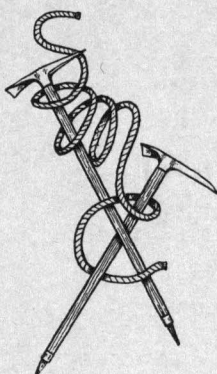


THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB JOURNAL

EDITED BY J. H. B. BELL



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EDITORIAL NOTE.

THE present issue still contains a substantial "New Climbs" section owing to the slow rate of absorption of our younger members and of the J.M.C.S. into H.M. Forces. Except for one or two items held over for the present, this section may be expected to fade out as the war goes on, and the Editor appeals to the members for readable short articles. In particular, he would be obliged for short accounts of members' experiences for the purpose of incorporation into a third article of the "Night Up There" series.

Several new routes on the Basin face of the N.E. Buttress of Ben Nevis and a new route on the Rosa Pinnacle, Arran, have been held over.

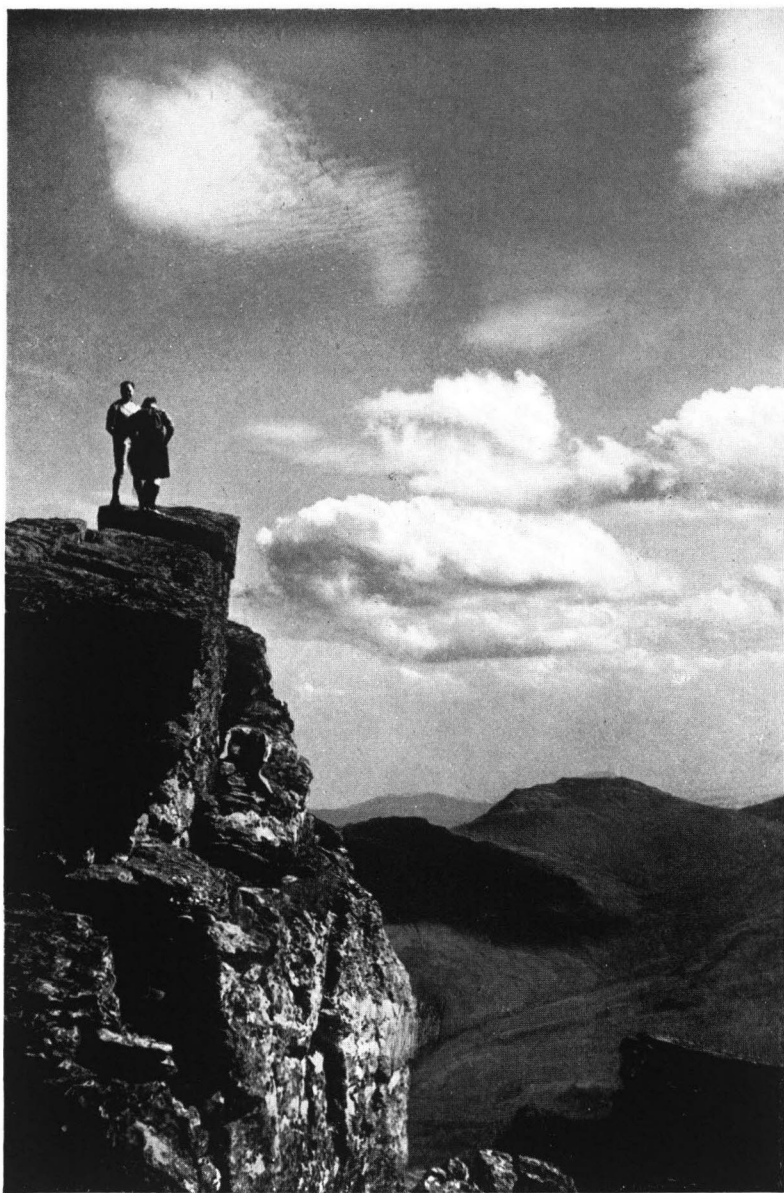
"**Rock Climbs on the Cobbler**" is available in the form of a reprint (price 1s. each from the usual sources), as such may be usefully carried on to the hill by intending climbers.

All Notices for the April Number should be sent to the Hon. Editor, Dr J. H. B. BELL, THE KNOWE, CLACKMANNAN, as soon as possible, and not later than 1st March 1941.

Copies of the *Journal* can be obtained from the Agents or through any Bookseller.

S.M.C. Journals, Vols. 1 to 21 for Sale.

Dr A. E. Maylard wishes to dispose of a complete set of *Journals*, quarter-bound leather, for which he asks £50. Vol. 21 of this set is in the Club Room for inspection. Anyone interested is asked to communicate with Dr MAYLARD, KINGSMUIR, PEEBLES.



August 1934

SUMMIT OF THE COBBLER

B. H. Humble

THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB JOURNAL

VOL. XXII.

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No. 130.

ROCK CLIMBS ON THE COBBLER.

A Symposium.

By J. B. Nimlin, B. H. Humble, and G. C. Williams.

"May I hope, then, in taking up such an old friend as the Cobbler, I am introducing him in one of those many and varied aspects which, if perchance it does not give the newness and freshness which attaches to a less widely known and less frequently visited mountain, may at least add new interest and awaken some fresh desire for a renewed acquaintance."—A. E. MAYLARD, *Journal*, Vol. 3, p. 274 (1895).

Mr J. B. Nimlin, who has pioneered most of the modern routes, writes the Introduction. The original list of climbs was compiled by Mr G. C. Williams for the "Southern Highlands Guide," publication of which has had to be deferred owing to the war. This list has been edited and extended by Mr B. H. Humble in the light of more recent information, about eight routes having been added. Thanks are due to Mr Alex. Small for preparing the finished diagrams from rough sketches.

Introduction.

By J. B. Nimlin.

NOWADAYS there is no need to adopt an apologetic note on the introduction of a Cobbler Guide, for this mountain has come into its own. For years it was neglected, sometimes even miscalled, and except for an occasional note contributed by early devotees its climbing potentialities were for the most part unknown.

But this was hardly reason for regret; it meant that the Cobbler could preserve its pristine shagginess and

the glamour of the unknown until ten short years ago. Its hanging gardens had a longer immunity from the vandal grasp of "spring-cleaning" cragsmen, and its time-hewn wrinkles were spared the ravages of the ruthless climber.

For a surprising number of years the Cobbler produced no more than a handful of rather dull routes—mere practice courses for exploits on better peaks. But virtue will out. The restless eye of a later climbing generation found new and worthier routes. Nailmarks multiplied and spread over crags which earlier writers described as impossible, and soon the stigma of *practice ground* was removed for all time. Indeed, it may now be said that many of the *better* peaks make suitable practice grounds for the Cobbler.

Being in the limelight, however, does not change the retiring disposition of the Cobbler. At a first glance its schistose rock seems anything but inviting. Here are none of the fine incut holds so lavishly offered by the porphyry and gabbro of Glencoe and Skye. What is known as a handhold in Glencoe becomes a *jughandle* on the Cobbler. Like a tree in a desert it calls for more than casual mention.

This absence of orthodox holds is overcome by the frequent practice of balance-climbing, and the absence of rock-belays by shoulder-bracing tactics. Both are Cobbler specialties. Balance-climbing is often necessary over considerable areas of crag where the sole rugosities are knobs of quartz, horizontal wrinkles, and ledges of embedded turf. In such places handholds are either too small or too sloping for the usual hoisting movements, and locomotion is therefore from foothold to foothold with handholds serving only to preserve balance. All of which is not so hazardous as it seems. Well-nailed boots grip just as well as on porphyry, the quartz holds are remarkably sound, and the turf ledges are usually well anchored. It should be noted all the same how certain weather conditions may increase the difficulties of balance-climbing. An exposed face becomes decidedly tentative in a high wind when there is such a scarcity of incut holds, and in

winter the lightest film of ice is enough to streamline the sloping ledges.

It has been said that the Cobbler rocks become unduly slippery in wet weather, blame being imputed to a fine lichen which thrives on the crags; but since all rocks become more difficult in rain, exception cannot be taken to the Cobbler. Actually this skin of lichen is too fine to have any appreciable effect on good boot-nails.

Comparisons between the Cobbler and other well-known peaks are rendered difficult by the different natures of the rock structure. On porphyry, with its much more numerous holds and belays, the standard of a climb is determined more by exposure than by technical difficulty: on schistose rock technical difficulty takes priority; but in either case those elements may be found in combination. On the Recess Route, for instance, technical difficulties occur on almost every pitch, and the mere height of the climb gives no indication of the time required for its ascent. Even in favourable conditions its problems are not readily solved unless the leader has had previous experience of the route.

In terms of length the Cobbler courses are inferior to those of Glencoe, but a downfall of rock extending to 500 feet is enough to give an impression of true mountain form and grandeur, especially when moulded on the spectacular lines of the Cobbler peaks.

One virtue at least the Cobbler does not yield to its contemporaries—its splendid situation amid some of the finest scenery in the south-western Highlands. But comparisons should be unnecessary. The Cobbler can speak quite well for itself, as it stands almost on our doorstep, and, as Mummery had it, the best way to know a mountain is to rub your nose on its crags.

The Climbs.

By B. H. Humble and G. C. Williams.

DESCRIBED from left to right, starting from the South Peak. In every case the directions left and right are given as when looking up. Photographs and diagrams indicate the approximate position of every climb except Routes 7, 8, and 9.

SOUTH PEAK.

1. *South-east Arête.*—300 feet—Moderate.

The original route by the skyline. There are two variations to the first ledge pitch—by a chimney a little higher to the left or by a direct climb on an edge to the right. Above this there are numerous variations, generally easy to the left, more difficult to the right.

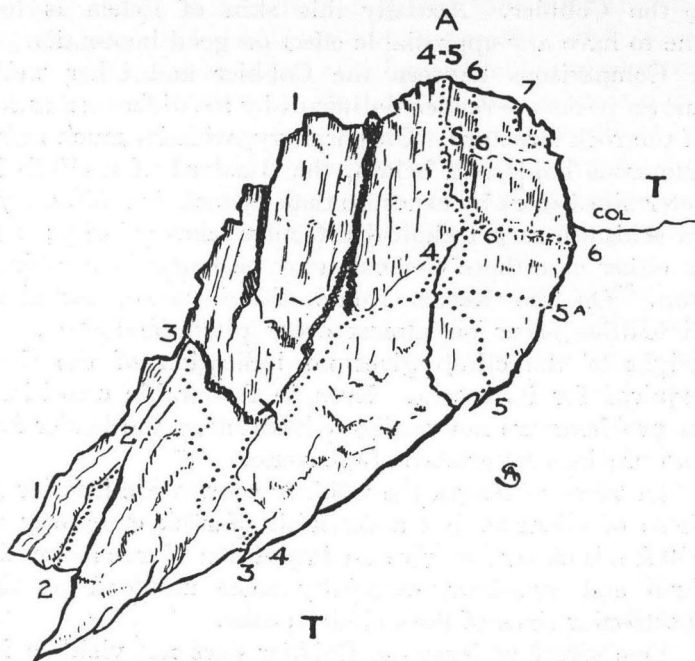


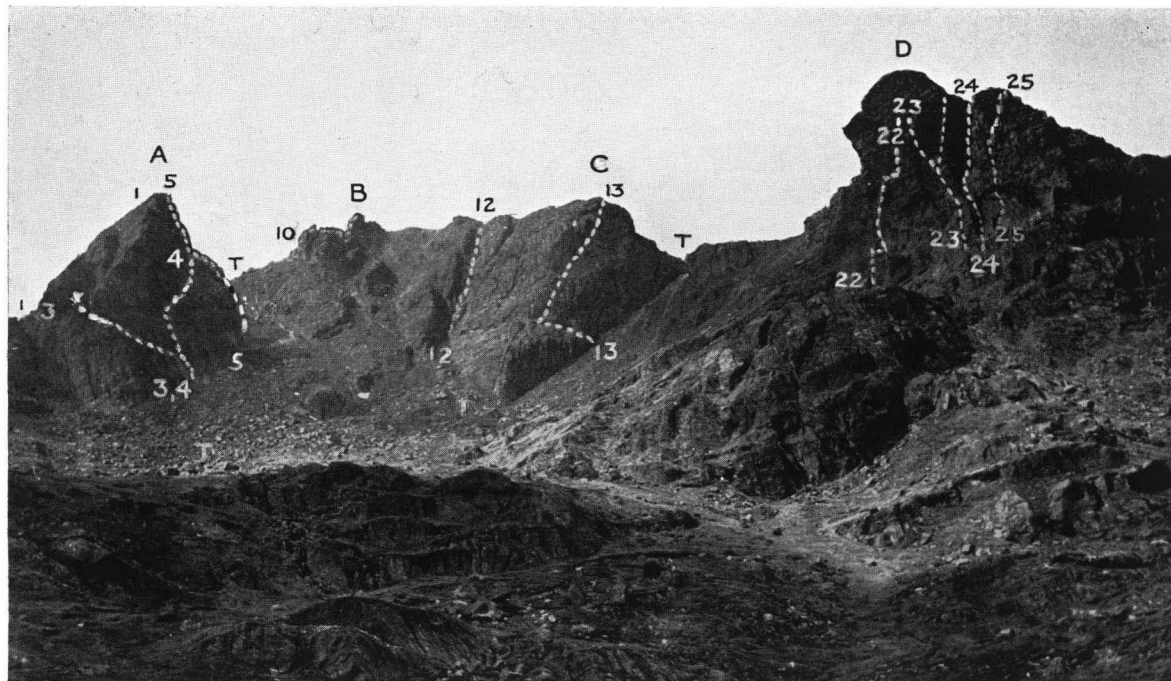
DIAGRAM I

SOUTH PEAK FROM NORTH

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1-1 Arête. | 6-6 Sloping Ledge Route. |
| 2-2 Jughandle (first pitch). | 7 Finish of original route. |
| 3-3 Grassy Traverse. | X Crux of North Wall Traverse. |
| 4-4 North Wall Traverse. | S Sloping Ledge. |
| 5-5 Nimlin's Direct Route. | T-T Tourist Route. |

2. *Jughandle.*—350 feet—Very difficult.

Starts in a shallow gully 60 feet to right of col (cairn) and consists of a series of upward and traverse movements keeping to right of skyline whole way to the summit. First pitch of 80 feet where smooth section is overcome by long reach to "jughandle." Traverse right then short steep wall with fine holds. Traverse right and cross upper part of deep chimney continuing to foot of a vertical chimney which



March 1931

B. H. Humble

THE COBBLER FROM THE UPPER CORRIE

A SOUTH PEAK

- 1. South-east Arête
- 3. Grassy Traverse
- 4. North Wall Traverse
- 5. Nimlin's Direct Route

B CENTRE PEAK

- 10. The Arête

C CENTRE PEAK BUTTRESS

- 12. Centre Gully
- 13. Cave Route.

