

THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB JOURNAL

EDITED BY J. H. B. BELL



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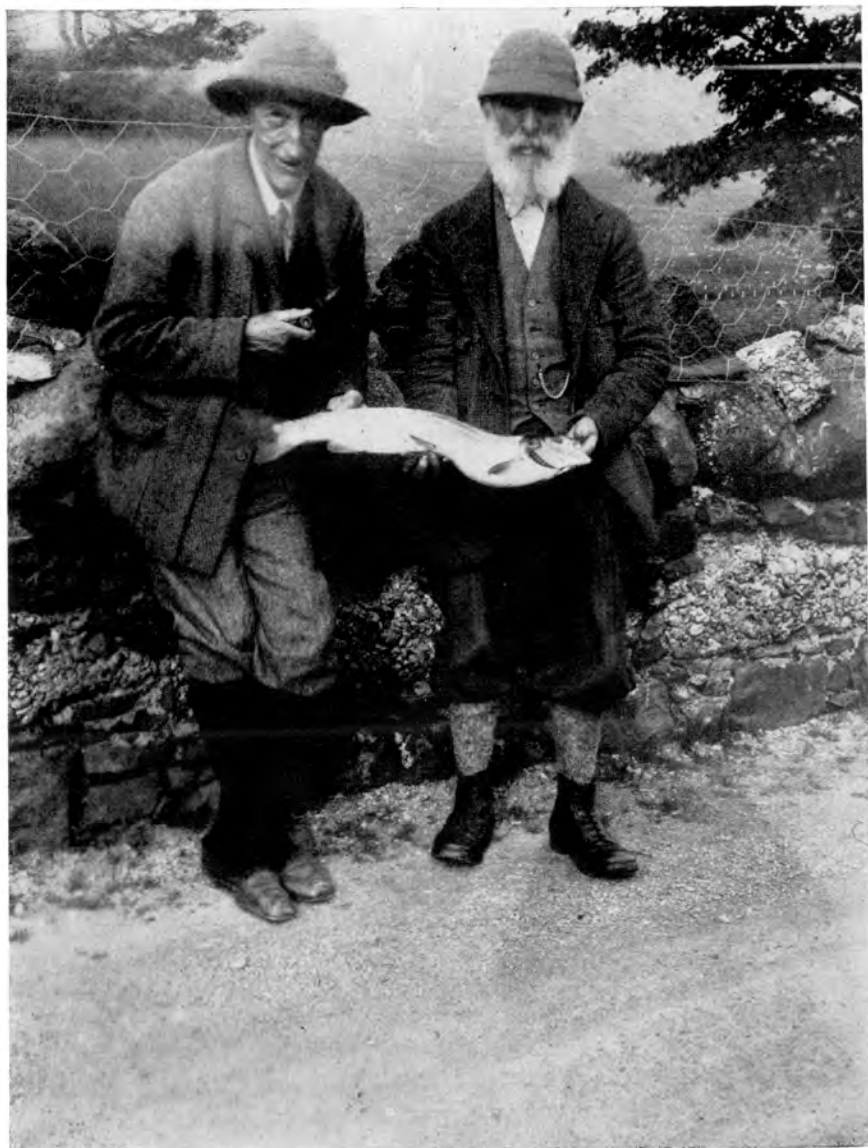
EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE tender our apologies for the extreme delay in issuing this number. As will be seen from the Annual General Meeting Report, our Printers, owing to a fire in their premises some time ago, are working under great technical difficulties combined with shortage of staff. We hope that this will not recur. We would again emphasize that, under these difficult conditions, contributors should endeavour to send their material to the Editor as soon as ever possible, preferably, in the case of articles at least, long before New Year. Otherwise the make-up of the *Journal* cannot be properly planned.

Members' Lunches.—Members are reminded that a monthly lunch is held in **Mackie's Restaurant**, Princes Street, **Edinburgh**, at 1 o'clock on the first Thursday of every month. They are asked to intimate their intention to be present to **Mr E. C. Thomson, 69a George Street (Phone 26371)**, before 11 A.M. on the day in question. Lunches are held on the 2nd floor. The lift attendant will guide newcomers to the table.

The Hon. Secretary and a few other members meet for lunch on Wednesdays at **Reid's Smoke-Room**, Gordon Street, **Glasgow**. After the war it is hoped to restore a more definite lunch arrangement, and suggestions will be welcomed from members.

Contributions, Correspondence.—Please send all contributions to the Hon. Editor, **Dr J. H. B. Bell, The Knowe, Clackmannan**, before February 1946. All correspondence *re* Sales of *Journals* or Addresses should be sent to the Assistant Editor, **Mr Donald Mackay, 113 Comiston Drive, Edinburgh, 10**. The Hon. Secretary's address is **Mr J. Logan Aikman, 121 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, C.2**. The Hon. Treasurer is **Mr John G. Osborne, Kilknock, Davidson's Mains, Edinburgh, 4**. The O.C., Clark Hut, is **Mr D. J. S. Harvey, 65 Renfield Street, Glasgow, C.2**, Phone Nos.: Douglas 3615 (office) and Giffnock 3362 (house). The Hon. Librarian and Custodian of Slides is **Mr G. G. Elliot, 21 Pirniefield Grove, Leith, Edinburgh, 6**.



August 1929.

THORMAID agus MHIC COINNICH

J. E. MacLaren.

THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB JOURNAL

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No. 136.

WATER POWER DEVELOPMENT IN THE HIGHLANDS.

By George Peat and Alexander Harrison.

The Committee of the Club, realising the implications of the Hydro-Electric Development (Scotland) Act, 1943, in so far as it may effect considerable changes, many of them adverse, in the scenic beauties of the approaches to our Scottish mountains, has authorised the publication in the "Journal" of a non-controversial, but informative article on the subject.

The major descriptive part of the article has been written by Mr George Peat, an experienced engineer; whereas the legal aspect has been dealt with by Mr Alexander Harrison, who has also summarised the implications of the Tummel-Garry project, now under consideration. Questions of economics, employment and utilisation of power generated have been avoided, and the emphasis placed on considerations of amenity alone. On this latter issue a substantial measure of agreement is to be expected from Scottish mountaineers and hill lovers.

THE EDITOR.

PRIOR to the passing of the Hydro-Electric Development (Scotland) Act, 1943, four major schemes for the generation of electricity from water power in the Highlands had been sanctioned by Parliament and had been carried out, namely, Foyers, Kinlochleven, the Lochaber scheme utilising Loch Treig, Loch Laggan and the head waters of the Spey, and the Grampian scheme utilising Loch Rannoch, Loch Ericht, Loch Garry, Loch an t'Seilich, etc. Between the passing of the Acts authorising these schemes, the most recent of which was in 1922, and the

1943 Act numerous Private Bills, with the object of exploiting the resources of other areas, were promoted, all without success. During this period the whole subject of hydro-electric development in the Highlands became involved, to quote the Cooper Report, "in an atmosphere of suspicion, prejudice and embittered controversy." This controversy ranged over many aspects of the subject. The economic and political aspects are outwith the scope of these notes, but that of amenity and possible destruction of beautiful scenery concerns intimately all lovers of the Scottish mountains.

There are potential sources of power in practically every part of the Highlands, and many of them are under consideration by the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board set up under the 1943 Act. Under Section 4 of this Act the Board were required to prepare a development scheme showing "the resources which the Board propose to examine with a view to their possible use for the purpose of generating electricity." This scheme has been prepared, submitted to the Secretary of State for Scotland and confirmed by him. It was made public in March 1944, and refers to 102 different areas with a potential average output of 6,274 million units per annum, or expressed in terms of continuous power, approximately 955,000 horse-power. The list of areas mentioned in the development scheme as under examination is given below.

If even a small proportion of these areas are developed many familiar approaches to the mountains will be considerably affected, and it may be of interest to summarise the permanent alterations which would take place in the natural features of the landscape. Temporary disfigurement during construction is almost inevitable, but in many instances would disappear in the course of time.

The permanent alterations consist mainly of civil engineering works—reservoirs, dams, aqueducts, tunnels, pipe-lines, road diversions, etc.—along with electrical works such as generating stations and transmission lines. The normal seasonal fluctuations in the water level of lochs and in the flow of rivers would be radically altered. Considerable stretches of the latter, including

many famous waterfalls, would be almost entirely dried up, while many streams and rivers would be diverted from their courses into other valleys.

In the past, many—some would say most—of the engineering works constructed for the harnessing of water power have not fitted harmoniously into their surroundings. There appears to be no reason why this failing should not be largely overcome, provided there is a sincere desire to do so. For instance, concrete dams and buildings might be faced with local stone, aqueducts and pipe-lines might be concealed by judicious planting of trees and shrubs, and more care taken in the selection of sites for the disposal of surplus material from excavations.

The effect of increased fluctuation of the water level of lochs and of interference with the natural run of rivers on amenity is, however, more serious, and there is no obvious method of amelioration. Protagonists of hydro-electric development have contended that the raising of the level of a loch to provide storage capacity need not entail a spoilt landscape, and that the new outlines might be as attractive as the natural fringes of the original loch. There would doubtless be a great deal of truth in this argument, in many cases, if the reservoir were always full. Unfortunately, under the normal method of operation, this rarely occurs. To avoid the loss of water—and therefore power—over the spillway during periods of heavy rain, it is the usual practice to keep the water in the reservoir some distance below top water mark and thus provide a reserve of storage; in particular, the water level is drawn down to a considerable extent during the late summer so as to allow for the heavy rains of autumn and early winter. Consequently, in most cases an unsightly margin of decaying vegetation, mud and slime is exposed to view during a considerable part of the year.

Methods of operation vary considerably in individual cases owing to the presence of other factors. For example, in the Lochaber scheme of the British Aluminium Company, the above considerations of water levels with respect to possible loss of power are complicated by the fact that the main storage reservoir, Loch Treig, is con-

nected to the generating station at Fort William by a pressure tunnel. This means that the higher the level of Loch Treig the more power there is available at the turbines. The operator must therefore strike a balance between loss of power through keeping the water level low and possible loss of power through overflow, as the result of not leaving enough reserve storage for sudden, heavy run-off. In this particular scheme some of the headwaters of the Spey have been diverted into Loch Laggan, and the outfall from the latter, the River Spean, diverted into Loch Treig, whence the water is conveyed to the power station at Fort William, leaving the beds of the Rivers Treig and Spean almost completely dried up. The top water level of Loch Laggan has not been raised, but storage has been obtained by making provision for drawing the loch down 16 feet. Loch Treig top water level has been raised 35 feet and provision made for draw-off down to 89 feet below the original loch level; that is, a range of possible water level of 124 feet. The actual figures for the most economic quantities of storage to be provided in this and in other cases are closely defined by the physical conditions at the sites of the works.

Of the two main storage reservoirs in the Lochaber scheme Loch Laggan has too small a capacity to even out effectively the variation in run-off from its catchment area. Loch Treig, on the other hand, has a greater volume than is required for its own much smaller catchment. In operation, therefore, Loch Laggan is kept as low as possible by running off its water to Loch Treig and thereby achieving the double effect of providing reserve storage in Loch Laggan for sudden floods and of keeping the level of Loch Treig as high as possible, with consequent gain in head and output of power at the generating station.

When Loch Laggan is full it cannot be said that its amenity has been damaged by its utilisation for hydro-electric purposes. The original outline of the loch remains, and the new sheet of water between the western end and the Roughburn dam has not detracted from the



In Construction



Completed and Discharging
ROUGHBURN DAM, LOCH LAGGAN

D. Myles.



May 1927.

THE CHISHOLM'S PASS, GLEN AFFRIC

A. E. Robertson.

appearance of a somewhat bare stretch of the valley. It is clear, however, that in practice this state of affairs will not often be attained if the scheme is to function with the highest possible efficiency from the engineering point of view.

Alterations in the normal flow of rivers, as a result of using their waters for power purposes, may be of several kinds. The water may be abstracted above some steep part of the river and, after passing through the turbines, returned lower down. Or it may never be returned to its original course, as at Lochaber, where the waters of the Rivers Treig and Spean are diverted by tunnel to the power-house at Fort William and finally discharged into the tidal waters of the River Lochy. In the former case, where water is returned to the watercourse below the point of abstraction, only a relatively short section will be permanently dried up, and the total flow in the lower reaches over a long period, say a year, will be virtually unaltered. The incidence of that flow, however, will be very different from that obtaining under natural conditions. Before attempting to describe this difference, it is necessary to consider the possible uses to which the power generated may be put. The maximum demand for power for local consumption is small in comparison with the resources available, and, in the case of the larger schemes at any rate, it seems likely that the power will either be exported to the grid or used by new electro-chemical, electro-metallurgical or similar industries which require large quantities of electrical power. In the latter case, it is probable that the works would be designed, as in the Lochaber Power Scheme, for a high load factor. This would involve a fairly uniform rate of flow in the rivers below the power-houses throughout the year. The periodical spates and spells of low water which occur under natural conditions would largely disappear. The loss of floods, while it might lessen damage in low-lying areas, would entail the loss of a valuable cleansing agent.

In the event of the power being exported, it is possible that, as in Galloway, and as appears to be envisaged in the Board's Constructional Scheme No. 1 (Loch Sloy),

the works would be constructed to deal with peak loads on the National Grid, *i.e.*, for a low load factor. Owing to the greater flexibility in operation of hydro-electric plant as compared with steam plant, it can often be profitably used for dealing with this type of load. Should such a policy be adopted, there would be frequent and considerable variations in the flow of the rivers from day to day and hour to hour. At any given time there might be no discharge from the turbines to the river, while a few hours later the flow might be many times the average.

The question of load factor also affects in a lesser degree the amount of storage required to be provided in reservoirs and lochs; in general, the lowering of the load factor reduces the necessary storage, although this reduction is not in direct proportion.

As regards waterfalls, which are by their nature excellent sources of power, no compromise seems possible. If they are developed, as appears inevitable, they will be utterly destroyed from the spectacular point of view.

The effects of hydro-electric development on the face of the Highlands might be illustrated by considering particular cases in more detail. Of the many projects included in the published development scheme of the North of Scotland Board, one of the largest, from the point of view of potential output, is that concerning the River Beauly basin, which includes Glen Affric. A Private Bill to develop this area was unsuccessfully introduced into Parliament in 1929, and a further modified version was rejected in 1941. While the Board's intentions in this area are at the time of writing unknown, and may, in fact, differ very considerably from the proposals in the Bills referred to, some conception of a typical water power scheme may be obtained from a short description of the works for which Parliamentary authority was sought in 1929.

The principal works then proposed included three large seasonal storage reservoirs; five generating stations, three of which were to have small reservoirs or head ponds for daily or weekly storage and regulation; works for diverting, into Glen Affric and Glen Strathfarrar

respectively, two catchments which drain naturally to the west coast; along with all necessary aqueducts, tunnels, pipe-lines, surge towers and road diversions.

Large dams were to be built near the outlets of Lochs Beinn a' Mheadhoin, Mullardoch and Monar, the eastern ends of the first two being connected by tunnel. When full, the resultant reservoirs would have had water levels 50 feet or more above the original lochs. In Glen Affric Lochs Beinn a' Mheadhoin and Affric, and in Glen Cannich Lochs Mullardoch and Lungard would have merged into single reservoirs. The generating stations were to be situated at Fasnakyle on the River Affric, at Inchvuilt on the River Farrar, near the junction of the Farrar and Allt Coire nan Brathan, at Dunnaglass on the Farrar, and at Kilmorack on the River Beaully, the three last-mentioned stations having narrow regulating reservoirs, about two miles long, a few hundred yards above them.

The flow in the River Cannich between Loch Mullardoch and Invercannich would have been drastically reduced, only the run-off from the catchment east of the loch being left, whilst between six and seven miles of watercourse on the Affric, Farrar and Beaully between the reservoirs and power-stations would have been permanently dried up, involving the virtual disappearance of several well-known waterfalls, namely the Dog and Badger Falls on the Affric, the Culligran Falls on the Farrar, and the Kilmorack Falls on the Beaully. In addition, the flow in other stretches of these rivers would have been considerably changed, the actual change depending largely, as explained above, on the load factor for which the stations were designed.

Of the two western catchments, Allt a' Ghlomaich and Loch Cruoshie to be diverted to the east, the former is of most interest and concern to mountaineers. The flow over the Falls of Glomach, the highest and most spectacular in Britain, would have been reduced to approximately one-tenth of the natural flow.

Another area with large power potentialities and of great interest to mountaineers, under consideration by

the Board, is that containing Lochs Quoich, Garry, Loyne and Cluanie. The water power resources of this area have had a somewhat similar history to those of the Beaulieu Basin. The West Highland Power Bill of 1929 and the Caledonian Power Bills of 1936, 1937 and 1938 were all unsuccessful attempts to gain control of these resources, the later Bills containing modifications of the original proposals.

The principal features of the later Bills, as indeed they would be of any scheme to generate electricity in this area, were the construction of a dam on the River Gearr Garry about one mile east of Loch Quoich raising the top water level of the latter by some 65 feet, and the diversion of its water by means of a tunnel to a powerhouse at Kinlochhourn. Under the earlier proposals the water levels of Loch Loyne and Loch Cluanie were to be raised, and their waters also diverted to Loch Quoich and the west coast. The Caledonian Bills, however, dropped this proposal and, instead, proposed to utilise their waters along with those of the River Doe at a powerhouse near Ceannacroc. Dams were also proposed in Glen Moriston about four miles west of Invermoriston, and at the outlet of Loch Garry, with power-stations on the shores of Loch Ness and Loch Oich respectively. The River Garry between Loch Garry and Loch Oich, and the River Moriston for about five miles above its outlet to Loch Ness and between Loch Cluanie and Ceannacroc would thus have been virtually dried up, and there would also have been a drastic reduction in the flow of the Rivers Gearr Garry and Garry between Lochs Quoich and Garry, varying from nothing at all east of Loch Quoich to less than half the natural flow at the west end of Loch Garry.

Such, in brief, are the alterations to the natural features of the landscape involved by hydro-electric development in Highland areas, but, in conclusion, it is only right to point out that the illustrations chosen affect districts which are by common consent among the loveliest in Scotland, and where damage to amenity is thus most likely to occur, and also that other projects under examina-

tion are in bleaker and more desolate spots where amenity could be enhanced by the creation of sheets of water, particularly if combined with a policy of afforestation.

The Legal Aspect.

As mentioned, the present development of hydro-electric power is being carried out under the Hydro-Electric Development (Scotland) Act, 1943.

Under this Act the public authority called The North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board was established. This Board consists of a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman and three other members, one of the members being a member of the Central Electricity Board and appointed by that Board, the remainder being appointed by the Ministers.

This Board is responsible for initiating and undertaking the development of electricity by water power within the area covered by the Act. It is the duty of the Board to provide supplies of electricity for the following :

1. Ordinary consumers in the North of Scotland district outside the area of supply of other authorised undertakings.
2. The needs of authorised undertakings operating within the district.
3. The needs of large power users in the district.
4. The Central Electricity Board.

Priority is to be given to the first two classes of consumers.

It is also the duty of the Board to collaborate in carrying out any measures for the economic development and social improvement of the North of Scotland district.

It is the duty of the Board to prepare a general scheme for the exercise of their powers, showing the water power resources proposed to be examined with a view to possible utilisation, and the situation of works and generating schemes which it is proposed to construct. This development scheme is to be submitted for the approval of the Electricity Commissioners and thereafter to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

A copy of the confirmed scheme is to be kept for inspection at the offices of the Board, at one or two con-

venient places within the locality to which the scheme relates, and given such other form of publicity as the Secretary of State requires.

Thereafter it is the duty of the Board to prepare constructional schemes for works and other distribution. After these have been approved by the Electricity Commissioners they must be submitted to the Secretary of State for confirmation, and thereafter published in newspapers and otherwise. Copies of the notice of publication require to be sent to all persons appearing on the Valuation Roll as Owners or Occupiers of any land which it is proposed to acquire. Copies of all schemes must be deposited for inspection and sale at the offices of the Board and at other convenient places.

Under the Act time is allowed for notice of objection, the minimum time being forty days. Any objection must be made to the Secretary of State, but the Act does not specify who is entitled to lodge objection.

