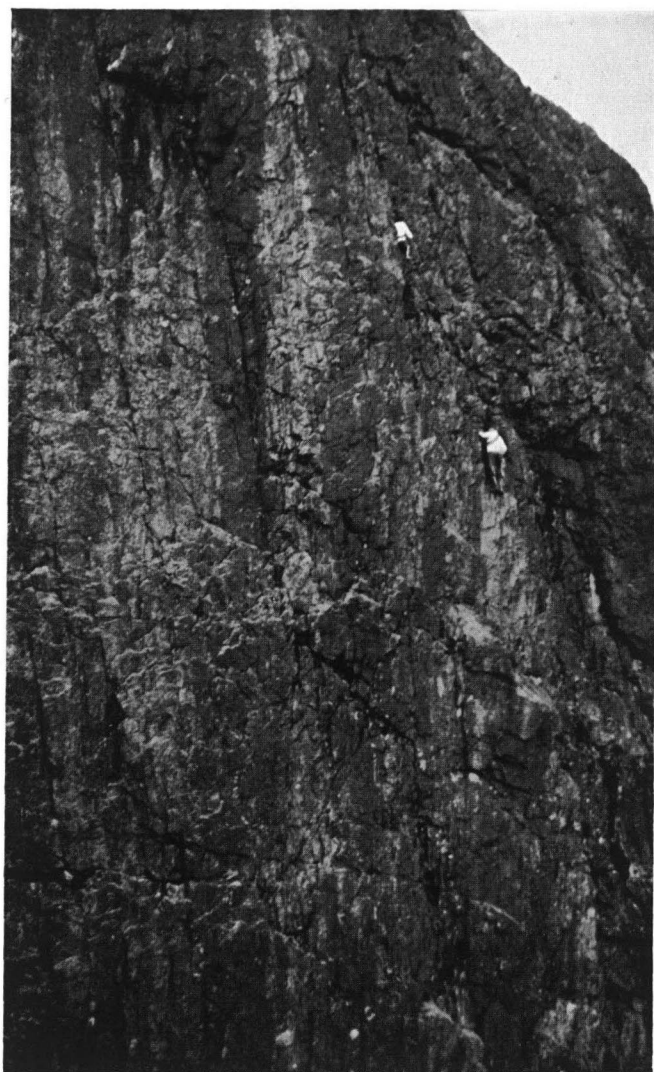
This last pitch may be bisected by using a rather



May 1933

Geoffrey Todd

RANNOCH WALL FROM THE CURVED RIDGE
(First picture)



May 1933

RANNOCH WALL
(Second picture)

Geoffrey Todd

unsatisfactory belay some distance up the groove, but it is preferable (or was, at least to the writer) to take the pitch in one run out.

The lower section of the climb is rather loose in parts, but the upper section, though very steep, appears to be quite sound. The whole route is exposed and sensational, and offers some splendid situations.

Classification: Severe.

THE MYSTERY OF THE TOWER RIDGE.

A PLEASANT fug filled the Hut, the stove glowed merrily and cast little leaping bursts of light upon the four pairs of boots gathered snugly round its base, whilst a kettle and four large curling-stone hot bottles sitting on top suggested that the occupants were taking no risks of being cold. Outside a silvery moon shone coldly down on the cliffs and snow which glittered and scintillated in the grip of a biting frost. From the Allt à Mhuilinn came little furtive cracks as the water strained against the clutching sheets of ice.

It was New Year's Eve and the four occupants of the Hut, having spent the day in a long and strenuous ascent of No. 2 Gully involving much step-cutting and consequent cold feet in the sunless depths of the cliffs, were pleasantly drowsy after a magnificent dinner carried up with much labour. There now remained nothing to do but to fill the bottles, open a crack of window, and tumble between the blankets for a blissful slumber in preparation for what promised to be a glorious morrow. Reluctantly the last cigarette end was thrown into the stove, the bottles were filled, and before long deep breathing alone broke the stillness of the Hut. Outside the moon shone coldly on the frost-bound world.

I awoke with cold sweat pouring off my brow. The moon was still shining, but now it leered in at the Hut window, and the frost seemed to have stilled even the Allt à Mhuilinn. It wasn't the moon that had awakened me, it was something else which had left a vague feeling of fear behind. Suddenly it came again, a soft low moan gradually rising in tone till it became a shriek and then fading into a bubbling gurgle of despair; and it didn't come from near by, but from away above in the cliffs where no human being had any right to be at that time of night. My blood turned to water and my courage

faded away to nothing. I pretended it was imagination and that I had really heard nothing, turned over and closed my eyes, but I knew deep down that it was not so, and I scarcely breathed waiting for it to come again. Silence reigned, then it came—penetrating, despairing, nerve-shattering. I leapt out of my bunk, threw on some clothes, pulled open the inside door and fumbled with the key in the big outside door. As it opened I was met with that heart-rending wail: it echoed round the cliffs, quietened, and then re-echoed off Càrn Mòr Dearg until the whole amphitheatre seemed filled with shrieking voices, so that the ensuing silence was like the grave. Then I saw a sight which made me gasp. Half-way up the Tower Ridge was a light; it shone clear and bright against the ink shadows on the rocks and looked yellow and warm compared with the cold silver moonshine, and the light was moving, some one was climbing the Tower Ridge with a lantern. And as I watched, that soul-destroying wail commenced again; it rose in fiendish crescendo and faded down to a deep resonant rumble, so deep that I felt the ground beneath my feet shiver and shake in unison with it. The light was swinging from side to side now, as though the midnight climber had struck an unclimbable pitch, then it steadied and commenced to move slowly upwards; I could almost feel the fingers groping over the icy rocks for a hold. For an age that slow upward movement went on, then suddenly the light commenced to hurtle downwards and at the same minute that blood-curdling yell burst forth in full volume. Down the light shot, and as it rebounded off the rock there came a series of ever-increasing crashes. Finally, with a terrific detonation, it disappeared into the rocks at the foot of the ridge. The impact seemed to shake the whole hill, a violent shiver ran through the ground and, to my horror, I saw the North-East Buttress move. A great gaping crack appeared in the black silhouette and then with a roar the whole ridge crashed into Coire Leis, blocks of stone as big as houses ground and smashed into each other, and the night was made hideous with the rending groans of the tortured rock.

filled with azaleas, and in the season was a joy to behold—a gorgeous blaze of colour.

In addition to mountaineering, Mr Drummond had many other interests in his useful life. He was senior director of the old-established firm of Wm. Drummond & Sons Ltd., a director of the Drummond Tract Society, Superintendent of a Sunday School at Cambusbarron for fully half a century, a Justice of the Peace for Stirlingshire, a member of the School Board, a Fellow of the Linnæan Society, and of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, among others.

Only a day before he died the writer received from him a pencilled letter saying: "You may be surprised to hear that my old heart is unable to fulfil its normal functions, and I am writing on my back. I am fastened to my bed or easy chair, while others have to fetch and carry for me. I am free from pain and have every comfort. I have had a long life full of happiness and blessing." Good man! we shall never see his like again.

W. W. N.

ARCHIBALD GRAHAM WAVEL.

ALTHOUGH it is now some years since Wavel took any active part in the Club's proceedings, it would seem fitting that a few references should be made to the loss which the Club has sustained by the death of its oldest Honorary Member, in his 92nd year. It was when Colonel in command of the Black Watch, stationed in Glasgow, that in 1894 he became an Ordinary Member; and was elected in 1921 an Honorary Member. To many, therefore, of the more recently elected Members he will be but little known. He was never a very active Member, in the sense in which activity is now regarded, where the merit of a mountain rests more in the obstacles it presents for successful negotiation than in the pleasure realised by the climber in reaching the summit by more accessible routes, although, perhaps, not so meritorious. But Wavel, from the interest he took in the Club in

possibly less strenuous ways, was not unmindful of the skill, courage, and endurance that modern mountaineering connotes, attributes which, as one who had seen much active military service, he could well appreciate. It was, however, in a letter addressed to the President, and read by him at the last Annual Dinner, that he showed his continued interest in the welfare of the Club, by regretting that it was advancing years alone that prevented him from being present.

Perhaps the writer may be pardoned for recalling an amusing incident, savouring so little of modern mountaineering exploits, in which Wavel and his two companions, James Maclay and the writer, took part. It was thirty-eight years ago, at one of those early New Year Meets, when the Club met at Loch Awe Hotel. "Is there anywhere in the Highlands a more comfortable hotel than the Loch Awe, and a more attentive host than Mr Fraser?" So wrote a past president of the Club in 1897, when describing this particular Meet. And may not the present writer quote the same words in expression of the same sentiments in describing the experiences of the last Club Meet, in January 1934, under the equally "attentive host," Mr Currie? But to continue my story. It was a bitterly cold winter morning when the trio set off to climb (or should not one more correctly say, walk up?) to the summit of Ben Cruachan. It was no warmer on the top, and Wavel expressed his regret in not having a brandy flask with him. Strangely enough, the only member of the trio who happened to possess this receptacle with its stimulating contents was Maclay, who, it was known, was a staunch teetotaller; needless to say, Wavel—and the writer also—gratefully accepted the kind offer of the possessor. It was so comforting—that seems the best attribute to accord it—and so peculiarly agreeable to the taste, that we were forced to question the owner how it was that he came to possess such a particularly "spirited" beverage. His excuse for being so equipped, considering the nature of his principles which imply the rigid prohibition against the consumption of spirituous liquors, was the insistence of his brother that he should

be properly provided for all unforeseen emergencies. As an explanation of the pleasant odour of the mixture—for such it proved to be—and the equally very agreeable taste it afforded was due to the addition of Chartreuse to the brandy. Needless to say, the effect on the consumers was all that could be desired. And as the owner showed no signs of “emergency” symptoms, there seemed little need of his being likely to require any of the revivifying cordial. Under these pleasing prospects it would be more in keeping with his principles that in returning the flask it should be empty. In this condition, therefore, it was most gratefully handed back to its owner! This little episode with its associations led for some time to this mixture of brandy and Chartreuse being described as the Club’s “Temperance Drink.” Times have much changed since those early days; and it is doubtful whether one man in twenty ever carries now brandy or whisky on a Scottish expedition.