D NORTH PEAK

- 22. Recess Route
- 23. McLay's Crack
- 24. Great Gully
- 25. North Rib

T—T Tourist Routes



August 1934

SOUTH PEAK OF COBBLER

B. H. Humble

The Direct Route on North face goes approximately up the corner between light and shadow while the small white patch near the summit indicates position of the sloping ledge.

provides a through route (back and knee). Ascend huge block forming outer wall of chimney and step across to main crag, climbing up on small holds. Another traverse by a grass ledge to a corner, then direct up for 25 feet on small holds (exposed and severe) to reach extensive platform below summit. Continue up steep wall on right on small holds. This route gives a rock climb throughout, and any of the pitches can be avoided by joining Route 1 to the left.

3. *Grassy Traverse*.—First ascent Raeburn and Rennie, 1898.

The first climb made on the north face. The grassy section can be well seen from the Narnain Stone. The climbers started about centre of face (cairn) where a ledge leads up to the left to a steep grass slope, and traversed over steep and treacherous grassy and mossy ledges to join Route 1. It is also possible to climb up more directly starting nearer the corner, but this whole area is very objectionable and the routes are not recommended.

4. *North Wall Traverse*.—300 feet—Severe and exposed. First ascent J. B. Nimlin, R. A. Peel, and Miss J. C. H. Dryden, May 1940.

The first pitch as for 3. From the apex of the steep grass slope a shallow groove leads upwards. This is climbed for 70 feet on small holds till it merges with the overhanging rocks above (crux). Problem now is to grasp obvious hold a foot above reach of average climber. When achieved (faith and friction) swing across to huge semi-detached block (excellent belay and only one for remainder of climb). There are now four pitches by turfey ledges with smooth slabs in centre section (about 180 feet) to join Route 5 below the nose and finish on that route. The Crux is very severe and technically difficult; shoulder belays only above this, and middle slabs sensational but practicable for an experienced party accustomed to balance-climbing. Dry weather essential.

5. *Nimlin's Direct Route*.—250 feet—Severe. First ascent J. B. Nimlin and A. Sanders, April 1933.

This fine climb follows the angle between north and north-west faces (which shows up so well in photograph).

1st Pitch.—Smooth face with small holds leading up and slightly left to finish at small stance and flake belay.

Variation.—Start 60 feet higher to right and traverse to edge—easier than first pitch.

Route now follows a series of walls and grass ledges, until buttress narrows to a steep nose. Finish on top of semi-detached block known as "Jock." The exposure is great and the climbing is mainly on balance holds, wide but sloping.

6. *Sloping Ledge Route*.—Very difficult. First ascent McGregor, Bell, Boyd, Napier, and Naismith, 1895.

From the col follow a narrow but well-marked ledge to the left. At farther end climb direct upwards to upper ledge of original route. From here either join original route, continue direct by 12-foot wall to summit, or move round sloping ledge to the left to join finish of Route 5. In 1927 Rutherford and Hutchison continued traverse from lower ledge round corner, thus joining Route 5 rather lower down. This ledge is now used by parties escaping from direct route below the nose. The upper ledge can also be reached by a 40-foot chimney half-way along lower ledge.

7. *Original Route*.—Moderate.

The usual route when traversing the peak, by obvious ledge to right of col (not seen in photo).

8. *North-west Crack*.—60 feet—Severe. First ascent Naismith and Rennie, 1898.

Starts at end of ledge of 7. One pitch usually repulsively wet.

9. *Ardgartan Wall*.—200 feet—Severe. First ascent J. B. Nimlin, J. S. Wynne, W. Neilson, and R. Goldie, October 1937.

The climb is on the south face overlooking Ardgartan policies. It is somewhat artificial, as escapes are possible to the right at every pitch.

1st Pitch (60 feet).—Face climb. Traverse left on small holds to corner (belay). (Variation: Start few yards lower and to left and climb direct up middle of face by shallow steep groove—harder than 1.)

2nd Pitch (50 feet).—Traverse right and upwards to a sloping grass shelf running along the wall.

3rd Pitch (25 feet).—Climb steep wall on small holds, finishing on grass shelf.

4th Pitch (40 feet).—Another steep wall with very delicate holds. Bear right at 25 feet then left to quartzite holds at top.

5th Pitch (30 feet).—Walk across grassy platform to grass shelf on left. Climb steep wall (small cairn) and make strenuous exit by side of an overhang. Above this, easy scrambling leads to the summit.

CENTRE PEAK.

10. *The Arête*.—Difficult.

Continues the classic route on the traverse of the peaks, first by a 50-foot crack, then an easy traverse, then a long sloping slab with good holds to the east window of summit rock. In icy conditions there are easy variations to the right at both pitches.

11. *McGregor's Ledge*.—Very difficult. First ascent as for Route 6.

Short and strenuous from west to east window and involving a muscle-up on to mantelshelf which leads to sill of east window. The east window can also be reached from the rocks directly below it. Another variation is directly upwards by the slit from the west window to the summit rock, but only recommended for those of sub-normal girth.

CENTRE PEAK BUTTRESS.

12. *Centre Gully*.

The steep narrow gully almost in centre of the mountain gives a nice little climb under snow, and there may be a cornice at exit.

13. *Cave Route*.—Difficult. First ascent Raeburn and Rennie, 1896.

Starting from a large patch of grass about a third of the way up the face a well-marked shallow gully runs up to summit (photo). Easy to cave about 100 feet up; climb to narrow ledge on right wall or make exposed traverse right round corner. This leads to smaller upper cave, then an exposed step right and upwards to continuation of main gully. A variation starts to right of buttress and traverses left by upward ledges to join 13.

NORTH PEAK.

14. *Right-angled Chimney*.—100 feet—Very difficult.

The first obvious chimney to the left of this peak. Good sound rock. Climb to ledge below huge overhang, then an exposed traverse left on sloping holds and indifferent grips.

15. *Cat Crawl*.—120 feet—Severe and exposed. First ascent A. Lavery and another, 1936.

Starts 3 feet to right of 14. An awkward stomach traverse a few feet above start is technically difficult. A series of faults lead to a stance below a vertical crack. Good belay here while leader negotiates the crux—a delicate 15-foot balance traverse—across lip of an overhang to a large flat-topped rock with an excellent crack belay. Now traverse back to final portion of crack and exit (right).

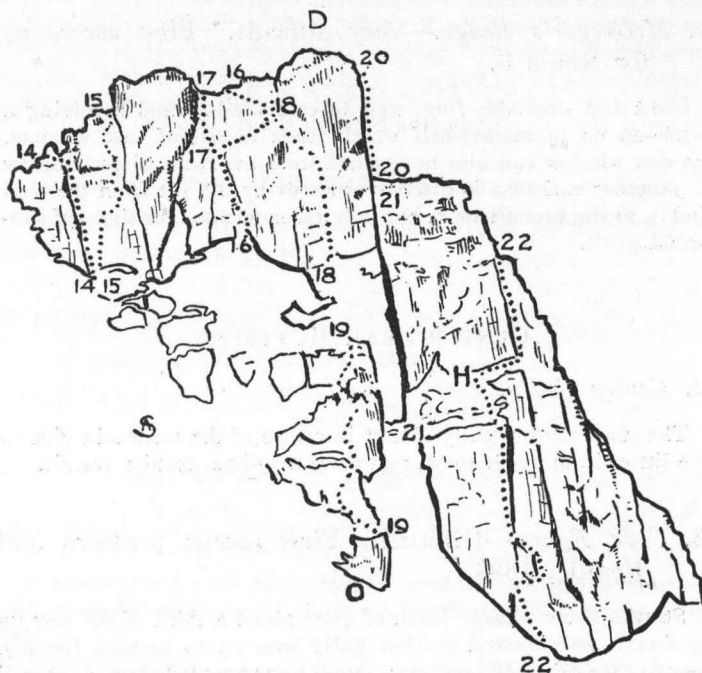


DIAGRAM II

NORTH PEAK FROM SOUTH

From a photograph by Dr Inglis Clark, *Journal*, Vol. 6, p. 184.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 14-14 Right-angled Chimney. | 20-20 Ramshead Wall. |
| 15-15 Cat Crawl. | 21-21 Ramshead Gully. |
| 16-16 Right-angled Gully. | 22-22 Recess Route. |
| 17-17 Direct Finish. | H Half-way Terrace. |
| 18-18 Right-angled Groove. | O Shaft to Cave. |
| 19-19 Ramshead Ridge. | |

16. *Right-angled Gully*.—Difficult. First ascent Naismith and McGregor, 1895.

The best-known and most popular climb on this peak. The holds on first pitch now much worn. First two pitches up bed of gully then traverse right and scale a 10-foot wall.

17. *Direct Finish*.—50 feet—Severe. First ascent J. B. Nimlin, 1930.

This is the continuation of the gully from top of second pitch of 16. It has attracted climbers since the start of Cobbler climbing. In 1896 Raeburn and Tough got to within 15 feet of the top under snowy conditions. For about thirty years after that the direct ascent was declared impossible though often done with the aid of a rope from above. Since the first unaided ascent it has often been led, and with vegetation removed is now much cleaner than formerly. About half-way up the leader can thread his rope behind a stone which is not obvious from below. From the thread the left wall is climbed on small holds. Although these are sketchy a certain amount of support can be had with the back on the right wall.

18. *Right-angled Groove*.—120 feet—Very severe and exposed. First ascent J. B. Nimlin (solo), 1934.

Starts lower and to right of 16 and finishes on outer rim of broad ledge of ordinary Right-angled Gully route. Stonecrop grows profusely on the lower part. The holds are small and sloping and the whole route very exposed. Awkward bulge at 30 feet and traverse left at 90 feet on minute holds. Dry windless weather essential. Can only be done as a single pitch, balance climbing throughout, so rather hazardous. Climbed in rubbers.

19. *Ramshead Ridge*.—120 feet—Very difficult.

This is the short ridge between Right-angled Gully and Ramshead Gully. The crest can be reached from the right side. Fine well-cut holds—finish on terrace below 18. One can then traverse right by short pitch over jammed boulder to upper screes of Ramshead Gully.

20. *Ramshead Wall*.—80 feet—Very difficult. First ascent J. B. Nimlin and A. Sanders, August 1934.

This route lies on wall at top of Ramshead Gully and gives a fine face climb on reliable quartz holds. Forms a good finish to the Recess Route or McLay's Crack.

21. *Ramshead Gully*.—200 feet—Severe and exposed. First ascent J. and A. Muir, 1936.

This gully splits the mountain from top to bottom. Attempts have been made to climb it since last century but were always defeated about half-way up. The gully is climbed at an easy angle for 80 feet to deep-cut chimney on right. Then 1st Pitch (60 feet)—Climbed

completely inside chimney on excellent holds. Very exposed and sensational exit, left, to steep upper gully. 2nd Pitch (15 feet)—Climb gully on bad holds to smooth pitch smothered in vegetation and debris. 3rd Pitch—Huge boulder choked with rubble.

The climb was done by J. B. Nimlin and party in 1934, and leader was safeguarded by a rope from above while he "spring-cleaned" pitch 2. This pitch considered rather dangerous till loose stuff had been removed. No recorded climb since 1936, and much more gardening required.

22. *Recess Route*.—300 feet—Severe. First ascent, Pitch 6, H. Raeburn, 1896; entire climb, J. B. Nimlin, J. Fox, and R. Ewing, May 1935.

The finest climb, not only on the Cobbler, but in the whole Arrochar district. The rock is sound throughout, the climbing is consistently hard and offers a variety of technical problems. Starts at lowest point of rock between Ramshead Gully and Great Gully.

1st Pitch (50 feet).—A slabby wall is climbed to the left on balance holds to grassy ledges.

2nd Pitch (25 feet).—Traverse right across wall on small holds to a shallow niche below an 8-foot bulge. Pull up to good belay.

3rd Pitch (15 feet).—Slanting chimney to grassy platform. (Variation: Climb direct from grass ledge above first pitch to platform below pitch 4—small holds.)

4th Pitch (40 feet).—Rock chimney with jammed block in middle section. Thread belay below overhang near top.

5th Pitch (25 feet).—Deep, smooth-walled chimney—back and knee, finishing on left wall. This leads to "Half-way Terrace."

6th Pitch.—Traverse Terrace 30 feet to right where it ends abruptly over a 200-foot drop. Pitch known as "The Fold" starts at end of Terrace and is strenuous and severe. Second man can find concealed belay on floor level of Terrace. From the end, step into a corner with a crack in it. The crack is holdless, but can be climbed by jamming the right arm in it and using sketchy holds on left wall. Less strenuous by climbing outer edge of left wall, but very exposed and very small holds.

(To escape from this pitch without climbing down one can traverse left along "Half-way Terrace" to reach Ramshead Gully.)

7th Pitch (25 feet).—Deep, overhung cave; technically severe on right wall, slightly easier on left.

8th Pitch (20 feet).—Another overhung cave. Climbed on left wall to steep grass slope below Route 20.

(*Note*.—Pitches 7 and 8 can be avoided by traversing right along ledge to final pitch of McLay's Crack Route, while they can also be used as a finish to that route.)

23. *McLay's Crack*.—200 feet—Difficult. First ascent McLay and Naismith, 1895.

Starts about 20 feet lower and to left of Great Gully. A smooth wall in a corner is ascended into a turfy chimney, often very slimy. After 60 feet chimney branches and left branch is followed. Here there is an exposed pitch, but on sound rock with good holds. This leads to a mantelshelf with a rock step above. As already noted, one can traverse from this mantelshelf to Recess Route.

24. *Great Gully*.—Moderate.

Often very slimy and not recommended in summer. In hard snow it gives an interesting climb when the two usually easy pitches will be difficult.

25. *North Rib*.—200 feet—Very difficult. First ascent J. B. Nimlin and J. Fox, 1935.

Starts 20 feet to right of Great Gully and goes up rib crowning north wall of gully.

1st Pitch (40 feet).—Steep face climb with awkward traverse on small holds.

2nd Pitch (50 feet).—Straight up over easy rock and turfy ledges into a deep scoop from which a steep crack leads up.

3rd Pitch (60 feet).—Climb up crack for 8 feet, then very difficult left-hand traverse to crest of rib. Continue for 50 feet up steep rock on good holds to a rock shelf overlooking the gully. About 50 feet of climbing above this and choice of routes.

About 200 yards west of 25 a line of crags rises from a field of huge boulders. There are possible short routes here, and the area is best reached by continuing up the burn from the Narnain Stone in the direction of Ben Ime, then striking uphill to the left.

Grading.—All may not agree to the grading given here, but an attempt has been made to make it as equable as possible. As elsewhere, most routes will be more difficult in bad weather. In the newer balance climbs wind should be taken into consideration, Routes 4, 5, 9, 15, and 18 being rendered precarious in high wind. For long the classic traverse has been by Routes 1, 7, 10, and 16. A modern traverse would be by Routes 2, 7, 10, and 22, while the North Peak alone will give many days' good sport.

Winter Climbing.—As far as our information goes, Routes 1, parts of 2, 7, 10, 12, 16, 22, and 24 at least have been climbed under snow and ice. Even the easy Route 1 can become quite difficult, and the descent by Route 7 may be very icy. The best gully for glissading is that immediately to the right of the Centre Peak, but a fairly heavy snowfall is necessary to cover all the rock.