On the expiry of the period during which objections may be lodged the Secretary of State may order an inquiry to be held, and unless the objection is considered by the Secretary of State to be frivolous, he must order an inquiry to be held if it is demanded. After the inquiry has been held the Secretary of State may confirm the scheme with or without amendment, whereupon the scheme is laid before Parliament.

Either House of Parliament may, within forty days, resolve that the order be annulled.

The Act directs the Board to have regard to the desirability of preserving the beauty of the scenery of the area in which any works are to be constructed, and to avoid as far as possible injury to the fisheries and the stock of fish in the waters. To achieve this purpose the Act provides for the appointment of an Amenity Committee and a Fisheries Committee. It is the duty of the Board to consult the Amenity Committee and the Fisheries Committee, and of these Committees to make recommendations to the Board, copies of the recommendations being sent to the Secretary of State and the Electricity Commissioners, together with an intimation whether or

not the Board is prepared to accept them. In the event of the Board not being prepared to accept the recommendations, it is in the power of the Secretary of State to refuse or confirm the Scheme.

It is the duty of the Central Electricity Board to purchase from the Board such amount of electricity as the Board may from time to time undertake to supply.

The price which is to be charged to the Central Electricity Board is to be ascertained on the basis of the cost of generating electricity at the most efficient steam generating stations operating under the direction of the Central Electricity Board.

Provision is also made for ordinary consumers appealing to the Electricity Commissioners to obtain a reduction in price of the current consumed by them, the criterion being what would have been the cost had they provided their own supplies.

The Board has prepared a Development Scheme for the exercise of its powers, showing the water power resources, etc., and details of this scheme have been published and are given at the end of this article. The Board has already given intimation that it is preparing or has prepared five construction schemes. Three minor schemes are at Morar, Loch Alsh and Gairloch. The other two are larger schemes.

Of the larger schemes the first is at Loch Sloy. The purpose of this scheme is to supply power at the peak load time in the Clyde area. An inquiry has already been held on the scheme and the Secretary of State's pronouncement is awaited.

The fifth and largest of the schemes is the Tummel Scheme. It is proposed to divert the waters of the Rivers Garry and Bruar by a tunnel into Glen Errochty, and from there carry these waters, together with the Errochty Water, by another tunnel into Loch Tummel. Three dams are proposed: one in Glen Errochty, another below Loch Tummel which will be approximately 70 feet high, and one at Pitlochry which will be about 50 feet high. There will be three power-houses: one above Loch Tummel, one below the Falls of Tummel and one at the dam at

Pitlochry. The second dam will more than double the size of Loch Tummel, and the third dam will make a reservoir which will extend up the River Tummel as far as the Falls, and on the River Garry, nearly to the Pass of Killiecrankie. Nearly all the water will be taken from the River Tummel between Loch Tummel and the Falls of Tummel, and the flow of water over the Falls will be very seriously diminished; also the flow of water over the picturesque Falls of Bruar.*

If the Board proceeds with the construction of even a portion of the schemes which have been scheduled, it will affect many rivers and lochs in the Highlands and will have a material effect on the landscape.

It is a matter which concerns all Scots.

It is suggested that the following points should be taken into account when considering the advantages or disadvantages of each scheme:

1. The probable post-war cost of current under the scheme compared with that of current generated by coal, or current supplied through small local hydro-electric schemes.

2. Will the greater part of the power produced be consumed immediately or within a reasonably short time in the immediate neighbourhood or area adjacent.

3. Local employment to be given after construction. The indications are that immediately after the war labour and material available will be barely sufficient to deal with commercial and domestic constructional requirements.

4. Effect on agricultural life and production in the neighbourhood affected.

5. Effect on amenity. The damage which may be done is instanced by the state of the River Spean below Loch Treig.

6. The effect on present and future tourist industry.

Some doubt exists as to who are entitled to oppose schemes when inquiries are held. It is certain that owners

* The above paragraphs correspond to the published account by the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board of Constructional Scheme No. 2 (Tummel-Garry Project), approved by the Electricity Commissioners on 7th February 1945.

and occupiers of ground are entitled to do so, but it is not yet known if County Councils or such public bodies as the A.P.R.S. are entitled to appear at statutory inquiries.*

For the general public the method by which they can express their views is through the local Members of Parliament.

List of Projects.

The individual projects listed in the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board's Development Scheme together with their estimated outputs in millions of units per annum are as follow :

Projects 1 to 20.—Rivers Little Echaig, Massan Tarsan and Ruel, 22; Loch Glashan and River Add and Knapdale and Mull of Kintyre streams, 9; River Cur, 14; Douglas Water, 8; Socach and Fincharn Burns and tributaries of Loch Awe, 25; River Avich and tributaries of Loch Awe, 7; River Nant and Firth of Lorne tributaries, 20; River Awe and tributaries of Loch Awe, 240; River Shira and tributaries of Rivers Fyne and Lochy and Loch Awe, 60; Loch Sloy and Loch Lomond, tributaries of Rivers Falloch, Fyne and Kinglass, 100; Duchray Water, 21; Calair Burn, Rivers Balvaig and Leny, 36; Ruchill Water, Glenample and Loch Earn, 26; River Esragan and tributaries of Loch Etive, 14; Rivers Liever, Noe and Cruachan, 26; River Lednock and Loch Earn tributaries, 36; River Bran and Urlar Burn, 60; River Tay, Loch Tay, Rivers Dochart and Almond, 210; Rivers Lyon and Lochay, 130.

Projects 21 to 40.—River Lyon, 100; Rivers An Iola, Salachan, Duror and Creran, 35; Loch Dochart, Rivers Kinglass, Etive and Coe, 170; Rivers Tulla and Gaur and tributaries of River Etive, 90; Rivers Tummel and Garry, Loch Rannoch, Loch Ericht and tributaries of Loch Garry, 300; Bucknay Water and tributaries of River Tay, 12; Rivers Ericht and Isla, 80; Loch Lundrava, Kichnish Water and Righ Water, 25; River Nevis, 50; tributaries of Loch Laggan, Loch Treig and River Spean, 120; tributaries of Rivers Feshie, Dee, Tilt, Shee, Ardlie and Garry, 170; River Muick and Water of Mark, 20; River Roy and River Gloy, 90; River Spey, 100; River Dee and Waters of Lui and Quoich, 30; Rivers Avon and Gairn, 130; Rivers Foyers, Doe and Tarff and Loch Tarff, 260; Rivers Findhorn, Nairn and Farigaig and Loch Duntelchaig, 190; River Findhorn, 50; Ben Resipol streams. Ardnamurchan streams, and Loch Mudle, 15.

* But it appears that, at the inquiry into the Loch Sloy Scheme, the principal objector was the Dumbarton County Council, although not on grounds of amenity.

Projects 41 to 60.—River Carnoch and Morven streams, 20; River Moidart and Loch Moidart, 10; Rivers Cona, Scaddle and Gour, 40; Loch Mama and Arisaig streams 6; Glenfinnan Water, 12; Allt Fionnlighe and tributaries of Loch Eil, 30; Loch Bhraomisaig, Rivers Dulochan and Meadail, 5; River Carnach (Loch Nevis), 15; tributaries of Lochs Nevis and Morar, 20; Rivers Dessary and Pean, 13; Rivers Lochy and Arkaig and Loch Arkaig, 90; Rivers Garry and Moriston and tributaries of Loch Hourn, 350; Loch na Lochan and Ben Sgrìol streams, 8; Rivers Mor and Beg (Glenelg), 30; Rivers Shiel and Croe (Loch Duich), 26; Allt saigh, Rivers Enrick and Coilltie and tributaries of River Moriston, 60; Loch Duich streams, 16; Rivers Glomach, Elchaig and Cannich, 70; Loch nan Gillean (Plockton) and streams, 4; River Udalain, 10.

Projects 61 to 80.—Rivers Ling and Elchaig, eastern tributaries of River Carron and tributaries of Loch Monar, 210; Rivers Affric, Farrar, Cannich, Glass and Beauily, 440; Loch nan Eun and streams, 10; streams near Camasterach, Applecross, 9; Loch Lundie, Applecross River and streams, 25; Loch Coire nan Arr and streams, 9; Loch Daimh and streams, 8; western tributaries of River Carron, 40; Lochan Neimhe and River Torridon, 25; tributaries of Rivers Carron and Meig, 30; Rivers Orrin, Meig and Conon and Glenbeg, 350; Loch a' Bhealaich, Loch na h'Oidche and Loch Diabaig's Airde (Torridon), 90; Loch Garbhaig and Loch Maree, 60; Loch Bad an Sgalaig and Gairloch streams, 15; Loch Fhada and Loch Garbhaig, Rivers Little Gruinard, Inverianvie and Guisachan, and Fionn Loch, 130; Gruinard River, 30; Strathbeg River and River Broom, 90; River Glasath, Loch Morie, Loch Glass, Rivers Blackwater, Glass and Skiack, 100; River Achalt and tributaries of River Oykeall, 55; Glasha Burn, Rivers Oykeall and Carron tributaries, 20.

Projects 81 to 102.—River Kanaird, 25; Rivers Oykeall and Rappach, 15; Lochs Baddagyle and Lurgain, 8; River Kirkaig, Loch Skinaskink and tributaries of River Oykeall, 80; Loch Assynt and River Inver, 35; Upper River Cassley, 32; River and Loch Shin, 100; River Blackwater (Sutherland), 25; tributaries of Loch Glendhu and Loch Glencoul, 35; Loch na Mucknaich and River Laxford, 10; River Inchard and River Shinary, 12; River Dionard, Polla Burn and River Hope, 30; River Borgie and Loch Loyal, 15; River Naver, 40; River Helmsdale, 20; Berriedale Water, 20; Bute and Arran streams, 15; Islay and Jura streams, 5; Mull streams, 15; Skye streams, 20; Lewis and Harris streams, 5; Orkney and Shetland streams, 10.

As the List of Projects is very extensive and without detail, it is included here for reference purposes only, and no attempt has been made to indicate which of these are likely to affect adversely the amenities of the approach to the mountains and which are unlikely to do so. Estimated Output of Power and general geographical location constitute a very inadequate guide until the detailed plans are published for each project.



December 1932.

LOCH QUOICH AND GAIRICH

John Dow.



Easter 1920.

A. E. Robertson.

STRATH NA SHEALLAG
(See Route 22)

ROADS AND TRACKS THROUGH THE NORTHERN HIGHLANDS.

(AS SHOWN ON ROY'S MAP OF SCOTLAND, 1747-55.)

By J. A. Parker.

IN this article I have attempted to give such descriptions of the roads and tracks in the Northern Highlands which are shown on Roy's Map as will enable anyone who has copies of the 1-inch Ordnance Maps (Popular Edition) to follow the routes on these maps without difficulty. The article is really an extension northward of my article on "The Old Tracks through the Western Highlands" which appeared in the *Journal* for April 1934 (Vol. 20, 159), and dealt with all routes up to and including that from Dingwall to Poolewe via Kinlochewe. The present article deals with all the routes to the north of that route, and for convenience I have numbered the routes in continuation of the former numbers.

When preparing the first article I had access to the original copies of Roy's Maps in the British Museum and made copious notes therefrom. This has not been possible in the present case, which is based on a careful examination of an excellent photographic copy of the original map, which is in my possession. The spellings of place-names are as given on the Ordnance Maps, with the exception of those in italics, which are as given on Roy's Map.

The following are the descriptions of the various routes :

22. KINLOCHEWE TO GRUINARD.—From Kinlochewe this route strikes up Glen Bruachaig, passes the Heights of Kinlochewe, goes up Gleann Tanagaidh (*Glen Tanigy*), and across the Bealach na Croise to Loch an Nid. Thence to the head of Strath na Sheallag, which is followed, by the south side of the loch, to the Gruinard River and down the latter to Gruinard.

23. KINLOCHEWE TO ULLAPOOL.—This leaves the Gruinard route (No. 22) about 1 mile south of Loch an Nid, strikes eastward along the north side of Loch

a'Bhraoin (*L. Vrine*) into Strath More and down the latter, keeping to the left bank of the River Broom, to the head of the loch. The river is then crossed to Inverlael, from which the north side of the loch is followed to Ullapool (see *Journal*, 22, 329).

24. DINGWALL TO LOCH BROOM.—From Dingwall by way of Strathpeffer to Contin, the south side of *Loch Echillty*, and the River Conon to the foot of *Loch Luychart*. Thence over the hill into Strath Garve and along the west side of the Black Water to a point near Little Garve, where Route No. 20 (Dingwall to L. Maree) branches off to the west. The Black Water is crossed a little to the south of Achnaclerach and the left bank of the river followed past Garbat and Lubfearn into *Strath Dirry*. The left bank of the Glascarnoch River is followed to near the outlet from Loch a'Gharbhraon, from which point the route strikes up the Allt Mhucarnaich, crosses the pass to the south of Iorguill, and then goes westward to join the Tain Lochbroom route (No. 25), near Inverlael.

25. TAIN TO LOCH BROOM.—On the map this route is named *Road from Loch Broom to Tayn*. From Tain the road passes along the south side of the Dornoch Firth, through Wester Fearn, to Strath Carron, and strikes up the latter to Amat Lodge, from which it proceeds up Strath Cuilionach for six miles and then passes through the depression to the west of Cnoc nan Caorach into Glen Einig and on to Duag Bridge. Before reaching the latter it is joined by a route coming up Glen Einig from Route No. 30, in Strath Oyckell, via Amat (*Aldmatt*) at the entrance to Glen Einig. From Duag Bridge the *Water of Duag* and the Corriemulzie River are followed and the hills crossed into *Glen Douchary*. The latter is followed for a few miles and then left by the Allt na Lairige and on to Inverlael at the head of Loch Broom. The whole of this route from Amat Lodge onwards is indicated by dotted lines on the 1-inch O.S. Map.

26. AMAT LODGE TO LOCH BROOM.—This is an alternative route which leaves No. 25 at Amat and goes up Gleann Mor and Gleann Beag. From the head of the last

it crosses by the Coir' an Lochain Sgeirich and descends to Glensguaib, where it rejoins No. 25 for Inverlael. Note there is now a good path from Glenbeg onwards (see *Journal*, 18, 146).

27. EVANTON TO STRATH GARVE.—From Evanton this route proceeds up the River Glass, round the north side of Loch Glass, and then turns south-west by Loch Bealach Culaidh down to Garbat and there joins the Dingwall to Ullapool route No. 24.

28. EVANTON TO WESTER FEARN.—This leaves No. 27 about 2 miles from Evanton and then follows an almost straight line to *W. Fern* as follows: From Uig in Glen Glass it crossed Strath Mor to Ballavoulen, where the River Alness and No. 29 were crossed. Thence up Strath Rusdale to Braeantra and thereafter, presumably by the dotted lines on the 1-inch O.S. Map to the head of the Wester Fearn Burn and down it past Garvary to Wester Fearn to join No. 25. *Note*.—The route shown on Roy's Map keeps about a mile to the east of the burn and avoids Garvary.

29. ALNESS TO GLEN MOR.—From Alness proceeded up the north side of the River Alness and along the north side of Loch Morie (*Loch Moir*). From the head of the latter went up Gleann Mhuire and the Abhainn na Glasa to the watershed at the head of Glen Diebidale (*Debidale*) and on past Crom Loch to *Glen More*, where it joined No. 26 route at Deanich Lodge.

30. DORNOCH TO ELPHIN.—On the map this road is called *Road from Cromwell to Dornoch*. From Dornoch it runs along the north side of the Firth, by pretty much the lines of the existing roads, to Migdale, where a branch strikes off north through the hills to join No. 36 to the north of Lairg, and then by Balblair (*Balablair*) to Invershin, where the Shin was crossed and a branch route from No. 25 at Strath Carron joined. Strath Oykeil was now followed; the road passed between Loch Urigill and Loch Borralan, close to the first, and ended at *Cromwell*, which is evidently Elphin, at a route running north and south (Nos. 31 and 32).

31. ELPHIN TO LOCH ASSYNT.—From Elphin this route goes north to Inchnadamph, along the north side of Loch Assynt to near its west end, and thence up Gleann Leireag to the head of Loch Nedd (*Ned*), where the road marking stops.

32. ELPHIN TO ULLAPOOL.—This road is the same as the existing road by Drumrunie and Loch Kanaird.

33. DRUMRUNIE TO RHU COIGACH.—This route leaves No. 32 at Drumrunie and goes west almost to the head of Loch Lurgainn, then passes through the glen containing Lochan Tuath between Ben More Coigach and Beinn an Eoin, and reaches the coast a little to the south-east of Achiltibuie (*Kilbuy*). The existing route is then followed via Loch a'Mheallain to *Riff*. From the last the route follows a straight line to Rhu Coigach.

34. INVERSHIN TO LOCH STACK.—From Invershin this route runs up the east side of the River Shin to Lairg and then along the north side of Loch Shin and the east sides of Loch a'Ghriama and Loch Merkland to Loch More. The north shore of the last is followed to a short distance beyond Aultanrynie (*Aldrony*), where the route marking stops. The next loch, *Loch Stack*, is clearly shown on the map. At the west end of Loch Merkland the route is joined by Nos. 35 and 37.

35. STRATH OYKELL TO LOCH MERKLAND.—This is a faintly marked track which leaves Strath Oykeil at Invercassley, proceeds up Glen Cassley, passes Duchally (*Dowchally*), and goes straight through the hills by Corrykinloch and the east side of Meallan a'Chuail to the north end of Loch Merkland, where it joins No. 34.

36. DORNOCH TO DURNES.—This is marked *Road from Dornoch to Durness* on the map. From Dornoch the road went up the coast to Loch Fleet, and up Strath Fleet, kept about a mile to the east of the Lairg end of Loch Shin, and made for Strath Tirry, which was followed to *The Crask*. Thence down *Strath Argasty* to *Aldnaverive* at the west end of Loch Naver, where there are junctions with Nos. 37 and 38. From Altnaharra the

road went north for about 3 miles to Loch a'Mhoid, a little beyond which No. 38 branched off to the north. The Durness road then made for Strath More, which was followed to near the head of Loch Hope. It then struck off west for Strath Beag and the head of Loch Eribol. The west shore of the loch was followed for a short distance to where a branch route struck up the Allt an Lagain and over the Bealach Mor to the head of the Kyle of Durness, and along the west side of the Kyle to Geodha Sligeach at the foot of *Skrish Ben* (see *Journal*, 20, 177). The main road carried on along the side of Loch Eribol to Port Chamuill and then crossed the hills between *Ben Mean* and *Ken Ben* to Durness.

37. ALTNAHARRA TO LOCH MERKLAND.—From the junction just north of Altnaharra this route struck up the River Mudale and the Allt an t-Stratha-Dhuibh, passed through the Beallach na Creige Duibhe and across the southern slopes of Benn Hee (*Ben Ay*) to join No. 34 at the foot of the Allt nan Albannach.

38. ALTNAHARRA TO TONGUE.—This branched off No. 36 a little north of Loch a'Mhoid and made for the head of Loch Loyal via Coulside. The west side of the loch was followed to its north end and thence a straight line was made to Tongue. Ben Loyal is shown on the map but is called *Ben Royal*.

39. ALTNAHARRA TO BETTYHILL.—This skirts the north side of Loch Naver and then follows the west side of Strath Naver to *Invernaver*, where it joins the coast road. Bettyhill is not named on the map; but *Kirk of Farr* is.

40. BRORA TO STRATH FLEET.—From Brora this route runs up Strath Brora and the east side of Loch Brora to Dalreavoch (*Dalreoch*). Thence, passing to the south of Loch Pressnaskianach and well to the east of Loch Craggie (*L. Craigy*) joined the Dornoch Durness Road No. 36 at Rhaoine (*Ruyn*), in Strath Fleet.

41. LOTH TO MELVICH.—Leaves the coast road at foot of Glen Loth and proceeds up that glen and over the hills at A'Chrasg to Kildonan in the Helmsdale River

valley. Note the 1-inch O.S. Map shows dotted road marking for this part of the route. The Helmsdale River valley is followed to Kinbrace, from which the route is due north to *Forsenard* and then down Strath Halladale, keeping to the west side of the river, to *Melwick*, where the coast road is joined.

