

# THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB JOURNAL

EDITED BY J. H. B. BELL



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THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB  
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## EDITORIAL NOTES

### Errata, No. 142. 1951

The "reference not known" on page 298, line 3, can be found in *Rucksack Club Journal* (1936), p. 208, and (1939) p. 130.

"New Climbs," page 324, line 15.—For "Sheep Flank" read "Fank."

"S.M.C. Abroad," page 349.—Third last line read "Marmolata."

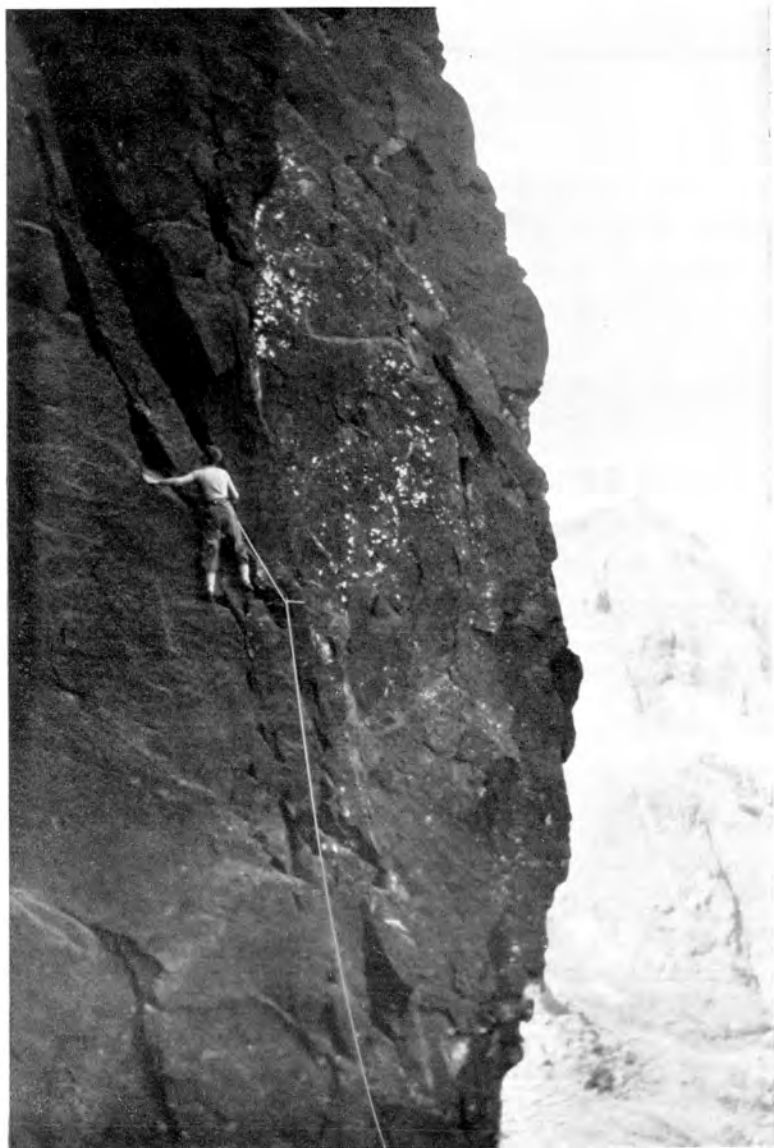
**Edinburgh Monthly Lunch.**—This continues to be held on the first Thursday of the month throughout the year, and takes place at Mackie's, Princes Street. New members and also members who are on a visit to Edinburgh are welcome. Of twenty members who have taken part, the average attendance is about ten. Intimation should be made before 11 A.M. on the day of the lunch to E. C. Thomson (phone 26371).

**Guide Books.**—The Guide Books General Editor regrets exceedingly the continued delay in publication of *Central Highlands*, due to circumstances quite outside his control.

Both *Central Highlands* and *Islands* are well advanced, and both are envisaged in the course of this year, and while the price of *Islands* is not yet known, members who desire their copy at preferential rate are asked to send 12s. 6d. to the Guide Books General Editor, 36 Blacket Place, Edinburgh, before the end of August 1952.

**Communications.**—Distribution queries to Mr P. E. MacFarlane, 217 Crofthill Road, Glasgow, S.4; advertisement queries to Mr G. J. Ritchie, 31 Warrender Park Terrace, Edinburgh, 9; Club affairs to Mr R. R. S. Higgins, Hon. Secretary, 430 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, C.2; articles, illustrations, notes for the *Journal* to Dr J. H. B. Bell, Hon. Editor, 3 Park Place, Clackmannan. Send as much as possible by October, and all but the last short items before New Year. Those climbing abroad please send their "S.M.C. Abroad" notes by October.

Full List of Office Bearers, 1951-52, facing inside back cover.



*August 1951*

THE CRACK OF DAWN, SGURR MHIC COINNICH  
(C. M. Dixon on 1st Pitch, 10 feet below Crux)

*W. D. Brooker*

# THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB JOURNAL

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## KING GEORGE VI.

WHAT is there for us to say, as members of the S.M.C., that has not already been said of His Late Majesty ?

The incidents of his reign and of his life ; his unflinching devotion to duty ; his courage in his own personal difficulty and throughout the years of a disastrous war ; his active naval service in the first great war ; his personal help and encouragement of youth organisations, and his exemplary family life : these, and more, have been fully told.

We cannot claim him as a mountaineer, though he must have done many a hill mile stalking at Balmoral, but we can claim him as an open-air man, a first-class shot and no mean performer at golf and tennis, and he was ever generous and courteous in giving us access to the mountains on his estate.

So we can join in the universal tribute and acclaim him a devoted and exemplary King, but, above all, a good man, and offer our respectful sympathy to the Queen, to Elizabeth the Queen Mother and to all the members of his family.



## THE FORGOTTEN CORRIE.

By C. M. Dixon.

FOR years Coireachan Ruadha has been left alone by the climber and undeservedly forgotten. No other corrie in Skye can offer finer views, few have better cliffs, and nowhere else does the climber have such a clear feeling of being truly in the heart of the Cuillin.

Yet, until our own explorations within the corrie, there has been little climbing of interest in the vicinity since the visit of Conor O'Brien and E. L. Julian in 1912. A few authors have made passing references to the impressive cliffs of Dearg and Mhic-Coinnich facing into Coireachan Ruadha; otherwise it has lived up to the name we gave it: the "Forgotten Corrie."

Bill Brooker and I met in Glenbrittle by chance in 1950, with a common ambition and victims of a similar fate, for we were both keen to take up the challenge of the unclimbed Coireachan Ruadha face of Sgùrr Mhic-Coinnich, but were both handicapped by the lack of a companion for the project. Bill had attempted a route on the cliff the previous year and been repulsed, while I had been attracted by the views of the cliff from points far and near in the Cuillin. So we joined forces and began a determined and fascinating siege.

Our first day together, 24th July, was successful, and the cliff yielded to our attack with deceptive ease. Leaving Glenbrittle rather late, we approached by way of Coire Lagan and the Southern Buttress of Dearg, and descended from the main ridge to the foot of the north-east face of Mhic-Coinnich by a gully which dropped towards Coruisk from the dip (2,595 feet) just to the south-east of the Bealach Coire Lagan. We named it "Rotten Gully" as a warning to others who might use it. A few hundred feet below the ridge the gully opened on to a broad terrace, broken at first, but becoming better-defined as we followed it southwards under the steep black cliffs of Mhic-Coinnich.

We paused, feeling as small as ants, at the foot of the

huge main buttress of the cliff. It rose sheer from the terrace, fretted with overhangs, and after a final defiant bulge disappeared into the grey mist above. Bill told me how he had come with a friend in 1949, how they had climbed a short way up the buttress, then been forced to traverse below an overhang until the thin line of their traverse petered out and they had been forced to retire.

It was already after 3 P.M., too late for a serious attempt on the buttress that day. But we were attracted by a smaller buttress to the right, separated from the main buttress by the N.E. Gully of O'Brien and Julian, more broken and of easier angle, which promised a sporting climb back to the ridge, and would also give a closer side view of the main buttress.

So we set off up the little buttress, each following his own line, slowed up to negotiate some short tricky walls, and were halted by a steep wall rising above us. A crack on the left offered a line, so we roped up and I led away—an excellent pitch. Then a slab led to the top of the buttress, at a neck formed where the N.E. Gully joined a smaller gully on the right. Bill made a fine finish by leading up the steep wall behind the neck, bringing us on to the summit ridge of Mhic-Coinnich just south of the 2,595-foot col. Our climb had been delightful, and our reconnaissance profitable, so we trundled down the An Stac scree shoot and back to Glenbrittle with an even keener desire to try the main buttress.

The next day was dull, and Coire Lagan was in cloud. We left Glenbrittle at 1 P.M. and chose the quickest approach to the cliff, climbing direct to the 2,595-foot col via easy rocks on the Coire Lagan face of Mhic-Coinnich, immediately to the right of the An Stac screes. Then another nightmare descent of Rotten Gully, and at three o'clock we stood once more under the main buttress.

We roped up at once, and Bill led the first section, a little rib which seemed the only way of starting the buttress, so steep were the rocks at its base. The rib proved much harder than it looked, and soon ended below a huge overhanging corner. There was no way up the overhang, nor to the left, so I followed the rightward traverse which

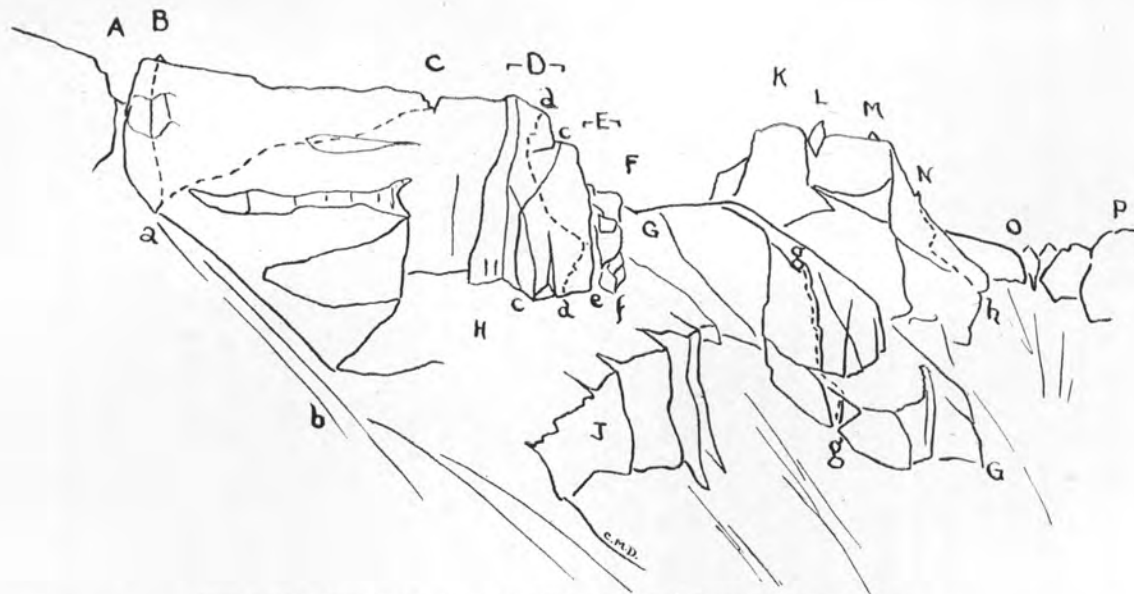
Bill had taken the year before. A series of long strides and sloping holds took me further right, and all the time the overhang above was getting smaller. But after 50 feet the traverse gave out: the point at which Bill had been forced to give up on his first visit. I found a small belay and brought Bill along, then turned to the short overhang immediately above. Up a few feet on good holds, then the overhang itself. I could find no holds except a few loose blocks: carefully I tested them and one by one they crashed to the screes. Their removal revealed good holds—a pull, an awkward sidestep, a heave, a final delicate upward move and the overhang was surmounted.

The first problem of the buttress had yielded after a struggle, but the main defence lay 100 feet above us, where the whole front of the buttress reared up in overhangs. This bulging mass was split into three projecting fins or flutes by three steep cracks which ran up the face. The flutes themselves offered no hope, and the two outside cracks overhung too much to be worth attempting. The central crack, however, had only one short overhanging section before it ran into an evil-looking groove which led past the flutes. The only other possibility was on the extreme right edge of the buttress, up a steep narrow shelf with a sheer drop into the N.E. Gully on one hand and a blank overhanging flute on the other.

We looked at this right-hand line first, but it seemed too delicate and exposed under the present cold, damp conditions, so we traversed across the face below the flutes to the central crack and attempted that.

A chill drizzle was just beginning as I attacked the overhanging section and I dangled in the crack, trying to layback up with fingers numb and slimy, my boot-nails slipping away on the smooth rock. Three times I tried, each time reaching the top of the crack, but never had the confidence nor the wherewithal to climb the final bulge into the groove. I came down, exhausted, and we realised that we must descend if we were to get off the buttress at all.

The retreat began, climbing down a short way, then by a series of abseils, some of them "free" and rather



# THE CLIFFS OF COIREACHAN RUADHA FROM SGÙRR COIRE AN LOCHAIN.

A, Bealach Mhic-Coinnich; B, Sgùrr Mhic-Coinnich, summit cairn; C, top of "Easy Rake"; D, the Fluted Buttress of Sgùrr Mhic-Coinnich; E, the N.E. Buttress of Sgùrr Mhic-Coinnich; F, the 2,595-foot Col, and head of "Rotten Gully"; G-G, Bealach Buttress; H, the Terrace, Sgùrr Mhic-Coinnich; J, the lower cliffs of Sgùrr Mhic-Coinnich, unclimbed; K, An Stac; L, the Inaccessible Pinnacle; M, Sgùrr Dearg, summit cairn; N, the Rock Tower, Coireachan Ruadha face of Dearg; O, Bealach Coire na Banachdich; P, Sron Bhuidhe (Sgùrr na Banachdich); a-B, Forgotten Groove; a-C, Easy Rake; A-b, approach to the Terrace from the south; c-c, Crack of Dawn; d-d, Fluted Buttress Route; e, N.E. Gully, O'Brien and Julian's; f, start of N.E. Buttress Route; F-f, approach to the Terrace from the north, via "Rotten Gully"; g-g, Hourglass Crack, Bealach Buttress; h-N-M, O'Brien and Julian's Route on Coireachan Ruadha face of Sgùrr Dearg.

The diagram is based on photographs taken from Sgùrr Coire an Lochain.

too sensational for our state of mind at the time, to the foot. We regained the terrace at 8.30 P.M., having spent over five hours on the first 200 feet of the buttress. We did not feel dissatisfied with our attempt, but felt a profound respect for the unrelenting nature of the cliff—its continuous severity, restricted choice of route and over-generous exposure. We departed up the more objective dangers of Rotten Gully and scuttled back to Glenbrittle.

Before making another attempt on the buttress we decided to have a rest-day and hope for finer weather to follow. The off-day followed as planned, but a rescue party and a dose of foul weather kept us away from Mhic-Coinnich till 1st August.

That day we tried a different approach, scrambling up broken rocks from the foot of the Alasdair Stone Shoot to the Bealach Mhic-Coinnich and down rough scree on the north side into Coireachan Ruadha. We joined the terrace which runs all the way below the north-east cliffs of Mhic-Coinnich and followed it towards the foot of the main buttress. On the way we had our first view of the huge wall bounding the main buttress on the south-east. A terrific crack curved up the wall and soared into the mist, an awe-inspiring sight. A name at once sprang to my mind—"The Crack of Dawn"—and I was filled with a desire to climb it. But Bill took one look at its repellent angle and dragged me away to the original problem.

We roped up at the foot of "Fluted Buttress" and climbed the first now familiar pitches as quickly as we could: even then it took us a full hour to reach the foot of the fluted overhangs. We decided to try to break past the flutes at their extreme right edge, by the shelf or gangway which we had considered too difficult on our previous visit. So we edged rightwards under the overhangs till we reached it—a steep little slab perched on the face, the overhanging flute like a roof above. The gangway curved up and to the right, growing steeper and narrower as we followed it. Finally it reared up in defiant challenge, too steep and holdless to climb direct.

I brought Bill up to a small stance and tried to break out on to the wall on the right. Below, the rock fell sheer

to the tumbled bed of the N.E. Gully, but 30 feet of vertical rock above would lead us past the overhangs. This way past the flutes was the hinge upon which the route depended. Slowly I eased myself from the shelf on to the wall and began to move delicately up and to the right on a line of small shaky holds. At last I pulled out on to the easement above the flutes: I had spent over an hour on the last two pitches. Above us lay a broken section and we climbed quickly till we reached a depression in the face below the steep rocks of the final tower.

A sweep of slabs stretched up to the right of the final tower, offering the obvious line off the buttress. As our intention was to follow the easiest line up the buttress we followed the slabs, climbing a crack on their right-hand edge without difficulty, and soon reached the main ridge of Mhic-Coinnich, a few hundred yards south of the 2,595-foot col.

It was a relief to be off the buttress, for it had imposed upon us a strain greater than that of technical difficulty alone. But we felt that we had not faced the challenge of the final tower, and were sure that it would give a more satisfying finish to the climb than this "Escape Route." A few hours of daylight remained, so we hurried back down the Escape Route and looked for a line up the tower itself.

Just on the left of the recess was a rib of delightful clean rock, so we built a cairn at its foot and climbed the rib to a ledge below the last cliffs of the tower. Rain, which had threatened all day, began to fall, chill and drenching. We scouted to the left along the ledge, but what we saw sent us scuttering back to the right, where we found a possible line. Bill led while I sat shivering below a dripping overhang with a far from adequate stance and belay. Bill seemed slow in moving across a slab, then disappeared into a groove on the right and halted. Eventually he made a few quick moves. Suddenly I heard his boots grinding on the rock and a huge block whizzed out of the groove, narrowly missed the rope and zoomed off into the mist below. I shouted to Bill, but he did not answer immediately. When he reached

a stance he told me that the groove was greasy and holdless. Near the top he was forced to swing to the left on a large spike which he had already tested—his only positive hold. The block came away and Bill slipped, but his tricounis caught in a tiny hold and held him till he regained his holds and could continue. When I came up the pitch I was glad of a gentle hint from the rope, as the groove was treacherously greasy and my fingers were numb. I saw the scratches on the rock where Bill had slipped and the minute incut that had saved him—it seemed a miracle—from plunging out of the groove.

The two final pitches were easy after what had gone before, the last one took us along a delightful series of ledges and right-angled corners on to the crest of the main ridge. Fluted Buttress was now, after five hours of continuously hard climbing, an accomplished route.

Our ambition had now been realised, though we still wished to climb the impressive N.E. Gully of O'Brien and Julian, and I nursed a secret, forlorn hope that the Crack of Dawn might go some day. But Bill had to leave and our plans had to wait. I spent a day on the other side of the ridge with Tom Shaw exploring the buttress between the Bealach Coire Lagan and the 2,595-foot col, where we discovered and climbed Hourglass Crack. Before I left Glenbrittle in 1950 I revisited Fluted Buttress and the N.E. Buttress, finding the former as exacting as ever.