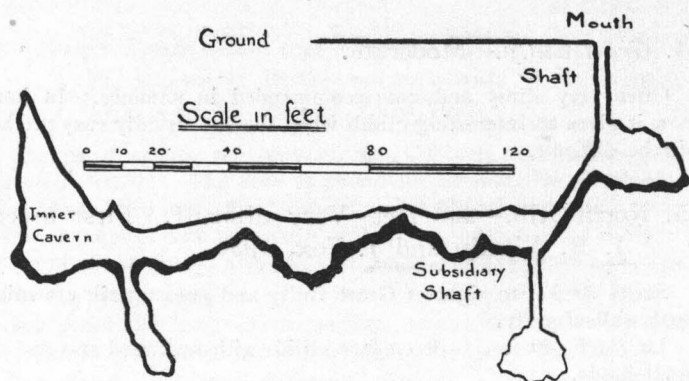


DIAGRAM III
COBBLER CAVE

Caving.—The Cobbler, besides providing every standard of climbing, gives an opportunity for potholing.

To the left, at the foot of the Ramshead Ridge and just off the tourist path to the summit, is the opening of a vertical shaft leading downwards. Descending about 30 feet one reaches the floor of a huge cave. From this cave one crawls inwards, then a sloping slab leads down to a lower storey. (This can also be reached by an incline to the left.) In the centre of the floor of this second storey a vertical shaft drops to the basement from where there is no exit. Continuing inwards, a tortuous passage winds along, narrows, then slopes down to a huge inner cavern. One can ascend the farther wall of this and continue a short distance to where the shaft narrows. A rope and a good torch are necessary, and the 30-foot shaft could be classed as very difficult. The distance from the shaft inwards is about 150 feet, and the inner passages were apparently first explored by D. Beveridge and B. H. Humble on 22nd September 1940.

There is also a two-storey cave, reached by climbing up from the left-hand branch of the Ramshead Gully, with no exit above.

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"Botanical Notes." J. Rennie. Vol. 12, p. 186.

"Cobbler Calling." B. H. Humble. Vol. 21, p. 392.

Notes on Climbs (also see above articles)—

Routes 1 and 7, Vol. 3, p. 161; Routes 3 and 13, Vol. 5, p. 141;
Routes, 5 and 14, Vol. 21, p. 392; Route 6, Vol. 4, p. 65;
Routes 16 and 17, Vol. 4, p. 248; Route 21, Vol. 4, p. 248,
Vol. 9, p. 54; Route 22, Vol. 9, p. 54, Vol. 21, p. 392;
Route 23, Vol. 3, p. 351; Route 24, Vol. 3, p. 161; Route
25, Vol. 5, p. 141, Vol. 22, p. 199.

The War and the Cobbler

THE soldier, billeted near Glasgow, managed to wangle a day off parades, telling his sergeant-major he had to visit "close relations in the West Highlands" (for surely the Cobbler and his wife can be so termed!). When we were walking through Arrochar, the soldier in uniform, with a coil of rope over his shoulder, a little boy asked, "Is that rope fur tae hang Hitler?"

B. H. H.

A VISIT TO THE CAIRNGORMS IN 1875.**By Walter A. Smith.***(Reprinted by kind permission from the " Scotsman " of
17th August 1875.)*

THE Artist and I had some difficulty in persuading the Professor to go. On broaching the question to him he retreated behind his big treatise; and began to talk in a despondent sort of way about "that paper for the British Association." But Mrs Professor at last settled the question by packing his knapsack, and we then cut off his escape by writing to Mrs Grant to engage the rooms. Mrs Grant keeps that comfortable and quiet little inn at Abernethy, Speyside, which we had determined to make our headquarters during a week to be spent in the exploration of the Cairngorm mountains; and on Saturday afternoon, after enjoying the most wonderful of railway rides in the United Kingdom—through the romantic Killiecrankie Pass, up over the wild streams and mountains of Drumochter, and down again to the banks of the quieter but still rapid Spey—we received a hearty welcome and capital dinner from our estimable hostess. Having settled down and taken possession of our quarters, we went out and sat on Nethy Bridge in the evening to survey the mountains, the scene of our week's work. There they were, all grand and beautiful, with the brilliant rosy light of the evening sun shining full upon their rugged crests—the outline of each ridge and shoulder and snowy precipice showing sharp and clear against the light blue expanse of sky beyond, unsullied by even the semblance of a cloud. The light blue sometimes merged into an equally splendid pale green, an effect of colouring which the Artist described as "mediæval." And as we sat the sun sank behind the low range of hills across the strath behind us, and the rosy flush faded from the mountains so that they became black and mysterious, although their outlines still remained almost as clear as before. The clearness of the skyline now—at 9.30 P.M.—was indeed truly marvellous! Then, over the broad

high forehead of the Cairngorm rose in sparkling splendour a solitary star. This was the crowning glory of the night. The Professor cried out in the enthusiasm of his admiration—"Behold! the hills are the gates of heaven, and the star is the spirit of the mountain leading upwards and onwards with a hopeful, kindly light!" And so we went in to toddy and to bed, hoping to go up to-morrow.

But it was Wednesday morning, after a large and early breakfast, that we started to ascend the Cairngorm. As we intended sleeping at the Loch Avon "Shelter Stone," we took with us plaids, a small tin of spiced beef, a dozen large scones, a small tin of prepared coffee and milk, a packet of firelighters, and the indispensable pocket-pistols, primed with the best "Belmenach." ("Aye, but it was a coot speerit.") The morning was very hot, and the walk up past the Dell of Abernethy and through the pine forests was rather toilsome. For the first four miles we had an excellent and well-made cart road running S.S.E. A footpath continuing in the same direction across a heathy opening in the forest, and afterwards out on the open moor, brings us in twenty minutes more to the gamekeeper's cottage—named, we believe, "Ranettan." Having a slight acquaintance with the honest ranger, we go in and have a chat, and a jug of creamy milk. A man of some humour, he guessed there were no "red deer" in Piccadilly, and wondered how folks could live in towns at all. The Professor was beginning to explain, but we cut him short, and got outside again. This being the last human habitation we shall see for the next thirty hours or more, it has a peculiar interest beyond the grandeur of the view from its door. Standing pretty high on the west side of the valley of the Nethy, it commands a very complete and striking view of the whole great mass of Cairngorm, and further to the east of the strangely back-boned and sharply peaked ridge of Bein-na-Bynach. Down the dark, narrow, and terribly rugged glen between the two mountains, rush in wild career over the granite boulders and debris the light brown waters of the Nethy, here called the Garavault (rough water). This is a very remarkable

glen, almost forbidding in its dreadful stoniness. The whole surface of the ground in it is heaped over with broken rocks, and up in its desolate corries on either side, great beds of loose boulders seem ready on the slightest provocation to pour down in stony flood upon the stumbling wayfarer below. When on a previous day we had explored this "Valley of the Shadow of Death," as the Artist likened it unto, we found in the principal corrie on the eastern side, just under the lower peak of Bein-na-Bynach, a large ice-bound snow-bed and a very lofty waterfall. By following the Garavault to its highest spring, and crossing the comparatively low ridge above it, the adventurous explorer will find himself close upon, and not many hundred feet above, the north-west corner of Loch Avon. But to return to the Cairngorm and our present route. The long northern flank of Cairngorm is terminated at a point about three and a half miles south of Ranettan by a narrow and romantic break in the range of hill, through which the path that we are now on finds its way into Glen More. About 500 yards before entering the pass, the track passes a small ruined hut on the bank of a little burn rattling down from the north-east side of the large-coned "Herd's Hill," which forms the western side of the pass, and is the culminating peak of the Nethy range of hills. This pass is well worth exploring. Up its high steep sides the Scots fir climb and cling in the most daring and picturesque fashion. In its centre lies a remarkable little loch of great depth and without visible outlet. It is called the "Green Lake," on account of its peculiar colour. Although the water is of great purity, its bottom is invisible; but lying on its steep sides below the surface may be seen bare skeletons of giant pine trees, ancient denizens of the forest, fossilising or rotting there, I know not which, but still spreading out their knarled white arms through the clear green water in quite a ghastly manner. The path goes by the west side of the lake, and it is a most delightful walk from it down Glen More by the fir-clad shore of Loch Morlich, and through Rothiemurchus Forest to Aviemore.

The ruined hut mentioned above is the point from which we begin the actual ascent. Crossing diagonally a little gully in front of the cottage, we bear gradually up the side of the steep, heathery slope directly in front, towards a curious small stony gap in its ridge. Passing along the western edge of the gap, a very slight descent is made to where a small stream comes down from the ridge beyond the one we had just crossed. This second ridge meets the first almost at right angles. It is near an hour's work from the ruined hut to this small stream, and the ground is very rough. In fact this has been about the most fatiguing part of the whole ascent. The heat has now become very great, and not a breath of air was stirring. To make matters worse, we were persecuted by swarms of buzzing, blood-thirsty flies. For protection from these horrible creatures (I'm afraid our language regarding them was at the time considerably stronger, and might truthfully have been described as "week-day"), whose buzz was, however, much worse than their bite, as well as for a shade from the sun, we here erected a tent by suspending a plaid over our walking sticks, and reposed in quietness beneath. A most successful dodge! The Artist has since produced a most "characteristic picture" of this romantic scene. It consists of a background of flies and a foreground of six human feet encased in nailed leather, and is very beautiful. On our feet once more, we skirt along the west side of this second ridge, without much farther ascent for, say, a quarter of a mile; and then, where some black boggy ground occurs, a sort of track is seen bearing a little to the left, and ascending pretty steeply a third ridge. This is the actual main north ridge of the Cairngorm itself, and we are soon on the top of it, with the "Garavault" immediately below us on our left, and away far down on the right the forests of Glen More lying peacefully in the bright sunshine, with Loch Morlich glistening like a shield of silver in their bosom. It is plain sailing now all the way to the summit of the mountain. Keeping on the backbone of the ridge, we more or less gradually ascend to the top, a height of 4,090 feet. The climb is

very long, and owing to the heat we had to take it very leisurely, so that it was 5.30 P.M. before we reached the cairn. Just below the topmost ridge, in a slight hollow on the west side of the almost level saddle which there occurs, is a magnificent spring of extremely cold water, bubbling slowly up beside a bright green patch of moss among the slabs of granite. This was a great and merciful refreshment. We ascend from here to the top, keeping slightly to the right hand, but owing to the rounded formation of the summit we do not see the cairn until we are quite close upon it. But there it is at last :—

“ See yon lone cairn, so grey with age,
Above the base of proud Cairngorm;
There lies the dust of Avon’s sage,
Who raised the spirit of the storm.”

The sage and the spirit were represented by two ptarmigan, hopping about on the stones, but they fled, and we were left in exclusive possession. What a glorious sensation it is to get to the top of such a mountain as this! All the toil and labour of the ascent is at once forgot, and as you sit quietly on the “ lone cairn,” you feel lifted up above all mundane cares and troubles. A noble sense of freedom is wafted on the wings of the mountain breeze, and as you look abroad over the length and breadth of the land you feel that for the time being it is all your own, to be enjoyed to your heart’s content. And what a wonderful land of hills it is we looked abroad upon! To the east and south the great masses of Bein-na-Bynach, Ben Muich Dhui, and their neighbours shut off any distant view, but are themselves a striking panorama of craggy peak, snowy precipice, and ponderous mountain top. To the west and south-west again, however, the eye roams over an endless series of mountainous ranges and deep valleys, reaching one beyond the other far away into the blue distance, until it rests upon, some 60 miles or more away, the giant head of Ben Nevis towering grandly above his fellows. Glancing round to the north-west the broken pyramid of Ben Slioch attracts your attention, and you are carried away in imagination to the brilliant beauties of Loch Maree; and then across the

misty firths of Inverness and Cromarty, Ben Wyvis looms darkly in the distant north. But we cannot remain to look at this magnificent prospect all evening. We begin to descend the mountain bearing a little to the left of the top, and in an opposite direction from that in which we had ascended. Very soon we come upon the head springs of a stream that falls down into Loch Avon about half a mile below its upper end. At these springs we disturbed a large herd of wild red deer, which were evidently preparing to pass the night at them. They galloped off, however, in a long column of two abreast, headed by an advance guard of nobly-antlered stags, and disappeared over the skyline towards Ben Muich Dhui. We, on the other hand, follow our stream, which rushes down a steep stony gully in a south-easterly direction, making some fine waterfalls in its descent. It is a "pretty considerable scramble" down to Loch Avon, but who would not imperil his ankles for the sake of the truly grand and magnificent scene which opens gradually up before us as we pick our steps cautiously down. It was now almost seven o'clock. The great peaked and rugged mural precipices round the head of the deep blue lake lost in terribleness but gained in picturesque beauty in the bright light of the evening sun, and the large white snow-beds on the rocky slopes above the crags blushed roseately beneath the warm kisses of its horizontal rays. The shadow of the mountain side we were upon was cast with great distinctness on the still steeper cliffs of Ben-y-Main across the loch; but it's no use—words *cannot* describe the weird grand beauty of this place under these evening lights and shades. It was a sight once seen never to be forgot! We are looking forward with much interest to the completion of the Artist's picture of the scene which he is at present preparing "from sketches taken on the spot." His whole soul was then imbued with its grandeur; so doubtless will his canvas.

(To be continued.)

[The Editor has had the privilege of perusing correspondence between Mrs Walter A. Smith and Mr Arthur W. Russell, in which the identities of the members of the expedition were disclosed. The

Professor was brother-in-law to Mr Smith and was Alexander Kennedy, Professor of Engineering at University College, Dundee, afterwards of Messrs Kennedy & Donkin, who installed electric light into Edinburgh. He joined the S.M.C. in the year 1895. The Artist was Mr Colin Phillip, an original member of the Club, whose knowledge of the Scottish mountains was unrivalled. Mr Walter A. Smith was also an original member. Mr and Mrs Smith spent many of the subsequent years living at the foot of the Cairngorms.]

"THE INFERIOR MOUNTAINS."*

By J. F. A. Burt.

IT was a post card from a friend week-ending in Arran—the trite, over-photographed cone of Goatfell and the sweep of Brodick sands; and I looked up from it, with a sense of something lost, to the kindly contours of Cairnsmore of Fleet, my northern horizon for nearly a year past. Exiled in the most fascinating of all hill-countries, I had a sudden urgent need of mountains.