42. LATHERON TO THURSO.—From Latheron, on the coast road, this route strikes north, passes to the west of *Loch Stamster*, and then drops down into the valley of the Thurso River at Dalemor, from which the east side of the valley is followed throughout to Thurso.

43. WICK TO THURSO.—From Wick follows the north side of the Wick River, which is crossed at the east end of Loch Watten. The south side of the loch is followed to the west end of the loch and the road then strikes northwards past the east side of Loch Scarmclate and on to Thurso via Tister and Haimer.

44. COAST ROAD DINGWALL TO TONGUE.—Along the north side of the Cromarty Firth by Evanton and Alness to Invergordon, just beyond which the road branched. The left branch went by way of Scotsburn to Tain, and the right branch, which was evidently the principal one, carried on to the head of the Bay of Nigg and thence by Fearn to Tain. The map shows a fainter route from the head of Nigg Bay along the east coast to Tarbat Ness and back by the north coast to Inver and Tain. Beyond Tain the route is practically identical with the existing road to Duncansby, from which the road passed through Brough, Garth, Thurso, to the south of the present Bridge of Forss, Achreamie, Reay, Melvich, Armadale, Invernaver, Torrisdale Bay, Borgie, and Coldbackie to Tongue.

45. WEST COAST ROAD FROM POOLEWE TO LITTLE LOCH BROOM.—As far as the head of the loch the route seems to be identical with the existing road. The route crossed the Dundonnell River near the head of the loch and returned along the north side of the loch via Kildonan to Scoraig, with a short branch from Rhireavach to the south shore of Annat Bay.

THE PEEBLESSHIRE HILLS.

By W. L. Coats.

IT is many years since my travels first took me among the Border Hills, but though I often eyed them wistfully my visits never provided an opportunity to stop and explore them. Nor did I feel that free week-ends and holidays could be sacrificed to these minor hills, until the claims of Munros and rock faces had been more fully satisfied. During the last few years the latter have, perforce, been sadly neglected, but by fortuitous circumstances the hills around Peebles have stolen a march on them.

From the main valleys, shut in between the steep lower slopes of foothills, little but the fringe of this terrain can be seen. Hopes (or glens) and high ground alike are often screened from view and discovered only by perusal of a map, or a visit to the hinterland. The smaller hopes frequently lie so deep-cut between the convex hill-sides as to prompt a sense of confinement and the desire to escape to the spacious freedom of high ground; but when this urge has been satisfied and the soft light and quiet hush of evening fill the hopes, one is content to remain and enjoy the restfulness and deep silence of their cloistered seclusion. The tops, broad and flattish, tend to lack individuality and bulk too largely in the foreground to enable the nearer hills to be seen to advantage, or the height of the more distant tops to be fully revealed. Contrary to expectation, however, they are by no means monopolised by rough and boggy ground; there are considerable stretches of firm, even ground along the tops, where the going underfoot could hardly be better.

Typical of the worst conditions to be found are the central and northern sections of the Moorfoots, and some tedious plodding over this ground recalled the words of a Skye worthy, who characterised climbing on the Cuillin as "the densest of work." To reach Blackhope Scar (ascend is hardly the word) from Peebles I followed the ridge north from Makeness Kipps, thereby having a pleasant walk on firm ground, until the Leithen Water

was crossed, near its head. On the return journey I cut out some of the dense work by descending into the glen of the Woodlandslee Burn, where I found a delightful carpet of turf and a good path. From Woodlandslee there is a good path (and right of way) across to Soonhope. This point is not made quite clear by R. M. Gall Inglis in his interesting description of these hills (*J.* 23, 74); nor, strangely enough, is the path shown on either the $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch Bartholomew or the 1-inch Ordnance sheets.

On one occasion I made the ascent from Woodlandslee almost to the summit of the path in bare feet. Although it came at the end of a day's tramp the ascent was no more fatiguing than walking on the level. This brought the reflection that much of the leg weariness experienced when an ascent has to be tackled towards the end of a day on the hills is due more to the weight of leather and iron carried on the feet than to the actual effort of climbing. Incidentally, on these hills I never wore boots, but a pair of stout hill shoes built on the cradle last (*i.e.*, with the front end of the sole curved up like a shepherd's boot). I found them ideal, even on the roughest ground, and the only time when the lack of ankle support proved a drawback was when contouring or descending very steep slopes.

Windlestraw Law, though unattractive in itself, is worth a visit for the fine view it offers of the south-east corner of the Moorfoots, with the Eildon Hills and the peak of Cheviot in the distance. Surveying the ground from the summit, it appeared that the most interesting day's tramp taking in this top would be to ascend by the Caddon Water and Scroof and return over Redscar Law and the attractive-looking ridge extending from Maiden Law to Cauld Face, just above Thornielee Station.

To the south of Peebles lie the group of hills referred to in Percy Donald's tables as the Manor Hills, probably the finest group of hills in all the Borders, two of the tops, Broad Law and Cramalt Craig, being exceeded in height only by the Merrick. Paths and old drove roads abound, but many of them are no longer used as through routes, their main purpose now being as shepherds' paths to the

high ground. Well defined lower down, they often become scattered and difficult to follow higher up. The Manor Hills are bounded on the south by a deep rift with the Talla Reservoir at the western end, and the Megget Water flowing to the east. Both drain into the Tweed, so that this river, which itself forms the north and west boundaries, collects every drop of water which runs off these hills (except for what may be piped away from the Talla Reservoir).

There are two distinct sections lying respectively east and west of the Manor Water, which penetrates deep into the group and is only prevented from cutting it clean in two by a col of 1,860 feet at the south end. The western section comprises, in the main, a well-defined range of hills closely bounding the Manor Water and extending almost unbroken from Lyne, in the extreme north, to the col between Talla and the Megget at the extreme south of the group. Associated with this range are some very beautiful glens separating the subsidiary ridges to the west. In the eastern section both the grouping and outline of the hills are less clearly defined, but here again there is a long unbroken watershed, extending from the head of the Manor Water almost to Innerleithen, with a cluster of featureless tops branching north from Dun Rig and occupying the ground between the Manor Water and Glensax.

The latter is a very fine glen, with a good track as far as a small shooting box near the upper end. By the time I arrived there on a drizzly April day of uncertain weather it had started to rain heavily, and a shepherd, up for the lambing, kindly invited me in to a seat by the fire and a welcome cup of tea. The shepherd was non-committal about the weather, but when the rain eased I set off, in a mood of wishful thinking, for the col south of Birkscairn Hill. By the time I got there heavy clouds were blanketing the tops and the weather had made up its mind for the worst. Dissuaded by heavy, driving rain from going on to Dun Rig, but loath to return the way I had come, I continued down the path on the south side of the col with the ultimate intention of reaching Innerleithen, but

in the more immediate hope of getting some shelter on the lee side of the hill. In this hope I was unlucky; by the time I reached Glenshiel banks I was thoroughly soaked and not a little cold. But I forgave the clerk of the weather his prank, when, as if satisfied that he had brought me to what I would otherwise have missed, he contrived to show me the glen at its best. The sky broke and the sun shone from a blue sky. In colours of rich brown and green, the steep, partially wooded slopes on both sides dropped far below to the burn which emerged from Loch Eddy, hiding shyly in a deep gash in the hills; and with the fragrance of the pines was mingled the aroma of wood smoke.

In spite of the wetting, the unexpected discovery of this charming spot, hidden away so completely among the hills, gave me more pleasure than a subsequent visit to Dun Rig on a perfect summer day. On this latter occasion, by using the old drove road which emerges from the Gipsy Glen and follows the crest of the ridge east of Glensax, Kirkhope Law (1,758 feet) was reached with but little conscious effort of climbing. The going was still good on to the summit of Birkscairn Hill (2,169 feet), a well-defined top which provides a good view in several directions. Beyond the col, over Stake Law and well up the slopes of Dun Rig the ground is very rough and boggy, but from there on to the col at the head of Glenrath the going is excellent. Near the summit of Dun Rig (2,433 feet) one of the new survey pedestals stands on a small oasis of bright green turf. There were signs of a path zigzagging directly up the north shoulder of Dun Rig from Glensax, but it looked more attractive as a way of descent than ascent. Continuing over the southwest top, I crossed over on to the Glenrath Heights, skirted Middle Hill and Broom Hill and, after crossing a very soft boggy stretch, again reached firm ground on Hundleshope Heights (2,249 feet), but it was not until I reached the site of an ancient fort on Juniper Craigs, a short distance to the north, that I felt I could sit down and contemplate the view with satisfaction. This point, no higher than 1,575 feet, occupies a dominating position

over the lower valleys and provides a view extending from the Moorfoots in the east to Tinto and Culter Fell, which can be seen overtopping the lower hills to the west. In the undulating ground between the Broughton Heights and the Pentlands, seen in the slanting rays of the evening sun, Black Meldrum and White Meldrum, not generally conspicuous, take on an individuality which adds dignity to themselves and grace to the whole landscape.

In the western section Dollar Law, although not the highest top, occupies the central or focal point. In spite of its remoteness, it is, if transport is available, the most accessible of all the tops and could, literally, be climbed before breakfast. A car can be taken as far as the foot-bridge near Langhaugh well up the Manor Water, and about a mile farther on there is a tall stone cairn on the right of the path. The quickest and easiest ascent is to slope diagonally up the hillside from this point, until one reaches a dyke which leads straight up to the summit (2,680 feet) over ground which is steep but firm.

A much more interesting approach lies over the tops which bound the west side of the glen. The quickest way to gain the ridge is by the path which cuts across from Stobo to the Manor Water, and leaves the main road just north of Stobo Station. If the approach is being made from the Peebles side, the other end of the path is too far up the Manor Water to justify using it. Instead, I left the glen road about half a mile beyond Gluck (which is at the confluence of the roads from Manor Bridge and Lyne), where a gate on the right gives access to a track leading on to the hills between two wooded patches. Skirting the top of the one on the left, I eventually gained the crest of the ridge at Whitelaw Hill (1,562 feet), near the summit of the path from Stobo. From here, 1,000 feet above the river, there is a very charming view of the Tweed valley, heavily wooded on both sides and hemmed in between the Drumelzier Hills and the beautifully carved Broughton Heights. In the gap to the west, beyond the low hills which lie across the head of the valley, Tinto stands out as nobly as many a Munro.

By the time I had reached this point, on a scorching

mid-summer day, I was in no mood to admire the view, so pestered was I, and wellnigh demented by the worst plague of flies I have ever met. Perhaps the pigmentan I had smeared on my face was the attraction. With a switch of bracken I fought a losing battle with them all the way up the heather-clad slopes to the summit of the Scrape (2,347 feet). There I sat down, filled a large pipe and subjected the enemy to a gas attack, before which they fled and troubled me no more. From there on it was an exhilarating tramp over Pykestone Hill (2,414 feet) and Long Grain Knowe (2,307 feet), then a drop of 300 feet on to the col and the final ascent on to Dollar Law. Apart from a few rough patches in the hollows the going was superb all the way. The time taken from Lyne Station to the south top and back on to the main top was $3\frac{3}{4}$ hours. The return journey by the Manor Water, brought me to Manor Bridge at 10.15 P.M., still in my shirt sleeves and 3 hours after leaving the summit.

It should be noted that Long Grain Knowe is not a top, that honour going to Middle Hill, slightly to the west (*vide* Percy Donald). On this occasion it was bypassed, but was visited on a later date, when, starting from Stobo by way of the Scrape, I did the round of the five 2,000-feet tops between there and Stanhope, going over Middle Hill twice and finishing with Drumelzier Law, thence by Drumelzier Glen to the main road, and back to Stobo. The total distance was about $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the total ascent 3,000 feet and the time taken, including halts, $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Another good approach to Dollar Law is from the west side by Stanhope. The foot of the glen is about 4 miles from Broughton Station and 3 miles from the Peebles bus route. The road through the farmyard, about half a mile from the main road, crosses to the south side of the burn, but a short distance up recrosses it by a ford, so that it is advisable to keep to the north side from the outset. Two miles above the farm the burn forks and the most obvious track crosses over into the gusset between the two. The correct path to follow, which is shown on the $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch Bartholomew map, keeps to the north side of

the burn round the foot of Taberon Law. At this point it is more or less lost in the bracken, but presently emerges as a well-beaten track until it ceases abruptly, where it crosses a tributary stream at about 1,400 feet. From this point one can keep on good ground by steering a course parallel with the burn straight for the summit. When approaching the steeper ground, keep a look-out for a good sheep track which leads up to the col between the two tops.

The highest tops, Broad Law and Cramalt Craig, were approached from the south by way of Tweedsmuir (reached by bus) and Loch Talla. I left the road half a mile from the east end of the loch, where a gully goes straight up the steep face of Muckle Side. Keeping to the bed of the gully provided some interesting scrambling and the pleasure of again experiencing the feel of boot nails (in my case shoe nails) on the rock, but in the broiling heat of the midday sun, thrown back from the sides of the gully and unrelieved by a breath of wind, the ascent proved a veritable Turkish bath. Strange to say, there were no flies that day. Beyond that a short stretch of rough ground led to the crest of the ridge just north of Cairn Law, after which it was an easy stroll to the summit (2,754 feet) and on to the north top (2,723 feet). A good view is obtained to the north and west, including the glen of the Heatherstone Burn, but to the south and east the nearer view is much blocked by outlying shoulders. There is a decided dip between here and Cramalt Craig, and then follows another stretch of easy slopes and wonderful turf all the way to Dollar Law, which was reached at 5 P.M., $4\frac{3}{4}$ hours after leaving Tweedsmuir, including a halt for lunch. Meandering down Stanhope by easy stages, I had plenty of time to enjoy a bathe in the burn and another meal, before finally reaching the bus route, a mile south of Broughton, at 8 P.M.

The traverse of the whole ridge (if this term can be applied to such broad tops) from Broad Law to the Scrape, must surely be the finest upland tramp in all the Borders. After the initial ascent, and except for the two main dips, namely between Broad Law and Cramalt Craig, and

between Dollar Law and Long Grain Knowe, there is very little ground that is in the least degree steep or rough.

Even in a thick mist or darkness there is little or no fear of losing the way. There is a fence or dyke which can be followed the whole way from the Megget Water to the Dead Wife's Grave, at the head of the Stobo path, (and beyond for that matter) with a branch just north of Dollar Law leading down to the Manor Water, as an earlier escape from the high ground. If there is any likelihood of being reduced to getting home by the railings, so to speak, reference should be made to the full notes on these boundary fences in Percy Donald's tables. It is only necessary to add that the gap between Long Grain Knowe and the Scrape has been closed by a light electric fence, but it does not look as if it will survive very long; also, to avoid confusion on the summit of Cramalt Craig, it should be noted that at this point the fence changes direction through an angle of about 300 degrees.

AT SLIGACHAN—THE CLASSIC AGE.

By G. D. Valentine.

“To look back is wont to cheer climbing men.”

—DANTE: “Purgatorio,” iv. 54.

To early mountaineers a cliff was an obstacle, to be avoided, or ascended as easily as possible, but soon scaling the crags became an end in itself, not a mere means of attaining a summit. Here is a natural sport: any child runs to clamber on a boulder. It gives an exhilarating sense of difficulty overcome by personal endeavour, of danger turned to safety by skill. So the art arose to which we give the clumsy name of rock-climbing, what the French more euphoniously call *la varappe*. Like other arts, it has a technique and a language of its own, tending to be elaborated at last, even to excess. Modern mountaineering literature is stuffed full of such details. Yet it would be an injustice to those whose talk is of holds and belays, chock-stones and pitches, to suppose them less

sensitive than their predecessors to the grim magnificence of the riven precipice. Rather is the contrary true. The artist sees more than the untrained spectator. Those who look up at a jagged sky-line or down into a dark abyss, can never feel their gigantic grandeur, as men do who, hour after hour, piece by piece, have fought their way up and down. Feeling is strong, but speech less frequent; a certain diffidence restrains most from repeating an old story, from saying something so like what has been often and well said.

I have already written of those whose feet were first on the crags of Skye. I pass now to an age of transition. Increasing numbers had acquired, especially in the Alps, skill and experience on the rocks. They longed to enjoy the same sport at home, where the Coolin Hills, not devoid of celebrity, allured many and soon more, though, remote as they were from the populous cities, whence the journey was no less wearisome than to Switzerland, they were not quickly explored in detail.

Professor Knight has the credit for the first climb which the expert still admits to his list. Many years later he wrote down what was still vivid in his memory, at the request of Mr Abraham, in whose book it may be read.* On 12th August 1873 with a friend and a guide he was resting on the summit of Sgùrr-nan-Gilleán. His eye, which had already looked on many mountains, was drawn to the huge needle opposite. He had come ambitious of a first ascent, and this he judged possible and worthy. The guide shrank from that venture, but by the persuasion of the pocket his company was obtained, though he seems to have given chiefly moral support, and that not of the best quality. They had no rope, but the descent, the passage of the short, sharp neck, and, after some scheming, the ascent, slow and circuitous, if not long, were safely made, a cairn built, and an appropriate verse duly sung. This pinnacle, the fourth on Sgùrr-nan-Gilleán, has since borne Knight's name. Nicolson was not long in following the discoverer.

* "Rock-Climbing in Skye," p. 10.

Had Knight's wish to wander from peak to peak, carrying blankets and food with him, not been disappointed by the refusal of his guide, in whose mind the mention of a rope called up the idea of death by hanging, the achievements of Charles and Lawrence Pilkington might have been anticipated. As it was, they were left to continue the work of Nicolson. These brothers were Lancashire men, born in 1850 and 1855 in a house on the top of a windy hill at St Helens. Both of them had excellent practical talents, and became successful and prominent in business: they loved life and loved their work, but were still happier during long days in desolate places: their thoughts often turned to the "Delectable Mountains." The two brothers went usually together, along with some reliable friend; they formed a fine combination; Charles was a daring and prudent leader, Lawrence, the younger, a steady, tireless and trusty follower. After a few seasons in Switzerland they began in 1876 to dispense with guides, and three years later Charles led the way up the Meije under icy conditions, when a clear but freezing night was spent under the stars upon the Glacier Carré.

1880 took them to Skye. The island had previously been visited on a fishing expedition, but only a humble pass or two crossed then. The second visit was in pursuit of grouse, of which rare traces were found, so the party turned to Sligachan.* Put on their mettle by failure in a frontal attack on Sgùrr-nan-Gilleán they renewed the assault on the next day, and reached the top, apparently by the West Ridge. Charles indicates that the ascent of the North Ridge is even more interesting, but does not

* There is an irreconcilable discrepancy between the accounts of this visit. Lawrence wrote in 1939 that they had only one day's climbing, on which they ascended the Inaccessible Pinnacle (*J.* 22, 63). Charles in 1888 spoke also of a failure and a success on Sgùrr-nan-Gilleán, and of another day on Blaven (*A.J.* 13, 433). All the rules of evidence lead me to prefer Charles: first, he was writing soon after the event; secondly, where there is no question of good faith, forgetfulness is more likely than invention. Charles, however, is, I must say from my point of view, regrettably vague about dates and details.

distinctly say whether or when he had made it. On 18th August * they sought out the pinnacle which the map marked "inaccessible," and made their way up the long narrow edge. It was a "noisy" climb. "Very great care and labour were required to pull out the stones, loose, but still forming part of the natural rock, and often the whole edge, which, by the way, is only six inches to a foot wide in many places." As the blocks were dislodged and hurtled down, "the very rock seemed to vibrate with indignation."

Along with Horace Walker and Eustace Hulton, Lawrence came back to Skye in 1883. Their chief achievement was the ascent of Bidein, that three-headed peak.† On this summer the party saw and felt what Sheriff Nicolson calls "the best of rain," against which they waged for three weeks a grievous contest. Returning from the hills, they found the stream in Corrie-na-Creiche "a raging torrent and not the pleasant little burn" they "had stepped over in the morning. We had to ascend high up the corrie and at last, in the dark and shoulder to shoulder, to prevent ourselves from being swept away by the force of the water, we struggled across to the other side." For Lawrence Pilkington this was almost the last of his climbing days. He was crushed by a fall of stones in 1884, and lay for six weeks ill; yet he bore no malice to the mountains that had treated him so cruelly, but loved and frequented them to the end.