I met Bill in Glenbrittle again last summer, and we celebrated our first day together on a new route on Sgùrr a'Mhadaidh. Two days later a really fine morning enticed us back to Coireachan Ruadha, and we headed straight for our cliff via Rotten Gully, intent on climbing the N.E. Gully. But a chance view of the Crack of Dawn proved too much for me. The Crack rose sheer above us, as stupendous, as challenging as ever, curving up the smooth, sheer, bounding wall of Fluted Buttress. The N.E. Gully was forgotten, and three hours later we had climbed the Crack of Dawn. It seemed like an omen when, while half-way up the climb, we saw three eagles





*August 1951*

*W. D. Brooker*

FLUTED BUTTRESS, SGURR MHC COINNICH  
(C. M. Dixon on 2nd Pitch)



*Donald Mackay*

BEINN AIRIDH A'CHARR  
(Square Buttress, out of sight on left, see p. 66)



soaring majestically over Coruisk, a rare sight even in the Cuillin.

A few days later we had our most complete and rewarding views of the north-east flank of Mhic-Coinnich from Sgùrr Coire an Lochain. The north face of this much-neglected peak gave excellent climbing, and took only three hours to reach by way of the 2,595-foot col and the terrace under Mhic-Coinnich. On the way back along the south-west ridge of Sgùrr Coire an Lochain in the evening Bill was attracted by a gigantic clean-cut groove on the Coireachan Ruadha face of Mhic-Coinnich, directly below the summit cairn. We climbed to the foot of the groove, roped up, and followed the groove to the summit of Mhic-Coinnich. It was a fine route, not unduly difficult: which again made us feel how unjustly the cliffs of Coireachan Ruadha have been forgotten, so we named it "Forgotten Groove."

Our last day together on Mhic-Coinnich was disappointing, for we were repulsed by wet weather from the N.E. Gully on our first serious attempt to climb it. Bill left Skye soon after this, but I stayed on and spent one more day on Mhic-Coinnich with Dan Stewart. We set out early up Coire na Banachdich and crossed the ridge into Coireachan Ruadha to climb O'Brien and Julian's route on Sgùrr Dearg, a thoroughly enjoyable climb. From Dearg we followed the main ridge to Mhic-Coinnich and descended on to the terrace by the easy rake mentioned in the S.M.C. Guide. This is a pleasant way of reaching the terrace, but is rather difficult to find at first and takes more time than the other approaches.

We reached the point where the N.E. Gully, cold and forbidding, cuts back into the cliff, and we scrambled up its lower section. At the steep part we roped up and, with Dan leading, climbed it throughout. We agreed that the climb was at least Hard Severe, instead of the Severe given in the Guide, and seriously wondered whether the gully had ever been climbed since its first ascent in 1912. I have since seen Conor O'Brien's own account of the first ascent, and saw that we followed his line exactly. He considered that the gully was probably the hardest route

in Skye at the time, and I think this is true. Yet the Gully has missed the popularity it deserves. It is curious, too, that I should climb this, the original route on the cliff, last of all, and that Bill, after sharing the exploration of Fluted, Dawn and Forgotten Groove, should miss the route that started the ball rolling.

I have described the routes on the cliff, but I cannot describe them fully without mentioning their most striking feature. When we stood waiting at our belays, facing out over Coruisk to Blaven, we could watch, as from nowhere else, the weather playing over the horse-shoe of the Cuillin. We could gaze out at the sweep of the Ghreadaidh cliffs and the majestic thrust of his head, at Banachdich's many-coloured rocks, and Bidein like a fairy castle in the sunlight or an ogre's stronghold in the swirling mist. We could crane our necks to the profile of Dearg and An Stac and the Pinnacle, or watch the passing of cloud-shadow over distant Gilleann and Blaven as our companion climbed. Sometimes range upon range of mainland peaks would appear, confusing the eye with distance.

Intimate views were ours too—the three rocky teeth of Thormaid; bluff cliffs of Sgùrr Coire an Lochain; Coruisk, blue, green or grey according to mood; Sgùrr-na Stri standing guard over Loch Scavaig—all these made up the beauty and the wonder of that cliff for us. Only one feeling transcended them all: that we were on the Coireachan Ruadha face of Sgùrr Mhic-Coinnich, that we were in the Forgotten Corrie itself.

And the finish of each climb gave great delight, for we would pull up, steep rock and space below, and suddenly, surprisingly, burst out into the sun, with the view of Coire Lagan and Glenbrittle, the sea and the Western Isles poised like gems upon the haze. What cliff could give more completely the spirit of the Cuillin than this crag rising from the Coireachan Ruadha, the forgotten cliff of Sgùrr Mhic-Coinnich?

**COIREACHAN RUADHA CLIMBS, 1950 and 1951.**

*The North-East Buttress of Sgùrr Mhic-Coinnich* (350 feet, Difficult).—Lies on the Coireachan Ruadha face of the peak, immediately to the right of the N.E. Gully. Start at the side near the gully, and from the cairn climb a series of broken walls and corners. At nearly 200 feet comes a short steep pitch (good holds), followed by a shelf with an awkward wall at its back. Climb this, then climb the steep wall above by a 50-foot crack on the left. The crack slants back to the right, and from it an easy slab leads to the neck of the buttress, where the N.E. Gully and the small gully on the right join. Above, a steep final wall leads to the ridge. Start the wall on the left, then trend up and rightwards to the ridge.

Climbed in boots, 24th July 1950. Time, 1½ hours. Through leads. W. D. Brooker (Cairngorm Club), C. M. Dixon.

*The Fluted Buttress of Sgùrr Mhic-Coinnich* (700 feet, Hard Severe).—The broad buttress on the Coireachan Ruadha face of the peak, lying just to the left of the N.E. Gully. A series of overhangs about 200 feet up the buttress, broken into three fins or flutes, is a conspicuous feature. Start at a cairn on the terrace, near the centre of the buttress and to the right of a huge right-angled corner. Climb a little rib for 25 feet (belay); then traverse right under an overhang for 50 feet, when the O.H. can be climbed to a ledge above. Follow the ledge to the right, then up into an easy-angled chimney. Climb this to where it steepens under the flutes and traverse out to the right on to a slab, the gangway, below a huge overhang. Follow the rightward trend of the slab, with the overhanging flute on the left and the wall of the buttress dropping into the N.E. Gully on the right, until it steepens; then traverse out on the wall on the right. Delicate and very exposed climbing leads to the right and up to the easement above the overhangs. Follow a broken groove up the easement, trending back left to the centre of the buttress, and climb a short groove to a small terrace with a cairn on its left edge. From here the Escape Route continues the original plan of finding the easiest route up the buttress. This lies up a crack on the right-hand edge of the slabs to the right, and soon leads to the summit ridge of the peak: it is never more than difficult. The true and best finish to the climb lies up the little rib on the left of the cairn on the terrace. Climb the rib, following the line of a crack up its crest, till it steepens and ends on a ledge below a stupendous overhanging nose split by a crack. Attack the wall on the right by a hard crack in a groove. Step left to a ledge, then back right up an easy groove. From the recess at the top of the groove traverse right to a ledge, and along it, moving up and rightwards over two little corners, to end at a cairn on the ridge. A good face climb of continuous severity.

Climbed in boots, 1st August 1950. Time, 5 hours. (Average time for two, 3 hours.) Through leads. C. M. Dixon, W. D. Brooker.

*Hourglass Crack, Coireachan Ruadha* (500 feet, Severe).—Lies on the buttress between the Bealach Coire Lagan and the 2,595-foot col, on the Coruisk side, which we named "Bealach Buttress." There are sheer, uninviting cliffs on the south face of the buttress, while the east flank is broken and easy angled, but the corner where the two faces join offers interest to the climber. Hourglass Crack is on this section, and gives many varieties of chimney and crack climbing, with a crux similar to that on the South Crack on the Inaccessible Pinnacle, but harder. Start from the screes where three cracks form a down-pointing arrowhead. Climb the central one to a broad terrace which crosses the face. The crack is over 60 feet and seems to overhang, but is easier than appears. Behind the terrace, and a little to the left, another crack leads up a steep wall. It is the true continuation of the lower left-hand crack of the arrowhead. The crack forces the climber outside where it narrows; this is the crux. Above this it enters an impressive section, deeply cut with steep sides, leading easily over a few small pitches to a huge overhanging cave. Climb the right wall on small holds or back up between the walls to pass the cave. This is an unusual and enjoyable pitch, with fine views of Sgùrr Coire an Lochain. The wide crack continues to the final cave. Back out of this, then cross to the left wall and climb on to the buttress to the left of the overhang, whence an easy scramble leads to the ridge.

Climbed in boots in drizzle, 7th August 1950. Time, about 2½ hours. C. M. Dixon, Tom Shaw (J.M.C.S.).

*The Crack of Dawn, Sgùrr Mhic-Coinnich* (600 feet, Very Severe, rubbers).—Lies on the Fluted Buttress in Coireachan Ruadha. The first 200 feet go up the S.E. wall of the buttress, then the crack trends leftward across the front of the buttress and finishes on the crack followed by the Escape Route of the Fluted Buttress Route. Start at the foot of the Crack (cairn) about 50 yards left of the start of Fluted Buttress Route, at the corner where the S.E. wall joins the front wall of the buttress. Climb the crack for 80 feet to a niche offering a stance, with a delicate move at about 60 feet. Climb out of the niche up the overhanging crack above for a few feet, then traverse on to the exposed wall on the right and up to the platform which crosses the face at this point. Climb the steep chimney directly above to the top of the S.E. wall, then follow the easier-angled crack which now slants across the face, to where its line becomes indefinite (cairn). Climb the steep short crack immediately to the left of a little rib of clean rough rock, and near the top of the crack move to the right across the rib itself, passing a big rock flake; then climb up to the terrace and cairn on the Fluted Buttress Route. The Crack finishes up the slabs on the right, taking exactly the same line as the Escape Route of Fluted Buttress. The Crack of Dawn follows steep, clean and sound rock, and the severity of the lower section is continuous. The climb is probably the hardest

route in Skye at present, even among the newer routes of the past few years.

Climbed in rubbers, dry conditions, 6th August 1951. Time, 3 hours. C. M. Dixon, W. D. Brooker.

*Forgotten Groove, Sgùrr Mhic-Coinnich* (250 feet, Very Difficult).—Lies on the Coireachan Ruadha face of the peak, immediately below the summit cairn. The groove, formed by a slab on the left and a vertical bounding wall on the right, is well seen from the west ridge of Sgùrr Coire an Lochain. Approach the groove by easy scrambling from near the foot of the easy rake (see S.M.C. Guide). The lower part of the groove is very steep, and is climbed by a thin crack in the corner of the groove. We entered the steep crack at the foot by climbing a short way up the slab on the left and traversing in, but the crack can be entered direct. Follow the crack up the groove; the angle gradually eases and the groove finishes after 200 feet. From here tricky climbing over friable rock leads to the broken rocks below the summit cairn.

Climbed in boots, moist conditions, 12th August 1951. Time, 1½ hours. Through leads. W. D. Brooker, C. M. Dixon.

*List of Known Ascents.*

1950.

July 24.	N.E. Buttress.	W. D. Brooker and C. M. Dixon.
Aug. 1.	Fluted Buttress.	C. M. Dixon and W. D. Brooker.
„ 7.	Hourglass Crack.	C. M. Dixon and T. Shaw.
„ 23.	Fluted Buttress.	C. M. Dixon and A. N. Other.
„ 28.	N.E. Buttress.	C. M. Dixon and party of five.

1951.

Aug. 6.	Crack of Dawn.	C. M. Dixon and W. D. Brooker. (Rubbers.)
„ 6.	N.E. Buttress (descent).	C. M. Dixon and W. D. Brooker. (Rubbers.)
„ 12.	Forgotten Groove.	W. D. Brooker and C. M. Dixon.
„ 23.	Crack of Dawn.	N. Coulson and P. G. White.
Sept. 7.	N.E. Gully.	D. D. Stewart and C. M. Dixon.
„ 19.	Crack of Dawn.	P. Vaughan and D. D. Stewart.
„ 19.	Fluted Buttress.	P. Vaughan and D. D. Stewart.
„ 19.	Forgotten Groove.	P. Vaughan and D. D. Stewart.

**NEW YEAR HOWFFS.****By B. H. Humble.**

SOMETIMES I regret that I introduced Ian Charleson to the gentle art of howffing. Never since then has he slept in a bed at Arrochar, but always insists on making for one of our many howffs in that area. At the last New Year Meet there he arrived at Glen Loin one evening and immediately declared his intention of spending the night in a cave on the mountain. Would I go with him? I had no such desire. I had a comfortable bed upstairs. It had been raining for three days and three nights, and it was still raining. And how could he spend a night out when his climbing breeches were already soaked through? "Get the loan of another pair," he said. And he did. But if he was going to sleep out in his clothes he'd have to get up to the cave dry. He overcame that objection by getting the loan of a pair of waterproof trousers. Then I played my chief card by saying I had no food to take up with me, and we'd need plenty. He declared he had plenty for two and emptied his rucksack. There was rich fruity cake with half-inch icing on top. There were honey, biscuits and cheese, bacon and eggs—about enough for two days, while we only required enough for two meals. That decided me—I would go with him.

We loaded up, donned oilskins, and set off. It was pitch dark and raining hard. At once we lost our way across the fields and blundered into a ditch. When we started uphill we found a burn running down the path and the whole hillside a mud bath. Ian was lagging behind. The waterproof trousers had been made for a man of much slimmer girth. Pulled on the top of bulky plus-fours they impeded his every movement. There he was on the dark hillside, pouring with sweat and tying himself into a knot trying to pull the blasted things off without splitting them! More by good luck than good judgment I managed to find the cave before midnight, and it was indeed a welcome haven.

We stripped, rubbed ourselves up, donned all our

clothing and dry stockings and slipped into our sleeping bags. Would I like some cake? Would I not? I had climbed the hill for that cake! So we toasted the New Year with huge slabs of cake and—aye—something more warming and more powerful than cake. Cold? No. There was plenty of dry heather on the floor of the cave. We were very snug and slept well.

In the morning, without getting out of our sleeping bags, we got the primus going and cooked a luxurious breakfast. (We had drawn water from the burn before turning in.) And what Highland Hotel will give climbers breakfast in bed at New Year time?

That howff was only 300 feet up. When another New Year came round Jock Nimlin, Dave Easson, and I ventured higher—to our newest howff, about 1,600 feet up on Beinn an Lochain. I was particularly anxious to test this one under hard conditions, as it had been my own discovery the previous April. Still do I remember how, when I looked up from my labour of levelling the floor, I saw the sunset over distant Loch Fyne, perfectly framed in the arch which formed the entrance, and named the howff "Sunset Arch." Among a maze of boulders I had noticed an A-shaped shadow and found what seemed to be an almost ready-made howff. Two boulders inclined towards each other. The space below was 18 feet long, 8 feet broad, and 7 feet high with a narrow slit at the far end. On several visits we improved it, made the usual windbreak at the entrance, and blocked up the slit with turf and stones, except for a hole to form a chimney. The best feature of this howff was the presence of stunted trees nearby, so that we always had a good fire inside. The roof, however, was still suspect, as we had been unable to block up completely the diagonal crack where the boulders overlapped.

At New Year we had hoped for really frosty conditions, but typical Arrochar rain was our reward. We got up dry, collected sufficient wood, but that was all. When heavy rain came on drips started from the roof, and it was a queer business sitting round a blazing fire wearing oilskins. Our preoccupation was such that no one noticed



candle grease steadily dripping into the pan of soup hottering up, till at last the candle itself fell in. Curiously, it did not seem to affect the soup much. The night was not too comfortable for, in spite of all our efforts, we had been unable to make the floor quite level. It still inclined downwards from the entrance, the result being that we found ourselves lying on mud in the morning.

Always, we hankered for a cave under real winter conditions, when snow would fill up all the draughty crevices and ice replace rain. Could we find a new one and make ourselves comfortable under such conditions? We decided to try, and Jock suggested the Lost Valley of Glencoe. We knew there was plenty of wood up there. Our only plan was to reach the chosen boulder field at least an hour before darkness, so that we might have time to find a howff and gather wood.

We brought in New Year at Inverarnan in true Highland style, and it was after 3 A.M. when we stumbled upstairs to bed. Snow fell all night, and it was afternoon before we set off. A vast pall of snow covered the Black Mount and Rannoch Moor. Motoring over it, sometimes in deep snow ruts, sometimes on wind-blown icy stretches, was like knocking about in a "Dodgem" car. Whenever we went into a skid Davie, in the back seat, got down on his knees and started to pray. The whole way from Bridge of Orchy to the Meeting of the Three Waters we saw no living thing.

Progress was so slow that it was well after 3 P.M. when we parked the car, drained the radiator, loaded up and started up the mountain. The wind was bitter cold, and the whole surroundings intensely arctic. The morning after the night before feeling was still evident, and deep soft snow made the journey something of a purgatory.

I had trusted Charleson to meet us up in the boulder field. He and Forde had started off much earlier from Lagangarbh. Well up we saw a Bergan a-top a boulder. Below the boulder was their chosen howff. Not bad, we decided, but much too small for us and no room for a fire. We went on and darkness found us floundering



about on soft snow looking for a cave. Our eventual choice was more a corridor than a cave, as there was a huge open vent at the far end. With the temperature many degrees below zero it did not matter.

There was plenty of work for us. Following the best of advice I had separated the large torch case from its battery, the only flaw being that I had forgotten to put the battery in my rucksack; and then we discovered we had but one half-candle for sixteen hours' darkness. We must rely on fire light, so plenty of wood was essential. The steep hillside was a maze of boulders and trees with icicles everywhere, and waist-deep drifts of snow. Normally there would have been dead wood lying about, but it was all covered with snow. It was an eerie business staggering about in the darkness with Jock climbing trees, trying to distinguish dead wood from green wood and throwing it down to me. Often it was lost in the soft snow below. Eventually we got a good supply and soon had a big fire going; but oh!—what an amount of snow must be melted to get water for soup and tea!

That over, we dug up stones, piled them at the entrance to the cave and tried to plaster them with snow to form a wind break. A sorry business it was: for the snow was so soft and sugary that it would not even cohere enough to make a snowball.

No heather, grass or bracken to lie on this time. The hard-frozen earth floor had to be softened up with ice axes before we bedded down. Jock and I had sleeping bags and were very snug, but Davie hadn't even bothered to bring one with him. We were uncertain whether this was to prove his stoicism or to ensure he would get the centre berth. We gave him the latter, and how he shivered! Never have I known such shivers. They seemed to start at his neck and go right down to his feet, and felt like vibro-massage down my back.

Ultimately I slept, but something dripping—plump—plump—on my feet wakened me up in the middle of the night. Our snow wall was melting, while falling snow was drifting into the cave. I was too sleepy to bother about it and dozed off again. When daylight came it was

still snowing. Getting up was delightfully easy, for it only meant slipping out of sleeping bags, pulling off a third pair of stockings and pulling on boots. Even the stoic, whose shivers had ceased towards daylight, was none the worse.

My brightest memory of the whole daft ploy is of sallying forth in the deep snow, returning with two armfuls of icicles and discovering that porridge made from icicles was much better than porridge made from snow. We were still at our hearty breakfast of porridge, bacon and egg, tea and etceteras when Charleson and Forde appeared. We suspected that their early start was due to the fact of theirs being a fireless cave, though they declared otherwise. A worthy effort for Forde whose first howffing venture it was.