Pax Vobiscum, old comrade, a brave soldier, a lover of the hills, and a good companion.

A. E. M.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

NEW YEAR MEET, 1935—KILLIN.

THE following members and guests were present at one time or another :—

Members.—The President, J. Logan Aikman, Tom Aitken, F. D. Campbell Allen, J. Rooke Corbett, A. L. Cram, C. D. Crosthwaite, James Dawson, Arthur Dixon, P. Donald, R. R. Elton, A. Geddes, G. T. Glover, Alex. Harrison, Norman L. Hird, D. R. A. Hotchkis, K. K. Hunter, J. Gall Inglis, R. M. Gall Inglis, J. S. M. Jack, Robert Jeffrey, D. J. Kellock, W. N. Ling, J. Y. Macdonald, J. G. MacLean, W. Ross MacLean, H. MacRobert, M. Matheson, J. Bento Miller, R. W. B. Morris, Ian H. Ogilvie, J. Neil Orr, J. A. Parker, C. W. Parry, John Roberts, A. E. Robertson, J. Gordon Robinson, T. G. Robinson, W. F. Rodger, R. N. Rutherford, R. M. Scott, W. B. Speirs, C. R. Steven, E. C. Thomson, J. C. Thomson, T. Evershed Thomson, H. W. Turnbull, E. A. L. Wedderburn—(48).

Guests.—A. F. Falkingham, George Peat, Colin Russell, F. Oakes Smith, G. Pointon Taylor—(5). A total of 53.

Seven members arrived on the opening day, 28th December, six of whom were staying in the Hotel. Ogilvie, however, preferred the great open spaces and camped in his car, contemptuous alike of the Scottish winter and his creature comforts. Three arrivals by the early train on the following morning enabled two parties of respectable size to take to the hills.

Saturday, 29th December.—Ling, Glover, Allen, and Taylor opened the Meet with a motor ride which helped them to do Lawers, Meall Garbh, and Beinn Ghlas. They appear to have done Lawers twice, at least each of them impressed this fact upon the historian. Crosthwaite, who arrived in the afternoon, also did Beinn Ghlas.

Donald, Turnbull, Ross MacLean, Parry, and Ogilvie did the Tarmachan ridge, Donald and Ogilvie sacrificing one of their lunches to bag Creag na Caillich as well. Jack walked from Balquhiddier over the ridge and several moors, "sounding" with his axe for bogs.

E. C. Thomson and Aikman did Ben Vorlich from Glen Ogle, and Matheson and Kellock ascended Beinn Ghlas and Lawers. Steven and his brother stuck in the Black Shoot of Beinn Eunaich just below the last pitch *en route* to the Meet. Corbett ascended a hill above Loch Voil from Strathyre to which, funnily enough, he was unable to put a name. Investigation appeared to show that it was the newly named hill referred to at a previous Meet (see p. 48 of the present volume).

The weather on this day was quite fair with considerable mist above 2,500 feet. The only snow to be seen occurred in small patches and drifts and was quite useless for climbing purposes.

Sunday, 30th December.—Glover, MacRobert, Ling, Jack, Campbell Allen, and Taylor crossed all the tops of Tarmachan.

Parry and Rooke Corbett went about 5 miles up Glen Lochay, encountering J. C. Thomson on the road and Parker in a shed. In this they were luckier than the President who went to the Bridge of Lochay Hotel to find Parker, only to be told that he had gone out with a sandwich.

Harrison went up the main top of Tarmachan, while Roberts and Matheson did all the tops of Tarmachan.

Kellock left for Tarmachan with four J.M.C.S. members, and Stevens left for Meall Ghaordie.

E. C. Thomson, Elton, and Dixon ascended Sgiath Chùil and Meall a' Churain.

Aikman and Hotchkis were up Meall Greigh, Meall Garbh, and An Stùc, returning by the Loch.

T. G. Robinson and Rutherford ascended Meall Ghaordie, and Donald and Ross MacLean ascended Creag Mhòr.

Turnbull, Evershed Thomson, Ogilvie, Geddes, and Cram were also on Creag Mhòr and met with adventure.

Apparently Geddes departed on his own to look for an ice-axe lost on a previous occasion, whereupon the rest of the party, deciding that he was lost, divided themselves into search parties and got lost themselves, returning home in dribblets. All were accounted for at dinner, Turnbull and Ogilvie having descended first and the others having gone over Heasgarnich. Orr was also up Heasgarnich.

Jack MacLean, Crosthwaite, Aitken, and Rodger crossed Heasgarnich and Creag Mhòr, exchanging cars with the other Creag Mhòr party for the return by road.

The weather was very wet, more so about Glen Lochay than on Lawers and Tarmachan. There were thirty-two for dinner on Sunday evening.

Monday, 31st December.—J. C. Thomson walked to the Lochan na Làirige.

MacRobert, Jack, Harrison, Elton, Matheson, Parry, and Hotchkis ascended Heasgarnich.

Corbett accounted for the following imposing collection—Tarmachan, Meall Garbh, Beinn nan Eachan, Creag na Caillich, Beinn a' Bhuic, and Meall Dhùin Croisg.

Donald, Ross MacLean, Dixon, and E. C. Thomson ascended Stuchd an Lochain. In the course of a few words with a gamekeeper, Donald is reported to have used the words, "Gentlemen do no harm," to which the reply is given as, "Neither do you"—a tribute to the S.M.C. if not particularly to the party in question.

Crosthwaite and Rodger motored to Lochan na Làirige, crossed all the tops of Tarmachan, and returned to Killin, their car being brought back by Aikman and Tom Robinson, who did the same trip in the reverse direction. Some inconvenience was caused by a certain gentleman departing with the key of one of the cars!

Ling, Glover, Campbell Allen, and Taylor ascended Meall a' Choire Léith and Corranaich, and Turnbull, Evershed Thomson, and Roberts did Beinn Ghlas, Lawers, and Corranaich with Cram and Ogilvie.

Orr was up Creag Mhòr.

Morris and Russell did Cairn Mhòr.

Hunter did the two main tops of Tarmachan.

Jack MacLean put in a day's work in Glasgow and returned to the Meet in the evening.

Geddes got a lift to the Lochan na Làirige and walked home.

Undoubtedly the feature of to-day, if not of the whole Meet, was the arrival of Robertson—in a kilt. The tartan, appropriately enough for such a well-known conqueror of peaks, was the Hunting Robertson. There were thirty-three to dinner on Saturday evening. The weather by this time had settled down to the sort of typical storm which we have come to expect of New Year Meets. There was much rain on the hills with very high winds.

Tuesday, 1st January.—Robertson and Hotchkis climbed Creag na Caillich. Fine but damp was the description of the expedition.

Crosthwaite, Jack MacLean, Aitken, and Rodger motored to Glencoe and climbed Stob Coire nam Beith. They started late and did not finish an unidentified gully but traversed out on to screes and so completed the ascent.

Hird and Jeffrey traversed Tarmachan from Loch an Làirige to Craig na Caillich.

Jack, MacRobert, and Harrison did Lawers and Beinn Ghlas down to the road junction and walked home, finding the road somewhat hard.

R. M. Gall Inglis and Peat climbed Lawers, Creag an Fhithich, An Stùc, Meall Garbh, and Meall Greigh.

Elton, Evershed Thomson, E. C. Thomson, Morris, Dixon, and Russell motored to Invervar and climbed Creag Mhòr, Meall Liath, Càrn Mairg, and Meall a' Bhàrr.

K. K. Hunter, J. Y. Macdonald, Turnbull, and Scott climbed Creag Mhòr by the Sròn nan Eun ridge at great speed.

Corbett did Creag nam Bodach and Sgiath Bhuidhe.

Ling, Campbell Allen, and Taylor ascended Creag Mhòr, walking back to Killin.

Wednesday, 2nd January.—Turnbull, Dixon, and

Scott ascended Meall Ghaordie, returning by Meall na Cnap-Iaraich, where they were entertained by a triple "glory." As usual, those who were able to remain till the end of the Meet enjoyed the best weather.

Jack MacLean and Rodger lunched at the Ski Club Hut (first-footers evidently), and later went on to Meall Corranaich. A faint triple "glory" was seen from the summit. There was quite a lot of sunshine through the mist.

J. Gall Inglis and Hunter were up Meall Greigh accompanied throughout by Brocken spectres.

Geddes and Crosthwaite climbed Beinn Ghlas, Lawers, and An Stùc. They saw a tremendous triple "glory" and magnificent Brocken spectres with coloured halo.

As usual the Meet was an unqualified success, the attendance being very satisfactory, especially considering the poor climbing conditions. Many good ascents were made, though nothing to compare with Mr Solly's great ascent of Lochnagar at the last Meet. The Killin Hotel made us very comfortable, an especially welcome feature being the quite unusually good supply of hot water available. The new President, in accordance with tradition, refused to have anything to do with speeches but let an enormous box of cigars speak for him, which it did in no uncertain fashion.