Horace Walker and James Heelis were the companions of Charles Pilkington, when from 28th May to 6th June 1887 he spent another holiday in Skye, four days at Glen Brittle, the rest at Sligachan.‡ They took John Mackenzie with them, and must have worked hard, for they seem to have been almost everywhere. The capricious skies as invariably smiled on the elder as they scowled at the younger brother. The party took Bidein on the way to

* For the date see *A.J.* 13, 265.

† This was the first ascent of the highest peak; the north peak had been climbed (see below).

‡ Sligachan Hotel Visitors' Book. *A.J.* 13, 433.

Glen Brittle. The morrow was spent around Corrie Lagan; two of them scaled difficult and precipitous rocks to the North Peak of Sgùrr Alasdair, and when all had met on the highest summit, they went down over Sgùrr Sgumain. That day they had admired a nameless peak at the head of the corrie, and they also meant, as in honour bound, to repeat the new climb made in August 1886 by A. H. Stocker and A. G. Parker up the short side of the Inaccessible Pinnacle. Next morning that was done, and the nameless peak, reached from the side of Sgùrr Dearg, received a cairn and a name. On the inspiration of the moment it was christened after their guide, and with universal approbation has since been called Sgùrr Mhic Coinnich, while the north peak of Alasdair, now Sgùrr Thearlaich, commemorates the leader of that little band. Having returned to Sligachan, Charles Pilkington and his friends completed an eventful campaign by two more first ascents, those of Clach Glas and Sgùrr-na-h-Uamha, neither a hill of magnitude, but both especially delightful.* Summing up in the Visitors' Book, Charles Pilkington discloses that he was most impressed by the interest of the climb on Bidein and the splendour of the view from Sgùrr a' Ghreadaidh. He drew a map of the Coolins superior to the 1-inch Ordnance map (1885), or even to the 6-inch map (1887), and this was printed and published in 1891.† It remained the best until the recent work of Mr Howard Priestman, whose map will be found in the Club's "Guide Book."

Here ended the achievement of the Pilkingtons in Skye. Seldom can any party have been fortunate enough to make in less than ten days so many ascents afterwards

* In the S.M.C. "Guide to Skye," p. 112, the date of the first ascent of Clach Glas is given as 1888; this should be 1887. The narrative in the *Alpine Journal* (*loc. cit.*) is rather confusing, since it does not always state on which visit a climb was made, but I have no doubt that Sgùrr Thearlaich was first scaled in 1887, not in 1880 as stated in the "Guide," p. 90: Mackenzie, who was of the party on that day, was not with them in 1880, and they climbed Mhic Coinnich on the next.

† *J.* 11, 235.

celebrated. They came, all experts in full vigour, to a district where no party so strong had previously appeared, and, by a rare chance, they had glorious weather, even in Skye. Charles Pilkington continued for many years to roam the Alps, a lover of clear air and of the mountains to the end. He had often Lawrence for a companion, but no longer on the heights. Charles died in 1919, at the age of sixty-nine; overwork, worry and anxiety through conditions caused by the war are thought to have hastened his end. Lawrence attained the great age of eighty-six, dying only in 1941.*

Both brothers belonged to that class of business men who combine efficiency in their profession with wide and varied cultural interests. The elder, the more energetic, was forward in public work of all sorts. Both were pleasant and amiable in their converse; they showed irritation only on meeting with some form of disfigurement or desecration of the mountains. Charles was fond of making water-colour drawings, described as charming in colour and in fidelity to Nature. If I may filch his favourite word from Baedeker, no amusement is more repaying to the mountaineer. Even photography, where the only human part is choice of subject and light, much enhances the interest of the day, but painting does far more. The artist feels himself almost a proprietor of the scene he has drawn. After his eye has gained experience, he discerns hues and shades invisible to others, just as the musician hears things, by them undreamt of, in a symphony. Though the brush is not in his hand, his eye is always at its enjoyable work, while the day of rest is often for him most agreeable of all. It is as an artist that Charles describes the view from the ridges, dwelling with zest on the ultramarine, the blue and the purple, the green of the sea, the patches of cloud and shade, and the glittering snows of the distant Ben Nevis. Knowledge gives weight to his verdict that "we may have seen grander forms in the Alps, and we *may* have seen many views of equal loveliness, but know of none to *beat* it for beauty of colour combined with grandeur and variety of form."

* *A.J.* 32, 346; *J.* 23, 41.

Lawrence used the sister art of verse. I call it a sister art, because his was not the poetry of action, which has little in common with painting, but is of that reflective sort, whose material is found in memory and description. So :

“ A chill wind from above, a dawning gleam.
The stars are fading in the morning light.
The ice rings crisp beneath the axe.” *

There is a certain tranquillity in his style, a philosophic calm, pleasing, though his philosophy be not profound : he turns from a war-wasted world to the quiet shadows of evening on the mountain side, and looks for a bright day to-morrow.† His pen is not so vivid as that of Nicolson, but there comes at times a flashing stanza :

“ There is a glory in the dawn
That floods each ridge and spire,
Where youth first sets its eager foot
On steeps of strong desire.”

Yet more characteristic of him is the pensive sunset mood :

“ There is a glory in the light
That falls at eventide,
On distant views, long sought in vain,
Which clouds no longer hide.” ‡

Nicolson had seized the predominant points ; the Pilkingtons and their allies took wide possession of the land ; but much remained to be done. Even on the main ridge there were still two gaps untraversed. The sheer edge of Bhasteir challenged every cragsman who came to Sligachan. No one had passed directly from Sgùrr Dubh to Alasdair. At the heads and flanks of the glens the great precipices, some of them the highest in Scotland, had hardly been touched. Many, including members of this Club, joined in the work of detailed exploration, but I must single out one as representative of that generation, which is now passing or has passed away, nor can there be any hesitation in the choice ; the name of Sgùrr Thormaoid decides it, as plainly as a plebiscite.

* “ The Hills of Peace,” by Lawrence Pilkington, 1930, p. 27.

† “ The Hills of Peace,” pp. 11 and 47. On pp. 24 and 25 are some verses on the Coolin Hills, but these are not amongst the author’s best, so I have not quoted them.

‡ Op. cit.

John Norman Collie was of Scottish blood, though born in Manchester. The family came every year to a house on Deeside, where the child, father of the man, loved to wander in the pine forest and over the miniature ridges of the Hill of Fare. That was long ago. In our own day to many of us Collie was a familiar figure, since for more than a quarter of a century he made Sligachan his summer home, and, after retirement in 1929 from his posts at University College, London, as Professor of Organic Chemistry and Director of the Chemical Laboratory, his summers at Sligachan began to lap over into the other seasons; in 1939 he settled down to live there altogether. For the last twenty years he never sought the summits, but was an enthusiastic, wily and successful frequenter of lochs and streams, where his favourite companion was John Mackenzie. Innumerable were their exploits, and John has been known, when a salmon was struggling, not hopelessly, in a gravelly shallow, to fling himself down in the water, and fairly to clasp the spoil in his arms. There was a deep kindness between these two, and the gap left by John's death could not be filled. Still Collie continued to ply the rod at their old haunts, till, as the war went on, lack of petrol, besides making Sligachan but a lonely residence, deserted save by memories, prevented him from reaching these. Perhaps I may be permitted to quote a few lines from a letter describing his last expedition in the summer of 1941. A friend, he says, "kindly insisted on taking me for a day on Loch Leatham. It was a bad day and, owing to wind, I was only able to fish in one corner by the sandy bay. However, I got thirty-five nice trout, the largest being between 2-3 lbs.; also was blown into the water trying to land, got wet through; it was a very cold day." He added, "I don't think I shall ever have any more fishing." He died on 1st November 1942, at the age of eighty-three, and was buried by the side of his old guide in the little graveyard of Struan, but a short flight for a strong-winged bird from the Coolin Hills.*

* *J.* 23, 95.

Collie was built to be a climber, long-limbed even in proportion to a height not small. That put it in his power to reach distant crannies. He had also a faculty, on which he rather prided himself, of insinuating his lengthy frame into crevices, and of making a serpent-like passage along tenuous ledges. More notable was a tireless energy, combined with keen enjoyment of the work in hand, be it what it might. Even as an old man, he was often too much for his companions, eager to go on after they would willingly have called it a day ; in his prime he must have been inexhaustible.

He had, of course, a world-wide knowledge of mountains. As books in 1902 and 1903 bear witness, the gaunt and gigantic recesses of the Himalayas and the Rockies amidst their unkempt forests had been viewed by him, as well as every corner of the Alps, the noblest, though not the hugest of all. He seldom spoke of these experiences, and, when he did, it was less of his adventures than of his comrades. Yet I have heard him tell with whimsical humour of the straits to which they were put in the American woods, and shifts used when the food supply failed. In his latter years the organisation of the attacks on Mount Everest and their progress were much in his thoughts. Indeed, what the young men were doing always interested him ; he helped where he could.

Few, if any, knew Skye so well as Collie and his sworn friend Colin Phillip, who for some years shared with him the tenancy of Glen Brittle Lodge. The latter was a notable man, more remarkable as a painter than as a climber, but full of Highland and hill lore. Though he never attained the celebrity of his father, so well known for his Spanish pictures, his water-colours have beauty and value. In pursuit of his art he wandered into many a desolate corner, and had contrived, in order to defend himself from the wild weather of Skye, a kind of portable studio. Alone or with this congenial companion, Collie had tramped widely over the grassy but pleasant hills which cover most of the island, and along the mighty sea cliffs. Angling expeditions often led to a sequestered tarn or valley. Many summer days were passed in sailing



August 1944

Moidart

Morar

Loch Nevis

Eigg

Ben Bhuidhe
2803

Rum

Meall Buidhe
3107

Sgur Coire na Connich
2817

The Coolin

Ladhar Bheinn
3343

Skye

Loch Hourn

Allan Arthur
Ben Sgrìol
3196
Luinne Bheinn
3083

PANORAMA over KNOYDART
from
BEN ADEN

or rowing down the shore, landing under precipices in coves seldom trodden, "where the seal lie and the cormorants build their nests." * "It is now nearly sixty years ago," he wrote in 1942, "since I first went to Sligachan, to fish. The weather was so fine that fishing was impossible, and I wandered off to climb Sgùrr-nan-Gilleann, got into a bad habit of climbing mountains, and only in my old age have I become sane again." So he may be numbered in the band, neither scanty nor undistinguished, whose first essay was made amidst these hills.

In 1918 Collie read to the Alpine Club a description of the Island of Skye.† The panegyric, for it is such, not only on the mountains but on every part of his favourite isle, glows with enthusiasm and eloquence, which have made it a minor classic. It includes a narrative of those of his own explorations which he regarded as most memorable. These may best be read in their place, but I shall refer succinctly to a few. His first noteworthy exploit was the ascent of the Bhasteir Tooth in 1888: he had observed that the principal difficulties could be circumvented by going down a little way into Lota Corrie. In the next year, along with W. W. King, he traversed the last gap in the chain, that between Sgùrr Dubh and Alasdair. Collie had a predilection for rock faces; with various companions he was first to make the long climb of 2,500 feet on the bare rock of Sgùrr a' Ghreadaidh, where it looks down over Loch Coruisk, those on Sgùrr Coire an Lochan and the North-west Ridge of Sgùrr Alasdair, all apparently in 1896, besides others.‡

His great achievement was to discover and to scale the Cioch. "I do not know," he writes, "of any mass of rock like it in Great Britain," and a generation of climbers has confirmed the saying. It is not a pinnacle;

* *A.J.* 32, 171.

† *A.J.* 32, 163. See also "A Chuilinn," *J.* 4, 259. Most of it is reprinted in S.M.C. "Guide to Skye," pp. 10, *et seq.*

‡ *A.J.* 32, 163, especially at pp. 165 and 167. I find no more precise records of the dates; there are no entries in the Visitors' or Climbers' books.

it is more than a buttress. To me it seems to resemble a huger Sphinx, thrusting out its rounded head and gigantic shoulders not over desert sands but above a profound abyss, a thing, almost a creature, sculptured by the storms. On an evening in 1899, when the sun was low, Collie was in Corrie Lagan; he saw the immense shadow which the monster cast athwart the precipice, and he said to himself that he would find the answer to that riddle. The resolution to explore the formidable crag lay in his mind for seven years. In 1906 he was once more at Glen Brittle, and on the first day he hastened to learn what Titan cast that shadow. He climbed round its knees, but being alone waited for the coming of his trusty companion, John Mackenzie, before making the final assault. On the next day their escalade was successful.*

Collie took great pains to ascertain the heights of the different peaks. His method was to pass, as rapidly as possible, from a point trigonometrically measured by the Ordnance Surveyors to another, carrying with him his aneroid barometer. The result of repeated observations made in this way is fairly reliable, and when possible, it was checked by the use of the clinometer. A table of the heights was published in the *Journal*, and established the predominance of Sgùrr Alasdair.†

This Club was founded in December 1889; the first Meet at Sligachan was in 1903, on a snowy Easter, but members had often already gathered there, notably in August 1898, when there was a numerous assembly and much was achieved. The first "Guide Book to Skye," compiled by W. Douglas, was in manuscript in March 1904 and was published in September 1907.‡ Before that time and even before the Club existed, many members were familiar with the Coolins, and the early issues of the *Journal* contain several contributions to its literature. Besides Douglas, Maylard, W. Brown, Inglis Clark and a little later Raeburn, Steeple and Barlow, J. H. Bell

* *A.J.* 32, 167-169.

† *J.* 2, 168.

‡ Climbers' Book: *J.* 9, 293.



June 1936.

SRON NA CICHE
(Showing A'Cioch)

B. H. Humble.



August 1937.

SGURR MHIC COINNICH
(From Upper Coire Lagain)

B. H. Humble.

and Ling occur to me ; no doubt I would soon think of others, but I do not wish to make a catalogue. I have reserved the first name to the last : it is Naismith's. He was a man who spoke little of himself, but did what made others speak of him. To him, though so retiring, Scottish Mountaineering owes, more perhaps than to any other, its organisation, its means of expression, its whole trend and outlook. He had climbed in Skye, as he had climbed on all our hills, visiting it first as a young man in April 1880, when he reached the top of Sgùrr-nan-Gilleann in thick mist. After a fine day on Blaven, another fog-bound summit was ascended. This he took to be Sgùrr a' Mhadaidh, but it seems clear from his description that it was really the north peak of Bidein.* A remarkable exploit was his direct assault on the Bhasteir Tooth in 1898, when with A. M. Mackay, he forced his way up the face, without making the detour into Lota Corrie. Collie and Naismith were often comrades about that time. They have had no lack of successors, many of them fortunately still with us. The precipice on which stands the Cioch and that other tall cliff which rises above Corrie Ghrunnda in particular have given scope for skill and enterprise. But I shall go no further :

*" Verum hæc ipse equidem spatiis exclusus iniquis
Praetereo, atque aliis post me memoranda relinquo."*

It would be rank ingratitude not to spare a word for those who made Sligachan Inn so grateful a memory to generations of mountaineers, a troublesome race, impatient in the morning, laggard at the dinner hour, not infrequently damp, draggled, dirty and disagreeable at their return. The hosts in the days of Nicolson and later were Mr and Mrs Sharp, of whom I know nothing save that the Visitors' and other books are full of tributes, plainly not conventional but heartfelt, to their solicitude. At the beginning of our century the landlord was Mr D. Macdonald, universally known as " Old Tormore " from a farm in the south of Skye, of which he was laird. Inn-

* *J.* 1, 56 ; *cf.* " Short History of Scottish Climbing," by H. MacRobert, *J.* 22, 58.

keeping was only one of his activities. His red beard, his big laugh, his jolly word, though distant now, are not forgotten. He was built on broad lines, "and always through a long and laborious life felt himself the equal of any man." * Mr Campbell, whom we knew and esteemed, was like him in that respect, but in no other. Small, quiet and unobtrusive, he never raised his voice, and his face was seldom seen, but his influence was felt at every turn, and made all wheels run smoothly.

What shall we say of John Mackenzie? How great is the debt of Scottish mountaineering to him! Yet it is not quite fair to describe him as the only guide. His brother Murdo, who survived him, when asked if he climbed, used to reply, "Never: I am too much afraid of falling down." The disclaimer cannot be accepted; in his earlier days he led many parties on difficult expeditions, and his powers are repeatedly praised by competent judges. Younger members of the family, especially Rorie, made a fine beginning, but their careers were intercepted by war, in one case fatally. They did not resume the practice, nor are they likely to have successors. The growing independence of mountaineers has made the occupation almost superfluous on hills like these. Men now do not love an unnecessary guide. Unless they happen to be alone, and in need of a companion, they want no one to show them what it is their chief pleasure to find out for themselves. That is good, but we regret that we shall not see another Mackenzie. His character, formed by his profession, will not be repeated; the mould has been broken. The unique place he held will not be filled.

John Mackenzie did not look to the fee, save that without it he could not have given his best days to the mountain. It was love of the hills that took him there. Born at Sconser in 1856 in a crofter's cottage, he dwelt seventy-six years within their shadow. As a boy of ten he scaled Sgùrr-nan-Gilleann and when fourteen accompanied Mr Tribe on the first recorded ascent of Sgùrr a'

* Cameron's "Handbook to the Isle of Skye," p. 91.

Ghreadaidh.* His emulation was awakened when the Pilkingtons conquered the Inaccessible Pinnacle, and it was not long before he had followed them, and that alone. When the short side was climbed he was one of the party. His was the first foot on the Cioch, the first to tread many a craggy path. Of all the pioneers he was the trusty and faithful friend, of others less ambitious the guardian and the mentor.

His independence he always retained: he had his croft, and could live without the tourist. In latter life, when most of us remember him, he went only occasionally on the mountains, but gave most of the summer to his old and constant ally, Collie. His was a green and sturdy eld. His stride was long and his eyes keen. When his companions, wearied by a hard day, had sat themselves down with relief, they would see him set forth in the dusk for the three miles trudge to his cottage, as fresh as a youth in his prime, and that when he was already far on in the sixties. The stalker's cap, the loose jacket and knickerbockers which he wore, suited the man; they seemed to grow out of him.

He had the characteristics of the Highlander; the courtesy joined to self-respect that are the heritage of the clans. His accent to the end smacked something of the Gaelic speaker, and the turns of his phrases showed in what language his thoughts had been moulded. His features were strong and embrowned by weather. He wore in the old style a short beard, whiskers and moustache.† Always alert, always cheerful, he was a perfect companion, but it was when the mist came swirling down on the wet rocks, that his worth was known. Scottish cragsmen may be content and proud to have him as a leader and a memory.

* Cameron's "Handbook," p. 98; Abraham's "Rock-Climbing in Skye," p. 174.

† See the photograph in *J.* 20, 124.

ARRAN, 1944.**By G. C. Curtis and G. H. Townend.**

IN last year's *Journal* we drew attention to the neglect of Arran by climbing parties. This may be due to a widespread impression that most of the climbing is on loose rock or unsound grass. While this is true of nearly all the gullies and of certain faces (Ben Nuis and the greater part of Cioch na h-Oighe are examples) there are a number of routes on which the rock is clean and sound and the only grass is on ledges between pitches. In general, loose rock is not a danger, because it is easily recognised as such: an interesting point is that reversed holds are rarely sound. The difficulty of climbs is relatively little affected by wet conditions, owing to the roughness of the rock: this has the drawback that preservation of the hands during a prolonged visit may be difficult.

The pitch lengths given are not claimed as accurate: however, it is in general desirable to have at least 100 feet of rope for the leader. Of the climbs described below the following seem to call for special mention. Sou-wester Slabs is a good climb in itself, and if the upper Rosa Pinnacle be included, this is the best expedition on the island for days when South Ridge will not go direct. The middle section of Midnight Ridge Direct is "quite steep" and in itself enough to justify a visit to Cioch na h-Oighe. It is quite feasible to climb on Cioch na h-Oighe in an evening, especially for members staying at Corrie or Sannox. All the routes described were explored on Saturday evenings while staying at Brodick. The Meadow climb scores by reason of its length, though it is only in the final section that the climbing is continuous and the rock scenery grand.