The conditions that night were just about as severe as could be experienced in Scotland. Surely we had proved our point—that it was possible to go to a high corrie in midwinter and spend a comfortable night there.

Should not the howffing idea be an essential part of the climbing game? Jock Nimlin's suggestion is, however, perhaps too drastic: that all members of our Club be let loose in a high corrie one winter evening, each to find his own howff, those present in the morning to remain members.

To-day the emphasis is all on climbing huts. Surely it is good for us to go back to the way of the pioneers in the Alps, whose books have given us so many delightful accounts of high bivouacs in the pre-hut era. Mountain camping is all very well; but the inside of a tent is always the same and, once inside, there is nothing to do. Each howff is different, each has its own building problems, each its own charm, each its own memories. And there is always so much to do, for howffing refinements are endless. We found that howff in the Lost Valley about 4 P.M.; so much work there was to do that it was 11 P.M. in no time.

When we think of what we have managed to do in a few hours we wonder what it might be possible to do if a party of a dozen went off for a whole day with the

deliberate object of making a howff. Such a group could make a super-howff and all with material at hand. Did not our forebears in the Highlands make their own houses with turf and stones? And if you wish to see the supreme example of a howff then visit the Pictish earth house near Kildrummy. Though two thousand years old it is still in perfect condition.

## **ALONE ON BEN MORE, MULL.**

**By Ian W. Craig.**

I AM fortunate in my job. My work takes me into the remote areas of the West of Scotland, frequently at times when holidays are but a remembered dream to others. Often when, by dint of casuistry, I quieten the murmurings of whatever shreds of conscience this modern world has left with me, I find that solitary climbing and hill wandering can be a delight. Its drawbacks may be serious, but its advantages are many and its rewards are not always fully realised.

One recent November I visited Mull. Now, when on temporary duty on that island, there is for the climber one golden rule. It is—never to finish work on a Friday! Even if but an hour's work remains to be done, the Saturday morning boat will slip away to Oban without him and leave him stranded for the week-end. A delectable event if he is a hill-lover.

As it happened to me, watching the M.V. *Lochinvar* force its way from Salen pier through the angry waters of the Sound of Mull, I experienced the quiet satisfaction of one who has planned things well.

My work finished, I sat over a cup of tea in the cottage of the old stalker who had conducted me around the estate. I told him of my plans for to-morrow. I intended to climb Ben More and, following the ridge to A' Chioch, descend to Glen Clachaig and Loch Ba. He advised me against that descent. "It is bad ground," he said.

Sunday dawned quietly though the sky was overcast. I tackled the long easy ridge from Loch na Keal, and it was not long before the first trailing banner of mist swept over me and the cloud engulfed me.

Three hundred feet from the summit I emerged from that cloud layer into the sunlight above it. Below it, in the November gloom, lay hidden all the habitations of Mull; but on my rocky islet, surrounded by a sea of strato-cumulus, I relived a midsummer day. I sun-bathed under a cerulean sky. Crusoe-like in my solitude, I caught a glimpse once of a craggy peak appearing momentarily above my cloudy ocean. Now and then the fleecy billows spilled over the visible portion of the summit ridges and threatened to engulf the very cairn on which I sat. But where Canute had failure I had success—and colourful entertainment also. For two hours I was granted a display of the Brocken Spectre such as I have never seen before or since. My shadow, increasing and decreasing within its brilliant halo, followed me wherever I went, and rainbow fragments relieved the dazzling whiteness of the clouds.

The sun lost its strength. The cloud surface ruffled and huge frothy billows came mushrooming up. The display was over. I slipped into that cloud sea and dived downwards to Glen Clachaig. It was dark as I reached the floor of the glen.

There my only mishap occurred. The upper of my boot parted company from its heel. Have you ever tried to repair a climbing boot with sticking plaster? It doesn't work! At each step that heel with its exposed nails flapped against the upper and, hoping that these brads would not pierce my foot, I flinched at every footfall. But the long miles of excruciating anticipation were forgotten when, on reaching the shore road, a passing car gave me a lift to Salen.

I sent a postcard to the old stalker. I told him of my route. In a letter he replied, "You must be a great mountaineer. I am sending you a chicken for Christmas." I did not disillusion him.

In December a parcel arrived at home. In it lay a

large succulent-looking fowl gaily decorated with sprays of red-berried holly. Truly the rewards of solitary hill wandering are not often fully realised.

## **NORWEGIAN MOUNTAINS—1951.**

### **1. Storen in Mist.**

**By J. Stewart Orr.**

THE weather on the previous two days had been poor, the mist never rising above Nordlige Skagastolstind and showing only the foot of the cliffs of Storen. But on the day we arrived at Turtagro and climbed up to our boulder bivouac beside the Tindeklub's Hut, Storen had looked all its magnificence, and the spell of the finest mountain in Norway was upon us.

So, when on the third morning the mist was more broken and higher than usual for that hour, we decided we would attempt the ascent by the south-west ridge, a 2,000-foot climb with a severe section; we knew no more. We intended to descend by Slingsby's route, which he climbed alone after his companions gave up. This, we knew, went up the north ridge from Mohn's Skar or Col, and was considered difficult in good weather. We knew there would be snow on parts of it.

We left our shelter at half-past eleven and followed the path up to the foot of the Skagastols glacier, which is easy and completely safe on the east side. Our route lay up to the Bandet Hut, a small two-roomed stone hut, then partially filled with snow, which lies at the head of the glacier.

Half-way up we stopped to rest on a large boulder. The mist had risen above the Dyrhaugstindach ridge, and a thousand feet of the Storen cliffs could be seen. After walking on a few hundred yards Donald found he had left his balaclava on the boulder, so John and I stopped while he went back.

A fine buttress, six or seven hundred feet high, joining the south-west ridge half-way up, caught our notice.

The angle looked quite manageable, there was a possible escape gully on each side, and the wind which had bothered us on the two previous days had dropped almost to nothing, so we decided to try it.

Seven or eight hundred feet of easy scrambling up rock and snow brought us to the foot of the buttress, now in mist again and rising at a more formidable angle than before. We roped up on 240 feet of rope.

I led the first pitch on the front of the buttress and found a good stance at the top of a 20-foot chimney, half-filled with hard snow. When Donald and John had climbed up beside me John led on up the right flank of the buttress on rather rotten rock. I led back across to the left flank.

Here the mist cleared for a few minutes and showed us that the buttress rose up in a 200-foot smooth nose. As we had seen that the gully to the right of the buttress was formed of steep snow-covered slabs we chose the only other route available, which lay up the more broken left flank.

I led on under an awkward overhanging corner and then up easier rocks to where an arête of deep snow ran up against a smooth wall of rock. As I was afraid to trust the snow I was forced to make a very long step across from a small foothold, with the aid of one tiny undercut handhold, to a ledge with a good belay. When Donald reached the snow he decided to cross it. Slowly and carefully he made safe steps, up which John followed fairly easily.

From here the only possible line of progress was up a steep broken ledge, sloping towards the right. This gave out at the foot of a wet steep wall, with small square-cut holds and a large block in the middle, unfortunately loose. By careful pressing up on my arms, I managed to avoid using the block and reached a small stance with a very good belay. Donald and John found that by not pulling out at all they could use the boulder.

Above this a shorter pitch ended with a 20-foot ice-backed chimney, with negligible holds other than friction. Long thought and gymnastics were required

to overcome this and lead me to the top of a block where I could sit comfortably with a leg over each side, tied securely on to a spike behind. Donald climbed up and stood behind me, but when John arrived I had to move off the block before he could move on to it.

We were now on the outside edge of a steep ice and snow covered rake running up to the right to the nose of the buttress. From the inside edge of the rake the rock rose in smooth steep walls.

There were only two routes possible. Firstly, to climb the ice on the rake or the strip of rock, steep and not over-abundantly supplied with holds on the outside edge, and hope that when the corner on the nose of the buttress was reached a route up the right flank would be revealed. Secondly, a dangerous downward traverse of the snow might be made to a ledge running into the gully on the left, with the possibility that we could climb it. Occasionally, through the mist, we could see the south-west arête not more than 150 feet above us.

I chose to go right. A few easy moves brought me to a slab with a few wet, sloping footholds and a boulder of unbelievable looseness as handhold. From this, 5 feet of steep thin ice had to be crossed to reach the rock on the edge of the rake. By cutting right through to the rock two satisfactory footholds were found and, with a handhold cut in the ice to steady me, the delicate move was made.

From here I could see that the rake continued round the nose of the buttress and steeply up the right-hand flank to what seemed to be the top, 90 feet above.

Continuously difficult climbing brought me to a belay and small stance. During the long wait while Donald negotiated the wet slab and loose boulder, I sang extemporised songs of rejoicing. When Donald joined me I carried on up easier rock to the top. There, as I cut up some soggy bread and cheese, I could hear Donald singing into the mist as he brought up John. Reunited, we ate and rested in a sheltered spot before erecting a cairn to mark the top, as we considered that this was a new climb.



Above us lay 1,000 feet of rock to the top of Støren, with, somewhere, a severe section. We carried on, all together, up easy rocks, sometimes cheered and sometimes bewildered, when a small cairn appeared in the mist, till our way was blocked by a 10-foot wall. This was climbed by a smooth overhanging crack, and we all felt the strain of the effort.

Above, we carried on, one at a time, up pitch after pitch of slabs, cracks and chimneys, followed by more cracks and slabs, till we reached a scree-covered rake running up to the right, adorned by a cairn.

Then on up steep rocks with good holds to another rake, again running right. We began to feel we were spiralling round the mountain. Suddenly the mist cleared below us and we looked down over 1,000 feet of vertical and overhanging cliff to a diminutive buttress, actually a main ridge, dividing Slingsby's glacier from the Midmaradals glacier. As the mist closed again we continued up and to the right. After a 100-foot traverse on a 3-foot broad horizontal ledge the route started to go straight up the cliff above. On either side near vertical cliffs could be seen, below was mist and above lay the route, also very steep.

An awkward, 15-foot smooth crack brought us to a snow-filled stance, with a choice of routes above. I chose that directly above and least exposed. Two severe moves on widely spaced holds, necessitating straddling, gave me an entrance to a deeply cleft chimney backed with ice. Strenuous, but not very difficult climbing brought me to a good stance and belay. The other two also found the crack very strenuous, and Donald's glucose was very welcome.

The thought that we might have to descend these pitches was rather worrying as we were not sure where we were, but we felt we must be very near one or other of the twin tops. After 150 feet of easy scrambling a large cairn appeared through the mist 50 feet above. This was the top, and we reached it shortly after nine o'clock with great thanksgiving.

After some chocolate and rest we turned our thoughts



to the descent. A snow arête leading north confirmed our opinion that we were on the south top; and as the north top is called Slingsby's top, we believed that his route ran down from there. We found, indeed, a steep snow and rock ridge leading down to the north. With myself route-finding in front and John coming slowly and carefully last, we started what seemed an interminable descent. From the top of each steep pitch we could see the ridge levelling out in a snow arête to what might be Mohn's Skar, the col from which we had to descend, but on arrival we found the ridge dropping away below us again. John's aneroid was most helpful in reassuring us that we really were getting down.

At last, after spending an hour and a half in descending five or six hundred feet, we reached Mohn's Skar. There was a cold wind now and it was raining, so we were thankful to find that the rocks down to Slingsby's glacier on the east were masked in thick hard snow, which ended in a deep sheltered pocket just below the ridge. There we rested and ate the rest of our food. Leaving here at eleven o'clock we started off down steep snow to the bergschrund, which we turned on the right, then wended our way down between and across crevasses large and small, with séracs threatening us through the misty gloom.

When the aneroid showed we had descended to the height of Bandet Hut, we cut to the right across the south face of Storen, along slabs and snow terraces; not sure whether we should keep up on the buttress or descend to the Midmaradals glacier, visible through the mist below. However, at half-past midnight the Hut appeared ahead. We stopped only to coil the rope before turning north and running down the snow on Skagastols glacier, blindly following our footsteps of two days before through the mist. On down; too weary even to glissade when it meant toiling over large boulders before striking the path again. In an hour we were back at our boulder at 4,500 feet. There we thankfully pulled off our sodden clothing before crawling in out of the rain and mist and darkness to warm sleeping bags and hot soup.

## 2. Lofoten.

By Tom Weir.

D. SCOTT, T. Weir, and Adam Watson (Cairngorm Club) were in Lofoten and Arctic Norway during July and the first half of August. Weather was poor, but did not prevent good sport, fishing and climbing. First contact with Lofoten granite was on the Svolvaer "Goat," an amazing pinnacle 1,000 feet above the town, crowned by a couple of "horns." Sensational, but not more than Very Difficult.

Vaagakallentind was attempted by its most difficult route, but though accompanied by one of the boldest climbers in Norway the party were defeated 300 feet from the summit by a rainstorm. In wet conditions Lofoten granite is even more slippery than Arrochar schistose, and the last 300 feet of difficult climbing were deemed "unjustifiable." As the local climber had been taking great risks all day the Scots party wondered just what he meant by "unjustifiable."

Followed a week in the Raftsund, where the peaks are supposed to resemble the Chamonix Aiguilles in form and difficulty. Although the date was early July, snow lay thickly at 500 feet above sea-level, and the Trollfjordvand was still hard-frozen and snow-covered at that height.

Only two climbs were done in a week, the Royrhoptind and an unnamed peak above the Trollfjord, the wildest sea fjord in Norway. Prayers and curses were delivered at Lofoten vegetation, which looks innocent but consists often of 3 to 5 foot ferns covering boulders, polished by the Trolls or made mossy according to what footgear the climber is wearing.

The Royrhoptind (around 3,000 feet) is a superb pinnacle, reached from the north by rock traversing, across a face like Cioch na h'Oighe of Arran, to reach a snow basin narrowing to a gully connected with the final 200-foot rock tower. The peak was traversed successfully from north to south in nine and a half hours.

The party then moved to Narvik, where a 4,000-foot peak was climbed before moving to Lyngen Fjord. Jaeggevarre (6,109 feet), "the Mont Blanc of the North," the highest peak in Arctic Norway, was the star attraction. Jaeggevarre is really a great ice cap perched on top of gabbro cliffs. Maps in this region are inaccurate, glaciers and ice-falls are not shown and contouring is rough, so route-finding is difficult.

A mistake in climbing the wrong peak gave sight of a glorious rock rib leading upward for 2,500 feet, breaching the ice cap at a safe place. Unfortunately it led to a point north of the north peak, and a considerable distance from the highest summit. Visibility was over 200 miles, and views ranged from Swedish Lapland, Lofoten, to Finnmark and the great sweep of the Arctic Ocean. Descent was made down the face of the north peak by rock and snow, a strenuous and rather difficult route. The climb took twenty-three hours from base camp on the fjord.

From Jaeggevarre the pinnacles of the Jagervandstind group stand up superbly, and the party moved north to try them, carrying bivouac and food for a few days into the mountains. The Store Jagervandstind (5,300 feet) is the highest of a ring of peaks enclosing a steep and broken glacier coming down to the Kopangself. This was climbed by snow and rock in the light of the midnight sun.

Southward from this peak a narrow rock ridge springs upward to another superb rock peak. The traverse of this airy ridge was one of the very finest, the main problem being the crossing of a Thearlaich Dubh Gap on a bigger scale. As the party was short of rope, Scott descended 60 feet into the gap and started climbing up the far wall, climbing above the party to reach a stance at the limit of 120 feet of rope. The spare rope joined to this 120 feet enabled the second man to climb into the gap. Weir then climbed down. The descent, like the climb on the far wall, was severe.

This peak kept its surprises right to the end with a sensational traverse and an overhang situated above a

very long drop. A storm of rain with wind of gale force routed the party from their bivouac. Back at base, the large tent had been blown down, ripped and dragged clear of everything, so that spare clothes, photographic films, etc., were saturated. Norwegian hospitality restored order, however, and all was well.

Return was then made to the Raftsund, where camp was established below the peak of Rulten which rises in a 3,400-foot sweep of rock from the sea. This prize had to be taken if conditions allowed, and after three days of rain it was climbed by the towers and rock walls of its east ridge. Rather typically, it reserved its most dramatic move to the last, where a traverse had to be made above the unclimbable north wall. The move was immediately over a 1,500-foot drop, where a wide chimney, 40 feet high and too broad to span, was cleft by a couple of vertical and greasy cracks, a shoulder's width apart. It was strenuous but not unduly difficult. Unremitting care was necessary on the descent, owing to bad weather and wet greasy rocks. The peak took fifteen hours for 3,400 feet.

South of Rulten there were three peaks reputedly unclimbed. One of them had the most tremendous slab the party had ever seen, a full 1,500 feet sweeping down from the summit in one gigantic boiler plate. The party climbed these peaks (heights around 2,600 feet), but each top was crowned by a few mossy stones. It is likely they were put there by Professor Norman Collie's party in 1904 when they made the first ascent of Rulten.

The last climb of note was on the Store Trolltind (3,400 feet), reached by a snow gully on the east wall, and easy scrambling for 100 feet to the summit. Views over the rock-hemmed fjords to the weird peaks of the Blue Mountains were superb. Across the Vestfjord views were like the Sutherlandshire coast, except that the skyline was so much wilder; from the gleam of sea-girt glaciers to the 5,000-foot slab of the Stedtind, the "Anvil Peak"—truly the Suilven of this amazing coast.

Anyone with four or five weeks to spare should think of going to Lofoten or Lyngen Fjord. There is plenty

of pioneering to be done, and in a normal summer weather is supposed to be reasonable. Camping gear is an essential, but there are boats going up and down to transport it. Hardly any carrying need be done. You can even hire a taxi in Svolvær! The fare is expensive, but living is cheap, for you can catch your own fish and eat lots of potatoes. Bread will be baked for you by the locals. No member of this party spent more than £50, all in, for a total of six and a half weeks.

### **3. Stedtind.**

**By Richard A. Brown.**

I WAS still wondering how many of the bones in my right hand had been shattered by Emil's vice-like grip when the die was cast. "You shall climb Stedtind," said Emil, and his secretary was immediately ordered to find the quickest way there, and was still thumbing her way through the pink "Saltens Dampskipselskap" timetable as the doors of the Svolvær branch of Norsk Braendesolje A/S. swung behind our rapid exit, with Emil in search of the local food office.

Next day, in the leisurely manner so typical of climbing in the land of the midnight sun, we climbed the Goat of Svolvær. Some three or four of the inhabitants had heard of our plan, one of whom had taken delivery but two days previously of a new Standard Vanguard, equipped with a particularly strident horn. This gentleman said, "So you will climb the Gjeita? I shall watch for you with my field-glasses!"