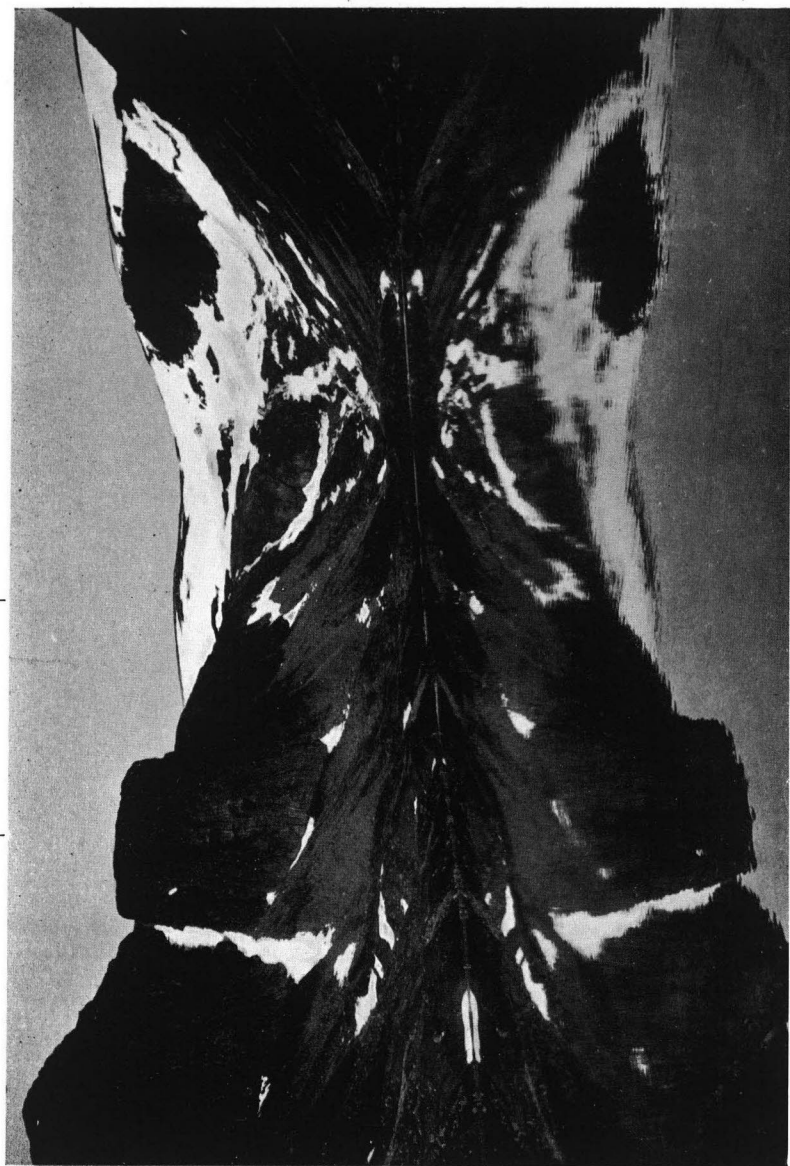
But in war time one cannot light-heartedly fill one's tank and swirl up to Rannoch or Taynuilt or Wester Ross, so I was left to sublimate that ache of desire by an analysis of its secret springs. What is a mountain? What is the skill of that magic which can satisfy a longing not to be stayed by hills?

Height is obviously not the criterion. I shall not easily forget the bleak disappointment with which, after a long and loving apprenticeship on Arran ridges, I achieved my first Munro—Sgiath Chuil. From Luib station it had nothing of the appearance of a mountain:

* [Ruskin in "Modern Painters," referring to Turner's drawing of "Loch Coriskin," calls it "a perfect expression of the Inferior Mountains." Professor Collie, in "A Chuillionn," *S.M.C.J.*, Vol. 4, much of which has been reprinted in the "S.M.C. Guide to the Island of Skye," discusses the whole question of mountain grandeur, but there is still room for an expression of opinion which will cover our Lowland hills.—ED.]

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June 1906

A. W. Russell

LOCH AVON AND THE SHELTER STONE CRAG
(C—Shelter Stone Crag E—Shelter Stone)



CIR MHOR
(from the summit of Caisteal Abhail)

H. MacRobert

underfoot it did not feel like one; and its top, even though reached by a long snow-field, was woefully reminiscent of the Campsie or Balligeich. Measured in physical output, it was dreadfully impressive; as a viewpoint it was superb; but compared with, say, Ben Venue, it was featureless and void of all mountain feeling; and if one's thoughts strayed for a moment to Cir Mhor or Caisteal Abhail or a' Chir —! It took a strenuous next day on Ben More and Stobinian to exorcise the anticlimax.

Yet height (and bulk) must come into it somewhere. The Dent de Satarme or the Clocher de Bertol—to take extreme cases—are delightful *bonnes bouches*, but with no suspicion of a mountain flavour. And here I may as well admit to a secret (and, in view of many glorious days, an ungrateful) heresy. Save when snows fill his gullies and the mists writhe among his twisted rocks, the Cobbler never impresses me as a mountain. Rather is he a fantastic, fascinating crag, which a freak of nature has based on moorland hills instead of in the sea which ought, one feels, to wash his foundations. With an affectionate, irrational reservation in favour of Beinn A'an, I am inclined to fix on Stac Polly as our smallest genuine mountain—2,009 feet, but "every inch a king."

Isolation from its fellows, a certain concavity in the upsweep of its lines, and the emergence of its naked bony structure at the upper levels which that concavity implies—these seem to be the family features common to the peaks among which my homesick imagination is straying—the grand pure lines of Stobinian soaring up, snow-fringed on the lee-side, from the Bealach eadar da Bheinn: Cir Mhor's feminine grace framed between the down-sweep of Suidhe Fheargas and the South Wall of Sannox: the Gothic splendour of the Buachaille, utterly satisfying whether you look up to Stob Dearn from Rannoch, or down over Rannoch from Stob Dearn: Goatfell, grey and gracious above the shining sea.

A longing for mountain landscapes and mountain-tops is a thing which might come to a man at any time; but in these days when all our thinking and all our feeling

is jostled and stampeded and trampled by squalid horrors and heart-rending heroisms, over and above the epileptic drive of a war-time routine, there is a potency, perhaps only half-guessed before, in the strong unyielding beauty of mountain shapes, in the vast depths and far horizons which clothe a mountain summit, beyond all solitudes, with a peace in which our souls can think.

*And O, ye Fountains, Meadows, Hills, and Groves,
Forbode not any severing of our loves !*

I would not be thought to belittle or deny the kindly charm, the whole-hearted fellowship of the rolling uplands. They have endless variety of type, endless variety of mood. One's mind strays to little birch-screened burns in the southern moors of Arran, winding their way round the knees of the heather-hills, and stepping down the opening glen from pool to pool in fall after chuckling fall; or an almost tropical density of dank undergrowth and matted trees, broken by savage little rock-falls, above Katrine and the Trossachs. And there are my merry little summer hills of Cowal, where one can drift from one rocky outcrop to another, with some sudden glint of an unexpected reach of Loch Fyne, or a blue hint of Arran, it may be, or Cruachan, at every other top: or one may breast a gentle rise to come upon fantastic rocky breaches—Ben Donich is supreme in this—caverns, crevasses, precarious rockfalls surviving from the time when the schists of all this region were, like Falstaff's heart, "fracted and corroborate."

There is a rolling savanna-country between the Tay and the Howe of Fife which can fill a man's heart with an inexplicable sense of joyous discovery and spacious wealth; and south of this one may revel in the long vistas of the Fifeshire Lomonds, serene in the Sabbath sunlight; and then the sudden, breathless helter-skelter down to Falkland or Kinnesswood.

And so to the South Uplands: White Coombe, eerie in mist and driving rain, and the remote "pastoral melancholy" of Loch Skene. My foster-country here has range on range of lonely hills sweeping down to heathery wastes

and queer, stony little lochs with elvish names: there is a potent magic in them; but, a newcomer, I am not yet wholly sure that it is friendly one.

But when all is said, a divine relaxation of mood is the highest gift we can look for from the hills that are not mountains—the good, clean, human prose, the pleasant minor poetry of the climber's bookshelf. Would the day were come when that gift shall be our chief need and our dearly-won privilege! Meantime, such peace of mind as may be ours comes from a balance of extreme tensions, not from any relaxation, however wholesome and benign.

. . . A patrol plane swings droning over the shoulder of Cairnsmore: high-pitched voices and a flurry of bicycles on the gravel below my window announce some of my charges (that adorable generation who, do what we may for them, are going to have some desperate pitches to surmount) from a bathing expedition to a Solway beach—and I realise with a start that I have been perched for uncounted minutes on a summit tor of Caisteal Abhail, with Coire na h'Uaimh shadowy below my dangling feet, and the grey ridges sweeping out in majestic curves to the riven face of Cir Mhor, to the boulder-strewn desolation of Sail an Im, and beyond them all, the wide encircling Firth. I was not forgetful of the war, but only of the littlenesses it imposes on the life of a middle-aged civilian. If I could be there in very truth, for a quiet hour about the sunset-time, I believe I might begin to catch some glimpse of what it all means.

NIGHT UP THERE.**II.—HOGMANAY ON BEN NEVIS.**

By W. H. Murray.

THERE are several sound ways of observing the New Year in Scotland, and it may be that the devout pub-crawler alone knows true wisdom. Wherever the truth may lie, R. G. Donaldson, G. R. B. McCarter, and I, in an outburst of ascetic resolve, cut the Crianlarich Congress and the Bridge of Orchy bacchanalia and severed all ties with the triumphs of twentieth-century civilisation in order to mortify our flesh on the icy summit of Ben Nevis. From the hard-boiled stare of the philistine we take refuge in Mendelian law: "The fault, dear Brutus, lies not in ourselves," but in our grandfathers, that we are unsociable men.

A preliminary reference to the "Guide" revealed that winter hurricanes on Nevis could reach a velocity of 150 miles per hour. It seemed too much to hope that we ourselves should enjoy the privilege of such an experience, but in midwinter all things are possible on Nevis. Our imaginations leapt to the stirring conception that the tent with ourselves inside might be uprooted at midnight and removed in Cimmerian darkness to the 2,000-foot contour in the Allt a Mhuilinn. We planned, therefore, to countersink the tent in the snow-cap by excavating a 2-foot pit and building a 2-foot wall above. As insulation from the snow we procured light sponge-rubber mats, four single sleeping-bags, and one double bag. For cooking we chose one meth. stove, which from previous experience we knew to be lighter, cleaner, and swifter than a primus. Our tent weighed 9 lbs. and was made of cambric, with sewn-in groundsheet and circular sleeve doors and ventilators.

At noon on the last day of the year we sallied forth from Achintee with rucksacks weighing 35 lbs. each. The sun shone from a cloudless sky and tempered the freezing air to a choice crispness, so that we could walk slowly and breathe deeply, drinking the cool air as the thirsty climber drinks his beer. As we approached the

summit plateau the great snow-fields were surfaced with an icy crust, which gleamed and flashed in a flood of fiery pink from the setting sun, until we seemed surrounded by a sea of red flame, as though the whole summit were once again turned to flowing lava, red-hot and molten with inner fires. The sky became a riot of every imaginable colour, from palest green to bright red. The beauty was breath-taking and too great for proper comprehension. But the colours grew dull in time, and we pitched the tent some distance behind the Observatory, where the snow-slope suddenly dipped to Glen Nevis, and we looked straight across the twisted spine of the Mamores to Glencoe, past the Blackmount and the hills of Crianlarich, until the eye came to rest on the dim outline of Ben Lomond. From the height of the Observatory walls we estimated the depth of the snow-cap at 6 feet, but the weather was so settled that we jettisoned our plan of excavating a pit.

The cold was now intense. There was not a breath of wind. We retired to the tent and closed both doors and ventilators. The result was a glorious fug, for which we paid dearly later in the night when the fug condensed in such volume on the ground-sheet that our sleeping-bags were soaked right through. It is a matter for astonishment that the tent did not burst from its moorings and float away like a barrage balloon. We roused ourselves towards midnight and drank in the New Year from a communal mug filled with Mummery's Blood, made from boiling snow-water, bovril, and rum. The moon was up by this time; we could see it shining through the tent fabric. We put on our boots and went out to the open snow-fields—out into such a splendour of moonlight as one sees but rarely in a lifetime.

I wandered by myself towards the North-East Buttress, and my shadow was cast long and dark on the glistening snow-crust, which crunched quietly underfoot. There I stopped to contemplate the surging world of gleaming frosted peaks, inundated by a white, even light that poured in a flood of poetry from heaven to earth. The crowded sky shone with stars that were steady and did

not twinkle; and far below in the depths of the Spean valley, wrapping the foothills in a light transparent vapour, hung a fine white mist, which the moonbeams pierced and silvered. No man could look for long on the serene beauty of that pale-faced night and not feel stirred to the depths of his soul. And all this sublime splendour was purposeless? How melancholy was the thought! The beauty of that star-splashed sky, and of those pure white peaks bathed in its constant light, was such a noble introduction to the year of doubt and despair that must inevitably follow. Yet how could it hold, as truly it seemed to hold, such good promise for the new-born year when man had already compromised his future in the plains? The unhappy train of thought that must follow such futile speculation was broken by the arrival of Donaldson and then of McCarter. We prowled about the plateau in an orgy of silent delight, then returned to the tent and slept uncomfortably till 8.30 A.M.

The darkness was noticeably lessening when McCarter opened up the tent to get snow for breakfast. He looked out and gave a sudden exclamation of astonishment. "Another damned dawn," I thought ill-temperedly. But sleepiness vanished and the cold was forgotten when I saw the sight for myself. Right across the whole length of the eastern horizon, from north to south, ran a broad crimson bar, fading to orange in its upper fringe, then melting into the pale blue sky, which darkened and deepened towards the zenith and became navy-blue in the west, where night still hovered over the frost-bound land. Very long, very thin, very unsubstantial streamers of cloud hung about the sky, and these were caught and fired by great beams of light, which radiated from a central point in the crimson bar. The whole made a perfect geometrical pattern like a vast cobweb, of which the threads were jets of orange and pink flame suspended across the vault of the sky. The mountains of Wester Ross, incredibly wild and icy, dominated the north. They looked like the original Alpine range of 10,000 feet from which they are reputedly descended. Now the most aged mountains in Europe, and but the stumps of their

former selves, they still display their old nobility in the classic lines of ridge and peak. In huge, rolling domes, the Cairngorms bulged against the north-eastern sky, like "frosted cities of infinite sleep." But the absorbing subtleties of this northern panorama were soon swamped by the stirring crudities of the eastern skyscape where the sun came up flashing, streaming, blazing in a furious glory of blinding light, as though it were white-hot gold in the glowing crucible of the heavens. Higher and higher rose the sun, until we could no longer raise our heads and with level eye look squarely into his face. The colour faded from the sky, which became an even blue; the icy sparkle of the snow-peaks changed to a growing glare.

We breakfasted on kippers, brown bread and cocoa, then whisked round to the Allt a Mhuilinn and climbed up to Gardyloo Gully. The long preliminary slopes of powder-snow gave way to grey and gluey ice, and we fought our way up through torrents of dry snow and icy spiculæ, which poured from the gully walls on to our heads. The through route under the arch was open; beyond was a 35-foot pitch of gleaming ice, which hung over the rocks in great clear curtains, pillars, and bulges. The ice was exceptionally hard. At the first few blows of the axe it merely changed colour from bleak grey to white. Then the chips came out. I hewed my way up for an hour and a half, the ice-spray spurting into my face as pick struck ice, and my wrists and arm-muscles red-hot with the one-handed swing and cut. We reached our tent again after the sun was down. We had spent five hours in the gully—a severe climb and the first ascent of the winter season.