Ben Tarsuinn.

At the head of Coire a Bhradain is a pleasant patch of turf sprinkled with gravel (the Meadow). A great

vertical wall descends almost to the Meadow (Fig. 1): it buttresses the north summit of Ben Tarsuinn. To the left of this wall two steep chimneys (P and Q) appear to cleave the whole face. To the right, beyond a converging fan of ledges, the wall eases into a broken face containing several cracks (R, S, T) up which Meadow Grooves runs. At the top of this face a slope facing Coire Daingean starts as grass but steepens to rock higher up. It is cut off on the left by the great wall, forming an edge which is seen in profile from the head of Glen Rosa (Meadow Slabs).

Hanging Gully.—The wide upper section of chimney P was climbed on 30th April 1944 by G. H. T., G. C. C., R. K. Fraser and H. K. Moneypenny. The standard is "very difficult." The rock scenery is fine but the start is artificial. Unable to climb the lower section we evaded this by climbing the loose slope on the left. It would be preferable to make a wider detour or even reach the climb from above. In any case, the first objective is the top of a detached rib of rock just to the left of the main face. Here one is only a little below the top of the crag.

1. 80 feet. Descend the grassy scoop between the detached rock and main face till a grassy rake guarded by an overhung corner is seen to run up to the right (looking in). The belay at the top of this pitch may be used if enough rope is available.

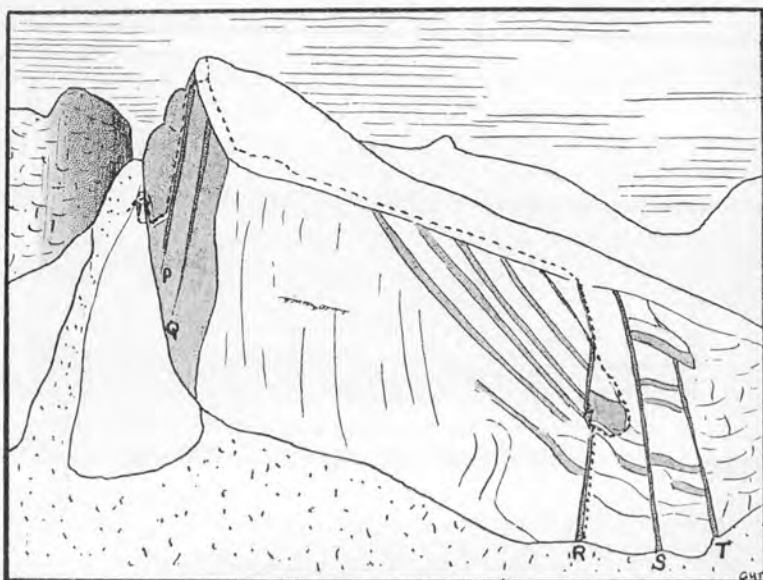
2. 50 feet. Climb round the corner (crux) and follow the grass rake to another overhung corner.

3. 50 feet. Continue round this corner into the gully and ascend by a through route, finishing right on a grass platform.

4. 60 feet. Above are two chimneys. The left-hand one was chosen and led by a through route to a stance in the cleft.

5. 80 feet. Continue up the chimney, then cross an apparent pinnacle to the right, and ascend a slabby shelf to the arête. This point is also the finish of Meadow Climb. Scrambling remains.

Meadow Climb.—This climb is about 800 feet long (though this includes some walking). It is in two sections as it emerges on to an open slope in the middle. It was ascended by G. C. C., H. K. Moneypenny and



BEN TARSUINN, BHRADAIN FACE
(Fig. 1)

E. J. W. Morrison on 20th August 1944: the upper section had previously been descended by G. C. C., R. K. Fraser, H. K. Money Penny and G. H. T. (last).

1st Section: Meadow Grooves. Standard "very difficult."

The Grooves R and S converge as they rise. Start by walking up the first section of R, here a heather rake.

1. 80 feet. The first definite pitch is a wet slab followed by a short groove. Bear right 20 feet below two small steps in the groove, the upper one overhanging. The belays are on a slanting tongue of grass beneath a 15-foot wall.

2. 100 feet. Cross the wall, from left to right (crux), to a good foothold on the lip above a steep section of groove S. Easy going up the waterslide follows.

3. 50 feet. Scrambling leads into a miniature amphitheatre.

4. 80 feet. Climb the clean chimney on the right until forced out right. The two parallel cracks above are less steep.

5. 100 feet. A trough at an easy angle leads to a platform. The next three pitches may be circumvented on the open ground on the right, which is an easy exit.

6. 100 feet. Bear left, and up to a platform.
7. 30 ft. Climb a slab to where it steepens.
8. 30 feet. Skirt this steep section on the left: one is now on a broad ledge which may also be reached by traversing the open ground.

2nd Section: Meadow Slabs. Standard "difficult."

9. 150 feet. Walk left on grass ledges as far as possible to a belay in a steep 10-foot chimney.
10. 30 feet. The chimney bends over into a trough leading to the spine.
11. 30 feet. Climb a short undercut chimney, bearing left. An elegant little pitch.
12. 30 feet. The easier continuation of the chimney.
13. 60 feet. Climb a grass-choked crack on the right of the spine.
14. 20 feet. Climb the left fork of a branching chimney.
15. 30 feet. Using a slanting crack in the wall above, pull out on the left. A short arête leads to the junction with Hanging Gully. Scrambling remains.

A'Chir 7-8 Buttress and Gully 7.

This buttress is inferior to the others on A'Chir. It was climbed by G. H. T. and G. C. C. (leading through) on 11th June 1944: standard "very difficult."

Gain the buttress by a through route at the foot of Gully 7. About 200 feet of mixed rock and vegetation near the edge of Gully 7 lead to the foot of a steep wall which we failed to climb. This was evaded by a long zig-zag right and left which touched Giant's Staircase at one point. The finish used two through routes; these are almost the only good features of the climb. The descent was made by Gully 7, which is probably unpleasant and loose enough to be described as "moderate."

South Face, Cir Mhor.

South Ridge.—The following notes on this fine expedition are intended to supplement Mr Hamilton's account. After some scrambling, the first steep section of the ridge is climbed up a crack A (Fig. 2), shaped like an elongated S. The middle part of this is "severe" in

rubbers: the final part overhangs and is harder, but may be avoided by a considerable detour on the right. (It seems probable that Hodge's route joins this detour from below, on the right.)

The second steep section may be turned on the right, but it is preferable to traverse left as far as possible and climb a crack L, finishing by a delicate traverse right. This again is severe in rubbers, but a delightful pitch.

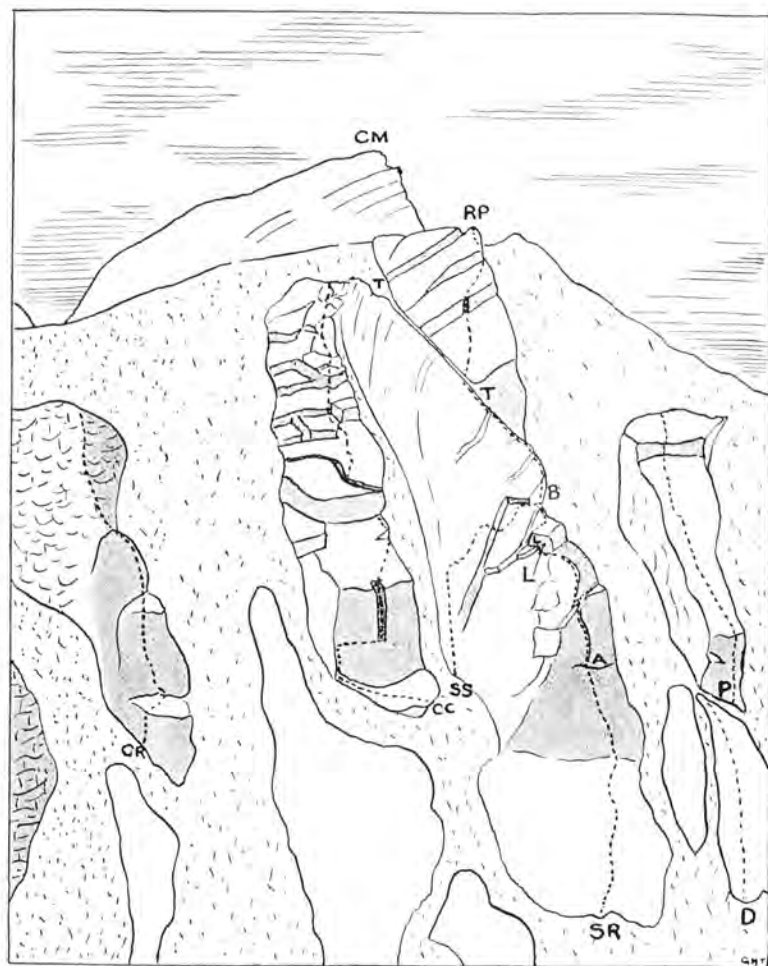
The third steep section is climbed direct by a chimney B, in three sections, just to the left of a very prominent overhang.

The Terrace T gives an easy exit upwards, but it is a pity to miss the fine situations on the narrow arête of the Upper Pinnacle (standard "difficult" or a little over).

Cubic Route.—The climb lies to the left of Caliban's Creep on the next well-defined ridge, which is seen to have a pinnacle about half-way up when viewed from the corrie. The ridge was climbed on 17th September 1944 by G. H. T. and F. Foxcroft, the standard being nowhere more than "difficult." After some scrambling on slabs a short steep crack finishes on a broad ledge. A crack and traverse right, followed by a short wall and slab, lead to the summit of the pinnacle. After crossing the neck, easy climbing on broken rocks and a final steep wall on good holds finish the climb. Escapes can be made to the left at almost any point.

Souwester Slabs.—The slabs on the left flank of South Ridge give a good clean route of a uniform "very difficult" standard. It was climbed by G. H. T., G. C. C., H. Hore and M. H. J. Hawkins on 3rd September 1944. Start in the gully left of South Ridge, exactly opposite the foot of the first big wall of Caliban's Creep.

1. 40 feet. A grassy groove slanting left.
2. 50 feet. Continue up the groove.
3. 40 feet. Avoid a steep section of the groove by rocks on the left.
4. 40 feet. Descend right on good holds, then climb an open chimney to a large block.

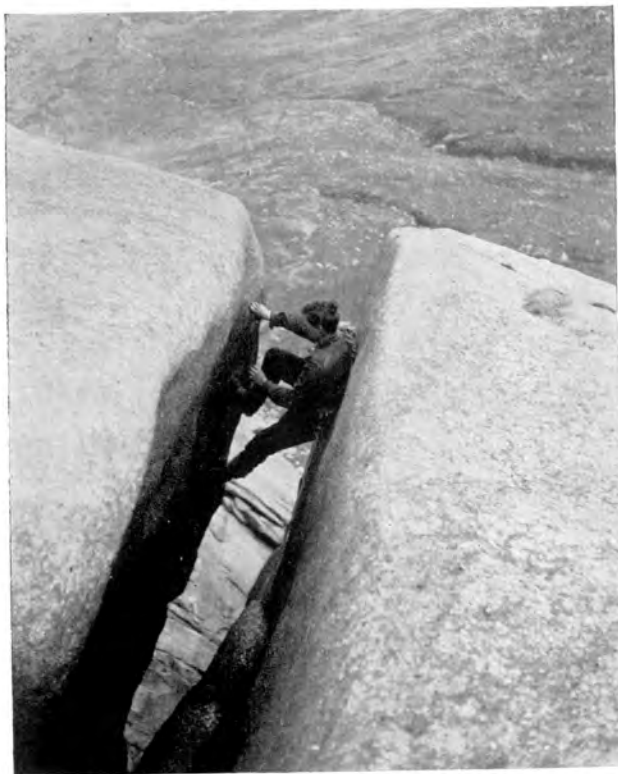


KEY TO THE DIAGRAM OF SOUTH FACE OF CIR MHOR
(FIG. 2)

CR, Cubic Route.
CC, Caliban's Creep.
SS, Souwester Slabs.
A, S Crack.

L, Layback Crack.
B, Three Tier Chimney.
TT, Terrace.
RP, Summit of Rosa Pinnacle.

CM, Summit of Cir Mhor.
P, Prospero.
D, Prospero's Prelude.



May 1944

H. K. Moneypenny.

CALIBAN'S CREEP, CIR MHOR
(See *Journal*, last issue, p. 184)



G. C. Curtis.

CEUM NA CAILLICH
(Townend on Broomstick Ridge)

The thin transverse rib near the bottom right-hand corner shows a typical Arran formation. It is well to test such holds carefully.

5. 90 feet. Continue up two parallel cracks and descend 6 feet to a lower slab on the right. Climb to a ledge beneath a long continuous overhang. A small spike belay may be converted into a thread by wedging a stone.

6. 15 feet. Walk right to a platform. This is the foot of the three-tier chimney B (Fig. 2), and the only exit is up this.

Prospero.—This variant of Prospero's Peril is of "very difficult" standard. It was descended by G. C. C. and G. H. T. (last) on 6th August 1944. It avoids the first pitch by a steep chimney 30 feet farther right and the sixth by climbing on to the crest of the ridge at a crevasse.

Witch's Step, Broomstick Ridge.

The south buttress of the peak of Ceum na Caillich was climbed from Glen Sannox by G. H. T. and G. C. C. (leading through). The standard need be no more than "moderate," but harder and more interesting pitches will be found near the left, overlooking the gully which runs up to the cleft in the ridge. A small pinnacle halfway up is quite easy. This is rather a scrappy climb.

Cioch na h-Oighe.

Midnight Ridge Direct.—We recommend this climb: the middle section ascends a vertical wall and is only made possible by an abundance of holds, usually so rare in Arran. It was climbed by G. H. T. and G. C. C. on 6th May 1944. The standard just reaches "very severe." At least 10 feet of line should be taken for a difficult belay after pitch 3, and a piece of stout wire for threading might also be useful.

The main face of Cioch na h-Oighe ends on the right at a projecting corner, beyond which is a slabby and grassy slope facing the sea. The corner itself is a steep mass of rock which runs up to the top of ledge 1. Pitches 1 and 2 ascend a slabby slope, below and slightly right of this buttress.

1. 80 feet. Scramble up to ledge beneath a small rectangular overhang.

2. 80 ft. Climb up on the left of the overhang and ascend slabs to the foot of the big vertical nose.

3. 30 ft. Attack a short overhanging crack just to the right of the corner of the nose. A smaller overhang then leads to a grassy ledge with a difficult thread belay.

4. 15 feet. Gain the undercut slab on the left (crux). Ledge and belay just above.

5. 20 feet. Swing left round a corner on good handholds. Climb a crack 15 feet to a good belay and bad stance. The angle steadily eases from here onwards.

6. 8 feet. Pull out on to a ledge with a floor belay. It is convenient for the second man to lead through.

7. 30 feet. Climb a crack on the right, then bear left up broken blocks to a large platform.

8. 15 ft. Climb a scoop.

9 and 10. 140 feet. Climb the arête on abundant holds to easy ground near the top of ledge 1.

Midnight Ridge. Rowan Start.—Though much inferior to the direct line, this route gives a fair idea of the ridge without going beyond "difficult" standard. It was followed by G. H. T., G. C. C., H. K. Moneypenny and R. K. Fraser on 29th April 1944.

The first objective is a rowan tree (our botany is subject to correction) roughly 200 feet up the shallow gully on the left of the buttress. This was reached by a direct ascent which was unpleasantly loose. To start by the first two pitches of the direct route might be better. From the tree traverse right, and down a rock ledge. A short ascent leads to a large platform in an airy situation, thus joining the direct route at the foot of pitch 8.

Twilight Slabs.—The slabs to the right of Midnight Ridge were climbed by G. C. C. and Miss F. M. King on 19th July 1944. Pitch 4 is "severe" in rubbers.

Though an independent start would be possible, pitches 1 and 2 of Midnight Ridge Direct were followed to the foot of the vertical wall. Traverse right from here to the first weakness, a ramp of slabs which abuts against the wall.

3. 30 feet. Climb the slabs and step left to a sloping grassy ledge above a little overhang. Tricky belay (line only) on the left, on the lower edge of an undercut slab.

4. 80 feet. There is no resting place on this pitch. Climb on to the slab and pass to the right of a doubtful-looking block with a hole behind it, then climb directly up a scoop to the finish. Grass holds were used for the final pull-out. Belay with no stance at about 70 feet, or belay with stance a little higher.

5. 90 feet. Up slabs and left to a flake belay, or a detour by easy ground on the right.

6. 20 feet. Left to an inverted belay.

7. 80 feet. Up a crack and slab from belay and bear left to join Midnight Ridge 50 feet below the top. An independent finish is doubtless possible.

From the top of any of these climbs the slabs on the right are easier to descend than ledge 2, provided the best route is taken.

Further Note on Cir Mhor N.E. Face.

We now think we have identified the traverse left from Gully B2 on to the B1 B2 Rib (September 1912, "Guide," p. 42). It seems to start about 400 feet up, perhaps 200 feet above the big cave where Gully B2 can be entered from Gully B1.

THE FIRST SPRING.

THE crack which we descend has formed a cell
 Above another cleft, vaulted around.
 Hark, was that water, yon faint tinkling sound ?
 Or in the vale, maybe, the village bell
 Beneath ? No, close at hand a little well
 Slips out, and gambols with a playful bound.
 Here's room to lie down ; cushioned is the ground,
 Where flowers, minute as pin-pricks, deck the dell.

Our toil is over ; the long afternoon
 I do not love to shorten : we may gaze
 Down the steep pastures, up the riven crags.
 Yon scorching pathway will be cooler soon.
 Already o'er the peaks a heat-born haze
 In quivering translucence creeps or lags.

G. D. V.

A HOLIDAY IN THE EARLY FORTIES.

By A. H. Hendry.

IN this sixth year of war, we seem far removed from the pleasures of pre-war climbing. Formerly there was a pleasant sense of anticipation in a journey to the mountains, but now it is different. For a brief spell I was very fortunate. The man with whom I climbed possessed a comfortable car, and would call for me at my house. Bundling rucksack, boots and other odds and ends into the back seats, I would settle myself comfortably, light my pipe and prepare for a pleasant two hours or so, during which we would discuss future plans or past failures on the hills. To-day there is a different picture. There must be no odds and ends if one has to travel in Macbrayne's bus from Tyndrum to Glencoe, during a holiday period. Luggage vans are crammed full of other people's suitcases, and people frown as one climbs into a railway compartment with a rucksack and ice-axe. If, as so often happens, it is necessary to stand in the corridor, there is a perfect scrimmage as passengers attempt to stride over a Bergan rucksack. The best technique is to dress respectably and stand well away from climbing impedimenta. This saves many nasty looks.

The year 1940 was the transition period in our climbing arrangements. In July of that year Peat had six days' holiday, and we decided to visit Glencoe Youth Hostel. On reckoning things up, we discovered that there was not enough petrol to make the return journey to Glencoe. Peat then had the idea of cycling from the farthest point reached by half his petrol ration. It should be explained that Peat, as a former Decathlon competitor and J.M.C.S. member is always very fit, and ready for anything which entails exertion. According to his calculations we could reach Lochearnhead by car and, after taking a train to Tyndrum, cycle to Glencoe. I was very doubtful of my ability to cycle over the Moor of Rannoch, and produced the valid excuse of not possessing a bicycle. Peat, however, had two bicycles, and there seemed to be no further hitch in the plans. Remember-

ing the previous Easter when his share of the food to be carried up to the Hut had included half a dozen large grapefruit, Peat enjoined me to travel light.