We had been on the summit barely half a minute when this gentleman, who must have been sitting in his new Vanguard watching, saw us and commenced a most prolonged and stentorian blast on his new hooter. This theme was taken up by several other similar instruments, augmented by several ships' sirens from the harbour, and for the space of ten minutes the inhabitants of Svolvær vied with each other to see who could run their car battery down quickest. Those without cars stood around in little

knots in the street and gazed up at "the mad English." After descending, we ate, packed up and made our way, not unobserved by the local population (ten weeks in Lyngen had wrought havoc on breeches' seats), to the quay, via the Havnekaffeen with Wilhelm, to the S.S. *Bodin* at 1 A.M. for the first leg of the journey to our goal. This was a five-hour trip to Trannoy (an island off the mainland on the north-west entrance to the Tysfjord), which boasted a "quay for steamships," a waiting house for travellers like ourselves, a motor bus to heaven-knows-where, several imposing mansions and a post office literally crammed with very attractive female persons. Consequently it was with some difficulty that we boarded the S.S. *Salten* at 2 P.M. next day. This rather elderly ship took us down the Tysfjord to Kjopsvik, possessing a cement works and the usual flock of blonde goddesses, where, at 7 P.M., we transferred our gear and ourselves to the *Lyra*, a 30-foot fishing boat adapted to local fjord service.

After a long placid chug around the head of Tysfjord, two men and three rucksacks were deposited at Haukoy, the classic starting point for Stedtind, just after midnight. Some particularly helpful young ladies, in response to my best Norwegian, took us along to the local open-air dance hall, and we were cordially invited to sleep on what had been the bar counter. In these idyllic surroundings we prepared a brew of pemmican, outlined our intentions, commented on the glorious weather and inquired about boats up the Stefjord. We were assured of transport in the morning up the fjord, bid the young ladies goodnight and turned in.

At 7 A.M. we embarked on a 15-foot motor boat, and thereby travelled to Storelv at the foot of Stedtind, whose changing form had been constantly before us. Seen from the north-west the peak has a curious appearance of "aliveness"—a crouching animal about to spring or a monstrous sphinx watching over Tysfjord with a jealous eye. From the north the sphinx disappears and the peak takes on the aspect of a tower or a cut-off factory chimney. The "Watch Tower of the Ofotfjord"—(or, as Slingsby

called it, "this hideous mountain monster, the ugliest mountain on the planet")—rose grandly as we approached. The 5,000-foot "slab" which, almost unbroken, forms the north face, lined with dark streaks of snow-melt-water from the Nordgaleriert, presents an unsolved problem to to-morrow's tiger. (Though Emil, with characteristic enthusiasm, had said the night we sailed, "No man has yet been direct all the way up the north face. It is very steep. But there is, I think, a way . . ." and was carried off into his native tongue by his own enthusiasm for his projected route. Some day, when he has collected enough pegs. . . .)

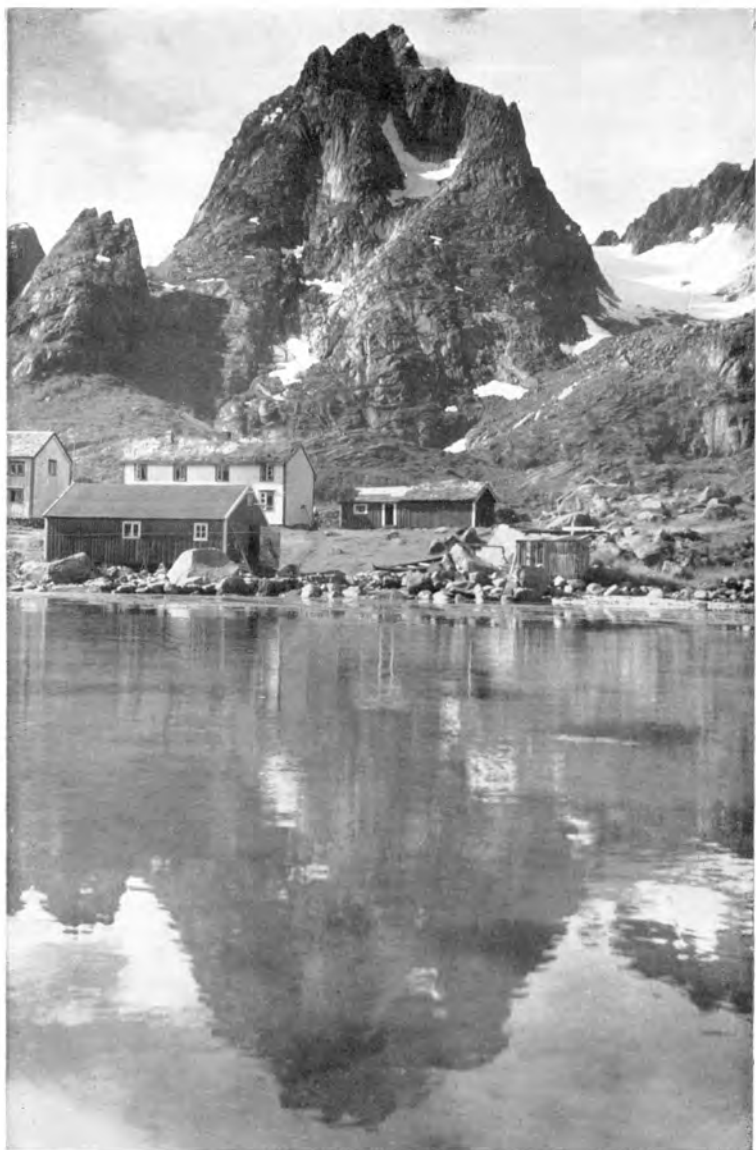
From Storelv the peak's sharp triangle cuts the sky in a most attractive silhouette, far more dramatic than the Matterhorn. We came ashore and met the few inhabitants, who spoke no English, and then pitched the tent on a grass flat near the edge of the birch forest. The morning was somewhat cloudy, but after coffee the *Daemon Energy* visited us, and we determined to press home our attack at once. We were delayed by the arrival of Simon Andersenn of Storelv, who speaks quite good English, and who had ascended Stedtind in 1948 with Gillis Billing and Ole Bjorn, two well-known Swedish climbers. He said that it would take us twelve hours to go up and down, and if we were very quick, ten hours. So with some misgivings, in regard to the time and the weather, we departed at midday along the track leading south to the saeters.

Pressing on, we cut up to the left through dense birch scrub, grass slopes, and finally over boulders and to the outlet of Svartvandvatn: from here (where a large and handsome cairn has been erected), steeply up to the crest of the south-east ridge of Hall's Foretop, which we followed to an even more handsome cairn on the summit at 1,312 metres. This part of the climb is merely rough scrambling, and occupied us just two hours. From Hall's Foretop the final peak towers up from its plinth of glaciated slab, and presents a most uncompromising prospect to the aspiring climber. Had we not known that a route existed we should have written the ascent off there and then.



" Serious climbing begins here." So we roped up and set off along a genuine knife-edge for some 200 feet. The wind was from the west and somewhat gusty, so we proceeded *a la semi-cheval*, as the drop on the east is abrupt; though a mere 1,500 feet, it is very nearly plumb vertical. The west wall, at least 2,500 feet, is just over 70 degrees. There was a small step of 50 feet down an easy-angled slab, some more knife edge and then a deep and narrow gap, which we descended by a crack. On the left (west) side of the ridge at this point there is a sort of ledge, which thins out and leads to the crucial part. " The most exposed hand traverse in the world " now confronted us, which Philip swung along with little ado, and then it was my turn. I had already bewailed the lack of a pair of rubbers on general principles, and now my complaint seemed thoroughly justified as I was carrying the rucksack. However, I wriggled up the sloping fissure till I could get no higher, then, reaching far out left, I grasped an enormous flake-hold and, shutting both eyes and taking a deep breath, I eased gingerly from the crack and swung out. The actual hand traverse is short, and this bit was really enjoyable, shuffling along over immense depths. Like all good things, however, it has an end, and here it becomes necessary to pull up on to the flake, an operation made much more difficult by the presence of a large overhang some 2 feet above. This is conveniently split by a crack, and an indescribable movement, in my case involving the back of my head and a loose chockstone, lands one in an upright position—and then all is over. The sloping crack finishes at a window in the ridge, where Philip sat, tied to a rusty piton and looking very cheerful. I squeezed through the hole to the other side of the ridge, went up a fine slab for 100 feet and decided the worst was over. So Philip came up and we moved together, and very shortly reached the top. We had taken four hours thirty minutes from Storelv—the part from Hall's Foretop (1,312 metres) to the summit (1,387 metres) having taken over two hours.

The cairn is situated at the north-west corner of the large, flat summit plateau and commands dizzy prospects



August 1951

#### RULTEN, LOFOTEN

Tom Weir

(Route up left-hand wall, over two rock towers, and up right edge of final peak, above tiny snow patch. Under summit traverse right on hidden north wall)

down the north wall and the famous "Sydpillaren." We inspected the large and varied collection of summit boxes; a fine miscellany, including Emil's old aluminium spectacle case, dated 1946; an aluminium throat lozenge tube; and a very old "Empire Dark Flake" box. From this last we found ourselves the fourth British party and the first since 1937, when G. Wood and Jackson of the M.U.M.C. were up. There was also a record of H. P. Spilsbury, Allen Deane and Priestly Phillips of the Wayfarers' dated 1936, and the card of the first British party (O.U.M.C.), Pullinger, Cunliffe, Atter and Viney, in 1934. Our own contribution was an empty "Johnson's Wax Polish" tin and a small piece of paper.

After an hour, in glorious sunshine with indescribably magnificent prospects on all sides—from the Frostisen ice-cap on the east to the Lofotveggen on the west—we turned to the descent. The hand traverse is not reversed, the huge block above it (called "Mysosten"—The Cheese, by Carl Hall) being descended *en rappel* instead. We cast around for a belay suitable for our purpose, and found that by tying the spare 80-foot nylon "quarter" around a large block some way back, the doubled 150-foot rope would just suffice. I had no wish to abandon a new rope; so we put a peg in a crack near the edge of the block, and descended from that. The first *rappel* is down an outwardly leaning block, and ends on a 4-foot wide ridge, with nothing on one side and less on the other. A second and shorter *rappel*, from a peg already in position, leads down the west wall over a small overhang to the ledge leading up to the crux. The block down which goes the first *rappel* looks rather like le Grand Diable on the Grépon—but larger and steeper—from this point.

We soon regained the gap, and romped along the ridge towards Hall's Foretop, with frequent halts for photography. We had been in continuous sunshine from about 3 P.M. onwards, and now, about sevenish, the sun was dyeing the sleek slabs of the final tower a most magnificent shade of deep orange as it slanted down towards the tops of the higher Raftsund peaks. We raced down the ridge of Hall's Foretop to Svartvandvatn and then had a

worse-than-usual struggle through the upper birch scrub. We soon found the track to the saeters, and were back in camp at 8.30 P.M. Bilberries and pemmican (separately) were the chief features of the feast; and heavy rain in the night. But we slept soundly, and bright sunshine greeted us as we emerged from the Tinker and gazed upwards next morning.

Mr Brown writes that, during the ten weeks' holiday, the party, which included two members of the Edinburgh J.M.C.S., ascended forty peaks in the Lyngen peninsula, six being first ascents and fifteen being new routes up peaks already climbed. They met Douglas Scott, Tom Weir and Adam Watson *en route*.—*Editor*.

### RETURN.

(After long absence)

THEY stretched long arms—  
Gaunt ribs of granite, muscle and joint in grass  
That clothed the naked bone;  
And bright pools shone  
Deep as a child's eyes at the untroubled air,  
Near baby dimples where the fern beds were.  
Clouds stirred, to pass,  
Dragging their shadows over the rough rock face,  
Past furrowed caves, bright heather, over the rim  
Of chasms far in space—  
Tempting a strong man out and up—to race.

He stood alone.  
He blinked into the sun, blinked at the veil  
Of light that hung  
And masked his sight.  
He cried: "I was your lover once—raced  
And ran to kiss your faces, one by one.  
I then was one  
Who every day desired to be found placed  
On each of you, and count you for my own.  
Years chained my pace.  
What comfort have you for this weary one  
Who stands alone?"

WILFRED NOYCE.

**NEW WAYS ON BEINN LAIR.**

THE Editor shares with Frank Cunningham some measure of gratification for an amazing burst of rock-climbing activity on Beinn Lair in the summer of 1951. In Cunningham's article in our last issue the magnificent stretch of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of cliff on the north-east side of this mountain overlooking Gleann Tulacha was described as neglected and almost virgin soil. To quote the "Northern Highlands" Guide, "Vast buttresses of unpromising rock, cleft at intervals by steep gullies, spring from the glen," and the first recorded ascent of the face by G. T. Glover and W. N. Ling was in the month of May 1909. Unfortunately they had little time available, so chose a likely gully which proved difficult, chiefly owing to the looseness of the rock. They finished on an arête, but the whole climb took up only an hour and a half. More unfortunately still, perhaps, or owing to unfavourable reactions to the loose shaly rock of the gully, they did not return.

It is true, as the Editor can confirm from a visit in June 1950, that these buttresses have an unhealthy, greenish sort of hue when seen from the top of A' Mhaighdean. On the return journey to Letterewe he, too, went blindly up an easy gully from Gleann Tulacha and over the top of Beinn Lair without seeing anything attractive, as it was misty and raining by this time. Geologists know better, however. The cliffs are an outcrop of gneiss, the same rock which forms the grand northern cliff of Beinn Airidh Charr, some miles to westward. So, no less than five parties have gone to Beinn Lair last summer, and the harvest of new routes has been considerable. Let future aspirants take heart, however; there are still large areas of blank on the map. Not only that, but it is very creditable that there should be a map at all—or rather so adequate a diagram; for, at one end at least, the explorers have, all unknowingly, crossed each other's invisible tracks. So we may soon have as rich a field of controversy as over such notorious problems as the true source of

the Nile, Younghusband's Saddle in the Karakorum and many others.

The 1951 explorers have been most favourably impressed with the soundness of the rock but comment on the length of pitches and the absence of belays.

The main routes are collected into two groups, one overlooking the inner end of Loch Fhada (one group of climbers) and one overlooking the inner end of Fionn Loch (three parties). One isolated route is nearer the middle but well to the west of it. This is described after the Fionn Cliff routes.

### **Routes overlooking Loch Fhada.**

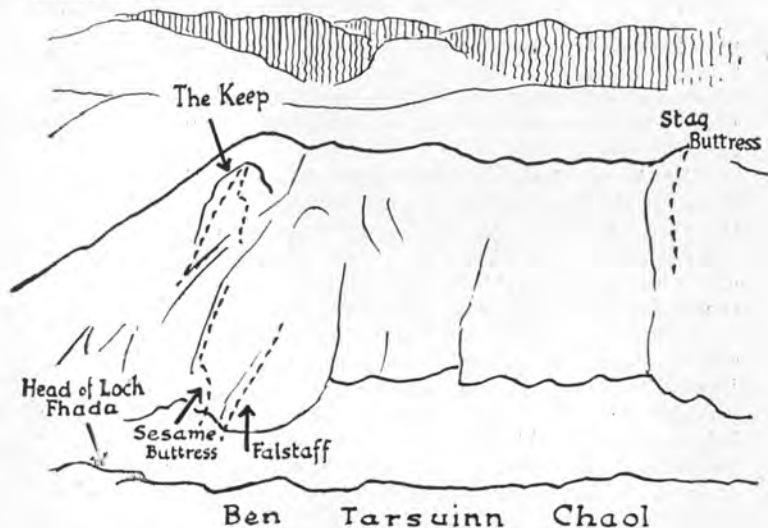
Five routes have been climbed on the cliff near the head of Loch Fhada. These were climbed on four buttresses, leaving ample scope for further exploration. The three cleanest-looking buttresses lie near the head of the loch, the lowest and most easterly being Sesame Buttress, with Falstaff on its immediate left. High up on the left of this buttress, separated from it by two gullies, is a large tower called "The Keep." Stag Buttress, a short way up the glen to westward, is distinguished in its upper portion by the large steep ridge running up its near side, forming a notable corner on the right-flanking wall of a gully. It is the highest buttress visible from the head of the loch. All the climbs were made in August 1951 by J. D. Foster and D. Leaver (both Leeds University C.C.), climbing with alternate leads.

**Sesame Buttress** (450 feet, Severe).—This climb starts at the foot of a wall to the right of a prominent crack, and at the lowest point of the buttress.

(1) 30 feet. Up the wall, moving left a little to a large heather ledge and belay. (2) 60 feet. Starting above the belay, traverse left on to arête overlooking crack. Up arête to belay just below large overhang in crack. (3) 70 feet. Continue straight up arête until level with overhanging block in crack. Cross crack on mossy ledge, and up arête on its left side to prominent poised block. (4) 45 feet. Continue up arête to grassy groove on left. (5) 80 feet. Traverse left on to arête then straight up to beginning of next arête on left. (6) 90 feet. Traverse left on to arête and up to steep section at top of which is good belay and stance. (7) 40 feet. Straight up

arête. Belay on right of arête. (8) 60 feet. Up the arête to easier rock and easing of angle of buttress.

**Falstaff** (400 feet, Very Severe).—The climb, which is on the smooth, steep buttress to the immediate right of Sesame Buttress, starts at its lowest point. The name can be appreciated if the Buttress is seen in profile from Sesame Buttress, and it is the smoothness and rotundity of the overhanging paunch, drawn in underneath by the "belt," that provides the difficulty of the climb—and also its original attraction!



FHADA CLIFFS; BEINN LAIR, A' MHAIGHDEAN.

(1) 60 feet. From the cairn proceed directly up to ledge (the Belt) under large overhang (the Paunch). (2) 25 feet. Climb steep broken rock, slanting up and right from belay to a ledge. Opposing spike belays. (3) 80 feet. Traverse left delicately from belay on to face and then straight up past large ledge to thread belay round block in groove on left. (4) 65 feet. Traverse back to middle of face and up. Thread belay in groove on left. (5) 70 feet. Traverse right on to face of main central rib. Straight up. (6) Continue up central rib on easier rock until climbing finishes.

**The Keep, Central Route** (650 feet, Severe).—Most difficulties can be avoided and the route would then be very difficult, but a central route on the best rock was thought desirable. The climb starts at the lowest point of the buttress, facing the loch.



(1) 80 feet. Proceed directly up to large sloping heather ledge. Belay. (2) 60 feet. Climb awkward corner at left end of ledge and up rib above to sloping heather ledge and large block belay. (3) 80 feet. Ascend wall above belay; then up groove on right of overhang, until left traverse can be made on to central rib. Belay on left on small rock platform. (4) 60 feet. Take most central line up buttress until steeper rock is reached. Line belay. (5) 100 feet. Straight up overhang on good holds and up central rib to large ledge. (This is the top of grassy groove beginning at the foot of Rainbow Wall.) Belay. (6) 60 feet. Straight up nose above belay to foot of prominent arête. Thread belay. (7) 60 feet. Straight up arête, turning steep part on left, to broken ledge and belay. (8) 70 feet. Up nose immediately above, then over easier rock and moss to low wall. Flake belay. (9) 100 feet. Climb wall on left and up easier rock to top of buttress.

**The Keep, Rainbow Wall** (400 feet, Severe).—The climb starts in the gully running up the immediate right-hand side of the Keep. Some way up there is a fork in the bed of the gully, and a spring. On the left is a wall, bounded by a left-trending, grassy groove; and on the right an incipient crack. Cairn on ledge at foot of wall just below ledge with two poised blocks.