C. W. P.

FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Forty-sixth Annual General Meeting was held at the Caledonian Station Hotel, Edinburgh, on Friday, 7th December 1934, at 6 P.M., Mr H. MacRobert in the Chair.

Previous Minute.—The Minute of the last Annual General Meeting was read and approved, subject to the alteration of the charge for oil at the Club Hut from 5d. to 6d. per half pint. The Minute was then signed by the Chairman.

Hon. Treasurer's Report.—The TREASURER stated

that full details of the accounts for the year were contained in the statement sent with the notice calling the meeting. During the year the Revenue had exceeded Expenditure by £46. 4s. 9d., giving a balance in hand at the close of the accounts of £89. 8s. 1d.

On the expenditure side the most noticeable reduction was the saving of £43 on the cost of the *Journal* compared with the previous year.

During the year £693. 10s. 6d. was paid for "Guide Books," and in addition there was an unpaid account at the date of the balance for the Islands printing of £228. 12s. To meet this latter expenditure the bank account had been overdrawn on the instructions of the Committee, and at the date of the Annual Meeting the bank account was overdrawn to the extent of £158.

The balance at the debit of "Guide Book" account was fully covered by the stock of unsold "Guide Books."

Hon. Secretary's Report.—The HON. SECRETARY read his report for the year and stated that during the year we had lost one of our honorary members, Mr R. W. Brant, C.M.G.; two original members, Walter A. Smith and Dr Johnston Macfie, and the following other ordinary members: Rev. J. Fairley Daly, Mr R. R. Russell, Principal Hugh Stewart, and David Wood Inglis. One member had resigned and one lapsed.

Against this 13 new members had been elected, and the membership at the close of the year showed 4 honorary members and 302 ordinary members, including 16 original members, a total of 306.

The Secretary mentioned that instructions had been given by the Committee to purchase two stretchers for use at Glen Brittle and the C.I.C. Hut, and after discussion it was remitted to the Committee to consider the advisability of purchasing a stretcher either for retention at the club-rooms or for Kingshouse.

The meeting expressed its sympathy to Mr Ian Campbell who had recently had an accident, and hopes for his speedy recovery.

Hon. Editor's Report.—In the absence of the HON. EDITOR the HON. SECRETARY read his report for the year.

Details of the cost of the *Journal* are contained in the Abstract Accounts.

The Hon. Editor pointed out that economy had been effected by a reduction in the number of illustration blocks and the curtailment of the number of article pages. Two of the blocks used had been included in last year's account, and one had been received free of charge.

In one year's time Vol. XX. will be completed and the index will require to be printed. The cost of this will fall against Vol. XXI. The General Index for Vols. XI. to XX. will also have to be printed. The work of compiling this index is being done by Mr Robert M. Gall Inglis, to whom grateful thanks are due.

The Hon. Editor stated that but for last-minute articles he would not have been able to bring out the November *Journal*, and he asked all members to do their utmost to provide interesting articles either on new or old climbs.

Hon. Librarian's Report.—The HON. LIBRARIAN, in submitting his report for the year, stated that twenty-seven new slides had been presented during the year, and that the slide collection was in a very fine state and a most useful part of the Club's activities.

Publishers are becoming more regular in presenting copies of books for review, and the collection has been increased during the year by nineteen volumes.

Mr Naismith had presented his collection of mountaineering books to the Club. These number forty-five, and in addition he has presented volumes of the *Alpine Journal* complete from Vol. XV. The Club was specially indebted to Mr Naismith for his generous gift.

The use made of the Library was not in accordance with its value, and was a little disheartening. Two of the books which had been borrowed since 1930 had been recovered, but none of the maps referred to in last year's report.

Referring to the loss of books from the Library, the Librarian stated in reply to a question by Mr Rutherford that Vol. XIII. of the *Journal* which was missing was being replaced by copies of the *Journal* being bound.

General "Guide Book" Editor's Report.—The GENERAL "GUIDE BOOK" EDITOR submitted his statement for the year. The cash value of sales and expenses is contained in the Statement of Account.

During the year two new sections had been published, namely, the Central Highlands and the Islands, which fully maintain the "Guide Book" standard.

The section of the Southern Highlands, edited by Mr J. C. Thomson, was in hand, and it was hoped that it would be published in the spring or summer of 1935.

The Ben Nevis section was out of print, and the new edition was being prepared by Dr G. G. Macphee.

The Skye edition was also nearly out of print and was being brought up to date, and would be republished under the editorship of Messrs J. H. B. Bell and E. A. M. Wedderburn.

Mr JAMES C. THOMSON raised the question of the "Lowlands Guide" which the Committee had decided should not be published, but the interesting parts of which should be included in the "Southern Highlands Guide." After discussion the President suggested that the "Southern Highlands Guide" should be confined to its territory, and that the question of the publication of the "Lowlands Guide" should be left to the Committee. This was agreed to by the meeting.

C.I.C. Memorial Hut.—The CUSTODIAN of the Hut, in submitting his report for the year, informed the meeting that the hut was now reaching the age when furnishings and fittings required renewal. Extensive renewals had been required on the stove, stove pipe, cooking appliances, and footwear. During the year Mr Tom Gibson had unfortunately been ill, but the Club was indebted to Mr Percy Donald and Mr Elton for the work they had done.

The credit balance of the hut had increased by £16. 4s. 9d., and the stock of coal and oil was adequate.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT a vote of thanks was accorded to the various office-bearers, and in particular to the Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, and Messrs Matheson, Speirs, and Elton who had retired from their

office, and also to Mr Percy Donald for his work at the hut.

The following recommendations by the Committee for new office-bearers were unanimously approved :—

President.—Mr Wm. Garden.

Vice-President.—Mr Robert Jeffrey.

Committee.—Messrs J. Y. Macdonald, Donald Mackay, and G. C. Williams.

On the motion of Mr W. N. LING, seconded by Mr J. A. PARKER, the appointments by the Committee of Mr E. A. M. Wedderburn as Librarian, Mr John C. S. Ewen as Assistant Editor, and Mr J. Gordon Robinson as Custodian of the Hut were confirmed, and the other office-bearers, members of Committee, and Trustees of Club funds were also re-elected.

Mr WM. GARDEN gave thanks for the great honour which had been conferred on him in electing him to the office of President.

Club Meets.—On the motion of Mr G. MURRAY LAWSON, seconded by Mr J. A. PARKER, it was decided to hold the Easter 1936 Meet in Skye, and on the motion of Mr PARKER, seconded by Mr J. HARRISON, the alternative Meet was fixed for Aviemore, with the suggestion that if possible the use of Glen More Lodge should be secured.

It was proposed by Mr J. A. SCOTT and seconded by Mr J. GORDON ROBINSON that the New Year Meet, 1936, should be at Dalmally. It was then proposed by Mr RUTHERFURD and seconded by Mr MARSHALL that the Meet should be at Brodick. On a show of hands the selection of Dalmally was carried.

Proposed Alteration of Club Rules.—The PRESIDENT explained that, following on the remit from the last Annual Meeting, the Committee had carefully considered the Club Rules, and their recommendations were embodied in the proposals circulated with the notice calling the meeting and the accompanying memorandum explaining the reason for, and effects of, these alterations. He proposed that the alterations of Rules 13 to 35 should be considered first.

Mr NAISMITH inquired what qualification was now required for admission to the Club, and the SECRETARY stated that, although the Committee did not bind itself to any definite qualification, candidates were informed that at least forty ascents over 3,000 feet were necessary.

There being no further business it was proposed by Mr HENRY ALEXANDER, seconded by Mr G. A. SOLLY, and carried unanimously, that a vote of thanks should be given to Mr MacRobert for his services in the Chair at this meeting and for his work as President of the Club.

ANNUAL DINNER.

THIS was excellently run in the Caledonian Station Hotel and was, as usual, a great success. Here, at least, the recording scribe should be able to let himself go, even though the intoxicating flow of oratory and other things may have become a little blurred since the festive occasion, and we had indeed some notable and delightful speeches.

The President led off with "The King," and then gave us a most thoughtful and humorous speech in proposing "The S.M.C." I always wonder how men of common clay (but are they of common clay?) can treat such a well-worn subject so freshly, but that may be because the Club is a living organism, ever growing and changing, though sure built on sound foundations.

"The Club Song" followed as usual, and Glover (quite forgetting the nervous strain) suggested that it was about time that the singer was word-perfect.

Jack, senior (I think he is entitled to that distinction, which time cannot wipe out), proposed "Kindred Clubs," and we sat back to listen to a reply by the representative of the Alpine Club, Sir Claud Schuster, which will long be remembered as one of the most able and delightful in a succession of "Replies," and a strong plea for skiing as an adjunct to mountaineering.

George Donald was in great form (that also describes

his build) in proposing "The Guests," which was replied to in a delightful speech by Mr C. N. Fraser of the Scottish Ski Club. He seemed to be doubtful of his appropriateness at a Mountaineering Dinner, but was reassured by the presence of our President, who is also Vice-President of the Scottish Ski Club, and by the speech of Sir Claud Schuster.

Wm. Garden, President-Elect, gave the toast of "The President" in a speech which rang true to the hearts of us all, referring not only to his ability as a climber, but to the esteem and affection with which he is regarded as a man.

I have no idea how many guests and members attended, and some of us may have been uncertain at the end of the dinner whether there were not more present then than at the beginning, but we were delighted to see an unusually good turn out of "originals" and older members, and we only wish that more of the younger members could attend and give us an opportunity of getting to know them. Could we not stand each new member one free dinner (excluding wines), as some societies do?