We left Edinburgh on a Friday morning and proceeded north at a leisurely pace. In the back of the car reposed our luggage and two bicycles, dismantled as far as possible. Thus, happily, we approached Lochearnhead. Then the fact dawned upon us that the Oban train does not pass Lochearnhead. Would it be safe to proceed to Crianlarich? The petrol lasted and we arrived there in pleasant sunshine. Stopping about 200 yards outside the village we began the task of assembling the two bicycles. Our work was very inefficient. One of the machines was originally provided with one brake only. The other was fully equipped when we dismantled it, but the process of assembly in long grass led to the loss of a most important bolt. Since the braking efficiency was now halved, I thought it wise to tighten the nut on the other brake. I must have tightened it too much, because the bolt broke in two as a protest. However, the essential running parts of the bicycles seemed all right, and Peat took the car away to garage it in the village, while I lay down on the grass. Five minutes later I glanced quite casually at the bicycles. What I saw seemed quite incredible. The front wheel of one machine was buckled in a figure-of-eight shape, and broken spokes hung limply from the hub. I could not figure out what had happened, but soon the obvious reason dawned upon me, and I realised that Peat had backed the car over the wheel before driving off to the garage. Suddenly I was seized with a fit of laughter and lay back in the grass quite helpless. Then, mounting the surviving bicycle, I went to find Peat. With the car safely parked, and in the belief that nothing stood in the way of our journey to Glencoe, Peat was strolling along, smiling happily. Attempting to sober myself I broke the news about the bicycle. Together we contemplated the wreckage and exercised all our ingenuity in trying to repair the damage. However, even an A.M.I.C.E. could make nothing of the wheel, and after banging it against a tree, putting it on the road and

jumping on it, we gave up. The suggestion that Peat should run the car over it in the opposite direction was squashed immediately. Disconsolately we trundled the battered machine into the village.

In the village store we inquired about hiring another bicycle, and were directed to the only man who would consider such a proposal. This gentleman, however, refused to hire out a bicycle which was to be taken to Glencoe. He said, probably with truth, that his bicycle would collapse before reaching there. Nothing daunted, Peat asked if he had a spare wheel. We were then shown into a shed full of junk and were fortunate enough to find a wheel which fitted our requirements. The bicycle was complete again, and we were ready for the road.

As soon as we started we became aware of the danger of cycling without brakes. The hills between Crianlarich and Tyndrum are not steep, but they all end in sharp corners. It was therefore necessary to pedal hard uphill and walk downhill. After Tyndrum progress was quite good, but the real disappointment came at the top of the hill leading down to Glencoe. Normally, one freewheels down to Glencoe village in glorious style, but on this occasion we had to walk to well below the Study. Finally we lost patience, and Peat undertook to risk the descent on the brakeless bicycle. By standing on one pedal and letting the other foot drag along the ground some sort of braking effect was produced. However, the sound of clinkers rasping on the hard road surface boded ill for Peat's boots. We finished with a splendid run down to the Hostel and an exciting passage of some logs in the middle of the road. Peat had by this time lost all the nails in his left boot and was achieving a purely token braking force by keeping one foot on the front mudguard and pressing it against the tyre. This at any rate supplied the place of a bell, since it sounded like a miniature and illegal siren.

Our first day's climbing was uneventful, and seemed very tame compared to descending Glencoe on a bicycle without brakes. We were both rather stiff and did not feel like leading anything hard. Our only severe pitch

was a 15-foot boulder in the corrie below Stob Coire nam Beith. On this boulder we wore out our fingers and three nails from Peat's right boot. We then proceeded up the Cracks Climb, a route which suited our condition. It is steep at the start, but the holds are excellent and the belays are more than adequate. On descending in the evening we noticed a large encampment near the cottage at Achtriochtan. The Lomond bus had arrived and members of that club, male and female, were engaged in the multifarious duties attendant on camping.

We had planned to do the Church Door Buttress next day, but the weather was unsettled and we welcomed any excuse to save us from toiling up to Bidean. "B" buttress of Aonach Dubh seemed conveniently close, and a start was made up the grass towards this climb. A shower of rain soon gave an excuse for sheltering under a bank, and from this position we watched some of the Lomond climbers making their way up the corrie to Bidean, while seven more came up behind us. The feminine contingent very properly stayed by the tents to carry out their domestic duties. The seven soon passed us, and we arrived at the foot of the buttress with the prospect of forming the rear end of a queue. Noticing, however, that the seven were proceeding up the right edge of the buttress, we took a steep crack on the left and wedged ourselves into the procession. We were now numbers six and seven instead of eight and nine. The two climbers whom we had thus outflanked accepted our manoeuvre quite amicably and upward progress continued. The climb is fairly broken until it steepens at a pinnacle. Behind the pinnacle there is a drop to a little arête. Sheltered here, we enjoyed some chocolate and the grunts and groans coming from the leader of the party behind us, as he struggled up the pitch. The wind carried the sounds very clearly, and before the leader's hands appeared over the edge, we were treated to some improving language. His second was wearing boots studded with protectors and seemed to be having some difficulty.

The top half of this climb was new to us, so we traversed the face after the five men in front of us. An amusing

little stomach traverse led to steep porphyry. Peat led up for about forty feet, and I followed. My leader was sharing a stance with the last of the Lomond party and seemed rather agitated. When I reached him I understood the reason for this emotion. Both of us have been brought up to measure the pitches of a climb by the belays. This is possibly an unduly conservative method of climbing, but we have been spoiled by this habit and become upset if we find no anchorage. In the stance which we now occupied there was a Lomond member who was cramped by no such conventions. While conversing politely with us he occasionally remembered the rope and replaced it on a sloping knob of rock, quite oblivious to the sound of nails scraping above him. At last his leader was up and he followed with Peat at his heels. After an age of cowering, unprotected, in a corner and looking down upon the road in Glencoe, I received the welcome call to follow. The route was up a sort of undercut scoop, with tufts of grass for holds. Thankfully I reached the top and found Peat on a good belay, but still a bit shaken. Apparently he had followed the first party too closely. Prospecting to the right would have revealed a route on good rock, but he had followed immediately behind the Lomond men, intimidated by the grass holds, and worried by the sight of someone using them above him. This was certainly a lesson against climbing in procession. However, there were no further difficulties and we descended to Clachaig.

Our last day proved to be one of torrential rain. Warm, in spite of the downpour, we pedalled up Glencoe on those wretched bicycles, passing each other at frequent intervals. It was still raining when we reached Buachaille: in a fit of madness we decided to go into the Chasm, since we felt that we couldn't get any wetter than we were. The first two pitches, climbed hastily, were not too bad, but on the third it was necessary to leap across a deep pool under a waterfall and then climb a branch of the water-course. The fifth pitch seemed hopeless, so we escaped on the left wall. Our madness continued, and we made our way back into the Chasm above the fifth pitch. Here

there is a small insignificant pitch described in the "Guide" as wet. Now it was a waterfall, which had to be climbed direct. While Peat climbed this he was quite out of sight, being totally engulfed in water. However, he insisted that I should join him. I did so, whereupon he decided most illogically that we should go down again. Descending the pitch was much worse than climbing it. I had to hang on my arms for some time while my feet groped for holds. This defenceless posture meant that the water entered every opening in my clothes, converting my trousers into a pair of spouting gutters. Still I had the best of it, since I was able to watch Peat's descent from below. Chastened for our temerity in attacking the Chasm on such a day, we retreated to the bicycles.

Now followed the most miserable part of the trip. Wind and rain lashed the Moor of Rannoch. Soaked to the skin, and loaded with wet ropes and rucksacks we pedalled vigorously towards Tyndrum. After a few miles we were facing directly into the wind, and it required strenuous exertion to make any headway at all. We then had the humiliating experience of being passed by a party of "real" cyclists. Even on the hill leading down to Loch Tulla there was no need to use the brake which Peat had improvised with Alpine line; the wind afforded sufficient resistance. At the bridge we collapsed exhausted and ate some chocolate under the sheltering girders. The sound of a lorry approaching brought us to our feet. Seizing bicycles and rucksacks we rushed into the middle of the road, waving our thumbs in the approved manner. The lorry stopped and, with the bicycles in the back, we enjoyed the warmth of the cabin. On the long pull up from Bridge of Orchy we passed our "real" cyclists, who now looked rather winded. They, too, waggled expressive thumbs but the driver did not stop, and we smiled at them from our improved transport. At Crianlarich the lorry-driver very kindly offered to take us to Glasgow. We thanked him, but said we had a car. He looked at the two bedraggled objects before him, grinned incredulously and drove off. I don't blame him; we could hardly believe it ourselves!

SCOTTISH CLIMBING CLUBS : A SURVEY. I.**A Symposium collated by the Editor.**

THE inter-war years have seen a remarkable increase, and at the same time, shall we say, a democratisation of the cult of mountaineering in all its aspects. Quite a number of small clubs have been founded in Scotland and have thriven amazingly. This article, commencing with a historical background, is an attempt to present some up-to-date information about existing Scottish Climbing Clubs. Even now, with an eye to the future, it is clear that mountaineers have certain common objectives which will make co-operation desirable. The organisation of First Aid and Rescue Services is the most urgent of these, and others may become more important as time goes on. Effective co-operation, in such cases, can only be based on accurate and accessible information, not only statistical, but, if possible also, genuine mutual understanding of the objectives, atmosphere and spirit of the groups concerned.

Pre-History.

This concerns the clubs of which the records are somewhat fragmentary, and are only now discoverable in a few references or articles in the older numbers of existing Journals. They are worth noting, however, for these older clubs had the root of the matter in them. They appreciated the beauties of Scottish mountain scenery, climbed the mountains by easy ways, organised Meets for the purpose and rightly emphasized the place of feasting and good fellowship. We can even trace the beginnings of decadence when the latter objective tended to become divorced from the former ones. In one case at least, accumulation of club funds developed simultaneously. Our own *Journal* published its first number in January 1890, the earliest Scottish publication of its kind. Four only of these early associations may be here mentioned, but ampler details can be found in the following references in our *Journal* (*J.* 4, 84; 11, 284; 17, 243; 18, 7; 19, 187).

In the last reference Mr Howard Priestman deals with a letter, dated 26th April 1822, from Donald Campbell, Lochgoilhead by Cairndow, to Sir Walter Scott (see "The Private Letter Books of Sir Walter Scott"), concerning the formation and activities of a Scottish Club, founded in 1815. Sir Walter was invited to become enrolled as a constituent member of "The Highland Mountain Club of Lochgoilhead" (the only institution of its kind in Scotland!). The Club met for festivities only once a year, at the summer solstice—"in conformity with the usage of Fingalian taste and independence." The assembled members partook of refection at the inn, and then, preceded by bagpipes and flag-bearers, ascended to the top of a lofty mountain. They reached the summit about 6 P.M. and enjoyed an expansive view, embracing Edinburgh, Glasgow, etc., as far as Perth! They admired the sunset and its subsequent rising at 2.30 A.M. They had supper in a commodious tent on the mossy plateau of the summit, with a bumper of genuine *mogbea* drunk from scallop shells. There was a salute of musquetry after each toast. Conversation was elevating, generally in Gaelic, and interspersed with music of the pipes. So passed the night until 10 A.M. when a final bumper of whisky preceded the descent, accompanied by pipes and musquetry. That evening at 5 P.M. a dinner took place at the inn, along with the principal locals. Further convivialities followed, and the Club separated at a late hour next morning, to meet again on the 22nd of June, of the following year.

In these days of war-time austerity no apology is needed for recalling the ancient splendours of Scottish mountaineering. Compared with the heroic and legendary figures of Lochgoilhead we moderns, and even the Alpine Club, cut rather a sorry figure. Was it in emulation of this earlier generation that the six pioneers of the Cairngorm Club ascended Ben Macdhui on 22nd June 1887?

And now for a still more distinguished body. The Gaiter Club (*J.* 11, 284) was founded in 1849. The deviser, originator, first and continual President was

John Burns, first Lord Inverclyde. There was a Club song; a motto, "*Flumina amo silvasque*"; a badge, the Gaiter; and several excellent customs. Members always addressed each other as Gaiters; all social functions were Gaiters and some resembled our Club Meets. The aim was to enjoy beautiful scenery quite informally. A rule forbade "upright speaking in the Club" (after dinner). But, though holidays were to be devoted to fun and frolic, there was to be no muscular exertion! It is probable, however, that a hill or two may have been ascended, for it appears from the records that this Club accumulated funds (possibly also *avoirdupois*), as in 1911 a donation of £100 was offered to the S.M.C. in aid of the publication of the projected "Guide Book." Eminent among its members were Gaiters (Lord) Palmerston and (Dr Norman) McLeod.

The first *Journal* reference describes the founding of the Cobbler Club in 1866 by Professor G. G. Ramsay, who later became the first President of the S.M.C., Professor Veitch and Mr Campbell Colquhoun of Clathick. The aim was "to climb the Cobbler and whatever other worthy hill could be reached in the course of a Saturday expedition from Glasgow, and to crown the labours of the day by such an evening of social enjoyment as can only be spent by those who have had a sniff of true mountain air during the day. The exploits of the Club ranged from Tinto to Ben Lomond and from Dumyat to Dumgoyne."

The third reference relates to "The Tramps," a small group of enthusiastic hill-climbers in the Edinburgh area. Originally they were only 4 in number, but latterly 9 or 10, who subsequently all joined the S.M.C. as original members. The first Editor of our *Journal*, J. G. Stott, was one of those 4, and contributed several racy and humorous articles to the *Journal* concerning their exploits on numerous Scottish hills. So it appears that the Cobbler Club and The Tramps (so named by others than themselves) were the true forerunners of our own Club. In the sequel, it is rather curious to note that, apart from the S.M.C. and the J.M.C.S., Edinburgh does not seem

to have produced any small modern climbing clubs, in striking contrast to Aberdeen, Dundee and especially Glasgow.

History: 1886-1914.

History begins with connected records extending to the present day. It would be pleasing to be able to say that, in this field, history starts with ourselves, for ours was the first Mountaineering Journal to appear in Scotland. It is a controversial issue, but I fear that the facts are against us. Those concerning the foundation and progress of our own Club are to be found in the Jubilee number of the *Journal* (Vol. 22, No. 127). Those dealing with the Cairngorm Club are not so familiar to our members (see *Cairngorm Club Journal*, Vol. 1, p. 7 and Vol. 6, p. 177), and a brief review of facts and dates may be of interest. The Dundee Rambling Club is older than both of these, so a somewhat longer account is included from the pen of Mr George Donald. The only other Club which comes within this period is the Ladies' Scottish Climbing Club, which was founded in 1908, a note concerning which, by Dr W. Inglis Clark, appears in our *Journal* (J. 10, 173).

DUNDEE RAMBLING CLUB.—It was decided at a meeting held in the Queen's Hotel, Dundee, on 28th April 1886, to form "a walking club." The following were the first members: Messrs James Brebner, W. A. Brown, J. M. White, W. J. Gordon, P. G. Grant, J. E. A. Steggall, T. H. Smith, J. W. Capstick, D. Rennie, G. Adie, E. Carmichael, H. A. Pattullo, Howard Hill and William Low. Mr James Brebner was in the Chair. The Club was to all intents and purposes a social club, and to a large extent it has continued thus to this day.

The first recorded walk was in June 1886. The members trained from Dundee to Kirriemuir, and walked to Clova the same night. Next day they walked from Clova to Braemar by way of Glen Doll and Glen Callater, and the following day from Braemar through Glen Tilt to Blair Atholl. In subsequent walks, hill walking was included, *e.g.*, walking through the Larig Ghru, and Ben

Muich Dhui was climbed in the spring of 1889. It was in November 1889 that hill climbing became general, when it was decided to climb Ben Vorlich. The record is as follows: "The snow was in good condition. The wind was very strong W. to N.-W., which rendered climbing extremely difficult, and the cold was intense. The view from the top was poor."

In one of the Minutes it is reported that at the Annual Dinner in November 1889 "the dinner was both hot and excellent, the haggis and sheep's head were served in good condition, and the whisky was unimpeachable." At these Annual Dinners strange and amusing obligations were sometimes undertaken by the members. One was that "those failing to attend a Spring Meet shall invite those who attend to dinner in the Queen's Hotel, Dundee." It was evident that there was a falling off of members at the Meets. On one occasion every member had to send to the Meet at Loch Awe, in February 1894, a fishing story not more than 150 words in length, and a subscription of 2s. 6d. to pay for the printing of the stories, which would be distributed to the members under the name of "Fish Tails from the Hills." Any member failing to send a fish tail would be fined 5s. On another occasion every member was "invited to send in an original Club song, and 2s. 6d. as entry for a sweepstake to provide a prize to be awarded to the poem judged best by the votes of those present. Any members who shall fail to send a poem shall be fined in the sum of 5s." It may be of interest to quote one of the poems:

THE RAMBLERS' SONG.

Oh! who are the rambles, so gay and so free,
Who spend the day long on the hill and the scree?
Why, these be the gallants around you—yea, we!

We leave all our cares, all our sorrows at home;
We love o'er the white hills enraptured to roam,
To mark from some high peak the distant sea's foam.

To climb where the eagle above us does soar,
To peer o'er the ledge at some linn's sullen roar,
And ever at Nature's bright altar t' adore.

Our fortune's our ice-axe, our bonnet, our boots ;
Our food is of bannocks, Glenlivet, cheroots ;
Our comforts are many—yes, plenty—hoot-toots !

Then join ye the ramblers, so free and so gay,
Who leave town's dull horrors for hills' bright array,
And learn while they ramble that life's but a play !

Ye will not ? Then tarry in smoky Dundee,
And see your bright hopes ebb, like tides of the sea,
And leave you deserted—sad fate yours will be !

T. H. S.

There were in all seven poems printed, so that a goodly number must have had to pay 5s., or, it is more likely, some of the poems had not been worthy of being printed.

Four members of the Club fell in the Great War : Lt.-Col. Harry Walker, C.M.G., Capt. Charles A. Air, Capt. T. H. B. Rorie and Capt. E. A. Shepherd, all of the 4th the Black Watch R.H.

Many of the members have qualified from the Dundee Rambling Club to be members of the Scottish Mountaineering Club. In fact, it might be said that the Dundee Rambling Club is a training Club for the S.M.C.

Since the beginning of the World War there have been no Meets of the Club, as the majority of the members are in the services and they are practically all the active members. In 1939 there were 44 members, and 26 of these are now serving in various capacities. The present Secretary of the Club is Flight-Lieut. A. J. S. Stewart, D.F.C.

Now for the question of priority in the field, as between the Cairngorm Club and ourselves. Apart from the articles in the Jubilee number of the *Journal* the best source of information is from the pen of Professor Ramsay, our first President (*J.* 4, 73). It thus appears that the formation of the Club was decided at a meeting held in Glasgow on 11th February 1889, but the Club was not formally constituted until a subsequent meeting on 11th March of the same year. An informal Meet was held at Lochearnhead on 6th April 1889, but the first formal Meet was not held before 27th February 1891 at the Crook Inn. From Easter 1891 onwards, New Year and Easter Meets, as well as some others, have been

regularly held up to the present day, except for several brief omissions, during the war of 1914-18 and the present war period. It is also noteworthy that the original purpose of the Club was to "welcome not only hill-climbers but all hill-lovers; those who in writing, in science, in art or in any other way have felt and furthered the glory of the hills (Dr A. B. M'Grigor, at the original meeting). As previously stated, the first number of the *Journal* was published in January 1890.

THE CAIRNGORM CLUB.—The following account is from the pen of Mr W. A. Ewen, Honorary Editor of the *Cairngorm Club Journal*:

On 22nd June 1887 a party of six ascended Ben Macdhui to participate in the Queen Victoria Jubilee celebrations, towards which they contributed a pyrotechnic display about midnight. The party comprised: Alexander Copland, A. I. M'Connochie, Rev. Robert Lippe, LL.D., W. A. Hawes, Rev. C. C. Macdonald and W. Anderson. In the early morning of 23rd June they descended to the Shelter Stone to rest for a few hours before proceeding over Cairngorm to Boat of Garten. Dr Lippe returned alone to Deeside, parting from the company near the mouth of the Feith Buidhe, on the Maghan na Banaraich, the Dairymaid's Field. Before parting they agreed to form themselves into the Cairngorm Club, "the name being naturally suggested by the monarch mountain, so full in view in the foreground and calmly looking down on the meeting." Office-bearers were elected by acclamation and they resolved to open their ranks to men and women of like spirit.