(1) 70 feet. Short left traverse, then straight up wall to large sloping ledge. Belay and stance just below ledge. (2) 65 feet. Upward traverse to left skyline below small overhang. (3) 65 feet. Straight up wall, turning overhang on right, then up and left again to ledge and belay. (4) 65 feet. Left, then straight up to shattered ledge and belay. (5) 40 feet. Straight up twisting arête to large ledge and spike belay. (6) 110 feet. Climb wall immediately above ledge, then follow another twisting arête to top of climb.

**Stag Buttress** (400 feet, Severe).—The buttress is too broken and vegetated in its lower section to offer much climbing, only the upper 500 feet giving a good route. The climb lies straight up the arête of the steep corner overlooking the gully on the left edge of the buttress, and starts about 100 feet up the gully. (Cairn.)

(1) 75 feet. Up steep corner to small moss ledge and belay. (2) 80 feet. Follow arête, keeping to edge of gully. (3) 80 feet. Continue up edge of buttress to large mossy patch, then straight up to belay below steeper rock. (4) 75 feet. Avoid first overhang by steep corner on left overlooking gully. Then move right again on to arête and straight up to small stance and two spike belays. (5) 100 feet. Up small overhang, and follow edge of buttress and easier rock to top.

### **Fionn Cliffs—North-west End of Beinn Lair.**

Here the first-comers were from the Glasgow University Mountaineering Club, and the description comes from J. Stewart Orr (also J.M.C.S.). The climbs were made

in early June 1951. Another party, Frank Adams and Edward Wrangham (C.U.M.C.), spent some days climbing on the same buttresses about the middle of August 1951. Naturally, they were not aware of what had already been done, so that some duplication of routes has taken place and the overlapping has not been easily disentangled. The nomenclature adopted here must, therefore, be that of the earlier party, and it has been decided (in conformity with those at the Fhada end of Beinn Lair) to continue to number the climbs from east to west. This procedure, the only possible one, must, of course, tend to belittle the achievements of the later party. Although the Glasgow pioneers have identified their Molar, Angel and Wisdom Buttresses with the Pear, Overhang and Cigar Buttresses of the subsequent party, and several routes on the first of these are obviously distinct, there may be much overlap in the routes on the other buttresses owing to the brevity of descriptions and complexity of rock formations.

The most easterly buttress on Fionn Cliffs was named **Molar Buttress** by the Glasgow party (who climbed two routes on it) and Pear Buttress by the subsequent party, who also made three routes. The earlier name is retained. In some cases the routes are fairly close. According to Orr the Left-hand Route is probably just to the right of his own Rose Route and starts between Molar Buttress Route 1 (by Orr) and Damocles Cracks (by the Oxford party). The following are brief accounts of the routes on Molar Buttress:—

**Rose Route**, climbed by J. Smith and N. A. Todd on 3rd June 1951, is a moderate route of 700 feet lying up the side of Molar Buttress above the gully on its left, which is suitable for descent. This route captures the sunshine when the others do not.

**Molar Buttress Route 1** was climbed by D. C. Hutchison and B. S. Smith on 3rd June 1951. It is a Very Difficult route of 800 feet, starting up an obvious gully towards the left of the buttress, easy with a short, difficult chimney. From a terrace above the gully, traverse right towards the main mass of the buttress. The route now lies to the right of the crest. From a large ledge, 100 feet above, make a hard traverse right to a sloping stance. A steep wall on the right, followed by a shattered chimney and steep nose, leads back to the crest. Easy scrambling now follows to the top.

**Molar Buttress, Left-hand Route** (650 feet, Difficult. Ascended 16th August 1951).—Less fun than the other two routes, this follows the left-hand side of the buttress all the way. At the left of the buttress is a short, conspicuous black chimney. Start left of this, up broken rock and vegetation, making for 120-foot chimney straight ahead. This has three pitches, the second less hard than it looks. The route now goes on up undistinguished climbing, with two steeper walls intervening. The first is climbed direct on good holds, the second traversed across to the right, after which the angle gradually eases off.

**Molar Buttress, Damocles Cracks.**—A route up the centre made by an Oxford party.

**Molar Buttress, Right-hand Route** (700 feet, Very Difficult. Ascended 20th August 1951).—This uses the most right-hand of the conspicuous breaks through the band of steep rock which crosses the whole buttress at two-thirds of its height. It starts up a stretch of easy-angled though usually wet slabs at the right-hand side of the buttress. From the top of these a crack system leads upwards. This is followed to begin with for perhaps 150 feet. Then a way is made rather to the left up some steep walls to a scoop underneath an overhang of the steep band. Above and to the right is a break, in the form of an open corner. An upward traverse to the right is made into this, and it is ascended, with final exit on the left. Above, easier and pleasant climbing leads to the top.

**Y-Buttress.**—West of Molar Buttress is Y-Gully, between the branches of which is Y-Buttress; a climb of only moderate interest and charm, as it is messy and vegetative. It is 400 feet long, of Difficult standard, and was ascended on 20th August 1951. Start in Y-Gully at the junction. Climb from the right branch up its left wall on to the buttress, and then more or less straight up to the top. A steep wall, about half-way up, will need a lot of gardening.

The three routes, Molar Left and Right and Y-Buttress, were climbed by Frank Adams and Edward Wrangham, leading through on 100 feet of rope using vibrams. The weather was wet, but the rock was usually clean and there was no difficulty about belays.

West of Molar Buttress there is again some overlapping. The Glasgow party named the buttress to the west of Y-Gully Angel Buttress; the English called it Overhang Buttress, and climbed one 600-foot moderate route on 17th August 1951. They found a belt of overhangs on the buttress, a sort of continuation of the steep band on Molar. They passed this by an obvious prominent cleft containing some jammed boulders and a double cave



June 1951

FIONN CLIFF, BEINN LAIR  
MOLAR BUTTRESS

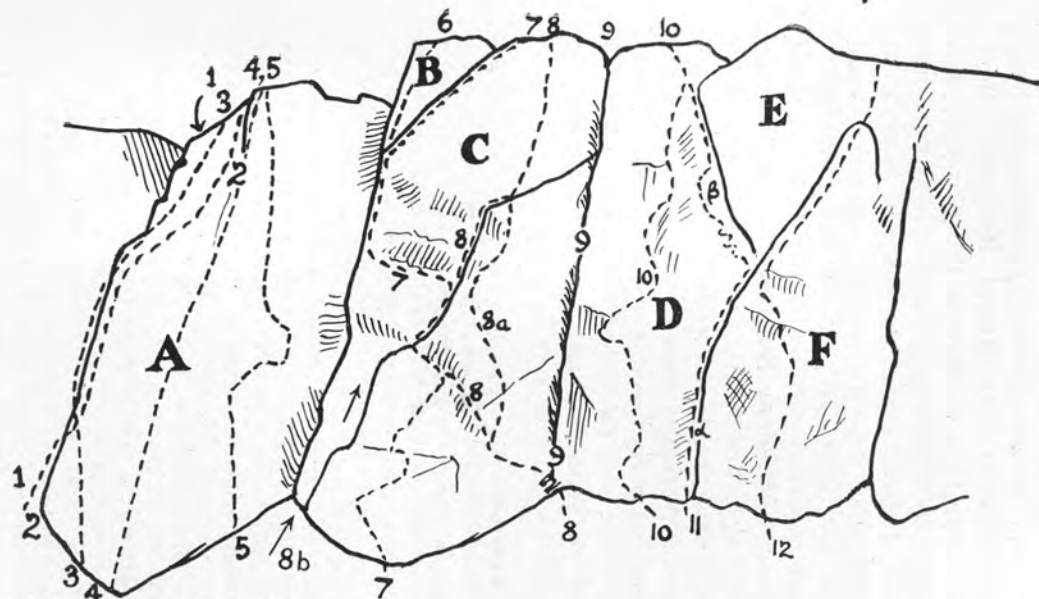
*D. Hutchison*



June 1951

FIONN CLIFF, BEINN LAIR  
(Key to lettering: See line drawing)

*D. Hutchison*



8a is Angel Buttress Variation  
 α = Cavity Chimney.. β = Wisdom Wall

#### FIONN CLIFFS, BEINN LAIR.

A, Molar Buttress; B, Y-Buttress; C, Angel Buttress; D, Wisdom Buttress; E, The Fang; F, The Tooth. 1, Rose Route; 2, Molar Buttress Route 1; 3, Left-hand Route; 4, Damocles Cracks; 5, Right-hand Route; 6, Y-Buttress Route; 7, Pilgrim's Progress; 8, Ordinary Route; 8a, probable line of English Route; 9, Bat's Gash; 10, Wisdom Buttress Route; 11, Cavity Chimney and Wisdom Wall Route; 12, the Tooth Route.

pitch with two through routes. From there the rest was easy up to the top. Stewart Orr claims that this Overhang Buttress was identical with **Angel Buttress**, which name has therefore been adopted in this account. The English and Glasgow (ordinary) routes, widely separated in their lower halves, appear to coincide beyond, as is shown in the diagram. To the right (west) of Angel Buttress is a long cleft splitting the face from top to bottom, which separates this buttress from the next on the right, named **Wisdom Buttress** by the Glasgow climbers and Cigar Buttress by the later party. Here, again, both parties made routes which Orr has not succeeded in differentiating from each other. The latter points out that his party found it necessary to use pitons as a safeguard at two places—at the top of Pilgrim's Progress and on Wisdom Wall, where the run-out for the rope would otherwise be very long.

**Pilgrim's Progress.**—This is the best route on Angel Buttress. It is a Severe climb of 800 feet. It runs as far as possible up the centre of the buttress to the foot of the huge overhang. 140 feet of traverse immediately below this overhang leads to the left-hand edge of the buttress. Two short pitches are followed by the crux, 70 feet of very exposed wall with the hardest move at the very top. Climbed by J. S. Orr and Angela Hood, 3rd June 1951.

**Angel Buttress, Ordinary Route and Variation.**—The Ordinary Route follows the line of least resistance from the foot of Bat's Gash, the gully on the right. The hardest pitch is the upper of the two chimneys beside the overhang. The Ordinary Variation runs up the right-hand half of the buttress. Climbed by Angela Hood and J. S. Orr on 3rd and 6th June 1951.

**Bat's Gash** (named Roman Crack by the other party who, however, did not climb it).—This is a Very Difficult climb of 700 feet. It is a route of maintained interest with impressive cave scenery in the middle section. Near the foot a chimney with a narrow exit leads to a couch of blueberries. Higher up there is a two-tier followed by a four-tier chimney. Climbed by D. C. Hutchison and B. S. Smith (leading through) on 6th June 1951.

**Wisdom Buttress.**—This is a magnificent climb of 700 feet, continuously exposed, of about Very Difficult standard. 250 feet lead to the foot of a vertical wall, where two diminutive footholds provide a stance while the wall is turned on the left. The less steep slabs to the left of the buttress are followed for 150 feet till a ledge leads back to the crest. The overhanging nose above was climbed, two of the party traversing right on to Wisdom Wall, climbing up and

traversing back left, whereas the third member climbed straight up. From the eyrie above a vertical nose leads to a large rock platform, whence another vertical nose provides an enjoyable finish. Climbed by J. Smith, Angela Hood and J. S. Orr on 4th June 1951.

**Cavity Chimney and Wisdom Wall.**—This is a Very Difficult climb of 700 feet. The short chimney to the right of the foot of Wisdom Buttress is Cavity Chimney, followed by a long crack, grassy and easy, to the fork below The Fang. Wisdom Wall is the right side of the upper half of Wisdom Buttress, separated from The Fang by a crack. The Wall is very exposed and lacks proper belays. The Wall is started by climbing 100 feet up the crack. Then, after another 100 feet up and across the Wall to the left, an easy escape to Wisdom Buttress is obvious. But the best finish from here is a severe traverse back to the crack, which is then climbed to the top. Climbed by D. C. Hutchison and B. S. Smith (leading through) on 4th June 1951.

The Tooth is the next buttress to the west of Wisdom Buttress, separated from it in the lower part by Cavity Chimney. This appears to fork higher up, so that an additional rock, The Fang, is enclosed between the branches. The Fang promises a highly sensational and difficult climb, and a pleasant route could be made up the smaller buttress to the right of The Tooth. The Tooth, of difficult standard, was climbed on 7th June 1951 by D. C. Hutchison, B. S. Smith, Angela Hood and J. S. Orr. About half-way up it, the route joins the left-hand crest, continuing to the top by a delightful series of short exposed pitches (Difficult).

The foregoing accounts, from Pilgrim's Progress onwards, are by Stewart Orr, and the ascents are by the Glasgow University Mountaineering Club party.

### **West Chimney Route.**

This route, the details of which have been received from C. G. M. Slessor, is rather difficult to place. It was climbed on 5th July 1951 and classed as a Very Difficult climb of about 600 feet. The start is about 100 feet left of the nose of the most westerly of the large buttresses (cairn). Climb moist groove, leftwards on steep, discontinuous rock to a large grass terrace about



400 feet up and below a steep wall. Climb this by a 70-foot wet chimney in left corner to a stance 30 feet up. Enter gully leading to cave above. Climb steep rib of good rock up to right—either straight up rib from gully or from the cave, using back and foot. Another 100 feet ends the climbing. A through route seems available at the cave but looks dangerous. The climb lies on the west side of the buttress which lies west of the Tooth, and to the right of the diagram of the Fionn Cliff. This climb was made by C. G. M. Slessor, Geoffrey Dutton and J. Wight.

### **Marathon Ridge (near Centre of Beinn Lair Cliffs).**

This ridge (not covered by either diagram, as it is near the middle of the Beinn Lair range of cliffs) can be identified as the first on the left of two very prominent buttresses to the south-east of the spur forming the highest part of the cliffs. Its upper end is where the shallow ridge from the summit of Beinn Lair meets the cliffs, and is in a straight line from the summit to that of Beinn Tarsuinn Chaol. It sends a long nose down below the general level of the foot of the cliffs. A subsequent party had no difficulty in identifying it from the above description by W. D. Brooker of Aberdeen, who sends the account of the first ascent.

This was made on 9th July 1951 by W. D. Brooker and S. McPherson and by J. W. Morgan and J. C. Stewart. The route is estimated at 1,300 feet long and of Difficult standard.

Start at the foot of a 200-foot nose, low down. For almost 800 feet, climb by steep walls, separated by mossy ledges in approximately 100-foot steps. The ridge then steepens before it joins the left-hand ridge, separated from it by a steep, narrow chimney. Climb 40 feet up chimney to small stance and belay. One may also reach this by zigzag movement on face to the right. The short overhang crux follows—more than Difficult. Two hundred feet above, the grassy neck on the main buttress and below final tower is reached. The face is broad for 160 feet and then narrows. The final climbing is by a steep, thin fissure on the crest. Scrambling leads to a grassy pinnacle (cairn) at top of buttress. Rock is generally sound and clean, with belays spaced at about 100 feet. General standard is barely Difficult.

**LIST OF SCOTTISH MOUNTAINS 2,500 FEET  
AND UNDER 3,000 FEET IN HEIGHT**

**By J. Rooke Corbett.**

**Foreword**

**By John Dow.**

AFTER ascending all Munros and "tops," Corbett embarked on the task of visiting all the Scottish hills from 2,500 to 2,999 feet, which involved the compilation of "Corbett's Tables" as well as the work on the ground.

When the state of his health put a final end to his long series of journeys north he had not finished the job. He did, however, make out a list which was forwarded after his death to the Guide Book Editor, who has judged that, while incomplete, its publication in the *Journal* would be justified; and with this the *Journal* Editor is in agreement.

The list of 219 hills is reproduced without addition or deletion, the only amendments made being in the column headed "Position" where distances have in certain cases been reduced by reference to neighbouring Munros or easily identifiable road points. It does not differentiate between "Corbetts" and "tops"; and reference to the maps—*e.g.*, 1-in. Ordnance Sheets 42, 43, 49, etc.—makes it clear that numerous heights of equal "merit" to those listed have not been shown. Many of the hills noted, however, are equally inviting and attractive with most of the Munros; and it is hoped that the list may be of interest to "Salvationist" members at any rate. The Sections are as in Munro's Tables—see General Guide Supplement, page vii.

Corbett was probably the best and most tireless hill walker of his generation, and love of the Scottish mountains was with him a passion pure and abiding. Let his list, therefore, be accepted as a memorial to a personality genuine and likeable, rather than as an authoritative document: and may it serve as a stimulus and a plan of campaign to those who have already ascended all the Munros (with or without the "tops") in any district.

Thus may our friendly Scottish hills, out of their inexhaustible riches, give to those who love them new pictures of beauty, and days when it is more happy to journey than to arrive; and perhaps, at some later date, we may see a revised Edition, comprehensive of every 2,500-foot summit. There might even be compiled a Supplement containing such hills below that arbitrary limit as are of outstanding interest for their form, their excellence as viewpoints, or their rock-climbing interest.