J. S. M. J.

RECEPTION.

THIS was held in the Albyn Rooms, and, judging by the crush, there were at least 1,000 people present; accommodation rather less like "Lang's Congregation of the Upright," at the height of the luncheon rush, might be desirable for this usually delightful function.

The President and his Better-Half (is it possible that there is one?) received the guests in their usual gracious fashion, and, we trust, managed to snatch a cup of tea before the display of slides showing "Twelve of the Best Scottish Climbs," most efficiently chosen and described by Stuart Cumming, to whom we owe our best thanks.

J. S. M. J.

LIBRARY REPORT.

THE Librarian has pleasure in reporting a very generous gift to the Library by Mr W. W. Naismith of more than forty books.

As a result of Mr Naismith's kindness the Librarian has a few duplicate volumes for sale at highly competitive prices. These are advertised at the end of the *Journal*. Any money raised by the sale of these books will be devoted to the purchase of new books, and in this connection members are reminded that a Suggestion Book is kept in the Library. The Hon. Secretary has presented a copy of the Eighth Edition of Black's "Scottish Tourist" and also "Rambles in Alpine Valleys," by J. W. Tutt. The Mountaineering Section of the Camping Club of Great Britain and Ireland have presented their "Guide to the Climbs at Harrison Rocks," and the Librarian, Sir Claud Schuster's "Men, Women and Mountains."

The following, all presented by their publishers, have been added to the Library:—

- "Alpine Pilgrimage," by Julius Kugy. John Murray.
- "Himalayan Wander," by Brig.-Gen. Bruce. Maclehose.
- "A Description of the Western Isles, etc.," Eneas Mackay.
- "Turkestan Solo," by Ella K. Maillart. Putnam.
- "Pour Miss Cynthia," by Charles Gos. Victor Attinger.
- "Dernières Victoires au Cervin," by G. Mazzotti. Victor Attinger.
- "In Your Stride," by A. B. Austin. Country Life.
- "Romance of Exploration and First Aid." Burroughs Welcome & Co.
- "Romance of Mountaineering," by R. L. J. Irving. Dent.
- Mountaineering Journal*, edited by C. K. Brunning. Willmer Bros.

The following books have been purchased:—

- "Peaks, Passes and Glaciers," 1st and 2nd Series (3 Vols.).
- "Early Travellers in the Alps," by G. R. de Beer.

The Librarian has also received the publications of the following Clubs: Alpine Club, Alpine Ski Club, Belgian Alpine Club, Camping Club of Great Britain

and Ireland, French A.C., Italian A.C., Swiss A.C., A.A.C. Bern, Ski Club of Great Britain, Appalachian Mountain Club, Canadian A.C., Swiss Ladies A.C., and Mountain Club of South Africa.

During the past twelve months only seventeen members have borrowed books out of the Library. The Librarian is always happy to post books to members who are unable to visit the Club Rooms.

E. A. M. W.

BEN NEVIS GUIDE

G. GRAHAM MACPHEE would be glad to receive any accounts of climbing on Ben Nevis. Whether the climb is of considerable merit or quite unimportant is immaterial as it is desired to have as complete a record as possible. Would anybody who has any information whatsoever to give, please send full particulars to the Editor, "Ben Nevis Guide," 68 Knowsley Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool, as soon as possible ?

REVIEWS.

Mountaineering. (Lonsdale Library.) Edited by Sydney Spencer. 1934. Seeley, Service & Co. 21s.

This is the latest work dealing with the history, science, and art of Mountaineering, and it will probably be treated as a standard for years to come.

It is profusely illustrated with 130 views and 9 maps. The book is written by twenty-one Alpine Club members, each of whom is an expert in his particular branch of the subject. The half of the book is a compendium of all the great mountain ranges of the world and their climbing history, most of them covered with perpetual snow. It is with some surprise that we find no mention whatever of Whymper, and that the credit for the first ascent of the Matterhorn is given to Hudson! Our own pet mountains are, of course, comparatively low, and consequently Scotland is polished off in a page and a half. The work would have been more complete if mention had been made of rock-climbing centres like Arrochar, Dalmally, Ardgour, Kinlochewe, Lochinver, and Lochnagar, and the splendid ground for ski-ing such as is found on both sides of the Highland Railway near Dalwhinnie.

The technical chapters embody the latest ideas about belays, knots, pitons, karabiners, and descents *en rappel*. In the old days Alpine ice slopes were attacked by climbers armed only with hob-nailed boots and ice-axes, but now crampons are the vogue, and pitons are occasionally used on steep glacier ice!

On p. 126 a man without an axe is properly advised to descend backwards facing the slope, "but in no other circumstances should a man face inwards when descending ice or snow, unless the slope approaches the perpendicular." As it stands this statement is surely most misleading. A climber may go gaily down a slope of good snow facing outwards and digging in his heels, but *ice* is a different proposition, and on an ice-slope of 50° or 60° a man without crampons would need large steps, and would be none the worse of notches for his hands.

No instructions are given how to stop a fall on a steep snow slope, although it is very desirable that beginners should practise on a safe place the best method of arresting a fall, so that they may know instinctively what to do if the unexpected should happen.

The chapter on "Rock Climbing" contains some rather crude diagrams, but these make the meaning clear. Most of the photographs are excellent, particularly those of Alpina flora and Mr G. F. Abraham's views of British climbs, also the sketch of "Cutting Steps Downhill" on the jacket cover of the book.

The Scottish Mountaineering Club's Guides: The Islands of Scotland and The Central Highlands.

I have been asked to review these two volumes of our Guide, and I suppose that I had better try to do so; but I am doubtful whether a club ought to print in its own journal reviews of its own publications, especially when they are written by members. Be that as it may, for self-protection I propose to be anonymous; for otherwise, if I do not blow the club trumpet with sufficient force, I should know all about it later on.

Kingshouse, the best situated hotel in Britain, naturally constitutes the frontispiece of the Central Highlands; and the photograph by the General Editor is worthy of the occasion. In fact, the illustrations as a whole are so good that they tend to make one forget that Scottish hills, relying so largely as they do on colour effect, which, apart from the lochs, is their chief characteristic, are particularly difficult to photograph; and that normal weather conditions do not help. Consequently the editors must have had to choose from a far smaller number of passable pictures than they would, say, if they had been dealing with a book on the Alps; and it is quite surprising that they have been able to collect so many appropriate photographs of really good quality.

I purposely use the word 'appropriate,' because a photograph, besides being good, should serve a useful purpose in illustrating the text; and should pull its own weight, with the text, in conveying what the author means to the mind's eye of the reader. To assemble a series of pretty pictures is one thing, but to secure a set of really high-class photographs, each dealing with a different item from a long list of given subjects, is quite another proposition. Good pictures, in themselves, do not constitute illustrations; but these two volumes are well illustrated in the full sense of the term, illustrations being inserted where required, but avoided where they would fail to elucidate. Moreover, the reproduction has been good; and, in judging this, one must remember that pure white margins, though presumably inevitable, are none too flattering to snow.

To sum up the photographs, it is sufficient to say that they smell or taste of the hills, or however you may like to express it—in fact they give you the impression that you are looking at the real thing, and that you are mentally situated where you would best like to be. Further, they show a due sprinkling of people in the act of climbing—an attribute too often absent from pictures illustrating mountaineering literature.

The maps are also O.K., and very much so; even if they do send some readers to their oculists for stronger glasses. John Bartholomew & Son are again one up on the O.S. with its alternative schemes of unduly close contours or hatching to make it more difficult, and its propensity for parish boundaries disguised as those footpaths it omits to delineate. Being tired of wandering along these boundary

lines and trying to persuade myself that I am following a non-existent track, I rejoice when I see a map with clearly defined paths and layers; and they are clearly defined, in spite of the small scale it has been necessary to use. Moreover, the setting out of each map to the extremity of a blank page, so that all of it can be examined simultaneously with the text, as well as the rounded corners to the books, indicates some brainwork on the part of the General Editor.

And now for the text, which, after all, is the principal thing, pictures and maps merely giving spit and polish. In the Islands Guide the President has secured for his own purposes the fat of the land; and though he has started off with a rather highly coloured description of the beauties of Arran, he has done his work so well that Messrs Naismith and Parker may justly feel satisfied in having managed to dish up the lean in a style which makes it a fitting rival. They have correctly assumed that people who leave the mainland, and yet go neither to Skye nor Arran, are not solely in search of pure acrobatics; but by giving them information which is perhaps on the wrong side of the border line of their terms of reference, and by throwing in a trip to Rockall, they have avoided what might otherwise have been a somewhat meagre and dull description, and produced one which is full of interest, and which will be specially appreciated by those satisfied with the limited climbing these other islands appear to afford.

There is, however, just one small point where the Islands guide invites criticism; but that criticism is tempered with the knowledge that if I had had to edit the Guide myself, I would have been trapped in many pitfalls which the editors and authors have succeeded in avoiding. While the practice adopted throughout the Guide of naming parties responsible for first ascents is perfectly correct, certain unnecessary domestic personalities which would have been better omitted have crept into the Inner Hebrides section. They seem to originate from a certain lack of appreciation as to the people for whom the Guide is written. What was recited at Club dinners, who did the reciting, who wrote in the *Journal* what he happened to think of a certain view, and who estimated the height of a somewhat unimportant point by aneroid, may be quite interesting to the friends of the who's; but I doubt whether the Guide has been primarily written for members of the Club, and particulars of this sort are liable to bore the general reader stiff. In fact, I will go so far as to say that as the public have not got convenient access to the *Journal*, certainly not to those volumes which are out of print, it would have been better, not only if the names had been left out, but also if the references had been relegated to the bibliographical appendix and kept entirely clear of the ordinary reading matter, as seems to have been done elsewhere. However, quite apart from this, if an estimated height has to be given, or the character of a view has to be described, or any other casual opinion has to be expressed, it is quite sufficient for the author to state the facts and leave it at that.