Between us we travelled over 1,000 miles to reach Nevis at the New Year; we carried 110 lbs. of equipment through a vertical height of 4,400 feet; we spent an uncomfortable night on the snow-cap; our car was frozen when we returned to Achintee. For all this work and unpleasantness we have, say the philistines, nothing to show except one gully climb. Nothing to clink in our pockets, so to speak. But the wide, silent snow-fields crimsoned by the rioting sky, and the frozen hills under the slow moon will nevertheless remain with us, quite probably till we die.

NEW CLIMBS.**Ben Nevis, Carn Dearg Buttress—Evening Wall.**

THIS climb starts at the conspicuous chimney 30 feet to the right of Waterfall Gully, which it soon crosses, and works up the big, vertical left-hand wall (the north-west face of Carn Dearg Buttress) before going out on to the more northerly face above the overhang. From this point it follows a groove straight to the top of the Buttress. Belays are ample. The first ascent was made in the late evening of 19th June 1940 by Messrs C. F. Rolland and H. I. Ogilvy (both C.U.M.C.). The pleasing exposure to the setting sun suggested the name.

The first pitch of about 80 feet is the hardest, as the upper part of the chimney is very difficult, to a grass ledge on the left. After crossing the gully a difficult edge is followed by slabs to a grassy section. This leads to a line of weakness on the left and to the long ledge with a great detached flake at its south-west end. Slabs continue for about 100 feet to a ledge and then, more easily, to a flake. A long, easier stretch now inclines leftwards by ledges to a lofty corner "on the edge of all things." The upper half of the climb now continues to the left on good holds, with a very short traverse to the right followed by a diagonal ascent leftwards to a grass ledge. Another grassy ledge to the left finally takes one to the north face of the crag, to a stance with a groove on either side. The climb continues up a difficult right-angled corner to the right (the easier groove). The groove continues, giving a strenuous climb to the final cairn on a grass ledge with a belay near by. Easy scrambling now leads to the top of the Buttress.

H. I. OGILVY.

[The original account claims a length of over 800 feet for this route to the top cairn. This seems excessive.—ED.]

Raeburn's Buttress, Compression Crack.

Messrs C. F. Rolland and H. I. Ogilvy (both C.U.M.C.) solved an interesting chimney problem on this face on 21st June 1940. The grassy ledges above South Castle Gully were first climbed, involving an easy chimney and a slab pitch. Level with the top of the second steep section of the Castle are two somewhat similar corners, the southerly being used. The climb of about 250 feet comprises an open water-worn chimney leading to the foot of a deep crack. This was named

Compression Crack, and bears a resemblance to the Monolith Crack in Wales. It is difficult to enter, is close on 80 feet long, and is climbed facing right as far as a platform and then by means of the smooth left wall. One then traverses to the left to a cairn and continues by slab pitches until a variety of routes is available to the top of the Buttress.

H. I. OGILVY.

Ben Nevis, The Comb, Tower Face.

It is perhaps more distinctive and convenient to refer to the Tower Face of the Comb than to the south-east face. The climb here described starts from the highest of the system of ledges which trend obliquely upwards towards the "overhang" of the Comb, starting from No. 2 Gully scree and below the mouth of Comb Gully. Of this system the most conspicuous is that ledge which continues right underneath the overhang, almost petering out as it merges finally into Green Gully, but which, followed in that direction, provides a continuous traverse across the Comb and No. 3 Gully Buttress to No. 3 Gully. It is from this ledge, a very short distance beyond the overhang towards Green Gully, that Pigott's direct route starts at a severe, undercut chimney, just where a large block lies on the ledge. Near the No. 2 Gully end it may yet be feasible to climb directly from this ledge across an intermediate, short ledge to the upmost one from which this climb starts, but the rock is shattered and rather treacherous. On the Comb Gully side of this climb is a smooth precipice at the middle section and also an impossible vertical wall on the other side, so that it is likely that the route is unique as regards this face of the Comb.

The first ascent was made on 22nd June 1940 by Messrs H. I. Ogilvy, C. F. Rolland (both C.U.M.C.), and J. R. Hewit (J.M.C.S.). The end of the ledge is gained by loose rocks and an awkward traverse to the right, and the climb finishes on the easy, upper part of the roof of the Comb, a little way below the steep crest and some distance above the termination of the Pigott route.

From a cairn on the ledge the latter is followed for about 50 to 80 feet round to the right near its termination, then back to the left up a sort of staircase to the end of another ledge below a very steep scoop, or shallow gully. The take-off upwards is from a huge block up to a stance and a small belay about 40 feet up, then up the exposed edge on the left with a very difficult move to the left about 20 feet higher. This is exposed, with a considerable drop beneath, and soon leads to a good stance. Only the lower section presents some insecurity with split and fissured rock. Broken rocks continue more easily for about 80 feet, after which two routes present themselves. As noted below, a second party went to the right at this point, but the pioneers proceeded up to the left for 80 feet or so, then for a considerable stretch up a grassy groove, finally climbing a rock wall by a traverse to the right to a large ledge with a huge flake at the right-hand end forming a window, where a cairn was left. About here the alternative route joins in. The final stretch of 80 to 100 feet was over the window and round a corner on the right to a ledge and belay, from which the roof of the Comb was reached by an exposed wall.

The second party, Mr Geo. Dwyer and the Editor, on 6th August, took the right-hand traverse where indicated above. We traversed 10 to 15 feet to the right on an easy ledge to the foot of a long chimney with a good stance half-way. Above the top of the chimney is the flake and window aforementioned. The variation would appear to avoid the grassy and mossy upper section of the original route.

Still another and less orthodox way up the Comb from the middle part of Comb Gully was climbed on 16th June by the Editor and Mr J. D. B. Wilson (J.M.C.S.). A suitable name would be the Hesperides Ledge route. It is a little awkward at the start from Comb Gully, but the ledge is unmistakable, especially under snow conditions. It is a steeply inclined, curving shelf, and is a perfect garden of mossy and lush vegetation in summer conditions. As it curves upwards and round to the left there are several exceedingly delicate corners to negotiate, with a most precipitous drop on the right. The vegetation is loosely anchored, the rocks are rather loose and there are practically no positive holds, but there is a considerable margin of balance-safety. The exit on to the roof of the Comb is a little awkward and the point reached a little higher than the end of the climb already described.

J. H. B. BELL, using the notes of H. I. Ogilvy.

GLENCOE.**Stob Coire nam Beith—Buttress No. 2a.**

On 7th July Messrs R. L. Plackett and R. Bumstead (both C.U.M.C.), whilst seeking No. 3 Buttress climb, actually started up the triangular piece of rock seen at the base of the cliffs between the Nos. 2 and 3 Buttresses on photo. p. 89 of the "Guide." From the grassy platform above there is a continuous climb, unbroken by any grass ledges, to near the top of the mountain. One starts from a right-angled corner to the right. Footholds are good but handholds sketchy. At first one goes straight, but ultimately one bears a little to the right. The standard, on the English classification, is almost severe.

R. L. PLACKETT.

NORTH BUTTRESS, BUACHAILLE ETIVE MÒR.**Pluto's Pilgrimage.**

The start is at a cairn against North Buttress wall in Great Gully, 100 yards lower down than the start of Raven's Gully, but above waterslide. The first section of about 180 feet is continuously difficult and strictly defined.

The route passes a slimy slab on the right, the corner on the left below the bulge is turned, and the pitch finishes up an open corner just to the right of fine block belay on grassy platform (50 feet). A narrow chimney now leads to another grassy platform 10 feet up. An open corner followed by a narrow crack gives a very hard climb, with a rather exposed finish on a triangular ledge (40 feet). Traversing round a corner a few feet to the left, a steep and sensational climb leads upwards by way of a shallow groove to a broad grassy ledge and easier rock (80 feet).

It seems possible to escape downwards from the triangular ledge to easier rock on the right. The middle section of this climb, about 190 feet, is rather artificial and difficulties are avoidable. There are several good chimneys and slabs. A cairn was left half-way up. The final section of the climb, again about the same length, was chosen as giving the most interesting route, but many variations are possible. At first ledges lead to a platform, then more slabs to a ledge, and finally a vertical crack leads to the terminal cairn, and easy scrambling to the summit ridge.

The first ascent was on 13th May 1940, in wet weather, by E. R. Zenthon and B. V. Fox (both J.M.C.S.). The lower section was found severe in boots but the other sections were much easier. The whole route gives over 500 feet of good climbing.

E. R. ZENTHON.

Belial's Binge.

Another route up this west face of the North Buttress, a trifle easier but still difficult, and of length about equal to the first section of Zenthon's route, was made on 15th September 1940 by Mr J. R. Wood (J.M.C.S.) along with the Editor. It starts at a cairn half-way between Zenthon's and the start of Raven's Gully and finishes at a cairn close to the smooth upper cliff which faces north-west. From there one proceeds upwards below the cliff to a pleasant chimney with a through route to the open upper part of North Buttress.

Sixty to seventy feet upwards and obliquely to the left led to a good stance, from which a short traverse to the left led steeply upwards to a good stance and belay below a mantelshelf block to the right of a chimney (50 to 60 feet). Getting into the chimney is very awkward, but 30 feet of this leads to a good stance. The final 50-foot pitch goes somewhat to the right and finishes up a vertical wall on very small holds. We apologise for the name, but maintain that there are extenuating features about the cliff.

J. H. B. B.

LOCHNAGAR.

North-west Gully, Creag an Dubh Loch.

This gully is mentioned in the "Cairngorm Guide" (p. 79) as looking "hopeless." A survey from above would seem to confirm this impression, but in reality the only climbing difficulties are confined to the entrance and exit.

The gully falls into three sections: (1) First 200 feet over vegetation and slab which lands one to the true bed of the gully and up (2) an easy walk-cum-scramble over boulders to (3) about 250 feet of V-shaped gully, overhanging on the right, to the culminating "Exit Wall."

A route was taken to the right of a small stream which comes down at the foot of the gully. This led us into a subsidiary slabby groove above which an awkward traverse over vegetation landed us in the gully bed. A slightly unstable belay can be utilised at the traverse.

From here we could see the top of the gully, the final pitch seeming to be a tremendous, wet, unbroken slab. After the easy middle section we started on the narrow part of the gully, our route leading up past five jammed blocks which were climbed on the left wall without undue difficulty, the right wall, as mentioned above, being overhanging all the way up. Above the blocks we landed in a kind of groove in which care had to be exercised owing to the brittle nature of the rock and absence of belays. This continued until we reached the base of the final slab, which looked just as bad on close inspection as it did from below. At the same time the groove which went round to the right of the slab became impossible, and the only way of escape which looked feasible was by a steep wall on the left. As it was now raining, this was wet, but a small belay safeguarded the leader, who managed this exposed 60-foot pitch after a little prospecting. Above this a short crack and loose boulders landed us on the top.

This ascent was made on 28th July 1940 by Messrs J. Scott and K. McLaren of the Corrie Club, Dundee.

K. MCLAREN.

Eagle Buttress—Lochnagar.

A more direct route up this crag was made by Messrs W. S. Scroggie and J. G. Ferguson (of Dundee) on 9th August 1940 in rather poor conditions and nearly continuous rain. The new section was severe and devoid of belays, but the rock quality was excellent. Consequently four pitons were used on this steep 100-foot section and stocking-sole climbing was necessary.

The route diverges from the original route after the first 100 feet, where a grass platform is left on the right and a series of ribs and grooves used, leading, by means of a severe crack, back to the arête, where a cairn was left. The slabs on the edge were followed until it became necessary to traverse to the foot of the difficult 40-foot chimney of the first ascent. This led up to the crest of the buttress.

The next section was severe—40 feet of steep rock to a stance, followed by 12 feet of severe climbing consisting of a 7-foot overhanging wall and scoop. Then one traverses right, round a corner

to below a bulge. This was passed by a move to the left and the ridge regained. Steep rocks followed, then a mantelshelf leading to a holdless 15-foot slab. Finally the true crest had to be abandoned and a traverse made on the right over steep rock and grass, with a crack to regain the crest. Easy slabs on the left soon led to the summit.

J. G. FERGUSON.

[This is a most meritorious ascent. Perhaps, under better conditions, the use of pitons may be avoided. They are often a sign that not enough time has been or can be spent in pioneering a route. It must be noted that this is still not a *direct* ascent, but this may prove impossible.—ED.]

Maud Buttress, Craig Mellon, Glen Doll.

This entertaining, schistose, rocky buttress is prominently situated above Jock's Road in Glen Doll. It is the only conspicuous buttress and faces Craig Maud across the valley. On 15th October 1939 Dr Myles and the writer enjoyed an excellent and varied rock climb on this cliff in good weather conditions. The climb took us nearly three hours.

The lower part of the cliff would not go at all, as it was almost vertical, with overhung holds. We had to go obliquely up to the left and encountered some vegetation here and there. The climbing then continued for some way in a zigzag fashion, and several difficult ledges and short walls were encountered. An excellent stretch of sound, steep rock then led directly to the top of the penultimate cliff, a stretch with good incut holds. There now followed steep grass up to the foot of the last 150-foot terrace of cliff.

This was excellent, continuous, steep, and difficult. The start is to the right of a little waterfall gully. The lower section of this buttress is very difficult—a face, a difficult crack, and then a straight climb on good holds terminating on a well-defined crest just under the peaty plateau about the middle of Craig Mellon. A cairn was left at the top of this buttress. Many ways are possible on the lower section, easier as one goes to the left, but the upper section is worth seeking out, as it seems to be unique.

J. H. B. BELL.

In Memoriam.

SIR HENRY ALEXANDER, LL.D.,

1875-1940.

THE death of Sir Henry Alexander, at his residence, 31 Queen's Road, Aberdeen, on 7th April 1940, came as a great shock both to his relatives and fellow-citizens alike, on account of its alarming suddenness. In the manner of his passing, however, none can regret that there was no lingering illness, for the best that we can wish for those we love is that they may be spared prolonged and hopeless ill-health.

Sir Henry was born in Aberdeen on 20th June 1875. He belonged to a family which, for many years, held a distinguished position in the public life of their native city, and particularly in Aberdeen journalism. He received his education at Aberdeen Grammar School and Aberdeen University, graduating M.A. in 1895. His interest in educational affairs as author, editor, and administrator led to his receiving from his University the honorary degree of LL.D. in 1935. He was Convener of the Editorial Committee of *The Aberdeen University Review*, 1914-28. In 1914 he succeeded his father, the late Mr Henry Alexander, as Editor of the *Aberdeen Free Press*, a post from which he retired in 1922 when that newspaper became merged in the *Aberdeen Daily Journal*. He was Lord Provost of the City of Aberdeen from 1932 to 1935, and an *ex officio* member of the University Court since 1932, having latterly acted as assessor to Admiral Sir Edward Evans, the re-elected Rector of the University. He was D.L. and J.P. for the County of the City of Aberdeen. He was President of the following: the Territorial Army Association of the City of Aberdeen; the Aberdeen Branch of the British Red Cross Society; the National Lifeboat Institution (Aberdeen Branch); the City of Aberdeen Playing Fields Association, and the Royal Northern Agricultural Society. He was an Hon. Fellow of the Royal Empire Society and a member of the following: the Council for the Preservation of Rural

Scotland; the Northern Lighthouses Board; the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation; the Scottish Regional Appeals Advisory Committee of the British Broadcasting Corporation; the Scottish National Literary Society; the Consumers' Committee for Scotland of the Food Council and Consumers' Committee of Great Britain, and also Chairman of the Aberdeen King's Roll Committee.