Name.	Height.	Position.	1-in. O.S.
SECTION 1A.			
<i>South of the Forth-Clyde Canal.</i>			
			No.
Merrick . . . . .	2,764	3½ m. N. of E. end of Loch Trool	87
Kirriereoch Hill . . . . .	2,565	1 m. N.N.W. of Merrick	83 and 87
Shalloch on Minnoch . . . . .	2,520	2½ m. N.N.W. of Kirriereoch Hill	83
Corserine . . . . .	2,668	5½ m. S.W. of Carsphairn	83 and 87
Cairnsmore of Carsphairn . . . . .	2,612	3½ m. N.E. by N. of Carsphairn	83
Hart Fell . . . . .	2,651	5½ m. N.N.E. of Moffat	84
Broad Law . . . . .	2,754	2½ m. S.E. by E. of Crook Inn, Tweedsmuir	80
Cramalt Craig . . . . .	2,723	1½ m. N.E. of Broad Law	80
White Coomb . . . . .	2,695	1½ m. W. of Gray Mare's Tail Waterfall	85
SECTION 1B.			
<i>West of Loch Lomond.</i>			
Beinn Chuirn . . . . .	2,878	3½ m. W. by S. of Tyndrum	62
Meall an Fhudair . . . . .	2,508	4 m. N.W. of Ardlui Station	62
Binnein an Fhidleir . . . . .	2,680	1½ m. N. of Beinn an Lochain	61
Beinn Luibhean . . . . .	2,811	¾ m. S.W. by W. of Beinn Ime	61
Ben Arthur (The Cobbler) . . . . .	2,891	1 m. S.W. of Beinn Narnain	61
Ben Donich . . . . .	2,774	2½ m. N.N.E. of Lochgoilhead	61 and 65
The Brack . . . . .	2,580	4½ m. W.S.W. of Arrochar Station	61 and 65
Beinn Bheula . . . . .	2,557	3½ m. S.W. by W. of Lochgoilhead	65
SECTION 1C.			
<i>East of Loch Lomond.</i>			
Beinn a' Choin . . . . .	2,524	2½ m. N.N.E. of Inversnaid Pier	62
Stob a' Choin . . . . .	2,839	2½ m. S. of Beinn Tulaichean	62
Ceann na Baintighearna . . . . .	2,526	¾ m. S. of Loch Doine	62
Creag Mac Ranaich . . . . .	2,600 +	2½ m. S.S.E. of Killin Junction	62
Meall an t'Seallaidh . . . . .	2,793	2½ m. N.W. of Balquhider Station	62
Ben Vane . . . . .	2,685	2½ m. S.W. by S. of Strathyre Station	62
Ben Ledi . . . . .	2,873	4½ m. W.N.W. of Callander	62
SECTION 2.			
Creag Uchdag . . . . .	2,887	5 m. N. of St Fillans Station	62
Creagan na Beinne . . . . .	2,909	4½ m. N.W. by N. of Ben Chonzie	56
Achnafree Hill . . . . .	2,565	2½ m. E. of Ben Chonzie	63
Meall na Fearnna . . . . .	2,500 +	1½ m. E. of Ben Vorlich	62

Name.	Height.	Position.	1-in. O.S.
SECTION 3.			No.
Meall Buidhe . . . . .	2,976	3½ m. E. by N. of Beinn a' Chreachain	55
Cam Chreag . . . . .	2,823	3 m. N.W. by W. of Bridge of Balgie, Glen Lyon	55
Beinn Dearg . . . . .	2,702	1½ m. W. of Carn Gorm	55
Meall nan Tairneachan . . . . .	2,559	2½ m. W. by S. of Farragon Hill	56
Farragon Hill . . . . .	2,559	4 m. N. by W. of Aberfeldy	56
Meall nan Subh . . . . .	2,638	3½ m. W. of Meall Ghaordie	55
Beinn an Oighreag . . . . .	2,978	2½ m. N.E. by E. of Meall Ghaordie	55
Meall Luaidhe . . . . .	2,558	2 m. S. by E. of Bridge of Balgie, Glen Lyon	55
Beinn Udlaiddh . . . . .	2,759	3½ m. W.N.W. of Tyndrum Station	55
Beinn Bhreac-Liath . . . . .	2,633	3 m. N.W. of Tyndrum Station	55
Beinn nam Fuaran . . . . .	2,632	2½ m. E. of Beinn Dorain	55
Beinn a' Chaisteal . . . . .	2,897	1½ m. S.E. of Beinn Dorain	55
Beinn Odhar . . . . .	2,948	2 m. N. of Tyndrum Station	55
Beinn Chaorach . . . . .	2,655	2½ m. N.E. of Tyndrum Station	55 and 62
Beinn nan Imirean . . . . .	2,769	1½ m. S.W. of Meall Glas	62
SECTION 4.			
Fraochaidh . . . . .	2,883	3½ m. E.S.E. of Duror Station	54
Beinn Maol Chaluim . . . . .	2,967	1 m. E. by N. of Stob an Fhuarain	54
Creach Bheinn . . . . .	2,657	3½ m. E.S.E. of Creagan Station	54
Beinn Trilleachan . . . . .	2,752	1½ m. S.W. by W. of Kinlocheteive Pier	54
Stob Dubh, Beinn Ceitlin . . . . .	2,897	1½ m. S. of Dalness, Glen Etive	54
Beinn Mhic Chasgaig . . . . .	2,820	1½ m. W.N.W. of Clach Leathad	54
Beinn Mhic Mhonaiddh . . . . .	2,602	5½ m. N.N.E. of Dalmally Station	54
Beinn a' Bhuiridh . . . . .	2,941	2 m. W. by N. of Lochawe Station	61
SECTION 5A.			
<i>West of Tyndrum—Fort William Railway.</i>			
Cruach Innse . . . . .	2,850 +	3 m. S. by E. of Roy Bridge Station	47 and 48
Sgùrr Innse . . . . .	2,600 +	1½ m. S.E. of Cruach Innse	48
Mam na Gualainn . . . . .	2,603	4½ m. E.N.E. of Ballachulish Ferry	47
Glas Bheinn . . . . .	2,587	5 m. E.N.E. of Kinlochleven	47
Leum Uilleim . . . . .	2,971	2 m. S.W. of Corrour Station	48
Garbh Bheinn . . . . .	2,835	1½ m. S.W. of Kinlochleven	47 and 54
Beinn a' Chrulaiste . . . . .	2,805	1½ m. N.W. of Kingshouse, Glen Etive	54
SECTION 5B.			
<i>East of Tyndrum—Fort William Railway.</i>			
The Fara . . . . .	2,986	2½ m. W. by S. of Dalwhinnie Station	48
Beinn Chumhain . . . . .	2,958	2½ m. W. by S. of Ben Alder	48
Stob an Aonaich Mhoir . . . . .	2,805	4 m. from S. end of Loch Ericht on E. side of Loch	48
Meall na Leitreach . . . . .	2,544	2 m. S. of Dalnaspidal Station	48
Beinn Mholach . . . . .	2,758	6 m. S.W. by S. of Dalnaspidal Station	48
Beinn a' Chuallaich . . . . .	2,925	2½ m. N.E. by N. of Kinloch Rannoch	48 and 55

Name.	Height.	Position.	1-in. O.S.
SECTION 6.			No.
Beinn Teallach . . . . .	2,994	3½ m. N. of Tulloch Station	48
Carn Dearg, Glen Roy . . . . .	2,736	5½ m. N. by W. of Tulloch Station	48
Beinn Iaruinn . . . . .	2,636	5½ m. N. by E. of Roy Bridge Station	42 and 48
Carn Dearg . . . . .	2,523	1½ m. S.S.E. of Carn Dearg	2,677 42
Carn Dearg . . . . .	2,677	5 m. N. of Carn Dearg, Glen Roy,	2,736 42
Gairbeinn . . . . .	2,929	2½ m. E. of Corrieairack Pass	42
Meall na h'Aisre . . . . .	2,825	3 m. W. by N. of Geal Charn	3,036 42
Carn Chuilinn . . . . .	2,677	4½ m. S.E. of Fort Augustus	42
Carn Easgann Bana . . . . .	2,554	7 m. E. by S. of Fort Augustus	42
Carn na Lاراiche Maoile . . . . .	2,658	11½ m. N.W. of Newtonmore	42
Carn na Saobhaidhe . . . . .	2,658	12 m. N.W. by N. of Newtonmore	42
Carn an Fhreiceadain . . . . .	2,879	4½ m. N.N.W. of Kingussie	43
Geal-Charn Mor . . . . .	2,702	3¼ m. W. of Aviemore Station	43
SECTION 7A.			
<i>South of Loch Eil and Loch Shiel.</i>			
Ben Resipol . . . . .	2,774	4 m. N.W. by W. of Strontian Hotel	46
Sgùrr Dhomhnuill . . . . .	2,915	8½ m. W.N.W. of Ardgour Hotel	47
Druim Garbh . . . . .	2,637	½ m. N.W. of Sgùrr Dhomhnuill	47
Carn na Nathrach . . . . .	2,579	1½ m. N. of Sgùrr Dhomhnuill	47
Druim Tarsuinn . . . . .	2,520	1½ m. S. of Sgùrr Ghiubhsachain	47
Sgùrr Ghiubhsachain . . . . .	2,784	1¾ m. W.S.W. of Sgor Craobh a' Chaoruinn	47
Sgor Craobh a' Chaoruinn . . . . .	2,543	3 m. S. of Glenfinnan Station	47
Stob Coire a' Chearcaill . . . . .	2,527	5½ m. N. of Ardgour Hotel	47
Garbh Bheinn . . . . .	2,903	7 m. W. by S. of Ardgour Hotel	47 and 54
Creach Bheinn . . . . .	2,800	3½ m. S.W. by S. of Garbh Bheinn	54
Fuar Bheinn . . . . .	2,511	1½ m. S.W. by S. of Creach Bheinn	54
SECTION 7B.			
<i>Between Loch Shiel and the Mallaig Railway.</i>			
Roisbheinn . . . . .	2,887	3 m. S. by W. of Lochailort Station	46
An Stac . . . . .	2,550	2 m. S. of Lochailort Station	46
Druim Fiaclach . . . . .	2,852	2½ m. S.E. of Lochailort Station	46
Beinn Odhar Bheag . . . . .	2,895	3¼ m. S.W. by W. of Glenfinnan Station	46 and 47
SECTION 7C.			
<i>North of Mallaig Railway and South of Loch Nevis, Loch Quoich and Glen Garry.</i>			
Ben Aden . . . . .	2,905	4 m. W. by S. of Kinlochquoich	41
Sgùrr na h'Aide . . . . .	2,818	1½ m. N.W. of Carn Mor	41
Carn Mor . . . . .	2,718	1½ m. N. of Sgùrr nan Coireachan	41 and 47
		3,133	
Sgùrr an Fhuarain . . . . .	2,961	2½ m. W.S.W. of Gairich	41
Fraoch Bheinn . . . . .	2,808	1½ m. W. by S. of Sgùrr Mhur-lagain	41

Name.	Height.	Position.	1-in. O.S.
			No.
Sgùrr Mhurlagain . . .	2,885	3½ m. S. by W. of Gairich	41
Geal Charn . . .	2,636	1½ m. W.S.W. of Meall Coire nan Saobhaidh	41
Meall Coire nan Saobhaidh	2,695	4 m. S. by E. of Tomdoun Hotel	41
Ben Tee . . .	2,957	3 m. W. by N. of Laggan Locks, Caledonian Canal	41
Beinn Bhan . . .	2,613	2½ m. W.N.W. of Gairloch	47
Meall a' Phubail . . .	2,533	2 m. E. by S. of Gulvain S. Top	47
Braigh na h'Uamhachan . . .	2,513	1½ m. W. of Gulvain S. Top	47
Streap . . .	2,988	1½ m. S.S.E. of Sgùrr Thuilm	47
Beinn an Tuim . . .	2,656	2½ m. N.E. of Glenfinnan Station	47
Sgùrr nan Utha . . .	2,610	2 m. N.W. of Glenfinnan Station	47
SECTION 7D.			
<i>North of Loch Nevis, Loch Quoich and Glen Garry.</i>			
Sgùrr Mhic Bharraich . . .	2,553	1½ m. S.W. by W. of Shiel Bridge	41
Beinn na h'Eaglaise . . .	2,650 +	1½ m. E.S.E. of Ben Sgrìol	41
Beinn na Caorach . . .	2,536	2½ m. E. by S. of Ben Sgrìol	41
Buidhe Bheinn . . .	2,900 +	1½ m. N.E. by N. of Kinlochhourn	41
Beinn na Caillich . . .	2,573	2½ m. N.W. of Ladhar Bheinn	35
Sgùrr Coire Choinnichean	2,612	1½ m. E.N.E. of Inverie	35
Beinn Bhuidhe . . .	2,803	4 m. S.E. by E. of Inverie	35
Sgùrr a' Choire-Bheithe . . .	2,994	4½ m. W. by N. of Kinlochquoich	41
Sgùrr nan Eugallt . . .	2,933	3 m. N.W. by N. of Kinlochquoich	41
Druim nan Cnamh . . .	2,555	4½ m. N.N.W. of Tomdoun Hotel	41
Meall Dubh . . .	2,581	4 m. E. by S. of E. end of Loch Cluanie	41
SECTION 8.			
Sgùrr an Airgid . . .	2,757	2 m. N. of Invershiel	36
Am Bathach . . .	2,605	1½ m. N. of the former Cluanie Inn	41
Carn a' Choire Ghairbh . . .	2,827	1½ m. N. of Tigh Mor na Seilge N.N.E. top, 3,045	36 and 41
Aonach Shasuinn . . .	2,901	2½ m. E.N.E. of Tigh Mor na Seilge N.N.E. top, 3,045	41
SECTION 9.			
Sgùrr a' Mhuillin . . .	2,845	3½ m. S. of Achanalt Station	26
Meallan nan Uan . . .	2,750 +	¾ m. S. of Sgùrr a' Mhuillin	26
Bac an Eich . . .	2,791	7 m. S.E. of Achnasheen Station	26 and 36
An Sìthan . . .	2,661	2½ m. E. of Creag Toll a' Choin	36
Sgùrr nan Ceannaichean . . .	2,986	1½ m. S.W. of Moruisg	26 and 36
Sgùrr na Feartaig . . .	2,830	1½ m. N. of Beinn Tharsuinn	36
Beinn Tharsuinn . . .	2,807	1½ m. N. by E. of Bidein a' Choire Sheasgaich	36
Beinn Dronaig . . .	2,612	2 m. S. by W. of Bidein a' Choire Sheasgaich	36
Sguman Coinntich . . .	2,881	2½ m. W. by S. of Faochaig	36
Faochaig . . .	2,847	2½ m. W. by S. of Aonach Buidhe	36
Aonach Buidhe . . .	2,949	2½ m. W. by S. of An Socach, 3,503	36
Sgùrr na Diollaig . . .	2,676	4½ m. N.W. by W. of Cannich Hotel	36 and 37
Beinn a' Bhalach Ard . . .	2,826	3½ m. N.W. of Struy, Strath Glass	37

Name.	Height.	Position.	1-in. O.S.
SECTION 10.			No.
Baosbheinn . . . .	2,869	2½ m. N. of Sgùrr Mhor of Beinn Alligin	26
Beinn an Eoin . . . .	2,801	2¼ m. N. of Beinn Dearg, 2,995	26
Beinn Dearg . . . .	2,995	1½ m. E. of Sgùrr Mhor of Beinn Alligin	26
Meall a' Ghiubhais . . . .	2,882	3¾ m. W.N.W. of Kinlochewe Hotel	26
Ruadh-Stac Beag . . . .	2,850 +	1 m. N. of Sgùrr Ban of Beinn Eighe	26
Sgùrr Dubh . . . . .	2,566	1½ m. N. by E. of Sgorr nan Lochan Uaine	26
Sgorr nan Lochan Uaine . . . .	2,840	¾ m. N. by E. of Beinn Liath Mhor	26
Fuar Tholl . . . . .	2,968	1½ m. W. by N. of Achnashellach Station	26 and 36
An Ruadh Stac . . . .	2,919	1½ m. S. of Maol Chean-dearg	26 and 36
Beinn Damh . . . . .	2,957	2 m. W. of Maol Chean-dearg	26
Beinn Bhan . . . . .	2,936	5½ m. E. of Applecross	25
Sgùrr a' Chaorachain . . . .	2,600	2 m. S. of Beinn Bhan	25
SECTION 11.			
Beinn Airidh Charr . . . .	2,593	3¾ m. W.N.W. of Beinn Lair	26
Beinn Lair . . . . .	2,817	1½ m. W. of N.W. end of Lochan Fada	26
Beinn a' Chaisgein Mor . . . .	2,802	1½ m. N. by E. of S. end of Fionn Loch	19
Ruadh-Stac Mor . . . .	2,850 +	1 m. N.E. by E. of A'Mhaigdean	26
Creag Rainich . . . . .	2,646	2½ m. S.E. by E. of Beinn a' Chlaidheimh	26
Beinn a' Chlaidheimh . . . .	2,960 +	2¼ m. S.E. of Beinn Dearg Mhor	19 and 26
Beinn Dearg Mhor . . . .	2,974	2½ m. S.W. by W. of Sail Liath of An Teallach	19
Beinn Dearg Bheag . . . .	2,550 +	1 m. N.W. of Beinn Dearg Mhor	19
Sail Mhor, An Teallach . . . .	2,508	3½ m. W. of Dundonnell Hotel	19
SECTION 12.			
Beinn Enaiglair . . . .	2,915	4 m. S.E. of Inverlael, head of Loch Broom	20
Beinn a' Chaisteal . . . .	2,580	4 m. E. of Am Faohagach	20
Carn Ban . . . . .	2,762	5½ m. N.N.E. of Am Faohagach	20
Carn Chuinneag . . . .	2,749	8½ m. W.S.W. of Bonar Bridge Station	20
SECTION 13.			
Cul Beag . . . . .	2,523	2¼ m. S.W. by S. of Cul Mor	15
Cul Mor . . . . .	2,786	8 m. S.W. of Inchnadamph Hotel	15
Canisp . . . . .	2,779	3½ m. S.W. by W. of Inchnadamph Hotel	15
Creag Liath, Breabag . . . .	2,670	4¼ m. S.E. by S. of Inchnadamph Hotel	15
Glas Bheinn . . . . .	2,541	3 m. N. of Inchnadamph Hotel	15
Spidean Coinich . . . .	2,508	¾ m. S. by W. of Sail Gharbh	15
Sail Gharbh, Quinag . . . .	2,653	5½ m. N.N.W. of Inchnadamph Hotel	15
Beinn Leoid . . . . .	2,597	6½ m. N.E. of Inchnadamph Hotel	15
Ben Hee . . . . .	2,864	6¾ m. N. of Oversaig Hotel, Loch Shin	16



Name.	Height.	Position.	1-in. O.S.
			No.
Meallan Liath Coire Mhic Dhugaill	2,625	5½ m. N.W. by W. of Ben Hee	9
Meall Horn . . . .	2,548	4¼ m. S.E. by S. of Foinaven, 2,980	9
Arkle . . . . .	2,580	3 m. S.S.W. of Foinaven, 2,980	9
Ganu Mor, Foinaven . .	2,980	4 m. E. by S. of Brae Hotel, Rhiconich	9
Cranstackie . . . .	2,630	3¼ m. N.E. by N. of Foinaven, 2,980	9
Beinn Spionnaidh . . .	2,537	5 m. N.E. by N. of Foinaven, 2,980	9
Ben Loyal . . . . .	2,504	5 m. S. of Tongue	10
SECTION 14.			
Sgor Mor . . . . .	2,666	2½ m. S.W. by W. of Derry Lodge	43
Carn na Drochaide . . .	2,681	2¼ m. N.W. of Braemar	43
Creag an Dail Bheag . .	2,830	4 m. N. of Braemar	44
Cularloch . . . . .	2,953	5¼ m. N.N.E. of Braemar	44
Brown Cow Hill . . . .	2,721	3¾ m. E. of East Meur Gorm Craig of Ben Avon	44
Morven . . . . .	2,862	5 m. N. of Ballater	44
Creag Mhor . . . . .	2,932	1½ m. S.E. of Bynack More	43
Meall a' Bhuachaille . .	2,654	1½ m. N.E. of Glenmore Lodge	43
Geal Charn . . . . .	2,692	5 m. N.E. by N. of Bynack More	43
Carn Ealasaid . . . . .	2,600	5½ m. S.E. of Tomintoul	44
Carn Mor . . . . .	2,636	5½ m. E. of Tomintoul	44
Cook's Cairn . . . . .	2,541	1½ m. E.S.E. of Corriehabbie	39
Corriehabbie . . . . .	2,563	8 m. S.S.W. of Duftown	39
Ben Rinnes . . . . .	2,755	5½ m. S.W. of Duftown	39
SECTION 15.			
Meallach Mor . . . . .	2,521	6 m. S. by E. of Kingussie	43
Carn Dearg Mor . . . .	2,813	3 m. E. of Meallach Mor	43
An Dun . . . . .	2,707	2¼ m. E.S.E. of Carn na Caim	48 and 49
Craig an Loch . . . . .	2,844	1¼ m. E. of An Dun	49
Leathad an Taobhain . .	2,994	3¼ m. N.W. by W. of Beinn Bhreac	49
Beinn Bhreac . . . . .	2,992	2½ m. S.W. by W. of Carn an Fhidleir	49
Beinn Mheadhonach . . .	2,950 +	2½ m. S.E. by E. of Beinn Dearg, Glen Bruar	49
Ben Vrackie . . . . .	2,757	2½ m. E. of Killiecrankie Station	49
Ben Vuirich . . . . .	2,961	2½ m. S.E. of Carn nan Gabhar (Beinn a' Ghlo)	49
Meall Uaine . . . . .	2,600	1½ m. S. of Spittal of Glenshee	49
Ben Gulabin . . . . .	2,641	1½ m. N.N.W. of Spittal of Glenshee	49
Sgor Mor . . . . .	2,908	1½ m. N.E. of An Socach Mor, 3,073	49
Morrone . . . . .	2,819	2 m. S.W. by S. of Braemar	49
SECTION 16.			
Creag nan Gabhar . . . .	2,736	4¼ m. S. of Braemar	50
Monameanach . . . . .	2,643	4¼ m. E. by N. of Spittal of Glenshee	50
Conachraig . . . . .	2,827	1¼ m. E.N.E. of Meikle Pap of Lochnagar	50

Name.	Height.	Position.	1-in. O.S.
Ben Tirran . . .	2,939	3 m. E.N.E. of Millton of Clova	No. 50
Mount Battock . .	2,555	8½ m. E. by S. of Mount Keen	50
SECTION 17.			
<i>Islands.</i>			
<b>Harris—</b>			
Clisham . . .	2,622	4½ m. N. of Tarbert	13
<b>Skye—</b>			
Glamaig . . .	2,537	1¾ m. E. of Sligachan Hotel	35
Garbh-Bheinn . .	2,649	1 m. N. of Blaven	35
<b>Rhum—</b>			
Askival . . .	2,659	2¾ m. S. by W. of Kinloch Castle	34
Ainshval . . .	2,552	1 m. W.S.W. of Askival	34
<b>Mull—</b>			
Dun da Ghaoithe .	2,512	3 m. W. of Craignure Pier	53
<b>Jura—</b>			
Beinn an Oir . .	2,571	5½ m. N.E. of Port Askaig, Islay	69
<b>Arran—</b>			
Goat Fell . . .	2,866	4 m. N.N.W. of Brodick Pier	77
Beinn Tarsuinn . .	2,706	2 m. W. of Goat Fell	77
Cir Mhor . . .	2,618	1½ m. N.W. of Goat Fell	77
Caisteal Abhail . .	2,817	¾ m. N.N.W. of Cir Mhor	77

### FREEDOM OF THE HILLS.

MINE is the freedom of the tranquil hills  
 When vagrant breezes bend the sinewy grass,  
 While sunshine on the widespread landscape spills  
 And light as down the fleet cloud shadows pass.