I now come to a more debatable point. Small boat sailing and

hill climbing have this in common—hard exercise and long hours; while, with both, the minimum of comfort goes with the maximum of enjoyment. In fact, the pleasures of sailing and of climbing Scottish hills both depend on a desire for getting to your destination in the most difficult, most inconvenient, and wettest manner possible; so there is some probability that there are quite a number of Douglas's, Raeburns, and Rennies, potential or otherwise, both on the Clyde and in the Club. If that holds good, it would not have been a bad thing if the Islands Guide had included a due amount of technical advice as to selecting the best anchorages for getting at the hills—not detailed sailing directions which the reader should quite properly be left to dig out from the Pilots and cruising handbooks, but just enough information to enable him to decide where to bring up for climbing purposes. To say the least, this would have called attention to the possibilities of combining sailing with climbing, possibilities which are almost entirely confined to the west coast of Scotland. Naturally there is the obvious retort that no one wants wet climbing kit sculling about in a small cabin, and that the two things should therefore be practised on separate occasions; but there are so many hills, on the mainland as well as on the islands, within fairly easy reach of the sea, that the information, perhaps in a separate chapter or in an appendix, might not have been out of place. I therefore make the suggestion as a serious one to be considered for future editions—editions which may ultimately have to deal with seaplane anchorages in the lochs, especially the fresh water ones. That, however, can wait until some enthusiast has written "The Seaplane in Mountaineering" for the *Journal*.

It is not so very long ago that a week-end in the Highlands, owing to the complete absence of Sunday evening trains, meant much grinding with a push bike; the only alternative being an early start for the Monday morning train, combined with a late start for work. Motors have changed all this, just as they have simplified the sailing problem, so that sailing and climbing can be more easily mixed: and now one even talks of seaplanes, possibly amphibious, which might bring nearly every Scottish hill within a summer afternoon's saunter from Edinburgh, Glasgow or Aberdeen. With easier access comes greater popularity, and it may not be in the best interests of the Club that too many should be enticed to the hills, nor would the landlords appreciate too large an influx; so that while the Guide may tell them much about their own properties which they did not know before, it may also make them wonder whether the information it broadcasts will not overpopularise Scottish climbing. Personally I do not apprehend much risk in the near future, but things can quite easily be overdone; and none of us would like to see that queueing up for the Napes Needle which is said to take place at Easter imitated at the foot of the Crowberry. Such a possibility, however, cannot be entirely ignored, for no one can prophesy what the next fashionable stunt may be, and the Highlands, expansive as they are, would scarcely

prove equal to coping with a wave of popularity for climbing comparable with the one which is engulfing Munich at the present time.

That one cannot read the Guide without a vision of such effects only shows too clearly how efficiently it has been compiled; and proves that best thanks from all of us, whether climbers or merely casual readers, are due to editors and authors alike, and to all who may have done their bit towards the make up of the Islands and Central Highlands Guides.

The Romance of Mountaineering. By R. L. G. Irving.
Dent. 18s. net.

The scope of this book is so extensive that one is amazed at the completeness of Mr Irving's survey of men and mountains in the short compass of 316 pages. The marvel is not that he may have omitted something one would like to have seen mentioned, but that he has managed to include so much while maintaining a correct perspective.

Few can be more fitted than he to write such a book. His interest in climbing was strong before the present century was born. He has achieved many important climbs, and, like the true mountain-lover that he is, has not scorned to repeat some of them more than once. He has introduced to the mountains many young men destined to become distinguished climbers, notably Mallory, of Everest fame. He is a keen observer of men and their methods, as well as of Nature in all her moods.

The quotations he gives are well selected. Some of them are thrilling. No part of the book is boring. He invests even the hackneyed history of early mountaineering, given in the opening chapters, with an interest which is mainly due to his skilful treatment.

It is not mainly in the mere facts of mountaineering that the discriminating reader will be interested, but in Mr Irving's opinions of these facts. To achieve the detached point of view which Mr Irving displays is no small matter; yet he is not intolerant of other people's attitudes, however much he deplores them. He rightly deplores the increasing tendency to competition in modern climbing, particularly "international" competition. He defines clearly his sane attitude towards the highly specialised mechanised climbing which is associated with such intensive rivalry (and such a heavy death-roll) in some parts of the Continent, where the mere physical element is exalted at the expense of the intellectual. His development of the philosophical aspect of the sport—and he distinguishes some meanings of the word "sport"—leads to some really fine passages. Whether we regard mountaineering as the highest form of self-realisation or merely, as Thouless would have it, as a deflection of

the instinct of pugnacity, Mr Irving's interpretation of the spiritual and religious side should provide food for reflection on the fundamental significance of our pastime, and shows him to be a deep thinker with a well-ordered mind.

The book has forty-one magnificent illustrations. Some of their titles are a trifle whimsical, and necessitate frequent reference to the explanatory notes at the end of the book. But the illustrations *are* magnificent!

G. GRAHAM MACPHEE.

Everest, 1933. By Hugh Rutledge. Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. 25s. net.

The book of the fourth expedition to Mount Everest, under the joint auspices of The Royal Geographical Society and The Alpine Club, which has been eagerly awaited by the mountaineering public, was issued in the autumn of 1934. The main features of the expedition were already familiar through the dispatches appearing in the *Daily Telegraph* and *Glasgow Herald*, condensed articles in the *Alpine Journal* and other mountaineering periodicals, and public lectures by members of the Expedition. Nevertheless, these did not rob the book in any way of its graphic and absorbing interest. Approximately two-thirds of the book is devoted to the narrative of the Expedition, written by the leader, but including a graphic account of Frank Smythe's attempt on the summit, given by himself. In the remaining third of the volume, different members of the Expedition discuss in fuller detail the various special problems in which they are experts, such as Transport, Quartermaster's Notes, Medical Aspects, and last but not least, the Weather. Without a reasonable degree of good fortune in this last respect, Mount Everest cannot be climbed, and the Expedition of 1933 was particularly unfortunate. Not only was the establishment of the various camps in May seriously delayed by a succession of disturbances of exceptional severity coming from the west, but the attacks on the Summit were thereafter defeated by the arrival of the Monsoon before these storms had spent themselves. Such exceptional conditions rendered the steeply outward-sloping slabs on either side of the Great Couloir impossible, owing to a heavy covering of loose, soft snow of hopeless consistency, which first slowed down the pace of the climbers and then made this dangerous traverse quite unjustifiable.

It might have been expected that, as this Expedition followed on the tracks of its two predecessors, there would have been a tendency for the photographic subjects to become exhausted. This is so far from being the case, however, that the present volume is the best illustrated since the Reconnaissance. It excels both in the beauty of the photographs of scenery and in the interest of those

taken of the local features of the mountain itself. A comparative study of the latter is of the most absorbing interest.

It only remains to be said that the volume is made complete by the provision of an excellent detailed map of the whole Chomo Lungma Group.

E. C. T.

An Alpine Journey. By F. S. Smythe. Gollancz. 16s.

To review this book in the usual manner in the limited space in these pages would be impossible. We would recommend our members to read the book for themselves. As its title suggests, it is a record of a journey across Switzerland on ski, practically alone, from Bludenz (Austria) to Montreux. Mr Smythe is one of the most genuine of mountain lovers. The present reviewer, who has climbed with Mr Smythe on many occasions, has known no man of whom the mountains form such an integral part of life. This deep attachment to the hills is plainly evident whenever the author enters into descriptions of the mountains and of the appeal they make to him. He has hard things to say on occasion, but his criticisms are generally fully justified.

The book is full of interesting local history, including the terrible rock-fall at Elm and the tremendous ice avalanche from the Altels, and general information of a useful nature, which should be invaluable as a guide to those to whom ski-ing means something more than an ascent by funicular followed by even the most exhilarating downhill run, and wish to follow his example.

Mr Smythe seems to be at pains to show himself up in a poor light as a ski-er at times, but there must be few runners with a wider knowledge of snow conditions and with so great an experience of ski expeditions. We believe Mr Smythe to be a far finer ski-er than he would have us imagine.

There are forty-eight plates, fully up to the standard we have come to expect from Mr Smythe.

C. W. P.

Himalayan Wanderer. The Reminiscences of Brigadier-General Hon. C. G. Bruce. Published by Alexander Maclehose. 12s. 6d. net.

This book is written in a reminiscent vein and is not intended as a serious treatise on Himalayan adventure. General Bruce describes many matters of interest during his adventurous life, such as Indian Professional Wrestlers, Frontier Expeditions, and his experiences in command of his Ghurkas in Gallipoli. His last chapter deals with the various expeditions in the Himalaya on which no one is more qualified to write than the author. The book contains excellent illustrations and is a welcome addition to our library.

G. M. L.

Alpinisme Anecdorique; Pour Miss Cynthia. By Charles Gos. Victor Attinger.

The first of these is notable as the first volume of a new series of cheap Alpine books which Attinger is publishing. Others of this worthy series are Signor Mazotti's book mentioned below and Mr Young's "On High Hills." In this book M. Gos, who is to be the Editor of the series, gives us, with the aid of contemporary newspaper reports and other documents, a vivid account of the Matterhorn disaster and the subsequent painful inquiry. The bad taste this leaves is completely taken away by some very powerful sketches of old and well-known guides and mountain friends.