The confirming meeting took place in the Bath Hotel, Aberdeen, on 9th January 1889, at which the office-bearers elected at the Maghan na Banaraich were formally re-elected. Terms of admission and rules for future guidance were drawn up and adopted. James Bryce, LL.D., M.P. for South Aberdeen, was elected President; Alexander Copland, Chairman; and A. I. M'Connochie, Secretary. The first official Meet of the Club, on 9th July 1889, was also the first of its kind in Scotland. Cairngorm was the objective.

Mr Ewen, in a letter to me enclosing the above account,

remarks that a press cutting in the Club archives made it clear that members in 1890 regarded the date of founding of the Club as 1887. The first Minute book has, unfortunately, disappeared. The foundation is generally ascribed to the first three names in the above account. The object of the Club was to encourage mountain climbing in Scotland, and the qualification required was the ascent to 3,000 feet on a Scottish mountain. The Club started with 15 members, but grew rapidly. The membership is mixed, and the progress of the Club may be estimated from the following particulars as to membership at the corresponding dates : 1899, 150 ; 1904, 150 ; 1909, 130 ; 1914, 130 ; 1919, 140 ; 1924, 180 ; 1929, 250 ; 1934, 290 ; 1939, 250 ; 1944, 240. At present a candidate must have two sponsors and submit a list of climbs done to the Committee. Besides excursions held at week-ends and on other occasions, the Club holds a New Year Meet in the Cairngorms and an Easter Meet in the Central or Northern Highlands. These residential Meets, as one might say, usually attract up to 20 or 30 members, at times rather less, but as many as 160 have attended an excursion to Mount Keen ! The *Cairngorm Club Journal* has been issued continuously since 1893.

THE S.M.C.—It is of interest to include some comparative statistics in our own case. The membership has shown a fairly steady increase since 1889, with two breaks reflecting the war periods. The numbers are as follows : 1889, 94 ; 1895, 131 ; 1900, 151 ; 1905, 162 ; 1910, 189 ; 1914, 199 ; 1920, 192 ; 1925, 226 ; 1929, 256 ; 1934, 306 ; 1939, 307 ; 1944, 276. In the ten years or so previous to 1914 attendance at Meets works out as follows : New Year average 30 members and 5 guests, maximum 43 and 8 guests ; Easter average 36 and 9 guests, maximum 52 and 14 guests. For the inter-war years attendance has not greatly increased : New Year average 38 and 7 guests, maximum 66 and 22 guests ; Easter average 34 and 7 guests, maximum 44 and 14 guests. Candidates for membership must submit to the Committee a fairly comprehensive list of climbs on Scottish mountains, though account is also taken of expeditions outside of Scotland.

Considerable stress is laid on climbs under snow conditions, and some experience of rock climbing is also expected. As at the foundation of the Club, contributions to science, art or literature which refer to the Scottish mountains may be additional or alternative qualifications in particular cases.

THE LADIES' SCOTTISH CLIMBING CLUB was founded on 18th April 1908 by Mrs Inglis Clark (Hon. President), Miss M. I. Clark (now Mrs Jeffrey, Hon. Secretary) and Miss Lucy Smith (Hon. Treasurer). It started with 14 members, which rose to 44 in 1921 (and 3 foreign members); 64 in 1930 (and 3 foreign); 62 in 1939 (and 4 foreign); and 58 in 1945 (and 4 foreign). The original qualification for membership required the ascent of 4 Munros, also 2 rock climbs and 2 snow climbs. To-day the candidate's list of Scottish and other ascents on snow and rock should include a number in which she has been the leader. As is usual, personal knowledge of the candidate on the hills is necessary. Those with an unsatisfactory list may be admitted as graduating members, with limited privileges during the graduation period of two years. Thus, the training of candidates is carried out by members themselves, a most valuable practice which makes for reliability. More emphasis is placed on snow than on rock climbs. Meets are regular and frequent, always at New Year, Easter and May, and occasionally in summer. They have been held in the Alps. The average attendance is between 10 and 20, and the location has been all over Scotland, as far north as Dundonnell and Inchnadamph, Skye, Arran, the Southern Uplands, Cumberland, Wales, Arolla, Chamonix and Zermatt. An annual Record of members' doings is issued, but Journals have only been twice published, in 1929 and 1938 respectively. Several members used to climb abroad for periods from three to ten weeks, mainly with guides. In addition, there are periodical hill walks and an annual Ceilidh. Altogether the L.S.C.C. has proved itself a very live Club, and quite independent of the so-called superior sex.

(To be concluded in our next issue.)

PRESERVATION OF SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN LAND FOR THE NATION.

THE acquisition of Kintail by the National Trust for Scotland, through the generosity of an anonymous donor, will be welcomed by all hill-walkers. One of the conditions of the gift was that it should be administered in accordance with the general principles expressed by the members of the Scottish Mountaineering Club at the time when Dalness was acquired by the Trust.

There is appended a copy of a letter which sets out the principles which the Scottish Mountaineering Club consider should be followed in the management of mountainous country acquired for the use of the public. These conditions might well be taken as a model for the management of property acquired for the public use both in Scotland and England.

Letter from P. J. H. UNNA, Esq., President, Scottish Mountaineering Club, to the Chairman and Council of the National Trust for Scotland, dated 23rd November 1937.

DEAR SIRS,—As the movement initiated by a group of members of the Scottish Mountaineering Club to acquire Dalness Forest and hand it over to the National Trust for Scotland, to be held for the use of the nation, so that the public may have unrestricted access at all times, has now materialised; as subscriptions to that end were invited not only from the members of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, but also from the members of all the other mountaineering clubs in Great Britain; and as the fund so subscribed enables the forest to be handed over free of cost to the Trust, together with a surplus to be used as an endowment fund—it is considered desirable that what are believed to be the views of the subscribers as to the future of the estate should be expressed in writing, and recorded in the Minutes of the Trust. This is all the more necessary, as in the attached circular which was issued for the purpose of inviting these subscriptions it was stated that the land “ would be held on behalf of the public and preserved for their use,” and “ that the Trust ” would “ be asked to undertake that the land be maintained in its primitive condition for all time with unrestricted access to the public.” The views in question are:

1. That “ Primitive ” means not less primitive than the existing state.

2. That sheep farming and cattle grazing may continue, but that deer stalking must cease, and no sport of any kind be carried on, or sporting rights sold or let; any use of the property for sport being wholly incompatible with the intention that the public should have unrestricted access and use. It is understood, however, that deer may have to be shot, as that may be necessary to keep down numbers and so prevent damage, but for that purpose alone.
3. That the word "unrestricted" does not exclude regulations, but implies that regulations, if any, should be limited to such as may in future be found absolutely necessary, and be in sympathy with the views expressed herein.
4. That the hills should not be made easier or safer to climb.
5. That no facilities should be introduced for mechanical transport; that paths should not be extended or improved; and that new paths should not be made.
6. That no directional or other signs, whether signposts, paint marks, cairns or of any other kind whatsoever, should be allowed: with the exception of such signs as may be necessary to indicate that the land is the property of the Trust, and to give effect to the requirement in the Provisional Order of 1935 that by-laws must be exhibited.
7. That should a demand spring up for hotels or hostels, it is possible that it may have to be satisfied to a limited extent. If so, they should only be built alongside the public roads, and should be subject to control by the Trust; and it is suggested that no hotels or hostels should be built in Glencoe itself, or on any other part of the property, except, perhaps, in the lower reaches of the Trust property in Glen Etive. It is hoped that the Trust may be able to come to an understanding with neighbouring proprietors as to corresponding restrictions being maintained in regard to land near to that held by the Trust.
8. That no other facilities should be afforded for obtaining lodging, shelter, food or drink; and especially, that no shelter of any kind be built on the hills.
9. It is hoped that the design of any buildings which may be necessary will be carefully considered by the Trust; and that, where possible, trees will be planted in their vicinity.
10. In conclusion, it is suggested that the whole question of the management of the Trust properties in Glen Etive and Glencoe should receive special attention, in view of the possibility that the policy adopted by the National Trust for Scotland in the present instance may create a precedent for similar areas in other mountainous districts, not only in Scotland, but also in England and Wales.—Yours faithfully,

P. J. H. UNNA.

In Memoriam.

A. M. M. WILLIAMSON.

1900-1944.

THE sudden death of Archie Williamson at a comparatively early age came as a painful shock to his many friends. He has for some time past been one of the leading junior counsel at the Scottish Bar and he enjoyed an enormous and very varied practice. He has appeared in many celebrated cases, one of the most recent of which was the notorious Crematorium prosecution from his native city of Aberdeen.

Of late years the demands on his time made by his ever increasing practice at the Bar prevented Archie from doing much climbing, but up till about ten years ago he was an enthusiastic and active mountaineer, and there are few Scottish hills which he did not know well.

He was particularly devoted to Skye and for many years never missed a climbing holiday at either Sligachan or Glen Brittle. He was familiar with all the better-known Coolin climbs, and pioneered several which at the time were not so well known. Although not a record holder he was one of the many climbers who have traversed the entire Coolin ridge in a day.

He joined our Club and also the Cairngorm Club in the year 1920. To our *Journal* he only contributed one article, "The Miseries of Mountaineering" (*J.* 17, 26). His contributions to the *Cairngorm Club Journal* all occur in Vol. X.—at p. 13 a record of six hard days' climbing from a Crianlarich Easter Meet, including Ben More and Stobinian, Ben Lui (his first snow climb), Ben Dorain and Ben Dothaidh, Ben Cruachan, Ben Nevis and Carn Mor Dearg in a gale. "A Climbing Novitiate in Skye" appears at p. 52, and "Climbing in Skye in Wet Weather" at p. 150. On one day "The Inaccessible" was climbed by all known routes and some new variations, twenty-two different ways in all!

Archie was an ideal companion on a mountaineering holiday. His tremendous zest for living, his shrewd

knowledge of human nature and his pawky Aberdeen wit, with his incessant flow of anecdote, kept any climbing party of which he was a member in the best of spirits. He also had a very sound knowledge of mountain craft and was a competent and careful leader on many a rock climb on the Scottish hills he loved so well.

W. ROSS McLEAN.

ERNEST ALEXANDER MACLAGAN WEDDERBURN.

1912-1944.

THE Club, and the whole body of Scottish mountaineers, will be a great deal poorer for the loss of Sandy Wedderburn. His death was the outcome of a tragic accident which took place in a small town behind the Italian front on 24th December last. Tragic indeed, for he had just arrived there to arrange for a spell of rest and refitting for the men of his regiment, the Lovat Scouts, of which he was Major and Second-in-Command: indeed, for several weeks before, in the absence of his Commanding Officer, he had himself been in command of the regiment whilst engaged on front-line duty, and the last letter I received from him, shortly before the end, was full of life and vigour, for he evidently enjoyed facing such difficulties on his own responsibility. To me he was a dear friend, closely allied in thought as well as in our common enthusiasm for the mountains and their problems. I shall miss him very much.

How can I give some coherent picture of the man, apart from a catalogue of his achievements? During the dark days of 1940 I remember listening to one of J. B. Priestley's broadcasts, when he talked hopefully of "new men" arising out of the tragedy of war, finding themselves and helping to rebuild the nation afterwards on sounder and healthier lines. And I thought at once of Sandy Wedderburn. I had visited him one evening, just three days or so before the outbreak of war, when he assured me, in that casual, smiling, almost lazy manner of his, that he had decided to join the army and "take his part in ushering in the new order." The remark would have



E. A. M. WEDDERBURN

There was no doubt about his enthusiasm for the Scottish hills, their excellence as a training ground for almost every side of Alpine mountaineering and the fascinating complexity of many of their technical problems. But he once wrote to me, that in spite of all this he preferred the great Alpine peaks, for "It would be an affront to good taste to think otherwise." This last phrase gives the clue to his excellence as a writer, and I consider it one of my privileges as Editor of the *Journal* to have been able to include at least three outstanding articles from his pen—"Scottish Mountaineering and its Relation to Mountaineering Abroad: IV. Rock Climbing" (*J.* 21, 247); "A Short History of Scottish Climbing: II" (*J.* 22, 98); "Nights Out" (*J.* 22, 177). He contributed several other articles and notes, but these were shorter and confined to factual accounts of new routes or technicalities (*J.* 20, 233; 20, 284; 20, 330; 20, 371; 21, 263).

Most of his Scottish new climbs were on rock. He appeared to be more troubled with asthma in the winter and, in fact, spent part of the winters 1935-36 and 1936-37 in Switzerland. He took part in the first ascents of the Mitre Ridge, Beinn a' Bhuid; Slav Route, Ben Nevis; Pinnacle Buttress, Coire Ardair; Left Wall variant of Rubicon Wall, Ben Nevis, and quite a number of lesser climbs and variations. But they are all recorded in the *Journal*.

Several years ago I succeeded in persuading him to pass judgment on his own climbing experience, especially the extra-Scottish part of it. He was not ignorant of English rock climbing and its standards, having spent three periods of two weeks each in the Lake District and a total of ten weeks in North Wales, "when he did nearly everything available." In 1932 he climbed in Norway and succeeded in making a new route on the face of the southern Dhyrhaugstind. His Alpine experience comprised eight summer seasons, two in winter and three in spring. His best single expedition was a ski traverse of Mont Blanc with Elias Julen of Zermatt in March 1936. They started from the Grands Mulets and proceeded from Mont Blanc over Mont Maudit, Mont Blanc de Tacul and

the Col Midi to the Réquin Hut—thirteen hours' going, with only one short halt, much step-cutting in ice and sensational ski-ing over very difficult snow. This was a first winter traverse in that particular direction (*British Ski Year Book*, 1936). Best of all, he regarded his success in conducting a guideless ski-mountaineering tour of the Cambridge University Mountaineering Club in March 1933 (*Cambridge Mountaineering*, 1934). He was both organiser and leader of this expedition to the Oberland, which did many good traverses and ascended the Mönch, among other peaks. "What were the most difficult things?" I asked. "The more ordinary climbs in bad weather," said he. "I particularly remember a difficult ascent of the Zmutt face of the Matterhorn." Also mentioned were two routes on the north face of the Zermatt Breithorn and a good many climbs on the Chamonix Aiguilles. During part of the autumn and winter of 1936-37 he did much Alpine climbing on foot and on ski at Kandersteg, the Diablerets, Zermatt and Monte Leone. He told me afterwards that he did a certain amount of ski jumping at this period. His mastery of theory as well as practice was crystallised, about that date, in a little book, "Alpine Climbing on Foot and with Ski" (reviewed in *Journal* 21, 298). The publishing firm was also responsible, I believe, for *The Mountaineering Journal*, now defunct, of which Wedderburn was for a year or two joint-Editor.

Ski-mountaineering did not cover all his Swiss activities in 1936-37. With that streak of adventure, so characteristic of him, he accompanied a convoy of smuggled arms (run by a Swiss hotelkeeper) to Spain, visited Madrid during the siege, and actually flew a plane for the Republican Government. That, as he told me afterwards, was a fearsome exploit, for it was a very slow, ancient plane, and no match for the modern Italian aircraft used by the other side. Had he an inkling that it was the first skirmish of the war in which he was later destined to play his part?

He believed in mixing with others who shared his enthusiasms. He was President of the C.U.M.C. in

1932-33. He graduated into the S.M.C. from the J.M.C.S. in December 1932, and served as Librarian from 1934 to 1939. Never was the Library better organised or a more active and fruitful policy carried out as regards evening meetings in the Club Room. He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1934, resigned in 1937 and was re-elected in 1941. He served on the Committee of the Scottish Ski Club from 1937 to 1938 and was a member of the Alpine Ski Club. I believe he was also a member of the G.H.M. section of the French Alpine Club.

At the outbreak of war he volunteered for the Army, and in December 1939 joined his O.C.T.U. Training was interrupted when he joined a ski-battalion of the Scots Guards which trained at Chamonix, but later he was commissioned in the Royal Scots. In June 1940 he joined Combined Operations and was posted to a Special Training Company. In August 1941 he was posted as Instructor to No. 12 Commando. In October 1941, when promoted Major, he was appointed Instructor to the Snowcraft Instruction Training School in Iceland, where he was until April 1942. Rejoining Combined Operations, he was given the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and was engaged in studying the technique of snow and mountain warfare, using specialised equipment, then in its earlier stages of development. In this connection he paid two visits to the U.S.A., demonstrating the equipment and assisting in raising and training a special force which would use it. For a short time he acted as a G.S.O.I. (Combined Operations) at Washington. Thereafter he was in command of a Commando formed for a special duty, which was disbanded after its completion.

In November 1943 he joined the Lovat Scouts as Second-in-Command. He trained with them during a winter season in the Canadian Rockies, where numerous ski-mountaineering expeditions were carried out in the Jasper National Park section of the Main Divide. Our fellow-member, W. M. Mackenzie, tells me that, in his spare time, Sandy made an ascent of Brazeau (ca. 11,000 feet) at the head of Maligne Lake (a remote peak, which entailed a bivouac in the bush), a probable first winter

ascent of Pyramid Mountain (9,076 feet), and several others. It is of interest to note that a satellite peak of the last-named mountain goes by the homely name of Cairngorm! Sandy visited me in the late spring of 1944, and it was quite evident how greatly he was attracted by the possibilities of this region. He obviously meant to explore these mountains more fully after the war. Not long after that visit he embarked with the Lovat Scouts for the Central Mediterranean area.

He was a grand companion on the hills, in fair weather or foul, ever humorous, ever appreciative of the beauty and grandeur of mountain, glen, loch or sky. I well remember that September night when we traversed the Aonach Eagach ridge in a leisurely, philosophic way, by full moonlight, between midnight and dawn. A master of mountain technicalities, he seldom mentioned them. He had rather the gift, like Thomas Carlyle, of appreciative and sympathetic silence, with an occasional brief remark which seemed to epitomise the reply to the unspoken thoughts of his companion.

The Club will miss his kindly, humorous personality and feel the lack of his counsel in the many post-war problems which will have to be faced; but, most of all, the younger men will miss his guidance and encouragement. Our sympathy goes out to his wife and to his father and mother, for theirs is the greater loss.

J. H. B. BELL.

We regret to announce the death, in September 1944, owing to a climbing accident on Cousins' Buttress, Carn Dearg, Ben Nevis, of Mr B. P. Kellett, a member of the J.M.C.S., and Miss N. Forsyth of the L.S.C.C. Mr Kellett was the pioneer of many new and difficult rock climbs on Ben Nevis (see his article in the *Journal*, 23, 139). As he was engaged in forestry work in the district he had ample opportunities, of which he made full use. He left behind him three note-books describing his new climbs of 1944. The notes are a model of conciseness and accuracy. We intend to publish these in our next number.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

NEW YEAR MEET, 1945—CRIANLARICH.

WITHOUT any real formality, although the matter was mentioned at the Annual Meeting in December, there was held an excellent New Year Meet at Crianlarich Hotel from Friday, 29th December 1944, until Tuesday, 2nd January 1945. In all, eighteen members and four guests took part. The weather, on the whole, was kind to us, although it began poorly and ended much worse. Sunday was the high light of the Meet, one of those peerless, calm, clear, frosty days when the sun shone with a genial warmth into sheltered corners and the upper ridges were long convexities of hard-frozen snow, like concrete, with a gleaming veneer of ice. There was not much snow on the hills, but enough to afford nearly 800 feet of step-cutting in the big couloir of Ben Lui. There was good fellowship, complete comfort and excellent fare in the Hotel in the evenings. For the latter, as usual, we are indebted to Miss Kilpatrick and her Staff.

The following were present at one time or another—generally for most of the time : The President, Mr Robert Jeffrey, and Messrs J. L. Aikman, Allan Arthur, J. H. B. Bell, W. G. Blackie, I. G. Charleson, A. H. Hendry, Alan Horne, J. S. M. Jack, W. N. Ling, J. Y. Macdonald, Harry MacRobert, I. B. Mowat, A. G. Murray, J. G. Osborne, George Peat, J. A. Scott, J. M'K. Stewart (members); and Messrs Huestis, Hunter, Kent and Thom (guests).

The hills climbed were Ben More, Stobinian, Stob Garbh, Cruach Ardrain, Beinn Tulaichean, An Caisteal, Beinn a' Chroin, Beinn Chaluim, Ben Lui, Ben Oss, Ben Dubhchraig, Ben Dorain and Stob Dearg of Buachaille Etive Mor.