In particular did Sir Henry distinguish himself, however, as Chairman of the Aberdeen and District Joint Town Planning Committee, which involved the preparation of a town-planning scheme for an area extending to ninety-six square miles, consisting of a large portion of the City of Aberdeen and of the adjoining land within the Counties of Aberdeen and Kincardine—a scheme which was the largest and most comprehensive of its kind ever undertaken in this country, and to which he devoted five years of constant work. In March 1933 the scheme was approved by the Department of Health for Scotland, and earned the considered appreciation of town-planning experts not only throughout this country but also abroad.

Sir Henry was from his youth a keen lover of the Scottish hills, and on every occasion available to a man with so many and exacting duties as he had he endeavoured to retreat to the great cathedrals of nature, where he could enjoy the rest and refreshment to body and mind which they can always afford. He joined the Scottish Mountaineering Club in 1908, but it was not until 1911 that his mother Club, the Cairngorm Club, found him within her fold.

As one would expect from his professional hand, the leaves of the *Journals* of both Clubs were from time to time adorned with articles, both about the hills and the historical and legendary lore of the country around them, with a charm of style and in a manner which showed that he had an unfailing eye for mountain form in all its varieties, coupled with a very thorough knowledge of life in the Highlands in bygone days.

His masterpiece, however, was undoubtedly the "S.M.C. Guide Book to the Cairngorms," extending to over two hundred pages. This book contains a most exhaustive and minutely accurate mass of information



SIR HENRY ALEXANDER, LL.D.

with regard to these important mountains, and has so far been one of the best-sellers of all the Club guide books yet issued. In respect of his contributions to the *Journal* and his general interest in the Club proceedings he served on the Committee during the years 1920-23, and he acted as Vice-president during the years 1931-33.

Occasionally, however, Sir Henry wandered from his homeland hills, and in 1910, 1913, and 1923 we find him in the Tyrol, on the Matterhorn, and in the Pyrenees respectively; but it was the Scottish hills which attracted him most, and there were few of their tops he had not visited more than once.

In his variety of public work he at all times carried into it caution and prudence, and so in his mountaineering he rather belonged to the Salvationist class than to that of the Ultramontane. He never inclined to look upon the mountains from the greased pole point of view, which Ruskin used to deplore. Like all true mountaineers, he climbed for the joy he got from the ever-changing scenes on the hillside, where, far from the noisy highways, he could linger and enjoy the peace and restfulness of the quiet places. And now he has gone down the long Western Ridge and disappeared in the sunset, but we cherish his memory for all that he was to our Club, and to ourselves—a fine, true gentleman. “*Sic itur ad astra.*”

W. GARDEN.

JOHN R. LEVACK, M.D.,

1870-1940.

WE have lost another of our prominent Aberdeen members, Dr J. R. Levack, who died on the 7th September after a long illness. He had been a member of the Club since 1908 and served on the Committee in 1926-29. He took a great interest in the doings of the Club and attended many of the Meets, especially those held in the Cairngorms. His contributions to the *Journal* were the record of the 1909 Easter Meet at Fort William, and a delightful article in Vol. 15 entitled “A Week-end at Inchnadamph.”

Dr Levack was one of the leading members of the

Cairngorm Club, which he joined in 1905. He was elected Chairman in 1918 and held office, latterly as President, for six years. He contributed eight excellent articles to the *Cairngorm Club Journal*. He was the promoter of the scheme for the placing of the view indicator on the summit of Lochnagar, and presided at the unveiling ceremony on 12th July 1924. Ben Macdhuì followed in 1925, and at the S.M.C. Annual Meeting in that year it was on Dr Levack's motion that the Club decided to place an indicator on Ben Nevis.

Dr Levack was a keen mountaineer, and in addition to much work done in the Cairngorms he climbed Lochnagar sixty times; he had many good seasons in the Coolins, and one or two seasons in the Alps.

Professionally he was one of the leading medical men in Aberdeen and specialised in Radiology, in which he was really a pioneer. In the 1914-18 war he held the rank of major in the R.A.M.C.

Levack was a good photographer and delighted many audiences in the north-east with his popular lecture on the Cairngorms. It was at one of these lectures in 1907 that I first met him, and ever since that time he was one of my most valued friends.

J. A. PARKER.

IT is with considerable regret that we announce the death on 22nd September 1940 of Mr HENRY IAIN OGILVY, one of the most promising of younger Scottish climbers. He died as the result of an accident on Sgoran Dubh whilst climbing with Miss Lucy Robson. As both members of the party were killed it is most unlikely that the cause of the misfortune will be elucidated.

It is unnecessary to refer to the skill and daring of Mr Ogilvy as a climber. The "New Climbs" section of our *Journal* bears witness to that. He has also done some fine Alpine expeditions and was a most successful President of the Cambridge University Mountaineering Club from 1939 to 1940.

The sympathy of all Scottish climbers will go out to the relatives of both victims of this distressing accident.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

EASTER MEET 1940—FORT WILLIAM.

THE Easter Meet this year was held in the Palace Hotel, Fort William, where Mr and Mrs Fairlie made us extremely comfortable. The weather conditions were not particularly favourable and the snow on Ben Nevis was in a desperately sodden state. Despite these drawbacks, difficulties of travel, and the absence of many younger men on war service, the Meet was quite a success, and many expeditions were carried out. At one time or another twenty-two members and a few guests (not all the names seem to be recorded) were present. Easter Sunday was a day of continuous rain, but conditions were much better on other days. A good many expeditions were accomplished on the way to and from the Meet.

The following members and guests attended: Mr Robert Jeffrey, President, and Messrs Allan Arthur, J. H. B. Bell, R. R. Elton, A. Geddes, A. Harrison, Norman L. Hird, J. B. Home, K. K. Hunter, R. M. Gall Inglis, W. N. Ling, J. Y. Macdonald, G. Graham Macphee, R. W. Martin, A. G. Murray, George Peat, C. M. Steven, C. R. Steven, T. E. Thomson, H. W. Turnbull, P. J. H. Unna, G. C. Williams (members), and C. H. Cadman, W. H. Murray (both J.M.C.S., guests).

The following expeditions were recorded:—

Thursday, 21st March.—No. 4 Gully, Turnbull; Corrou to Spean Bridge over the hills, Unna and Ling.

Friday, 22nd March.—Nevis by track, Turnbull; Castle Ridge, Arthur, Harrison, Jeffrey; the C.I.C. Hut, Hird and Unna.

Saturday, 23rd March.—No. 3 Gully, Arthur, Elton, Harrison, Jeffrey, Martin, Turnbull, and Unna; Mullach nan Coirean, Hird and Ling; Carn Mor Dearg Arête and back from Steall, Geddes and Home; Beinn a' Bheithir, Hunter and Inglis; Crowberry Ridge, Cadman and Peat; Aonach Dubh, Glencoe, No. 2 Buttress, the Steven brothers; G. C. Williams and two others went to the C.I.C. Hut.

Easter Sunday.—The Nevis gorge, Geddes, Hird, Inglis, Ling, and Thomson; Tower Gully, Hunter and Martin; Aonach Mor, Elton, Macphee, Murray, and Turnbull; Castle Ridge, Peat with Hendry and Cadman (J.M.C.S.).

Monday, 25th March.—Sgor na h-Ulaidh, Geddes and Inglis; Stob Ghabhar, Elton, Hird, and Jeffrey; Nevis by Coire Leis, Ling and Unna; Na Gruagaichean to Am Bodach from Kinlochleven, Home, the Steven brothers, and T. Mackinnon; Ben Nevis, Macphee and Murray.

Macdonald and Turnbull went to the Hut on Monday. On Tuesday they made a route from the ledge of Italian Climb over Garadh na Ciste to the foot of the ice-fall on Raeburn's easy route to the left of No. 2 Gully. On Wednesday they prospected lower Comb Gully and finished the Raeburn route to the top. On Thursday they climbed Douglas Boulder.

THE S.M.C. AND THE WAR.

WE print below a preliminary list of those of our members who have joined H.M. Forces, giving as correctly as we can the rank and the unit to which they are attached. Will members be so good as to notify the Hon. Secretary of any omissions or corrections required from time to time in order that the list may be as complete and accurate as possible.

A number of our members are also serving the nation in the Home Guard, in the A.R.P. Services, and in other capacities, but the Civilian-front in this war is so extended that we find it necessary to restrict the list to those on full-time service with the Armed Forces.

NAME.	RANK.	UNIT.
W. J. C. Ainslie	2nd Lieut.	King's African Rifles.
Malcolm Aitken	Capt.	H.L.I.
Thomas Aitken	Major	H.L.I.
James F. Anton	Lieut.	R.N.R.
George Arthur	Major.	Royal Engineers.
P. D. Baird	Tr. Sgt.-Major	Royal Canadian Artillery.
L. St C. Bartholomew	2nd Lieut.	Pioneers.
I. M. Campbell	Lieut.	Royal Scots.
Professor A. J. Clark	Lieut.-Col.	R.A.M.C.
Maurice H. Cooke	Capt.	Royal Scots.
A. L. Cram	Gunner	Royal Artillery.
J. Campbell Davies	Capt.	H.L.I.
Arthur Dixon	2nd Lieut.	Royal Engineers.
Ronald Gibson	Capt.	R.A. (A.A.).

NAME.	RANK.	UNIT.
Charles C. Gorrie	2nd Lieut.	Royal Engineers.
Robert J. Hedderwick		
Alan Horne	2nd Lieut.	R.A. (Invalided out.)
D. R. A. Hotchkis		O.C.T.U.
I. G. Jack	2nd Lieut.	R.A. (S/L.).
G. Gordon Jackson	Capt.	R.A.S.C.
K. Greer Jackson	Lieut.	Lanarkshire Yeomanry.
Dr. D. P. Levack	Lieut.-Col.	R.A.M.C., T.A. (Prisoner of war.)
W. F. McAllum		R.A.F., Balloon Barrage.
Iain W. M'Innes	Lieut.	Fife and Forfar Yeomanry R.A.C.
John E. M'Intyre	Paymaster Commander	R.N.V.R.
W. M. Mackenzie	Officer Cadet	O.C.T.U.
James Stewart Maclean	2nd Lieut.	R.A. (S/L.).
K. G. McLean	Lieut.-Col.	Royal Engineers.
W. Ross McLean	Lieut.-Com.	R.N.V.R.
Dr. J. D. MacLennan	Major	R.A.M.C.
J. H. Calder MacLeod	Major	R.A. (S/L.).
J. Bento Miller	L./Bdr.	R.A. (S/L.).
R. W. B. Morris	Sub. Lieut.	R.N.V.R.
J. William R. Murray	Pilot Officer	R.A.F.
Iain H. Ogilvie	2nd Lieut.	Royal Engineers.
J. P. Pattullo	2nd Lieut.	Royal Scots.
Ralph S. Peill	Flight Lieut.	R.A.F.
J. Arthur Ramsay	2nd Lieut.	R.A. (A.A.).
Jock M. S. Roberts	Pilot Officer	R.A.F.V.R.
D. W. Robinson	Capt.	H.L.I.
J. Gordon Robinson	Paymaster Lieut.	R.N.V.R.
T. G. Robinson	Lieut.-Col.	H.L.I.
D. G. Romanis	Major	Royal Artillery.
George R. Roxburgh	2nd Lieut.	R.A. (S/L.).
Arthur Colin Russell	Capt.	Gold Coast Local Forces.
Norman Sandeman	Lieut.	Royal Artillery.
Rev. Alan G. Smith	Chaplain	Attached Royal Artillery.
G. R. Speirs	Lieut.	R.N.V.R.
W. B. Speirs	Paymaster Lieut.-Com.	R.N.V.R.
Campbell R. Steven	L./Cpl.	Field Security Police.
Dr. Colin M. Steven	Lieut.	R.A.M.C.
J. Allan Steven	Trooper	N. Bengal Mounted Rifles.
Wilfred A. Stewart	2nd Lieut.	Black Watch.
William Waddell	2nd Lieut.	H.L.I.
E. A. MacL. Wedderburn	2nd Lieut.	Royal Scots.

GIFTS PRESENTED TO THE CLUB.

By Dr A. E. MAYLARD—

Framed Photograph of the Club Dinner, 1909 (Twenty-first Dinner).

Framed Photograph of Cover of Twenty-first Dinner Menu (Ben Nevis) and of Early Office-bearers.

By G. R. DONALD—

“Adventures of a Mountaineer,” “Life of Whymper,”
“My Alpine Album,” “Mountaineering Holiday.” All
by Mr F. S. Smythe.

WE greatly regret to announce the death of Mr E. W. STEEPLE,
Joint Editor of the “Sky Guide.” An “In Memoriam” notice will
appear in our next issue.

Reverie.

IN a lonely corrie high up on the Ben,
The home of the swirling mist so grey;
Beside the rushing, tumbling river,
That's where our fondest memories stay:
'Tis there that the Hut we love so well
Welcomes the weary climbers home
To its shelter from the wind and storm,
And peaceful sleep when the long day's done.

R. G. I.

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.



The Ben Cleuch Panorama.

The beautiful "View of the Grampian Mountains from the Summit of Benclach," which was drawn by Mr James Gardner and published by him in 1820, has never been described in the *Journal*, and the following notes about it may therefore be of interest.

During the carrying out of the Principal Triangulation of the British Isles, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, Mr J. Gardner, who had been the Chief Draughtsman to the Board of Ordnance in London, was one of the most important observers. He took theodolite observations from no less than thirty-eight of the "Big Trig" stations. In 1817 (5th May to 6th June) he assisted with the measurement of the base line through the sandhills at Belhelvie, a few miles to the north of Aberdeen, and thereafter measured the angles connecting the ends of the base line to adjacent hills and so on to more important stations on the "Big Trig." In the following year he was on Ben Cleuch taking angles with the 36-inch theodolite from that important station, and it must have been at that time that he took particulars for his Panorama which he completed later and published on 1st January 1820, the engraver being Mr D. Havell, 16 Howard Street, London.

The drawing, which measures 6 feet 3 inches by 12 inches, shows the hills from those just south of Ben Lomond to Beinn a' Ghlo, thus including an angle of about 95°. It is beautifully coloured and has, underneath, an outline profile giving the names and heights of the most important hills as then known. For artistic reasons the forms of the hills are somewhat exaggerated, but not to an objectionable extent. In addition to the coloured edition there was also one in black and white.

In 1875 Messrs Maclure & Macdonald, of Glasgow, and Mr J. Knipe, of Carlisle, published a reproduction of Gardner's Panorama in portable form. It measures 6 feet 3 inches by 8 inches, 4 inches having been cut away from the sky, and is cut into twelve sections, mounted on linen, folded, and bound in stiff covers. This reproduction was issued in two styles. The better one was, as regards the features of the hills, an almost exact copy of the original, and the colouring was well done, although not so pronounced as that of the original. On this issue Mr Gardner is only mentioned casually, in very small type, in a big footnote and not as having been the original designer of the Panorama. The other style is not nearly

so good as the former, as the features of a great many of the hills have been very clumsily done, and the colouring is poor. On the outer cover of this edition it is, however, stated in prominent letters, "Drawn and engraved by Mr James Gardner of the Great Trigonometrical Survey." It is difficult to understand why there were two editions. Both are dated 1875.