A guide, with a wife and large family, and a porter, with a fiancée, both fall in love with a young English girl with whom they are climbing. The scene is an Alpine hut. What more could one ask? Poor Miss Cynthia!

E. A. M. W.

Dernières Victoires au Cervin. By G. Mazotti. Victor Attinger.

Contains extremely well-told accounts, sometimes "subjective," of the famous climbs on the Zmutt, the Furggen, and the "four faces." It brings together into one chapter the various climbs on the Matterhorn which have been dotted throughout Alpine history for the past fifty years.

E. A. M. W.

NOTES AND EXCURSIONS.

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.

"ISLANDS GUIDE."—*Erratum.* The Editor of the "Islands Guide Book" desires to correct a mistake on p. 55, with sincere apologies to Mr H. B. Watt, who is there described as "the late," whereas it should have been "our former member." Although Mr Watt has for long resided in London, his friends in Scotland will be delighted to know that he is still interested in our islands and their hills, and that he cruised among them so recently as last summer.

DISAPPEARANCE OF THE SCOTTISH SNOW-FIELDS.

In Vol. VIII. of this *Journal* there appeared a most interesting article on Scottish Snow by Harold Raeburn, so I presume the subject is not without interest to members of the S.M.C. Yet although the last scraps of snow disappeared in September 1933 for the first time in living memory and occasioned several letters in *The Scotsman* and even in *The Times* and *Meteorological Journal*, no mention of it whatever was made in the *S.M.C.J.*, where one would have thought the subject was of most interest.* The object of this note is to remedy the omission, and such an interesting phenomenon, which no member of the Club has ever seen before or is likely to see again, is surely worth putting on record. The Cairngorm Club has done this, and Mr McCoss drew attention to it at the annual dinner of that Club. In September 1933 the Ben Nevis snow-bed had disappeared by the 22nd, *i.e.*, in Observatory Gully. A bed under Aonach Beag seems to have held out until about the 30th, while a third bed under Braeriach melted between 17th September and 1st October. The time that elapsed between their disappearance and the coming of the first snows was very small, and in the case of Aonach Beag could only have been a week or ten days, and in the

* It is impossible, living in the south of England, to be conversant with all items of interest in the north, and the Editor would be grateful to receive interesting information of the type described in this note, if possible *before* publication of the next issue in question.

other two cases not more than three weeks. In spite of the hot summer of 1933 it is very doubtful if any of these beds would have melted had not the previous winter been singularly snowless in the Highlands.

The snow-beds must have got very small in the autumn of 1934, but James McCoss tells me that there were two small beds still left under Braeriach (the Garbh Choire) on 20th September, and a Fort William correspondent informs me that they did not disappear under Ben Nevis.

R. P. DANSEY.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE CLUB.

To the Editor,

SIR,—In his speech at the Annual Dinner of the Club in Edinburgh last December, the then President, when referring to the early days of the Club, spoke of “the three founders of the Club,” mentioning them by name. It was, doubtlessly, his desire to bestow credit on as wide a basis as possible so that no one should feel aggrieved by not receiving merit where he deemed merit was due. As he did not become a Member until sixteen years after the foundation of the Club he will, perhaps, permit me as an Original Member to call in question the correctness of his statement, and to indicate that the Club owes its foundation to one Member and not to three Members.

As being myself one of several who had a good deal to do with the early proceedings of the Club I would like, for the information of the more recently elected Members, to revive a few points of interest which time is tending to bury in the annals of ancient history; and by so doing ensure the avoidance of such a mistake as that given expression to by the President.

The true interpretation of the word Founder is best exemplified in the more amplified expression, *fons et origo*, for it connotes the springing forth from a source that was virgin in origin. Accepting this definition of the term Founder, the source and origin of the Club sprang from a letter which appeared in the *Glasgow Herald* newspaper under the signature of “W. W. Naismith,” dated 10th January 1889. (See Vol. XI., p. 40, of the *Club Journal*.) Then followed other letters (see the same Vol.) in support of the original writer; and these, together with other proceedings, eventually led to the institution of The Scottish Mountaineering Club (see Vol. IV., p. 73). Thus it becomes perfectly clear that the Club was founded by Naismith. No one was better fitted to be its Founder, and for these several very good reasons: That he was a Scotsman by birth, and already familiar with the mountains of his own country. (For as far back as 1880 he ascended Ben Nevis (see Vol. I., p. 215) and still more remotely Ben Lomond in 1866; and even these

performances in his youth are eclipsed in July 1916, when he was 50, by walking from Glasgow to the top of Ben Lomond and back, 62½ miles, in 20 hours, "including stops!"). That he had been climbing in Switzerland, and qualifying for Membership of the Alpine Club, which he succeeded in entering in 1893. That since the beginning of the S.M.C. he has earned for himself a reputation for Scottish Mountaineering that every young recruit should strive to emulate. That he has contributed to the S.M.C. "Guide Book" Series a volume on "The Islands of Scotland." That he has—for reasons only known to himself—refused to become President of the Club. And, lastly, that in recognition of his past services he has been persuaded to occupy—and has consented to do so—the newly created office of Hon. Vice-President, a final and fitting tribute to him who is the one and only Founder of the Club.

If further evidence were needed in support of the above contention it will be found in the recorded proceedings of the 21st Anniversary of the Club's foundation held on 3rd December 1909. On this occasion Naismith was fittingly designated, and depicted in photograph, as the "Father" of the Club (*see* Vol. XI., p. 29). The day on which he wrote his letter to the *Glasgow Herald* was the day on which the Club was born, and should ever be commemorated as a day to be remembered as much as any ordinary birthday. Although it is not usual for a child to be born exclusively of one parent, and that a male! the analogy is sufficiently good to stand; and, indeed, the term "Father" is more correctly suggestive of the true relationship than "Founder."

Having thus satisfactorily and finally disposed of the Founder of the Club I am tempted, for the sake of enlightening and possibly interesting the younger generation of climbers and those more recently elected Members, to sketch briefly some of the early transactions, with the names of those most intimately associated with them, that finally led to the completed organisation of the Club. Scattered through the pages of the various volumes of the Club's *Journal* the following facts will be found. The first Hon. President of the Club was The Marquis of Breadalbane, K.G. The first President, George Ramsay, a Professor in the University of Glasgow. The first Vice-President, John Veitch, also a Professor of the same University. The first Editor of the Club *Journal* was Joseph Gibson Stott, still kept in affectionate remembrance by all who join in singing his stirring composition, "The Club Song," at the Annual Dinner. The first Hon. Treasurer was Charles Gairdner, Manager of the Union Bank of Scotland. The first Hon. Librarian was Gilbert Thomson, to whom the Club was under an additional obligation for lending a room in his Glasgow office for the Committee to meet in, and for the lodgment of all books, maps, periodicals, etc. The first Hon. Secretary, the writer.

It must not be concluded that the above named officials alone deserve all the credit for framing the Constitution of a Club that

has come to rank among the most distinguished of its kind. Every "Original" Member, of which there were 94, played some part in encouraging younger men to join the Club, and both by precept and example fostered the pursuit of one of the healthiest and most enjoyable sports in the world. These "Original" Members became such by reason of their responding to a public appeal to attend a Meeting on 11th February 1889, when the subject of the formation of a mountaineering club was discussed. Thus there were not a few in the audience who were not climbers, but who warmly sympathised with the object the promoters had in view. But the proposal that all who were present, whether climbers or not, should constitute the "Original" Members was agreed to. I need not say anything further about this Meeting except that a small sub-committee was appointed to draft a Constitution. On 11th March 1889 this Committee presented its Report. It was adopted by the General Committee; and from that date the Club became a definitely constituted body.

The first Meeting of the newly constituted Club was held in the Grand Hotel, Charing Cross, Glasgow, on 12th December 1889; after which was the first Annual Dinner, attended by 30 Members (*see* Vol. I., p. 37). The first official Club Meet was held at the Crook Inn, Peeblesshire, from the 27th February to the 2nd March 1891. At this were present five Members, Professors Ramsay and Veitch, Hugh Smith, and a visitor, Dr Thomas Bryce. They arrived on Friday evening, while on Saturday evening, Douglas, Munro, and Stott appeared on the scene. The objective of all was Broadlaw. Professor Veitch writes a short but interesting account of their expedition (*see* Vol. I., p. 236).

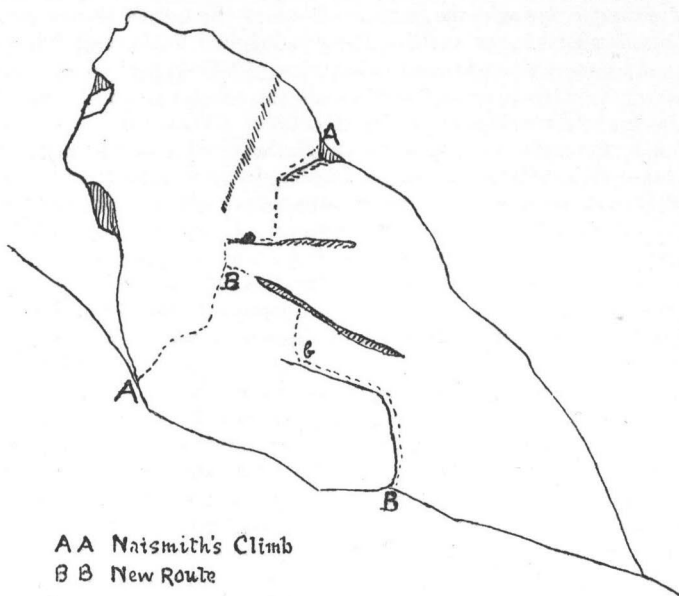
I am,

Yours, etc.,

A. ERNEST MAYLARD,
Co-Trustee of the Club Funds.

During a holiday spent in Skye in the latter half of August 1934, J. G. Wilson, J.M.C.S., and the writer did what we believe to be a new route on the West Face of the Bhasteir Tooth. In actual fact the route is only partially new, as the accompanying rough sketch shows, the latter half of the climb consisting of the upper portion of Naismith's Climb, but perhaps it may be of sufficient interest for the *Journal*, and it certainly gives an interesting climb.