Mine, still, that freedom when the storm-clouds race,  
 Cracking their whips against defiant crags,  
 And mists swirl boiling up from inky space  
 To vanish on the instant, torn to rags.

When winter grips the mountains in a vice,  
 Silently stifling with its pall of snow,  
 Checking the streams, draping the rocks in ice,  
 Still to their mantled summits I would go.

Sun-drenched, I sense the peace the hills impart;  
 Storm-lashed, I hear it singing in my heart.

D. J. FRASER.

**THE CORROIR TRAGEDY.****30th December 1951.**

THE following notes have been received from J. Stanley Stewart (Glasgow J.M.C.S.), vetted and amplified by Richard Brown (S.M.C.). Both of these were concerned in the search and rescue party.

The party who met with misadventure consisted of John Black, John Bradburn, Sydney Tewnion and his wife Mrs Anne Tewnion, and James Grieve. All were members of the Glencoe Mountaineering Club and Black also belonged to the J.M.C.S. The sole survivor was Mrs Tewnion. They travelled to Corroir Station by afternoon train on Saturday, 29th December 1951. Having got a lift by lorry to Corroir Lodge, at the east end of Loch Ossian, they had a meal of beans and soup in the woods near-by and set off about 8.30 P.M. to cross the pass to Ben Alder Cottage on Loch Ericht. The night was dark and reasonably calm, with slight snowfall. The party were rather heavily laden with much food and a pressure cooker. Their clothing was possibly inadequate, especially below the waist. No man wore more than one pair of trousers; two wore corduroys and one seemed to be wearing only a thin pair of wind-proof trousers: but a pair of wet flannels was subsequently found at the bivouac place.

About  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles up the glen three of the party became tired, and they made a bivouac at 10.30 P.M. in the lee of a steep tributary burn. Snow must have been cleared, as capes next the grass were afterwards found. One rescue team member considered that more digging and building would have produced a better shelter in which they could have cooked. The location was where the Allt Glas Choire joins the Uisge Labhrach, about 1,700 feet altitude.

Bradburn and Grieve pushed on to try and cross the bealach W.S.W. of Ben Alder; but they found the snow too soft and deep, so they, too, bivouacked half an hour later. They woke at 6 A.M., the gale already blowing hard, and went on (wind behind them) towards the bealach. They turned back, however, and met the

others at 9.15 A.M. near the small lochan Allt Ghlascoire (where Grieve left his rucksack).

The other three left their bivouac about 8 A.M., deciding to go onward *with* the gale, so as not to worry their two friends in front, who would be expecting them at Alder Cottage. Conditions were bad. It was too cold to wrap up sleeping sacks, and rucksacks were frozen. They appear to have eaten hardly any food in the morning, although the rucksacks contained a good deal of such things as chocolate, shortbread and biscuits, which would not require any cooking.

They met the other two, who were returning, at 9.15 A.M. and all now returned, reaching the bivouac site about 10 A.M. The wind and hail were exceptionally strong, and they could not stand against it at times. They all left their rucksacks. Grieve was not feeling well and was being helped along by the Tewnions, while Black and Bradburn went in front. Then they changed over, and shortly after Grieve died—about half a mile from the bivouac. The others pushed on for barely half a mile, when John Black and Sydney Tewnion collapsed. Mrs Tewnion stayed with them for about two hours until about 12.30 P.M., during which time they must have died. Meanwhile Bradburn had continued, in a last effort to reach Corrour Lodge, but he failed, collapsed and died about half a mile farther on.

When no one came back Mrs Tewnion went on herself and succeeded in reaching the Keeper's house at 2.30 P.M.

A small party of S.M.C. and J.M.C.S. members were staying at Corrour Lodge. They went out with the Keeper and two of his men, and found Bradburn, Black and Tewnion (all dead). A message was sent to the police, and on Monday, 31st December, a large party brought in all four bodies and the gear from the bivouac.

The climbers in the rescue party included C. G. M. Slessor, C. Donaldson, J. Russell and R. Brown (S.M.C.), and S. Stewart, R. McLennan, G. Waldie, D. Mill (J.M.C.S.), with police and members of S.Y.H.A. The R.A.F. mountain rescue team called at the Lodge but did not go beyond, as things were well in hand by that time. Cordial thanks is due to Mr Andrew Tait (Keeper)

and other estate employees who helped to locate and recover the bodies.

*Publicity.*—The line from Corrour Lodge was cut by falling trees, and one of the climbing party took a message to the railway station, to be phoned to the police at Spean Bridge. It was requested that there be no press publicity—but in vain.

The foregoing statement covers all the relevant facts so far as they have been ascertained. The value of such an account, so far as the activities of younger climbers of the future are concerned, would appear to lie in confining any comments and implied warnings to a bare established minimum. The immediate cause of the calamity was the exceptional force of the gale, that scarifying wind, hail and cold, which the rescue party experienced as well, and which did not show signs of moderation until Sunday evening. Under such conditions it would be extremely difficult, unless in a sheltered position, to effect a change of clothing. This difficulty would be all the greater after a night of exposure to cold and wet conditions.

No doubt there may have been an error of judgment in pushing on without adequate nourishment on the Sunday morning, and especially on the final retreat from the bivouac site. By then, however, physical weakness must already have been experienced, and it would have seemed incredible that the party would fail to reach Corrour Lodge, only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant, if they made an immediate start. It has been suggested in some quarters that Mrs Tewnton may have acted as a drag on the party. In fact she assisted the weaker members and endeavoured to revive them, feeding them with barley sugar, etc., but they were by that time unable to swallow or assimilate any food at all.

These, then, are the ascertainable facts. It is easy to be wise after the event, but it is surely desirable that something may be learned from the tragedy for the guidance of future winter parties. Dr Duff deals with the physiological aspects in the following short article.

Although such a violent gale is rare in a Scottish winter it is always a possibility, especially when bad

weather has been forecast, as in this case. There was no moon, and darkness would make things more difficult where heavy going and snowdrifts might be expected at the higher parts of the route. The distance from Corrour Lodge to Alder Cottage is not great, but these factors have to be taken into account. Two other comments may be made. It is never desirable to split a party under doubtful conditions. This may well have contributed to a fatal indecision of movement on the following day. Finally, it is difficult to see that any material advantage was gained from a bivouac between the two places. These few comments are offered in no critical spirit, but may help other parties to avoid a similar catastrophe.

### **EXPOSURE TRAGEDIES.**

**By Dr D. G. Duff.**

IT seems that current opinion on the subject of exposure should be reviewed; a recent disaster gives ground for further thinking. Personally I had always assumed, as did most other people, that the victims of exposure were affected by a gradually increasing lassitude and weakness, developing as the hours went by to slow, lingering exhaustion before the end came. It was often advised that affected persons be kept awake by walking them about. It is often thought that the end is painful.

These assumptions are wrong where there is a complete using up of physical energy. In the case of fit men in good training, with will-power to drive them on to physical exertion in the face of cold and high wind, the end may come more or less suddenly. There is a preliminary stage when, as body heat and vitality are sapped, the faculties of co-ordination of movements, of sight and hearing deteriorate. The physical vigour of a man in good training does not give the immunity against cold that one might expect; and a woman, apparently less robust, may be the more capable of withstanding these conditions. This is a thing many men find hard to credit; we are so long accustomed to thinking ourselves the stronger sex.

Women have a heat-regulating mechanism and a physical economy adapted rather to preserve the life force, as contrasted with the male capacity to muster and to dissipate energy in action. Women proved their superior endurance frequently as survivors in open boats in the Atlantic in war-time.

On the assumption that the end is long-drawn-out, it has frequently been accepted as a fact that, if a rescue party could be organised at once, succour could be given. Where there has been physical exhaustion, however, such a hope will normally be vain; for death has already quickly followed on collapse.

Thus survivors of mountain disasters who, for reasons a psychologist could explain, often have had to accept more criticism than credit, have more than once been unjustly blamed. Public opinion can be so full of sympathy for the victims that consideration for survivors is correspondingly minimised. So would arise such a miscarriage of justice as the charging of a woman survivor with the murder of her husband and son in Poland before the last war.

It should be recognised that, if there is serious exposure on mountains, strength must be shrewdly conserved and not dissipated in persistent effort. The breaking-point may come, for males at least, suddenly and unexpectedly. It is wrong to assume that one must keep going at all costs. To lie down, conserving bodily heat with all ingenuity possible in using favourable features of the environment, will be life-saving. There should then be minimum movement to preserve circulation in the extremities while awaiting more favourable weather conditions.

We know how safely one can lie out—should this be inevitable—even on a boisterous winter night above 3,000 feet on Scottish hills, given reasonable shelter from wind, with only normally efficient climbing clothing. It is safe if one is not physically exhausted. The essential is to preserve a sufficient reserve of energy in severe conditions with cold and high winds.



## NEW CLIMBS.

### SKYE.

*West Buttress of Sgumain, Superstition* (350 feet, Very Difficult).—Climbed on 13th July 1951 by J. D. Foster, J. R. Stead (both Leeds U.C.C.) and B. L. Blake (C.C.). The side of the buttress overlooking Coire Lagan has on it a prominent steep wall, about 150 feet high and about 200 feet up. The route starts directly under the left edge of the wall and about 150 feet below it, at the foot of a gully slanting left across the buttress.

1. 80 feet. Diagonal traverse to left up right-hand wall of gully to large sloping ledge.
2. 70 feet. Up easy slabs to right to grassy terrace. Up wall and over slabs to foot of chimney, left corner of prominent wall.
3. 40 feet. Climb slabs to immediate left of chimney to belay.
4. 30 feet. Traverse into chimney and go up to large ledge and belay.
5. 50 feet. Move right along sloping ledge and up steep corner. Traverse left across steep slab and up corner to finish.

*West Buttress, Sunset Slab* (500 feet, Hard Severe).—Climbed on 13th July by J. D. Foster and B. L. Blake. From Coire Lagan one notices a prominent white blaze at foot of long, steep crack—mentioned in account of West Trap Route. This is reached by about 100 feet of scrambling. Above, the crack is blocked by an overhang and appears impossible. The route uses steep slab slanting left from the crack. The only sound belay is 30 feet below the foot of the slab.

1. 90 feet. Up slab to stance and belay in crack below small overhang.
2. 110 feet. Up overhang and up slab and a corner crack until one reaches a steep crack on right bounding wall of slab.
3. 45 feet. Up crack.
4. 140 feet. Easy traverse right to foot of deep-cut crack.
5. 90 feet. Up steep, strenuous crack.
6. 100 feet. Continue up crack to effect junction with West Trap Route—and up 150 feet of latter.

*Goat's Gully, Sgùrr nan Gobhar* (700 feet, Moderate).—Probable first ascent. Climbed by T. Shaw and C. M. Dixon, unroped, on 9th August 1950. Time, 1 hour.

We noticed this gully when returning from Coire Lagan as a conspicuous black gash on the south flank of Sgùrr nan Gobhar. One wet afternoon we set out from Glenbrittle and climbed the gully; a rope was not used. The lower section is a botanist's paradise, followed by a loose stretch, a climber's nightmare. A few pitches follow, with one fine through route about half-way up. The top pitch is more serious, but if the party is to enjoy the gully as we did they must set out in a very carefree state of mind. The one claim to fame is that it is the nearest climb to Glenbrittle, and we were surprised to find no hint of an earlier ascent.

*Fox-trap, Sgùrr a' Mhadaidh* (200 feet, Very Difficult).—Climbed by C. M. Dixon (J.M.C.S.) and W. D. Brooker (Cairngorm Club and Aberdeen U.M.C.) in boots on 4th August 1951. Time,  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour.

On the south-west face of the third peak, starting from the Upper Rake to the right of Two-pitch Gully. It is the narrow trap-dyke chimney, well seen from the south-west peak of Mhadaidh, slanting to the right. The chimney can easily be reached from the ridge by descending the rake leading into Tairneilear from the 2,810-foot col between the third and south-west peaks, and is the first fault encountered on the way down. The route follows the chimney throughout, passing a few chockstones higher up, and finishes on the main ridge.

*Central Buttress, Sron na Ciche*.—The climb starts on a steep rock wall just left of the point where Mallory's Route leaves Central Gully. Here is a small cairn.

1. 90 feet. Climb the steep rock on good holds to a large sloping platform. Detached block belay.

The next two pitches are nail-scratched, but thereafter there are no scratches.

2. 30 feet. Climb over bulge above block and bear right across a short slab to a break in small overhang above. Climb this on to a sloping gangway which is followed to the left to the foot of a crack. (Flake belay.)

3. 60 feet. Climb the steep crack on good holds, step right to another crack and left again at the top of this. Climb wall above for about 20 feet, bearing right to edge of a shallow gully. (Small spike belay.)

4. 50 feet. Climb steep rock immediately above to a large flake belay and small stance.

5. 80 feet. Exposed and delicate. Starting a few feet left of belay, climb upwards and to right until almost at a detached block on the edge of the gully. Step up on to a sloping gangway and traverse left, involving a delicate step across smooth steep rock to the foot of a bulge. Climb up over the bulge and continue for 15 feet,

bearing slightly right to a large sloping ledge, at the left-hand end of which is a belay of two spikes and a small stance.

6. 60 feet. Difficulty maintained for 10 feet. Surmount the bulge above the belay. The angle then eases and holds improve. Continue straight up to an easy-angled slab. (Belay.)

7. 40 feet. Easy scrambling up the slab to foot of steeper rock above.

8. 90 feet. Climb the wall above, using a small trap-dyke marked in its upper section by a conspicuous sinuous offshoot. After about 30 feet of steep difficult climbing another slab is reached which leads easily to foot of next steep section.

9. 90 feet. Climb a large groove above. This is interrupted in the middle by a short, steep slab. There is a slight overhang at the top of the groove. From here follow easy arête to thread belay under block about 30 feet higher. This is upper part of Amphitheatre Arête.

10. 80 feet. Easy scrambling along arête. Descend into small gully on right of arête to a triangular patch of grass and scree below the final tower. (Belay in crack.)

11. 80 feet. Steep rock with good holds leads to a belay on the edge of gully at right-hand side of tower and at the foot of the final steep wall.

12. 70 feet. Very exposed and probably the most difficult part of the climb. Traverse upwards and left on small holds to a break in overhang above, containing a loose block. Climb the break, avoiding the block. From here the left wall of a steep groove leads to the top. A few feet of scrambling to belay.

This climb, first attempted by D. Leaver and A. Smee in July 1950, was finally completed in July 1951 by D. Leaver and J. Gott. They consider the standard to be Hard Severe (possibly more for pitches 5 and 12). They used rubbers. Mallory's Route is used to the point where it leaves Central Gully, so giving a total climb of about 1,000 feet. After leaving Mallory's Route the climb goes up the steep wall to the left, straight up to the upper part of Collie's Amphitheatre Arête. Crossing a shallow gully to the right of this it finishes up a steep tower to the highest point of Sron na Ciche. The authors consider that the name Central Buttress is therefore suitable.

*Sron na Ciche: Cioch Upper Buttress, Integrity* (250 feet, Severe).—First ascent by D. D. Stewart and C. E. Ross, 29th June 1951.

Start at a cairn on the Shelf, a few feet above the grassy platform behind the Cioch. Climb recess, emerging with difficulty on to the steep slab above. Make straight for the sloping glacis above Crack

of Doom. Turn an overhang on the right and surmount another direct. Later the fault widens and contains large jammed blocks.

*Sron na Ciche: Cioch Buttress, Cioch Grooves* (475 feet, Very Severe).—First ascent by I. G. McNaught Davis and G. H. Francis, 9th September 1951.

Start on wide, easy ledge leading from screes to second pitch of Cioch Direct. Keep to left of this all the way to the Terrace, though it is very close to the older route at the latter's first crux (Chimney). First and third pitches are long and exacting. On both a piton is used. Close to "chimney" of Cioch Direct a horizontal left traverse gives access to easier grooves leading to the Terrace.

*Sgumain, North Buttress Direct* (600 feet, Very Severe).—First ascent by D. D. Stewart, A. Colquhoun and P. Vaughan on 21st September 1951.

Climb first three pitches of E. Wood Johnston's original route, branch left up a wide, broken groove in the steep cliff to a rake sloping up to right. After 80 feet of the rake climb prominent slab on the left. The last and hardest pitch follows. Climb an overhanging wall and move left to a steep slab ending on roof of buttress.

*Sgùrr Thearlaich, Quiver* (250 feet, Severe).—First ascent by J. Hammond and R. Morden on 16th May 1951.

The route is on Ghrunnda face of pinnacled south wall of Thearlaich-Dubh Gap. Climb steep cracks, a few feet to right of prominent right-angled corner at foot of the pinnacle. Traverse left above the corner before climbing a steep and severe wall on small holds. Easier but less reliable rocks lead to the top of the pinnacle by its left edge.

*Cioch West, Sron na Ciche*.—J. G. S. Smith reports a new variation.