More recently there is, of course, the View Indicator on the summit of Ben Cleuch, which was unveiled on 14th June 1930. The chart of this, which does not contain an outline of the hills, was prepared by Mr D. K. Paterson, of Paisley, assisted by Mr Tom S. Hall, of Renfrew. A copy of the chart, in the form of a folder, was published by the Town Council of Tillicoultry at the time.

The above notes have been prepared from the records of the Ordnance Survey, a coloured copy of the 1820 Panorama in my possession, copies of the two 1875 editions, and the Tillicoultry Town Council's Folder. There is a framed copy of the coloured 1820 Panorama in the Library of the R.S.G.S. in Edinburgh.

J. A. PARKER.

Distance of the Visible Sea Horizon.

The following simple rule to ascertain the distance of the visible sea horizon from a known height was given to me several years ago by the late Mr J. H. Bell, of Annan. The results obtained agree to within about 1 per cent. of the figures given in the table that accompanied my article on Curvature and Visibility in Vol. 20 of the *Journal*.

From any height, in feet, above the level of the surface of the sea the distance, in statute miles, of the visible sea horizon is four-thirds of the square root of the height. Thus, if the observer is 900 feet above the level of the sea the distance of the visible sea horizon will be four-thirds of 30, viz., 40 miles.

Conversely, the height at which the observer will require to be placed in order to see the sea horizon at a stated distance will be the square of three-quarters of the distance. Thus, if the stated distance is 40 miles the necessary height will be the square of 30, viz., 900 feet.

J. A. PARKER.

Lurg Mhor (3,234 ft.), Ross-shire.

In April 1940 M. B. Nettleton and A. Bulman walked from Strathcarron Station to the head of Loch Monar in order to investigate the summit ridge of Lurg Mhor. Petrol restrictions made equally

impossible the small motor boat and the car equipped with beds, which are the simplest means of reaching the most inaccessible of the Scottish hills. This year there was nothing to do but to walk with a Bergan rucksack and adequate provisions. We were curious about the ridge of Lurg Mhor because of the fearsome descriptions which keepers had given us some years before. These contrasted with the somewhat bald statements of the "Guide Book," and we knew that these inaccessible hills often presented surprises of a sporting nature.

In brilliant sunshine and deep snow, much of it loose, the narrow half-mile of the ridge provided a grand expedition, and was more difficult than the better known summit ridge of the Saddle, traversed in similar conditions the previous year. One pitch which had to be descended was more of an obstacle than anything on the Aonach Eagach Ridge, and even in summer would not be very easy. This bit proved to be the *mauvais pas* of the keepers' account. The rope was used throughout, and on the return journey from west to east we enjoyed an interesting snow traverse below the rocks of the ridge. Snow lay right down to the level of Loch Monar.

M. B. NETTLETON.

Cuillin Main Ridge.

Mr W. L. Woods, Customs and Excise Officer, Portree, writes to say that on 5th June, along with Miss Mary Hudson, aged 17, he traversed the main ridge from south to north, the times being according to the following schedule:—

Glenbrittle, 2.5 A.M.; Gars-bheinn, 5 A.M.; Alasdair, 8.45 A.M.; Bidein, 3.30 P.M.; Bruach na Frithe, 5.30 P.M.; Sgurr nan Gilleann, 8 P.M.; Sligachan, midnight.

It was hot and windless. A spring was found about 150 feet below the summit of Sgurr Dubh na da Bheinn.

[Mr T. B. Dutton Walker of the Wayfarers' Club writes to say that his party did the Main Ridge along with Blaven and Clach Glas on 23rd July 1939 from a camp in Glen Sligachan, doing the Blaven section first and the ridge from south to north. An article will probably appear in the Wayfarers' Club Journal.—ED.]

North-East Slabs, Broad Cairn.

Messrs J. Scott and K. M'Laren of the Corrie Club, Dundee, climbed these Slabs on 28th July, no complete ascent having been previously recorded. The Slabs are climbable almost anywhere, but they offer a pleasant half-hour's sport, and there is a complete absence of vegetation.

The route taken was near the centre and, after about 150 feet of easy, sloping slabs, worked up to a series of giant steps leading to a large flat platform. Several such platforms occurred at different levels, separated by grooves and short chimneys. About 100 feet of smaller ledges finished at the top of the rocks.

Narnain Buttress.

R. Brown and J. R. Hewit (J.M.C.S.), after climbing all the known routes on the Narnain Buttress, decided to look for something new. This was found on the south-east arête, *i.e.*, the arête on the opposite corner to the Spearhead Arête. This was climbed on 15th September 1940 and gave 100 feet of climbing.

A start is made up easy rocks until the climber reaches a steep section, which is climbed direct on good holds, and eventually leads to a small ledge. The route now goes directly up from the belay, and a traverse left for about 10 feet is made to avoid an overhang. Steep rocks lead to a broad ledge which runs across the face from the Spearhead Arête. From the ledge the route continues straight up, keeping to the true arête on sound rock, and finishes on a large square block on top of the buttress. As the rock is sound and the holds good, the climb cannot be graded as really difficult.

Great Tower, Ben Nevis.

Mr H. I. Ogilvy (C.U.M.C.) has made an additional route up the face of the Great Tower from the Eastern Traverse on the Tower Ridge. It goes up the first groove on the left as one goes out along the traverse, and is not so difficult as it looks.

[The following three items are from the RUCKSACK CLUB JOURNAL, 1940, with acknowledgments.]

Garbh Bheinn Ardgour—North Face (Sron Lag nan Gamhua).

On 30th July 1939 Messrs B. K. Barber and J. Lomas made a first ascent of this route, giving a climb of 500 to 600 feet. The start is at the toe of the buttress, just to the left of the end of the deer fence running from Bealach Feith'n Omean to the rocks. One climbs to the foot of the long steep slab lying to the right, crosses it on small holds, and climbs it by the exposed right-hand edge to a very awkward landing at the top. Then one continues for 300 feet to the top of the buttress.

Garbh-Bheinn—North-East Buttress.

The same party climbed this 1,200-foot route next day. A narrow, curving gully cuts into the northern end of the buttress. From its foot a green ledge runs to the left along the cliff foot. The buttress is in three sections, the first two being steep slabs. One starts at the left (S.E.) end and avoids being forced off to the left on the way to the first terrace. Move 100 feet up the terrace to below a long, straight chimney which almost cuts through the second section. The exit from this is below an unstable looking block, then up some slabs to the next terrace. Interesting and often difficult climbing now leads directly to the top of the buttress.

Slab Route—Sgurr a Ghreadaidh.

This 900-foot climb on the Coruisk face was effected in June 1939 by Messrs J. E. Byrom and P. Wigglesworth. Two prominent gullies in the centre of the cliff meet higher up like an inverted U. The start is 20 feet to the right of the right-hand gully up red slabs. After 100 feet the gully bed is climbed to a cave. A short, steep wall on the right is followed by easy rocks for about 150 feet, the gully is crossed and moderate slabs are followed for about 500 feet. One aims at a large perched block on the skyline and passes it on to easy ground on either side. One walks up to the final cliff, and 50 feet to the right of a large black overhang is a slab slanting to the left above it, with a delicate traverse 45 feet up. After 150 feet a basalt wall is climbed to a large grass terrace. The final buttress is between

two gullies. The base overhangs mostly, but a steep start is made on the left and loose rock follows until the buttress steepens to a tower. One starts up a mantelshef on the left and climbs direct or by a traverse to the left to easy ground. Bad rock here enjoins great care. The final tower direct is severe under bad conditions.

The Matterhorn—A Modest New Record.

Members may be interested in a short article which appeared recently in a London newspaper. Unfortunately the Hon. Editor cannot be more precise, as the cutting reached him at third hand from Mr W. Garden.

It appears that on 16th August this year Mr W. F. A. Chambers with Otto Furrer of Zermatt completed the double traverse of the Matterhorn from the Swiss to the Italian Hut, starting at 3.30 A.M., stopping at the Savoia Hut from 10 to 11 A.M., recrossing summit at 3 P.M., and getting down by 7.30 P.M., "a modest new record."

Crowberry Ridge—Girdle Traverse.

Following the precedent of Scafell, Pillar, and Sron na Ciche, the Crowberry Ridge has achieved a Girdle. Alternative loops continually recur, but it may be assumed that the inclusion of Abraham's Traverse and the Crux of Agag's will be more by way of homage than of keeping to a great circle.

1. Leaving Crowberry Ridge by a horizontal traverse up a ledge to join Shelf Route. Descend easy section and traverse to Hyphen Rib, continuing descent until level with Upper Ledge, which is easily gained from Naismith's Route (150 feet). 2. Follow Helical Traverse to Block above Agag's Crux (110 feet). 3. Traverse left, rising slightly, and continue below some dubious flakes to belay at top of Red Slab Route, whence easy scrambling to Route 1 (40 feet).

The individual contributors to the first sections are legion; the development of the Helical from High Level Traverse was more exclusive, but has already received comment (see *S.M.C.J.*, Vol. 21, p. 346). The new section between Agag's Groove and Route 1 was first done in the reverse direction by H. I. Ogilvy, A. C. D. Small, Miss J. M'Neill, and R. B. Frere on 9th June 1940. The descent of Helical Traverse could not be achieved then, and the following day Ogilvy and Frere repeated the Traverse from the Upper Ledge.

A. C. D. SMALL and J. R. WOOD.

REVIEWS.

Alpine Pilgrimage. By Dr Julius Kugy, translated by H. E. G. Tyndale. John Murray. 6s. 367 pp. 25 illustrations. Map of Julian Alps.

The translation is so good that it is not apparent. The original has also been translated into Italian, but the title to the English edition is happier than either the German original or the Italian translation.

While yet a boy Kugy commenced the exploration of the Julian Alps. Encouraged by the writings of two Englishmen, Gilbert and Churchill, and in company with chamois hunters and poachers, he made new routes on all the main tops. Later he visited the Dolomites, but it was not until he was twenty-eight that he visited the Pennine Alps. It is characteristic of him and shows how well he had learned his craft that his first expedition was the traverse of Monte Rosa.

At Zermatt he met many of the best-known British mountaineers of the day—Conway, Davidson, Fitzgerald. Friendship and admiration were instant and mutual, and it is good to hear his expressions of appreciation of Farrar's catholicity and understanding. For twenty seasons he climbed in the Western Alps, his favourite district being the Mont Blanc range and his favourite guide Joseph Croux. Kugy was a poet and musician and this is reflected throughout the book. To Scottish mountaineers the book is of special interest as it shows how the art of mountaineering can be acquired on comparatively low mountains, and on winter and spring snow such as we have in Scotland. The book is a bargain at the price.

A. H.

Edward Whymper. By Frank S. Smythe. Hodder & Stoughton. 21s. net. 319 pp. 24 illustrations. 3 maps.

All of us who have had the spirit of mountain adventure awakened in ourselves by reading "Scrambles Amongst the Alps" will delight in the intimate portrait of the rugged and forceful personality of Edward Whymper as it is presented in this book. Perhaps the extensive extracts from Whymper's early diaries are somewhat tedious, but even if they portray the hero in a wrong setting they help us to follow his development into the man of action of later years who was destined to preserve a cold, scientific detachment and perseverance under the most trying circumstances. The Alpine adventures, culminating in the conquest of the Matterhorn, appear in a more intimate form than in the "Scrambles," and Whymper's travels and ascents in the Andes, which are not so familiar to most readers, build up an even closer picture of the man in his maturity. Mr Smythe throws many interesting sidelights on one of the most

remarkable characters in the realm of mountaineering. It is interesting to recall that Whymper replied to the toast of the "Alpine Club" at the 1893 Dinner of the S.M.C. He died at Chamonix in 1911 at the age of seventy-one; such was the vigour of the man that only a day or two earlier he had the intention of making an expedition to the Glacier des Bossons. There are many fine reproductions of Whymper's own engravings and four portraits of the man himself.

J. H. B. B.

Adventures of a Mountaineer. By Frank Smythe. Dents. 7s. 6d. 217 pp. with Appendix. 17 illustrations.

This book of adventure is one of a series specially written for youth. In it the writer stresses the many attractions and advantages of mountaineering such as the establishment of health, the benefits of congenial companionship, the overcoming of difficulties, the need of exercising care and unselfishness so essential to the growth of character and, above all, the development of the soul by realising the Divine Presence and the importance of spiritual values.

The worries of mundane and material things are left in the valleys, and were it not for this trust in an unseen but ever-present Providence on the hills this book might have had a different name or, indeed, might never have been written.

The author says little of technique or practice either on rock or ice and snow, but he tells, as few can do so well, thrilling experiences of many difficult and successful ascents in all kinds of climatic conditions. Some of our own members accompanied the writer in some of the climbs described and this is an added interest. This book should inspire many a young man to make a start and many others to greater enterprise and initiative in what mountaineers consider the best of all sports.

A. A.

Himalayan Honeymoon. By Bip Pares. Hodder & Stoughton. 15s. 301 pp. 16 full-page monochromes, pencil drawings, and drawings in text.

The author and her husband decided to spend their honeymoon travelling in the Himalayas, and on their way out to India fell in with the main body of the 1938 Everest Expedition. They spent a considerable part of their time with them in the Teesta Valley before continuing their journey to the western part of Sikkim. This adds additional interest to the book. Neither the author nor her husband are mountaineers, but they are both artists and revelled in the glorious mountain views. Little escaped their observant eyes. The descriptions are excellent. Their journey was not without adventures.

The pencil portraits are outstanding, and the black-and-white sketches of people, villages, and flowers (in which they had a special interest) are pleasing. A camera was part of their equipment, and one would imagine that with their eye for suitable subjects and composition the results would have been exceptional, and some examples would have been welcome in place of the monochromes. It is not a profound but a most readable book. A. H.

British Hills and Mountains. By J. H. B. Bell, E. F. Bozman, and J. Fairfax Blakeborough. Batsford. 8s. 6d. 120 pp. 101 illustrations and end-paper sketch maps.

This is an ambitious book which, in a modest 115 pages, endeavours to give a fairly detailed general description of all the more important mountains and hills in Great Britain, and how to explore them. The attempt has been quite successful, although on account of want of space and wealth of subject-matter many of the mountains have been given only brief notice. A great feature of the book is the magnificent set of excellent photographs which it contains and which give evidence of most careful selection. But surely better photographs of Buachaille Etive Mor and Glen Affric could have been obtained than Figs. 27 and 36. It would also have been better had more of the photographs been given explanatory notes as to the details shown on them. The frontispiece is a good colour photograph of the entrance to Glen Coe. The remaining illustrations are reproductions of two old coloured lithographs. The end-papers contain useful small-scale sketch maps of the districts described. Altogether the book is an excellent production. J. A. P.