The numbers on the hills on the several days were as follows : Friday, 5 ; Saturday, 13 ; Sunday, 20 ; Monday,



New Year 1945

CRUACH ARDRAIN
(From Beinn Tulaichean)

J. M'K. Stewart

30th December Elliot, Horsburgh and Williams ascended Gearr Aonach on the north face, by a fairly direct line slightly to the right of the apex of the north and east faces. The route was fairly difficult on wet rock, and appeared to be a new one (2 pitches of 90 feet to the wide grass ledge, with a difficult slabby pitch of 80 feet and another of 100 feet, very difficult, and a final difficult one of 70 feet to the top). An intricate descent down a buttress, west of the ascent, and on the right of a deep gully, followed.

On 31st December Elliot, Horsburgh, Henderson, Wilson and Williams did the Aonach Eagach from Am Bodach to Meall Dearg, as it was too late to finish. McKellar and Hutchison did Beinn a' Bheithir. Rain prevented all but some amusement in Clachaig Gully on Monday, and a return was made on Tuesday.

EASTER MEET, 1945—LOCH AWE.

THE Meet was held at Loch Awe Hotel from 29th March to 4th April. The weather, except for the 29th, was extremely bad. In the mornings there could be seen from the hotel windows the driving rain, the sombre waters of the loch whipped into white foam and the mist hanging low over the sodden hills. The hotel arrangements were all that could be desired. There were present, in all, 17 members and 3 guests—the President, Mr Robert Jeffrey, and Messrs F. D. Campbell Allen, Allan Arthur, Ian G. Charleson, W. L. Coats, G. R. Donald, R. L. Gwilt, N. L. Hird, E. W. Hodge, W. N. Ling, Jack MacLean, W. Ross MacLean, R. W. Martin, A. G. Murray, S. Pointon Taylor, H. W. Turnbull, P. J. H. Unna (members), and D. Campbell Allen, R. S. Huestis and F. C. Perrott (guests).

Expeditions recorded were as follows :

Thursday, 29th March.—The President, Hird, Ling and Unna walked to the Falls of Cruachan. Taylor, F. D. and D. Campbell Allen walked about 3 miles round to south shore of Loch Awe.

Friday, 30th March.—F. D. and D. Campbell Allen, Gwilt and Pointon Taylor walked up Glen Strae. The President, Hird, Ling and Unna—Glen Strae, shoulder of Beinn Eunaich. Martin, Coats and Charleson—Beinn Eunaich and Beinn a' Chochuill.

Saturday, 31st March.—Charleson, Ross MacLean, Martin and Perrott climbed Cruachan via Meall Cuanail. The President, Hird and Ling walked up the old railway to the quarry and back in the

rain. F. D. and D. Campbell Allen, Coats and Gwilt—part of way up shoulder of Sron an Isean, but turned on account of weather. Murray and Huestis—Sron an Isean.

Sunday, 1st April.—The President and Pointon Taylor climbed Cruachan and Meall Cuanail. They observed a wild cat above the Falls of Cruachan. It is reported that D. C. Allen, Coats, Huestis and Murray also saw the cat, and they visited Cruachan (main top) and other tops eastward to Beinn a' Bhuiridh. Allan Arthur was at church. Ling, Hird, Campbell Allen and Hodge took train to Taynuilt and walked back by the road. Martin, Ross and Jack MacLean, Gwilt, Perrott and Charleson—Horse Shoe.

Monday, 2nd April.—The President and Hird traversed the Horse Shoe as also did Arthur, the Allens, Coats and Gwilt. Murray, Huestis and Perrott—Bein Eunaich, which was also climbed by Ross and Jack MacLean.

Tuesday, 3rd April.—Unna went to Oban—very wet and windy.

On Friday, on the ridges, an extremely cold wind attained gale force, with driving sleet and snow, which turned to rain on Saturday. After Tuesday, the Allens had a good day on Wednesday over Eunaich and Chochuill, with all the tops clear.

ANNUAL MEETING, 1944.

THE Fifty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Club Room, Synod Hall, Edinburgh, on 2nd December 1944 at 5 P.M., at the close of the Committee Meeting. Mr Robert Jeffrey presided over an attendance of about twenty-four members. After approval of previous minutes the official reports were submitted and approved, and the officials thanked for their services. Present Office-bearers and Committee were re-elected.

The financial statement, having been circulated to members, and not raising any controversial issues, need not be further commented on here. The HON. SECRETARY reported the deaths of Dr Reid and A. M. M. Williamson, members. Ten new members had been elected by the Committee, leaving the membership total at 276. A message of greeting was sent to the members serving with H.M. Forces. It was agreed to print a list of members, and this was circulated early in 1945. The HON. EDITOR reported that we would be able to continue issuing the *Journal* once a year at its somewhat larger size, and higher costs, which justified increased price to outsiders. There had been a fire at the Darien Press premises. Fortunately paper stocks were intact, but delay in issuing the next number might be anticipated.

The GENERAL "GUIDE BOOK" EDITOR reported sales of 1,799 "Guide Books," and considerable depletion of stocks, what remained being as follows: "Ben Nevis," 464 (copies); "Northern," 443; "Islands," 399; "Nevis Panorama," 328; "Cuillin Map," 222; "Cobbler," 24. The HON. LIBRARIAN reported loan of 70 books, small demand for slides, and not much use made of Club Room. The C.I.C. HUT CUSTODIAN reported 310 hut-nights for the year, 17 due to four S.M.C. members, the others due to non-members. Keys of the Hut in Fort William would henceforth be in the custody of Mr W. J. Cuthbert (Fiscal at Fort William). The Committee had revised certain of the Hut Regulations.

With regard to First Aid the Committee had decided to affiliate to the First Aid Committee of Mountaineering Clubs, as this seemed likely to offer advantages as regards provision of equipment, and would not affect the direction or organisation in Scotland. The question of joining the new British Mountaineering Council was discussed, but on an unopposed motion by Mr Alex. Harrison, it was decided not to do so, the main grounds being objection to certain features of the Constitution of the B.M.C., and the possibility that matters of prime interest to Scottish mountaineers might be decided by a predominantly non-Scottish body.

It was decided to hold an Easter Meet at Loch Awe as well as the usual informal New Year Meet at Crianlarich. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the President.

The Club desires to extend a hearty welcome to the following new members, elected at the December Committee Meeting: Messrs G. L. Bartrum, R. L. Gwilt, J. F. Hamilton, A. H. Hendry, John Hirst, Edwin Ker, W. G. Marskell, G. S. Roger, Douglas Scott, Robert Grieve.

S.M.C. AND THE WAR.

WE give below a necessarily incomplete list of some distinctions achieved by our members on War Service:

K. G. McLEAN	. . .	Brigadier, C.B.
G. D. STEWART	. . .	Lt.-Comdr., R.N.V.R., D.S.C.
W. J. C. AINSLIE	. . .	Col., Administration, Tripoli- tania.
G. F. TODD	. . .	Comdr., Canadian Navy.
J. W. R. MURRAY	. . .	Squadron Leader, R.A.F.

But we greatly regret to announce that a good many months ago our member, William Lawson, Jr., was reported missing off the Dutch coast. He was in the R.A.F.

THE LIBRARY, BOOKS AND JOURNALS.

NOWADAYS it is hardly necessary, nor have we much available space for a Review column. Publishers do not generally send us review copies, for obvious reasons. We must, on that account, acknowledge with thanks the receipt of copies of their books from Mr Poucher and Mr Humble. A short note has been received about "Brenva," and we print it, as the book is of great interest to mountaineers. We also acknowledge with thanks and appreciation the receipt of the Journals listed below.

Highland Holiday (Arran to Ben Cruachan). By W. A. Poucher. Published by Chapman & Hall, 1945. 18s. net. 104 pp. text and 75 plates.

This is the pictorial record of a Spring holiday in Arran, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs district, and the areas of the Cobbler, Ben Lui, Ben Lawers and Ben Cruachan. The views on the Arran ridges are particularly striking. A slight lack of crispness here and there in the plates can be ascribed to weather and lighting conditions, which are seldom ideal from a photographic point of view: the author makes the utmost of his opportunities and weather during a comparatively short visit. The narrative text adds much to the general interest of the book.

The Songs of Skye. An Anthology, edited by B. H. Humble. Second Edition. Published by Eneas Mackay, Stirling. 4s. 6d. net. 176 pp., 7 illustrations.

The second edition of Mr Humble's work follows the admirable lay-out of the original. War-time restrictions on paper, etc., preclude much new verse: nevertheless this pocket-size volume is commendable as ever.

Brenva. By Professor T. Graham Brown. Published by J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd. 25s. 212 pp., 74 illustrations and diagrams.

The book deals exclusively with one mountain face, namely the Italian face of Mont Blanc and Mont Blanc de Courmayeur, which falls to the Brenva Glacier. Prior to 1927 there was only one known climb on this face, a route made famous through "Running Water." Between that year and 1933 Professor Graham Brown made three new routes on the face; two guideless with F. S. Smythe and the third with guides. The whole subject is dealt with fully and the book is well written. The illustrations have been chosen with care and supplement the text exceptionally well.

List of Journals received by the Library since last notice: *Alpine Journal*, Nos. 266-269; *American Alpine Journal*, 1943 and 1944; *Fell and Rock Journal*, 1943 and 1944; *Climbers' Club Journal*, 1943 and 1944; *Mountain Club of South Africa*, 1943; regular issue of *Tararua Trampster*; *Ladies' Alpine Club Journal*, 1944; *New Zealand Alpine Journal*, 1943 and 1944; *Appalachia*, June and December 1943 and 1944; *Sierra Club Bulletin*, 1943 and 1944; *Cambridge Mountaineering*, 1944; *Cairngorm Club Journal*, 1943; *Canadian Alpine Journal*, 1943. *Lomond Mountaineering Club Journal*, No. 3, September 1944.

NEW CLIMBS AND NOTES.

The Cragg Near Largs.

CLIMBERS who happen to be staying in Largs may like to know of some climbing in the vicinity. The first is a group of three small crags on the slope immediately behind the Hills Hotel. There is a variety of short, well-defined practice climbs on good rock, of which the longest is about 60 feet—a rising traverse across a smooth wall, which has not been led. The second, "Gogo Gully," is a deep gorge of the Gogo burn about half a mile above its junction with the Greeto. The route starts on the left of a high waterfall and ascends to a ledge above its lip. From here, apart from a traverse through the gorge, there is a choice of several finishes, the easiest being "very difficult." The feature of this climb is the fine gorge scenery: it is about 150 ft. long (three pitches) and is dry in good weather.

G. C. CURTIS and G. H. TOWNEND.

Sgurr a'Mhadaidh (Tairneilear Face).

The following route may be preferable to Foxes' Rake owing to the looseness of the latter. It was followed by G. H. T. and G. C. C. on 2nd June 1944 in heavy rain, but would not be more than "difficult" under reasonable conditions. What we could see of the scenery was good. Between the gully, which gives access to Foxes' Rake, and the start of Collie's climb on the North-West Buttress, there are two shallow gullies visible on the photograph, p. 70, "Skye Guide." The climb started near the right hand of these two gullies, up easy rocks for the first section, then up the second section of the buttress on steeper rocks until a steep tower barred the way. To the right of this tower two ledges were found. The route followed the higher and less well-defined ledge, at times overhung, across a steep face of rock. Finally a gully was climbed to a point between the second and third peaks of Sgurr a' Mhadaidh.

G. C. CURTIS and G. H. TOWNEND.

Creag an Dubh Loch (Lochnagar).

Flight-Lieut. G. Thompson, R.A.F., writes to say that on 23rd June 1944, accompanied by his wife, he ascended "The Labyrinth" (see *Journal*, 23, 32). The upper section above the "steep, open chimney" was not climbed, but a traverse to the left below the top of this led to 30 feet of climbing up a groove, then an awkward corner below some doubtful blocks. The last pitch was a groove which finally steepened to an overhang, involving a very awkward step on to a sloping rock rib and so to the summit.

On a previous visit to the Creag the ridge on the immediate edge of Central Gully was climbed. It was just difficult and provided a very good view of the overhanging slabs on the right of the gully.

Silver Slab Climb, Druim Shionnaich.

This climb was recorded in the *Journal* of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club, 1939, and was effected on 1st August 1938 by J. W. Haggas, S. Thompson and Miss P. B. White (now Mrs Thompson). The mountain is west of Cluanie and south of Glenshiel. The climb consists of five pitches, a total of 290 feet, and was classified as very severe in rubbers.

Eastern Gully, Sron na Ciche, Skye.

Messrs Haggas and Thompson also climbed the first two pitches of this gully direct on 24th July 1938. For fuller particulars of both these climbs the original record, as above quoted, should be consulted.

Main Cuillin Ridge, with Blaven.

Flight-Lieut. S. Thompson, R.A.F., has repeated the complete traverse in one expedition on 20th August 1944. He was alone; having previously investigated the difficult parts he carried no rope, and he carried all his own food—sandwiches, a tin of fruit, chocolate, raisins and glucose. It was a cold day with N.-E. wind, so there was no trouble from lack of water. The start was from Glen Brittle and the direct route was followed to Sgùrr nan Uamha, then back to the Saddle, down to Glen Sligachan and up Blaven by rocks on north side of Central Gully, visiting both summits. Return was via Druim Hain to Coruisk and round base of Gars Bheinn to Glen Brittle. This was the worst part of the journey. Leaving Glen Brittle at 4.50 A.M. and calling this zero-hour, the times were as

follows: Gars Bheinn, 02.30; Alasdair, 04.05; Inaccessible, 05.15 (5 mins. rest); Thormaid, 06.05; Mhadaidh (south), 06.50; Bidein, 08.00 (15 mins. rest); Bhasteir Tooth, 09.40; Sgùrr nan Gilleann, 10.10 (20 mins. rest); Sgùrr nan Uamha, 11.15; Foot of Blaven, 12.40; Summit Blaven, 14.10; Scavaig, 16.40; Glen Brittle, 20.20 (actually 1.10 A.M.).

(A very fine performance, as no cache of food was used and a return was made to starting point.—ED.)

The following notes are from Mr John Neill, J.M.C.S., formerly at Irvine but now at Corby, Northants:

Window Buttress, Sgùrr Dearg, Skye.—There is a steep 100-foot crack up the initial wall, some 12 yards to the left of the ordinary start, and where the wall is much steeper. This makes a harder start than the usual way and was climbed in 1938 by R. C. Evans (probably a first ascent).

An Teallach.—The "Guide" refers only briefly to the East Ridge of Bidein a' Ghlas Thuill. There are actually three pinnacles on this ridge, the first of which, at 3,400 feet approx., is quite a distinct peak. The traverse of the ridge over the pinnacles gives an easy scramble.

The descent along the main ridge from the fourth top of Corrag Bhuidhe is not exactly easy and can be best avoided by making a detour to the right. The descent of Corrag Bhuidhe Buttress is, however, straightforward. The "Guide" would appear to be in error in placing the difficulty after this latter top.

Suilven.—There are several prominent points on the summit ridge besides those mentioned in the "Guide"; one of these, immediately north-west of Meall Mheadhonach, is a good top, about 2,250 feet and with a dip of 100 feet, involving some scrambling, between it and Mheadhonach.

Carn Dearg Meadhonach (Nevis Group).—This has an East Buttress, consisting of a rocky ridge marked by a prominent pinnacle at about two-thirds of its height (top about 3,800 feet), and a cluster of teeth lower down (3,650 to 3,700 feet). A plate in Poucher's "Scotland Through the Lens" gives a good idea of this view of the Buttress. On 22nd April 1943 the writer descended the ridge to the Pinnacle, by a slope of hard snow and broken rocks to a small col and an ascent of about 20 feet over rotten rock to the summit. This only involved easy scrambling. The ascent from the valley up the whole Buttress appeared to offer no special difficulty. The ascent to the higher Pinnacle from the cluster of teeth is much less formidable than it looks from Carn Beag Dearg.

**Accidents on Scottish Hills from 1st March 1940
to 1st February 1945.**

1st July 1940.—Alex. Small, J.M.C.S., struck by loose rock while climbing first pitch of Cioch West of Sron na Ciche and sustained a compound fracture of the leg. Rescue expeditiously carried out by his own party.

22nd September 1940.—Iain Ogilvy (21), J.M.C.S., and Lucy Robson did not return from rock-climbing expedition on Sgoran Dubh (Cairngorms). Search parties found bodies roped together at foot of rock.

7th January 1941.—Lieut. Hare, a novice, slipped when descending No. 3 Gully of Nevis, fell against rock and died shortly afterwards. He had no ice axe. Stretcher party out.

9th July 1941.—R. J. Davies fell when climbing in Clachaig Gully. Stretcher party out. Died in Oban Hospital the following day.

11th July 1941.—Joan Fletcher, a student, fell when climbing on Sgor nam Fiannaidh (Glencoe) and received serious injuries. Stretcher party out.

1st July 1943.—Cyril Watkins (21) missing after leaving Glencoe Youth Hostel. Many search parties out. Reward offered. Body found on slopes of Aonach Dubh 11th March 1944. A water diviner in October 1943 indicated that the body would be found near Clachaig Gully!

2nd September 1944.—Brian Kellett (29), J.M.C.S., and Nancy Forsyth (37), L.S.C.C., did not return to Fort William after weekend at C.I.C. Hut. Search parties out 6th, 7th, 8th September. Bodies found roped together below Cousins' Buttress on the 8th. Carried down to path by search parties and to Fort William by party of police and naval ratings.

11th September 1944.—Brian Taylor (19) slipped when scrambling up easy ground at finish of Observatory Buttress climb, after unroping. Body at inaccessible spot and not recovered till party went up from Glasgow on 14th September.

3rd January 1945.—Alan Butchart (18) left Achintee to climb Ben Nevis alone in snow. Did not return. Many search parties out. Body not yet found.

THE JUNIOR MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF SCOTLAND.

Glasgow Section.—Last year's encouraging improvement in membership and width of climbing has been well maintained during the present period. The revision of the roll, and its concentration upon active members only, still shows the Section to number 115, with a likelihood of a considerable increase when peace and our more distant adherents return.

New members continue to enroll steadily, more than compensating for the goodly complement of the section elected to the S.M.C. The reopening of the Restricted Area allowed many members to renew acquaintanceship with the gabbro of the Cuillin. As usual, climbing has ranged over most of the Scottish climbing districts with the unusual war-time crop of climbs achieved in many foreign lands despite the "exigencies of the service." Official Meets still lack the quality and attendances of former days, and lectures have been rare, but it is hoped that time and perseverance will overcome these shortcomings. Appreciation of that most valuable concession, access to the C.I.C. Hut, has been shown by numerous visits by members.

Development in post-war mountaineering is assured, and the Section looks forward with confidence in its ability to attract and direct new recruits to our sport. (A. C. D. SMALL, Secretary, 266 High Street, Glasgow, C.4.)

London Association.—We have had another successful season, though future prospects have been temporarily dimmed by the recent posting abroad of two of our keenest and most consistent members. We shall particularly miss the influence of F. K. Elliott, whose inspired leadership on v.s. climbs during the last two years has considerably raised the climbing standard of everyone in the Association.

Walking Meets and climbing Meets on the local rocks were held frequently during the year, while at intervals expeditions were made to Somerset (caving), Derbyshire (gritstone climbing) and North Wales and the Lake District. Many v.s. routes were climbed in these two districts by Association parties.

E. C. Pyatt acted as observer-delegate for the J.M.C.S. at the Inaugural Meeting of the British Mountaineering Council in December. (E. C. PYATT, Secretary, 96 Priory Gardens, London, N.6.)

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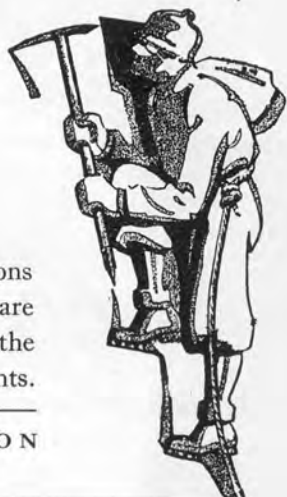
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