There was some difficulty in identifying the actual starting point, as there was thick mist throughout the climb.



1st Pitch.—The start is beside a small cave up a chimney for some 50 feet. This brings one to the bottom of a deep gully which terminates in a large cave out of which there appears to be no exit platform.

2nd Pitch.—On the left wall of the gully there is a broad ledge which slants upwards and round to the far side of the wall. After some 50 feet the ledge narrows, and later disappears altogether. Fairly good stance but no belay. (Point *b*.)

3rd Pitch.—From point *b* the route goes straight up for some 35 feet over steep rocks with good holds. There are, however, some loose projections to be avoided. This brings one to an inward sloping ledge about two feet wide, formed by weathering of a basalt dyke. There is a roof to the ledge about two feet high, so a recumbent position is the only one possible.

4th Pitch.—This is the most ticklish bit in the route. A traverse upwards along the ledge reveals that the dyke is not weathered at its upper end, and an exit is made by kneeling on the lower lip of the ledge where the roof recedes slightly. Good balance is necessary as there are no handholds worth mentioning on the slope above the roof. A step down below the level of the ledge allows an upright position to be attained and a further few feet of traverse reaches Naismith's

Climb, just below the boulder ledge. This route is followed to the top.

Both Wilson and myself will be interested to know whether this actually is a new variation. It is not mentioned in the latest edition of the "Skye Guide," but it has quite probably been done before.

J. K. W. DUNN, J.M.C.S.

STOB COIRE AN LOCHAN—SOUTH BUTTRESS.

So far as I know no climb on this buttress has been recorded, although J. H. B. Bell and C. M. Allan have looked at it and decided that it was not worth while (*S.M.C.J.*, XIX., 316).

There seemed to us to be three routes on this buttress. Starting from the South-Central Gully (a very fine ice climb at times) the first obvious line is a conspicuous cleft not far to the (climber's) left of the vertical wall of the Gully. This line, if possible, would be pretty severe. Ten yards farther to the left another fault allowed us to ascend for about 25 feet, when we had to give up for various purely personal reasons. On a fine day this route would undoubtedly go, since there was only a 30-foot pitch between the bottom part, which we climbed, and the level at which we traversed the buttress later. Then we continued round the buttress to our left for a few yards more and climbed about 30 feet on turf, and then traversed back to our right, making a little height in the process until we were rather to the right of the second fault line mentioned above, when we struck directly upwards and finished out at the top of the buttress. The climbing was not very difficult and the route is susceptible to infinite small variations, but the situation is grand, and there is some magnificent rock scenery near the top of the buttress.

The party was Edo Deržaj, A. A. K., and E. A. M. W., 24th November 1934.

Mr W. A. Mounsey has been asked by several members to supply copies of his photo, "The Black Cuillin," which features as a photogravure in the "Skye Guide." Permanent carbon copies can now be obtained from The Autotype Co. Ltd., 59 New Oxford Street, London, W.C.1. These are 17½ by 12½, and single copies cost:

- (1) Mounted on card ready for framing, 7s. each.
- (2) Mounted on card, framed close up in 2½-inch stained oak moulding, 17s. 6d. complete.

S.M.C. ABROAD—1934.

A. L. Cram writes: I was in Munich in July, and there joined a German party of Akademischer Alpen-Verein on an excursion to the Engadine. From Pontresina we went up to the Tschierva Hut, spending the next few days mastering our crampons in the ice-fall of the Tschierva Glacier. On the 27th July we climbed (on three ropes of two persons each) the Piz Roseg (12,934 feet) by the Eselsgrat, descending the west side to Aguagliouls and thereafter across the "sattel" to Vadret Tschierva and the Hut.

On 29th July we went up to Fuorcla Prievalusa and traversed the Piz Bernina (13,304 feet), over the Bianco Grat and Bernina Scharte to the Italian ridge and the Refugio Marco e Rosse. On the following morning we traversed the Piz Palü (12,835 feet) from the Sella Bellavista to the Vadret Perr, walking on to Pontresina and up to the Tschierva Hut. I was with Andreas Schneider, of Munich, on each occasion. Bad weather interfered with ascents of the Piz Scerscen and the Piz Morteratsch, but the party spent one more day in the ice-fall before retreating to Pontresina through heavy, cold rain.

On the 6th August I travelled to Partenkirchen and went up to the Kreuzeck Hut. On the 7th I traversed the Alpspitze (8,815 feet) to the Hoch Blassen, but was forced to descend the Grieskar Scharte to the Höllenthal Hut by a bad thunderstorm. On the 8th, and in very bad weather, I climbed the Zugspitze (9,500 feet) by the face above the Höllenthal Firn and descended to the Knorr Hut. On the 9th, and with Fräulein Johanna Gistel of the Berliner Akademischer Sport Verein, I went over the Schneefernerkopf and the Zugspitzeck to the Zugspitze. We descended to the Knorr Hut, the weather being atrociously bad. On the 10th we crossed into Austria by the Gatterljoche and climbed the Hoch Wanner (9,210 feet) from the Korbach Scharte, returning over the Hoher Kamin to the Knorr Hut. On the 11th we climbed the three Höllenthal Spitzen (approx. 9,200 feet) by the ridge from the Bruntal Kopf, the Volkarspitze (8,845 feet), and were benighted on the second part of the Hoch Blassen in a thunder and snow storm, making the descent from the Grieskar Scharte and through the Mathaisenkark to the Höllenthal Hut in complete darkness and heavy rain. On the 12th we descended to Unter Grainan, and Fräulein Gistel returned to Berlin. On the 13th, however, I was again able to traverse the Zugspitze from the Höllenthal, descending the Austrian face to the Wienerneustadter Hut. The weather was again bad with mist and much new snow, and on the 14th I descended to the frontier and walked via the Baden See to Garmisch, and thereafter returned to Munich.

I had one further "climb," to the top of the Drachenfels.

We visited Switzerland last August in a family party, and despite the persistently broken weather we all had a most enjoyable time. After a spectacular thunderstorm had detained us overnight at Brig, next morning we took advantage of the new postal motor service which runs half-way up to Belalp (7,000 feet). The hotel was reached amid wintry conditions. With R. Moggridge (of the O.U.M.C.) I traversed the upper section of the Belgrat east of the Unterbächhorn, and a few days later we took D. G. Turnbull, aged twelve, for his first experience of a Swiss ridge, over the Sparrhorn (9,930 feet) and the Hohstock (10,500 feet) by a route I had traversed three years before. A less strenuous day was spent in practice with the axe on the Aletsch Glacier.

Next we moved to Zermatt where after a few days we enjoyed our one spell of settled weather, during which Moggridge and I climbed the Dent Blanche (14,318 feet) by the Wandfluh in glorious conditions. A luxurious hour was spent at the summit, a yard or two down on the south face in hot sunshine, where we defied the northerly wind which blew steadily over the arête. On several occasions we accompanied Canon A. E. Thompson, A.C., with whom we traversed the cluster of tops of the Unter Gabelhorn (11,150 feet), which gave a jolly climb reminiscent of Skye, to be followed by a varied descent over rock and snow and glacier to the Triftalp. Two visits to the Riffelhorn, two determined but unsuccessful attempts on the Matterhorn, and various shorter walks completed the programme. For the first of these Matterhorn climbs we made a party of four, with de la Motte (a friend from South America) and his guide, Xavier Lochmatter, the intention being to traverse the mountain from the Italian side. We crossed the Breuiljoch and picked up a few handfuls of firewood at the new hotel beside the Glacier du Lion, intending to reach the Hut (12,750 feet) on the Italian ridge in another three hours. Snow fell; and instead of arriving in early evening we had to fight our way for hours, and finally reached shelter at 10.40 P.M. A false track had taken us in mist and snow nearly to the top of the Tête du Lion, when the Col was only reached at 7.30 P.M. Thereafter the well-known Cheminée was unexpectedly blocked by another party of four: they were young Italians whose footprints lower down the mountain had already deceived us. Now they were crag-fast, preventing us from utilising an important length of fixed rope at the crucial pitch. Eventually, after much delay, Lochmatter turned this obstacle by quitting the chimney to the right up a very difficult slab well-nigh bereft of holds, by the light of a solitary torch, and then brought up the rest of the party on the rope—a feat in keeping with the best traditions of that famous family of guides. This placed us above two of our Italian friends who readily let us haul them over their difficulty. Mercifully the sky had cleared during these critical movements, which lasted two hours; stars appeared, lightning played on the horizon, three tiny lights shone from the valley far below. One could just see the Great Tower on

the ridge rising before us like an enormous black dumb-bell against the sky. We stumbled up a short snow slope and thankfully groped our way into the Hut. Once again the mist and snow descended, and the wind howled all night. The bad weather continued next day, leaving us no alternative but to retreat by the way we had come. A week later similar conditions drove us down after reaching the Whymper Hut site on the Hörnli Ridge.