Ten Great Mountains. By R. L. G. Irving. Dent. 12s. 6d. net. 213 pp. 15 illustrations. 10 diagrams.

The plan of the book is most attractive, as it describes a great many types of mountaineering adventure, not excluding our homeland hills, and also introduces many readers to the achievements of foreign climbers, such as the epics of the attempts on Kangchenjunga and Nanga Parbat.

The mountains are: Snowdon, Ben Nevis, Mount Cook, the Matterhorn, Ushba, Mont Blanc, Mount Logan (Alaska), Nanga Parbat, Kangchenjunga, and Mount Everest. It is true that we have in our own *Journal* more impressive accounts of climbing on Ben Nevis, which is much more than a "winter" mountain. Most readers will be particularly interested in the lesser-known accounts of the conquests of Mt. Cook, Ushba, and Mt. Logan.

The illustrations throughout the book are splendid (there are two fines one of Ben Nevis), and the diagrams are most helpful.

J. H. B. B.

My Alpine Album. By F. S. Smythe. A. & C. Black. 12s. 6d. 147 pp. 47 illustrations.

Lakeland Through the Lens. By W. A. Poucher. Chapman & Hall. 18s. 152 pp. 122 illustrations.

Mr Smythe continues his photographic odyssey, and the illustrations are of the same high standard as in previous books. In this one there is rather more text, the essay on the Alpine Year being particularly fine. Each district is suitably introduced, and one becomes envious of the man who has lived among the great peaks throughout the year.

Mr Poucher takes us on a photographic ramble throughout Lakeland. The photographs are charming, well composed, and well lit, while all the great climbs are pictured and described. The complete photographic data will be invaluable to the growing number of mountaineer-photographers. In these anxious days, when so many of us are denied the hills, books such as these provide the next best thing.

B. H. H.

By Many Waters: A Record of Fishing and Walking. By A. R. B. Haldane. Nelson. 10s. 6d.

Although this book contains little that is of strictly mountaineering interest—the only ascent recorded describes the sensations of a novice on a difficult climb—it can be thoroughly recommended to all nature-lovers. It contains much fine descriptive writing of the scenes and emotions enjoyed in quiet places from the Hebrides to the Black Forest. The book, which contains some illustrations, is published in aid of the funds of the British Red Cross.

D. G. K.

The Alpine Journal, Vol. LII., No. 260. May 1940.

This number of the Journal is as varied in its articles as usual. M. André Roch contributes an article on the Swiss Expedition to Garhwal in 1939, which was successful in the first ascent of Dunagiri (23,184 feet), Gauri Parbat (22,627 feet), and other smaller peaks. Of special interest is the account of the avalanche which swept the expedition off Badrinath peak of Chaukhamba, killing two porters.

G. W. Murray contributes a charming article under the heading

of "In and Out of Saas." In the course of his game of breaking into and out of the Saas Valley, Mr Walker in a series of years did a number of first-class climbs, which includes at least one new ascent as well as the face of the Dom. The reviewer hopes that after the war he may be able to play the same game in some other Alpine valleys and enjoy the same pleasure as Mr Murray. F. S. Smythe contributes an article on his full and varied season's climbing in 1939 in Dauphiné and Mont Blanc. His season included many first-class expeditions, and the account is told with his usual keen observation and is illustrated by his own photographs.

The other articles cover a wide field. "Sketching," by Cecil A. Hunt, R.W.S., with illustrations, the coloured frontispiece being specially pleasing; "The Andes of Venezuela," by A. E. Gunther; a humorous account of a night ascent of the Matterhorn Couloir by Beaman; and from Mrs Copeland an account of the upland arcaady of Carniola in Yugoslavia which still preserves its mediæval customs and primitive houses. There are Obituary Notices to General Bruce, Lord Tweedsmuir, and Judge Osborne—the last two, members of our own Club.

A. H.

The Journal of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club, 1940.

This number is well up to the standard of past Journals in variety and interest. Frank Smythe contributes some good verse. "Post-script," by Sir Claud Schuster, is in allegorical vein, and memories of stirring Alpine days (and nights) are revived with a skill and charm which make good reading. There is an interesting and amusing account of the activities of that remarkable personality the Rev. James Jackson, "Patriarch of the Pillar." Miss Brenda Ritchie gives a modest account of rock-climbing enterprise and skill by two ladies in the Saleinaz district (guideless). A symposium on that perennial question, "Why do I Climb?" also appears in this number. An extraordinary number of new climbs is recorded, mostly "severes." The illustrations are first rate.

D. M.

The Rucksack Club Journal, 1940. 45 pp. 3 illustrations. 4s.

This abbreviated war-time issue contains an interesting article on a Greenland Expedition by J. D. H. Radford, articles on the Two-thousanders of Wales, which number 237 (in England and Wales combined the number is 612, but the qualification for a "top" is in general only a rise of 100 feet), and on the Peaks of Glen Affric, besides several other articles and descriptions of new climbs, three of which in Scotland we reproduce in this Journal with due acknowledgments.

J. H. B. B.

Climbers' Club Journal, 1940.

The opening article is by Capt. Gavin, giving his account of ten days' climbing in the Dauphiné and Mont Blanc districts in company with F. S. Smythe (see also current *Alpine Journal*). Of British climbs, the merits of the Craig yr Ysfa routes are compared, and fragments of a "long-lost" epic of a climb in Javelin Gully, Cwm Idwal, by some of the "Aodh McBaph" school, are brought to light. Seven pages of new routes testify to the activity of the Club in war time.

R. M. G. I.

American Alpine Journal, 1940.

An interesting number, containing accounts of an attempt on Mt. Wood, Yukon, and the second American Expedition to K2. First ascents are recorded of Shiprock, Navajo, and the Titcomb Needles, the last of the unclimbed Wind River peaks. An article on Glacier Mechanics is illustrated by splendid photographs.

Sierra Club Bulletin. February 1940.

The outstanding article is a detailed account of the first ascent of Shiprock. The Yosemite Valley and its mountains is treated in guide-book style, and an ascent of the Matterhorn in 1881 by D. S. Jordan retold.

New Zealand Alpine Journal. June 1940.

Imagine a detailed account of a J.M.C.S. Meet under canvas in an Alpine valley and one gets the atmosphere and opportunities of a N.Z. Alpine Club Camp as recorded in this number. A long article on Rock-climbing, with photographs, is among the contents.

R. M. G. I.

Other Club Journals received: *Appalachia, Nos Montagnes, Le Alpi, Camping, Les Alpes, La Montagne.*

THE JUNIOR MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF SCOTLAND.

J.M.C. ACTIVITIES have been severely curtailed by the calling-up of members for Military Service and also by difficult war-time conditions.

Every effort is, however, being made to keep the Club as active as possible and capable of resuming full activities when conditions return to normal.

The Hon. Secretaries are as follows :—

Central.—W. G. MARSKELL, 43 Lamington Road, Glasgow, S.W.2.

Edinburgh Section.—F. E. O'RIORDAN, 50 Darnell Road, Edinburgh.

Glasgow Section.—W. G. MARSKELL, 43 Lamington Road, Glasgow, S.W.2.

Inverness Section.—RICHARD B. FRERE, Maryfield, Inverness.

Perth Section.—JAMES GRANT, 90 Cavendish Avenue, Perth.

London Association.—E. R. ZENTHON, 12 Clarendon Mews, Hyde Park Square, London, W.2.

Glasgow Section.

A very successful Annual Dinner was held at the Constitutional Club, Glasgow, on 5th April. Thirty-seven members and guests were present.

Meets were held at Aviemore, Corrie (Arran), Glen Brittle (Skye), and the C.I.C. Hut. In addition seven Informal Meets and two Lantern Lectures have been held.

During the coming winter it is proposed to hold Lantern Lectures. The first will be on 15th November. The Lectures are open to anyone interested in mountaineering. Particulars may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

Edinburgh Section.

Owing to the calls of war service there are few members of the Edinburgh Section left who are able to participate in the Club activities. Those who remain are, however, endeavouring to keep the Section alive as long as possible.

A Spring Meet was held in Glencoe from 13th to 15th April at which four members and one guest were present. The climbs included Aonach Dubh "B" Buttress and the lower pitches of the Chasm, where the Meet took shelter from the blizzard which was blowing on the last day.

In addition to the regular Sunday morning visits to the Salisbury Crags during the summer, members have also had Informal Meets when opportunity offered.

F. E. O'RIORDAN.

Inverness and Perth Sections.

The activities of these Sections have had to be suspended for the time being as only a few members are not serving with the Forces, and these have had to curtail their activities on account of war-time conditions.

London Association.

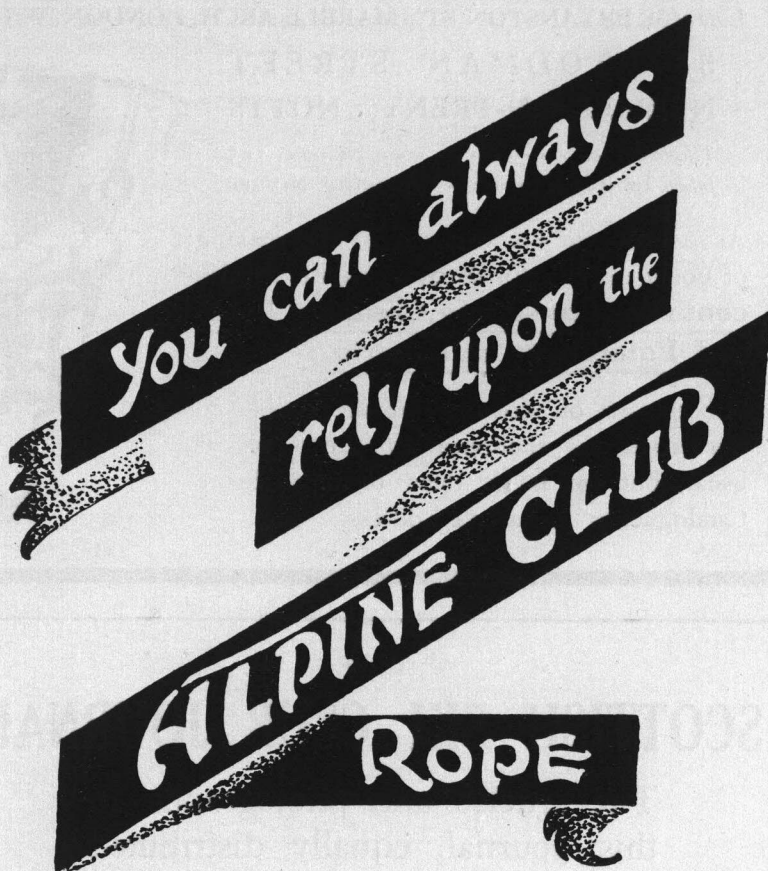
During the course of the year Meets have been held at Harrison's Rocks, Stone Farm Rocks, Bull's Hollow Rocks, High Rocks, and High Rocks Annexe, including a week-end bivouac at High Rocks. A Christmas Meet was held in North Wales on Tryfan and the Glyders—Gashed Crag, Javelin Gully, Hope Route, and Central Arête were amongst the routes climbed. R. G. Folkard, B. V. Fox, J. M. Hartog, E. C. Pyatt, T. Smith, H. J. Turnbull, and E. R. Zenthon have been in attendance at one or more Meets.

E. R. ZENTHON.

Note.—We understand that Mr Zenthon has recently been bombed in his house, through a locked door and half-way up a staircase. He suffered for a week from a stiff neck. We congratulate him on his escape—a new kind of "Pluto's Pilgrimage."

A.R.P.—Cairngorm Division.

Those hardy people who penetrate into the wilds of the Cairngorms are familiar with the famous Shelter Stone near Loch Avon. This huge stone, many tons in weight, provides makeshift refuge for climbers and hill walkers. A correspondent who found himself the sole "refugee" there one night lately writes that he was astonished to see a neat yellow notice on the stone, reading: "S—Small Temporary."



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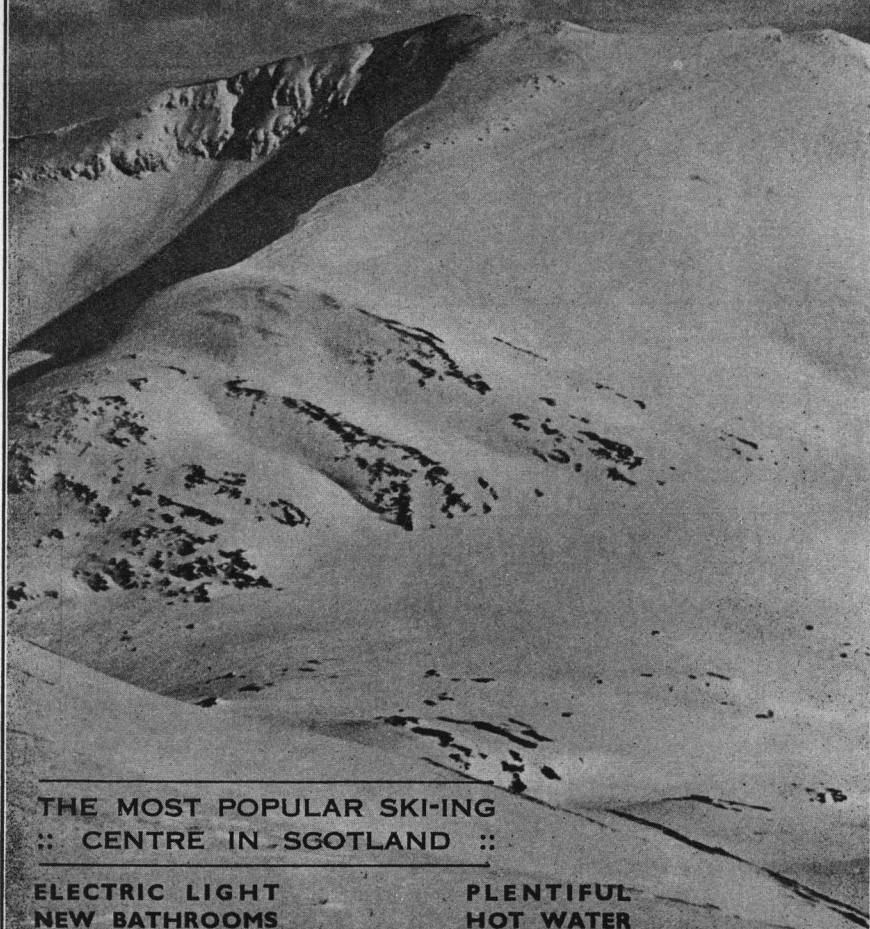
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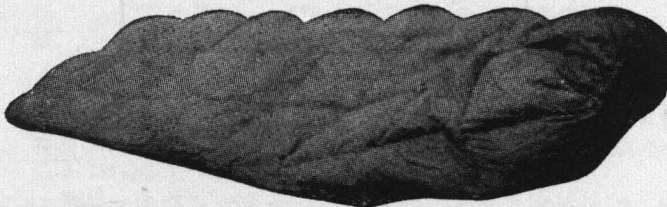
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