After moving to Saas Fee, Moggridge and I traversed the Fletschhorn (13,127 feet) and Laquinhorn (13,140 feet) on 25th August, a cold sunny morning, and continued by the skyline ridge, as seen from Saas Fee, almost as far as the Laquinjoch. For sustained interest of climbing and of scenery, near and far, this unfrequented ridge is highly to be recommended. Once more we encountered a snowstorm, but only after the summit ridge had been traversed. We quitted the descending ridge by breaking away to the right a few hundred feet before reaching the Joch. Much time was saved by using crampons on the rather steep glacier below.

After a climb with D. G. Turnbull on the Mittaghorn (10,000 feet) we once more tried the higher peaks. Nine inches of fresh untrodden snow around the Mischabel Hut were ominous; we nevertheless persevered and reached the Ulrichshorn (12,890 feet) and the Balfrin (12,475 feet) after a delayed start from the Hut. Thanks to the excellent "Swiss Alpine Club Guide Book" we hit off the exact route over the Ried Pass and down an interesting couloir to the glacier and then to the Mellig heights above Saas Fee, in continuous mist and snowfall throughout the descent. The holiday ended with a day or two on the lakes at Spiez and an opportunity to climb the Niesen (7,763 feet), whose 5,000-foot high triangular face, as seen from the lake, beckons the gazer to perform the Euclidean experiment of dropping a perpendicular from vertex to base of that mighty triangle. This construction was duly carried out from top to bottom, without ruler and compass, and afforded three hours varied scrambling down rock stairs, grass, scree, waterfalls, gullies, and tree-tops.

H. W. TURNBULL.

THE JUNIOR MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF SCOTLAND.

NEW YEAR MEET, 1934-35—DALMALLY.

Members.—F. R. B. Stewart, A. F. Down, J. J. Murray, W. D. Short, C. M. Steven, J. N. Ledingham, D. Lillie, B. H. Humble, T. D. MacKinnon, J. G. Wilson, J. K. W. Dunn, A. M. Smith, D. L. Campbell, and F. C. MacLeod.

S.M.C.—W. C. Watson, D. J. S. Harvey, J. H. M'Lusky, and G. D. Stewart.

Guests.—K. H. A. Gordon, R. H. Common, R. S. Higgins, and D. L. Howell.

The weather during the Meet was very disappointing, being dull and wet over the whole five days and extraordinarily mild, snow being negligible in quantity even above the 3,000-foot level.

Friday, 28th December.—The Meet was opened by the arrival of Lillie and Common. Common had made the trip from Belfast on the invitation of Shillinglaw, of the Perth section, in order to see how our Meets are organised, with the intention of forming a similar Club in the North of Ireland.

The Edinburgh President and two others camped in Glen Orchy and left on Saturday evening.

Saturday, 29th December.—Lillie and Common spent the day on Stob Ghabhar.

Campbell, Smith, and Higgins arrived in the morning, and started up the Allt Coire Ghlais with the intention of climbing the chimney on the North Crags between Monadh Driseig and Beinn a' Bhùiridh, but, after two unsuccessful attempts to reach the cauldron under wretched weather conditions, finally gained the ridge by the West Gully, involving a traverse through a miniature Niagara

by two members and a direct ascent of it by the third man, accompanied by strong pulls and ironical laughter from above.

Humble travelled to Tyndrum by early morning train, and had rather a stormy journey over Beinn Laoigh and Beinn a' Chleibh to Dalmally.

C. M. Steven and C. R. Steven (S.M.C.) set out for the elusive Black Shoot of Beinn Eunaich. They were turned back by a steep slimy pitch just below the twisted chimney, and thereafter failed to reach the top through lack of time.

Sunday, 30th December.—The Glasgow President, F. R. B. Stewart, and party consisting of Short, Gordon, Watson, and Harvey, arrived late on Sunday, and spent the afternoon investigating the waterfalls on Beinn Eunaich.

Campbell, Smith, and Higgins, after a late start, reached Meall Cuanail by the Falls, continuing along the ridge to the Main Peak and Drochaid Glas in a gale of wind-blown sleet, and returning in a more or less liquid condition by the Allt Cruachan.

Ledingham, Lillie, Common, and Steven traversed the Cruachan ridge from Sròn an Isean to the Main Peak, and returned by the same route. They report that the weather was atrocious and the visibility nil.

Dunn, MacKinnon, and Wilson reported a good day on Stob Ghabhar.

Monday, 31st December.—Ledingham, Lillie, Common, and Steven motored to beyond the Study in Glencoe and from there climbed Am Bodach. Ledingham and Steven continued along the Aonach Eagach Ridge to Sgòr nam Fiannaidh.

Humble and MacKinnon, in energetic mood, set off at dawn and, having conquered Beinn Eunaich and Beinn a' Chochuill, still unsatisfied, completed a good day's work by returning over Sròn an Isean, Stob Diamh, and Stob Garbh of Cruachan. It is stated on good authority that they were by that time comfortably hungry!

Dunn and Wilson climbed Beinn Eunaich and Beinn a' Chochuill.

F. R. B. Stewart, Short, Gordon, W. C. Watson, and Harvey climbed Stob Ghabhar, having left the hotel somewhat late. They made up for their delay, however, and returned, wet but happy, in good time.

Smith, Campbell, and Higgins, after negotiating several water hazards on the route to the School House in Linne Nam Beathach, climbed Stob Ghabhar and returned over Stob a' Bhruaich Léith, which would not have been recognised as a top at all, but for the Cairn—obviously built by some one of a generous disposition.

Down and Howell spent the day on the Curved Ridge of Buachaille Etive Mòr, and heartily endorse the "Guide Book's" remarks as to the easy nature of the climb. They appear to have been on Stob Dearg and Stob na Doire in their wanderings.

The Annual Dinner and Meeting was held to-night, there being only one Edinburgh member, and no Perth members, present. The Meeting, after some discussion, recommended Killin as the venue for the 1935-36 New Year Meet. Thereafter the birth of the New Year was celebrated in traditional fashion by a small but vociferous band.

Tuesday, 1st January.—Stewart, Harvey, W. C. Watson, MacLeod, Gordon, and Short left to climb Beinn a' Chleibh but instead turned left at Glen Orchy, where they exercised themselves on lesser heights.

Steven, Common, Higgins, and Ledingham spent the day on Beinn a' Chochuill and Beinn Eunaich, returning to Glasgow in the afternoon.

G. D. Stewart and M'Lusky, who arrived on Monday, climbed Sròn an Isean and Stob Diamh.

MacKinnon, Lillie, and Wilson spent the day on Beinn a' Chleibh.

Down, Campbell, and Smith, after making a detour to collect a boot which, following the example of the Edinburgh President and party, had camped in Glen Orchy, claim to have climbed by a new route on the "B" buttress on the west face of Aonach Dubh, descending by No. 3 Gully.

Wednesday, 2nd January.—F. R. B. Stewart, Down, Gordon, Harvey, Common, Short, and Howell traversed the Aonach Eagach ridge and went home direct, with the exception of Down and Howell who returned to Dalmally before going home.

M'Lusky and Stewart were on Beinn Eunaich and Beinn a' Chochuill, and were observed early in the day proceeding homewards at speed.

Smith and Campbell had a lazy day on Beinn Eunaich and Beinn a' Chochuill. The weather was dull and misty, as it had been during the whole of the Meet.

A. M. S.

GLASGOW SECTION.

1934 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.

THE Second Annual Photographic Competition was held in October 1934. The entries consisted of photographs (and slides) of not more than whole-plate size taken by the member himself between 1st October 1933 and 30th September 1934. The competition was divided as follows :—

- (a) Climbing interest.
- (b) Pictorial value (including panoramas).
- (c) Foreign.
- (d) Lantern slides.

The members were requested to submit unmounted or easily detachable prints so that, if desired, they might be incorporated in the Club Album.

Twenty-six photographs and three slides were submitted by eight members. A similar competition was held the previous year, and upwards of thirty entries were received from eight competitors.

The Rev. A. E. Robertson very kindly acted as judge.

The prize-winning entries were:—

Mountain Top	B. H. Humble.
Finish of Centre Gully Climb, Ben Laoigh	J. Banford.
Sgurr Dearg, from Sgurr Sgumain	C. R. Steven.
Cobbler, from Narnain (slide)	Robt. Anderson.

No prize was given in the Foreign Section, and this prize became available for the other entries. The winning photographs were inserted in the Club Album. The liberty of giving the Rev. A. E. Robertson's general advice is taken: "All snow pictures must have *sun* in them to be really effective, and all rock-climbing photos must be sharp and well lit. It will not do to say, 'Oh, there was no sun shining when I took that (snow) view.' You must just wait till you do get sun. Come back again and maybe wait for years, as I have often had to do, to secure a really effective snow picture. All good mountain photographs must be well lit, otherwise the result is 'flatness' and 'mud'."

A photographic competition is being held this year, and it is hoped that more of the members of the section will take advantage of it. It is good fun to enter for it even though one does not win a prize.

F. C. M.

Scottish Mountaineering Club.

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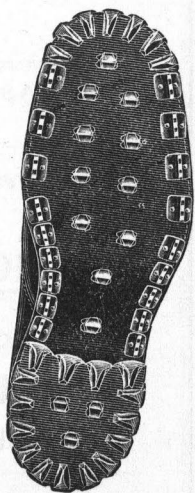
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