About 200 feet from the start, after what "Guide" describes as an awkward slab, the scratches on normal route go to the right, but also to the foot of a wall above the slab, and then peter out. Wall was climbed directly on sloping holds. Near the top two steep, difficult moves were made, to the right on a flake handhold, on stocking soles as rock was wet. Pitch ends at centre of "long and exposed traverse to left." The pitch, about hard severe, required 120 feet of rope. An obvious handhold on it was a loose block when tested, and would have been removed by a previous climber, if any.

## ISLE OF RUM.

1. *Askival N.W. Face, Rolling-pin Route* (200 feet, Very Difficult).—Ascended 28th June 1951.

This route goes up a break in the steep rocks between Askival Slab and W. H. Murray's "Atlantic Ridge." The start is in a gully about 30 feet to the right of Askival Slab. The gully is broken 80 feet up by an overhang, after which it narrows to a chimney. Go up the gully, without difficulty, about 60 feet, and out to a belay on the left. From here a slab, often wet, is climbed straight up to the overhang, where it is possible to traverse right and up to a rather tight niche. Leave this by an anxious traverse again to the right, into a chimney. Belay 10 feet up. Continue up the chimney and through a narrow exit (or round to the left, which is harder). Another 30 feet brings one to a ledge (cairn), and the finish. Many lines to the top of the mountain.

2. *Trallval, Harris Buttress, Central Gully* (300 feet, Very Difficult).—Ascended 2nd July 1951.

Harris Buttress has some big overhangs on its right-hand side. Right of these is Archangel Route. Left is a buttress with the Central Rib climb on it. Between Central Rib and the overhangs is a straight black gully slanting right. This is Central Gully. Start as for Central Rib, but where it steepens go right over easy ground to the foot of the gully. It is awkward to start, and two further similar pitches lead to a belay, below where the gully is divided into two chimneys. Both have been climbed, the right one being severe. Ahead is a steep crack, in the ascent of which a flake on the right wall proved of assistance. Above, an assortment of cracks leads up for over 100 feet to a chimney with a prominent chockstone, and the finish.

3. *Archangel Route*.—Variation start, same standard, ascended 2nd July 1951.

For those who do not fancy W. H. Murray's aerial pitch it is possible to reach the "Great Groove" by a start some 40 feet to the right of the original (small cairn). Steep rocks lead up a sort of groove, the route then trending right for 150 feet to the foot of the Great Groove.

The above climbs on Rum were done by Andrew Wailes-Fairbairn and Edward Wrangham leading through.

### NORTHERN HIGHLANDS.

*Beinn a' Mhuinidh, Prelude* (165 feet, Severe).—This route is on the lower band of rocks, which slants down towards the south-east (as seen from Kinlochewe), some distance to the right of the prominent waterfall. From the bottom a steep corner and arête are seen on the immediate left of a gully and to the right of a reddish-

coloured wall, with a rowan tree, high on the cliff to the left. Twenty feet of scrambling lead to cairn at foot of the rock.

1. 60 feet. Up wall for 40 feet, avoiding first overhang on left. Up wall to second large overhang (thread belay).

2. 30 feet. Up overhang which is best turned on left edge, moving back to right edge when feasible, straight up on small holds to ledge with large shattered blocks.

3. 60 feet. Step left and climb wall for 20 feet to abrupt end on ledge. Left again to next wall and 20 feet up to top of small pinnacle. Left and up easier rock to top. Loose rock in places.

First ascent July 1951 by J. D. Foster and D. Leaver (see article on Beinn Lair).



A' MHAIGHDEAN, PILLAR BUTTRESS.

Bell's Route + + +.

Leeds Route o o o.

E.U.M.C. Triple Cracks Route - - -.

*A' Mhaighdean, Pillar Buttress (Variation).*—The following variation start was made by J. D. Foster and D. Leaver in August 1951. Three pitches, which make the whole route more direct, lead to a junction with Bell's route of 1950. A diagram clarifies the positions of three routes on this face.

The start is to the right of the large crack. The first 60-foot pitch goes up a short wall to right of a cairn. Traverse right under overhang; go up on to sloping gangway and then left along it to grassy corner. Second pitch, 75 feet up short wall on left of belay, across short slab on to arête, then up to large grass ledge and belay. Finally, 40 feet up wall above ledge and up slabs to stance and belay. The Parallel Cracks pitch of earlier route now follows.

The diagram is from a photograph by J. S. Bennet, taken in July 1951, across Gorm Loch Mor. Mr Arthur J. Bennet's route is called Triple Cracks Route, and he points out that this route follows the same fault all the way, directly up the buttress to the final boulder-choked chimney (top of Bell's route, 1950). The triple crack is the pitch below this, the mild-severe crux of the route. He concludes that Foster's route did not cross his own and must have been always to the left.

*A' Mhaighdean, West Face.*—A fairly direct route of about 850 feet has been made up this face on 2nd July 1951 by C. G. M. Slesser with Geoffrey Dutton and J. Wight (Edinburgh J.M.C.S.). From Dubh Loch one faces this wall, falling steeply to a gully running along its base. The southern extension of the face borders on this, being easily accessible only at two points, both low down where the face tapers into a grassy slope. Ascend this to the neck at the foot of the steep rock on the right-hand or southern edge of the face, overlooking the gully (cairn). Follow the easiest line up moderate rock and grass to a large sloping grass terrace, leading indefinitely eastward. Now climb directly until forced on to the west face, by a steep grassy rake to a large perched block. A steep mossy groove now cuts up the west face. The route follows a rib to the right of this for 150 feet to a second terrace from which clean rock leads to the summit.

The description is now rather complicated and, on such a face, it is likely that no two parties will follow the same route. The route is of continuous interest, never, except at one severe place, more than very difficult. A small cairn shows the way to another terrace. Traverse right to an obvious crack leading up 100 feet of difficult rock to a good stance, then up to the right to a mossy stance at foot of steep corner between a detached block and the face. This is the unavoidable crux. Above is a further crack which is divided by a nose 70 feet up, where left branch is used, to reach another grassy rake. Another slab and crack follow, and easier rocks lead to overhanging block and a 20-foot chimney. Soon a final steep exposed slab leads to the top.



*Sgùrr na Laocainn, Torr na h'Iolaire*.—Both appear to be a part of Sgùrr a Chaisgean Mor. The first name appears on the O.S. 1-inch map and the second in the "Northern Highlands" Guide, which also describes the route of W. N. Ling and G. T. Glover. Ling has commented on the following routes as probably being in the same neighbourhood, but that various routes can be worked out on the cliff. Slessor's party on 3rd July 1951 were on the right-hand hill directly above Carnmore. This has a series of small crags all the way up to the two-tier summit buttress. The lower crags are very steep. The following routes were done on the Summit crags:—

*Skyline Route, Lower Summit Buttress* (200 feet, Very Difficult).—Cairn on left end of terrace. At true skyline ascend directly on small holds (90 feet). Traverse left a few feet and go straight up for 100 feet on good rock to another ledge. Some good climbs are now available on upper Summit Crag.

*Upper Summit Crag*.—All routes lead to summit level. Three routes were made: (1) Continuing lower route go left to a ledge for 100 feet across a vertical face to a grassy terrace. Ascend obvious groove for 70 feet on small holds to stance below overhang. Go right across steep slab and up past a detached flake to easier ground. This is a 150-foot very difficult route on magnificent rock.

(2) *Recess Cairn Route* (80 feet, Severe).—From point reached on terrace (cairn in recess) follow direct continuation of lower route, ascending straight to a detached flake (30 feet), then moving out leftwards (difficult holds) to a perched block. Traverse right and up on balance holds, the crux, to easier rocks. From detached flake, by right traverse of 50 feet, is an easier way. (3) Further to the right easier rocks are available.

*West Face Ledge Route* (500 feet, Difficult).—This steep face is high up, the largest continuous face above Carnmore on the right, rising for 400 feet, and crossed by two terraces which meet on the right. Lower crags are difficult to penetrate. This was visited in the late evening, approaching by a prominent, wide black chimney from below. Above this (70 feet) traverse left under overhang to a break and climb to terrace above. Follow it right and then go left to a point half-way up the face. Two hundred feet of steep cliff leads to the top but, at the late hour, was not climbed. An escape was made up ledges to the left and then up.

*Beinn Airidh a' Charr, Lower Buttress Direct* (500 feet, Severe).—C. G. M. Slessor's party made this direct route on 4th July 1951. Starting on the N.E. Buttress at the lowest rocks just above the east end of Lochan

Doire Chrisnaich the first 70 feet were loose and flaky, the route going leftwards up a gentle rake. They then followed the line of least resistance on interesting rock to easy grass and rock leading on for 300 feet to the beginning of boiler plate slabs, above which a 100-foot vertical cliff barred all progress. The wall is smooth except for a vertical crack on the upper portion near the centre.

Below and left of this is a 15-foot-high sentry-box and to the right a short grassy ledge, easily accessible, and a good stance. A piton belay was used. The next 20 feet form the crux, with a very severe move out over the nose of the sentry-box. The piton was a vital foothold. The leader must, owing to lack of belay, continue to the right across the face on a narrow ledge with good holds, and then back again over slabs higher up (belay at 50 feet). The remaining rocks are easy.

The route was now continued upwards above this lower buttress to the summit, by traversing left and gaining the upper buttress; an excellent climb on good rock close to the original route. Thus the whole route is about 1,500 feet of most enjoyable climbing and grand views.

*Beinn Airidh a' Charr, Square Buttress* (400 feet, Difficult).—This was climbed on 18th July 1951 by J. C. Stewart and S. McPherson on one rope and W. D. Brooker and J. W. Morgan on another. Well to the left (or south east) of the main crag is a smaller face whose main feature is this buttress flanking it on the left—steep and well defined below but falling back in easy slabs and short walls higher up.

It shows up, but not clearly, on the photograph on page 47, "Northern" Guide. To the right of this buttress is a prominent black crack, about 160 feet long. It gave a steep two-pitch climb, about very difficult standard. Between buttress and the black crack are more broken rocks which were moderate and used for descent. On the photo reproduced in this number only the shadow of the cleft of the black crack appears, so that Square Buttress is out of the picture on the left.

The start of Square Buttress is up a leftward gangway from the bottom right-hand corner, leading to a ledge followed rightwards for 20 feet. The wall above is steep and then slabby. A further 60-foot pitch ends the lower half of the route. The upper half is easy but interesting. The rock is sound.

*Arcuil, South Rib.*—Climbed by T. Weir and A. D. S. MacPherson.

In early May 1951 a climb was done on a rock rib on the south-west face of Arcuil. The rock rib in question encloses a prominent gully and is the largest piece of rock on this face. It is only a short walk from the house marked "Lone" on the map. (See plate facing p. 74, "Northern" Guide. The rib is the right edge of the first gully on right.) It makes a pleasant scramble, 600 feet, and difficulty can be found if required. By its easiest route it is not more than moderate, and is a pleasant way of getting height on the peak.

*Creag Dionard, Fionne Bheinn.*—Climbed in May 1951 by T. Weir and A. D. S. MacPherson.

A prominent gully with waterfalls comes down the face of the north buttress of this magnificent crag. It provided a good route for a foul day of rain, with plenty of interest but no particular difficulties. The rock was sound and the climb some 800 feet. The possibilities on this face are enormous.

*Quinag.*—Climbed in May 1951 by T. Weir and A. D. S. MacPherson.

East of the Barrel Buttress there is a broken buttress which gave a difficult but indefinite climb with some good situations. Owing to the broken nature of the climb, accurate description is impossible. Start was made on the west edge, then leftward and straight up over steep rocks.

### CAIRNGORMS, LOCHNAGAR.

*Braeriach, Coire Bhrochain, Domed Ridge* (600 feet, Moderately Difficult).—This is the prominent buttress or ridge between the Western Gully and the Western Buttress. It is divided from the main mass of Western Buttress by a forked gully, the left branch of which is a vertical black chimney. It was first ascended on 26th July 1951 by W. D. Brooker and J. W. Morgan.

The start is up easy pink slabs seamed with cracks. The route goes right by a series of shelves to avoid a steep tower. The crest is regained and here consists of huge boulders and screes. A nick in the ridge lies below the final dome which overhangs directly in front. A low traverse to the right round a corner leads to a wonderful final 120-foot pitch of red granite walls and slabs of exhilarating steepness. Easy rocks lead to the plateau.

*Lochnagar: West Buttress, Causeway Rib* (400 feet, Very Difficult).—It is the rib bounding Gargoyle Chimney on the left and, after a 100 feet, the climbing is very similar to that on Gargoyle Direct. It was first ascended on 10th June 1951 by J. C. Stewart and W. D. Brooker.

Start a little to the left of the chimney. Climb right and then traverse left to a grassy rut which leads up to the left to a belay at 60 feet. Here a grass patch leads off to the left, but one regains the rib by a very awkward mantelshelf, leading to a block belay in a recess. Climb down to the right for 15 feet and round a corner into a grassy gully which cuts back into the buttress. Twenty feet up, this gully terminates against a rock wall. In each of the corners of the wall is a crack. Climb the right-hand crack into a wide V-cleft, at the top of which is the crest of the rib.

Ten feet farther up traverse right for a few feet to the head of a chimney and follow slabs, grooves and walls for 100 feet to a sharp little pinnacle. Some slabs above lead to great, shattered blocks on the crest overlooking Gargoyle Chimney. At 90 feet the rib swings left. In order to gain the level causeway above, cross the upper lip of the huge, smooth wall plunging into the chimney. An avoidable final tower of 60 feet makes a pleasant finish.

*Lochnagar, Miscellaneous.*—W. D. Brooker reports the following recent climbs by T. W. Patey: Shadow Chimney (severe); Scarface (very difficult), which is the buttress between Raeburn's Gully and the Pinnacle; a variation (very difficult) of the upper part of West Rib. He also, with D. G. Leslie, on 8th September 1951, reports a first ascent of *Creag an Dubh Loch; Labyrinth Edge*, 800 feet, Very Difficult., which will be reported in our next issue.

## GLENCOE.

*Aonach Dubh, West Face, No. 6 Gully.*—This gully of about 600 feet, so far unclimbed in summer, was climbed under winter conditions on 30th March 1951 by D. H. Munro and Peter Drummond Smith. They classed it as very severe and harder than S.C. Gully on the other side of the mountain. It is the most southerly of the obvious gullies on the west face, above Coire Beith. It contains four ice pitches separated by steep snow slopes.

The first is straightforward (50 to 60 feet). The second is difficult to start; it is best tackled from the extreme right-hand lower corner (60 to 70 feet). The third may be turned on the left-hand gully wall.

The last, which constitutes the sixth of the climb, is 150 feet high, but may be divided into two pitches by making use of a large ledge half-way up on the left-hand gully wall. A piton is useful here as a belay. The second run-out (90 feet) is very steep and strenuous—most of the steps have to be cut with one hand only. Start up the

corner at the back of the ledge, then move right on to an obvious rib which leads to a small platform; from here straight up, making an exit at the top left-hand corner.

The snow slope above this pitch leads to an amphitheatre from which several exits are possible.

*Aonach Dubh, No. 2 Gully Buttress, Rose Innominate* (150 feet, Hard Very Severe).—The main feature of the buttress is a steep slab of very rough, clean rock, which is split by a thin crack. Cairn at the foot. Ascended August 1951 by A. E. Maskey and P. G. White.

1. The crack is climbed for 20 feet to a small ledge and piton belay (runner). Next is the crux. Follow the crack to a block at the top of the slab and a belay 10 feet beyond (60 feet). Traverse right for 6 feet on a grassy ledge.

2. Climb the slightly overhung crack in the corner to an overhung ledge and small cave (15 feet). Traverse left for 10 feet to a piton belay under the overhang.

3. Climb the groove which overhangs at its base (25 feet). There is a piton 10 feet up the groove: then easy rocks to the top (60 feet).

*Aonach Dubh, Glencoe, East Face, Wall and Crack route* (300 feet, Very Difficult).—First ascent by G. Batty and K. Miller, May 1951.

Start 20 yards right of Weeping Wall route. Climb the wall directly under a rowan tree, then the wall above to another rowan tree (belay). The wall and crack directly above are climbed, where belay on small ledge on left is only suitable for line. Climb the square corner above and then moderate rocks to the terrace.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

*Ben Nevis: Raeburn's Buttress, Continuation Wall.*—Climbed on 7th October 1951 by Tom Weir, Ian McNicol, and Allan McNicol.

Where the gully of Raeburn's Buttress narrows to become a chimney there is a left branch cleaving a rather repulsive wall. Water-worn slabs led to a small belay with an awkward stance for the second man. Some loose rock was cleared away and, backing up on small holds, an exposed 30 feet of vertical rock led to the crux, where exit from a corner has to be made over a bulge. The obvious jug handle is loose and cannot be safely used. This delicate move lands the climber on a platform where a left upward traverse leads to Cousins Buttress. Classification severe. Route not recommended if it is greasy and wet.

*Ben Nevis: North Trident Buttress of Carn Dearg.*—Douglas C. Hutchison writes that there is some doubt as to the exact location of the first ascent of this buttress where, in the "Guide," it is stated that "a ridge ending in a tower, which from below has the appearance of a detached pinnacle, is really connected by a neck to the mountain." He found this tower to present a mild severe pitch with a run-out of 60 feet of rope. The rock showed no nail marks, though it was well scratched lower down. The "Guide" classifies the route as difficult, and Kellett classified it as moderate. The pitch is not obviously avoidable.

*Cir Mhor, Rosa Pinnacle, East Wall, Direct Finish* (Hard Severe).—This very attractive finish was made by J. Stewart Orr and John C. Maclaurin (Glasgow University Mountaineering Club) in May 1951.

From the cyrie at the foot of large acute-angled block (*Journal*, Vol. 23, p. 185) continue straight up to left of block over moderate rock to a corner at the foot of a crack (30 feet). Climb corner by a flake on left-hand wall by a layback. Fifteen feet up one reaches the lower of two horizontal cracks running leftwards. The lower is flat, the upper incut and they are 5 feet apart, access being difficult and strenuous. Follow them leftwards to the crest of the last few feet of south ridge, and so to the top.

*A Winter Climb on Beinn Fhada, Kintail.*—On 14th April 1951 C. L. Donaldson, J. Russell and G. Dutton (J.M.C.S.) climbed a gully on the north-east cliffs of Sgùrr a Choire Ghairbh, Beinn Fhada. The gully in question is the right hand of the two splitting the main buttress in the photograph in the 1947 *Journal* (p. 443). It is probably about 450 feet and has two pitches.

The lower third of the climb was straightforward snow and led to the first pitch, a slabby wall of rock coated with verglas. This was climbed on the extreme right up a steep vegetatious groove with a thin covering of snow. At about 40 feet the groove deepened to a chimney which was climbed on the left wall until a delicate step to the right led out on to good solid snow. The run-out was about 60 feet.

After another 100 feet of good snow the gully narrowed and was blocked by an iced chock-stone pitch of about 15 feet. This was quite difficult as the boulder was only thinly iced. Above this point good snow led to the top. There was no cornice.

**In Memoriam.****GEORGE PERCIVAL BAKER.****1856-1952.**

THE death of G. P. Baker at the advanced age of 95 has taken from us one of the oldest and most distinguished of the members of our Club.

He was the eldest son of a family of seven. On his coming of age his father gave him three months' holiday for travel with all expenses paid, and he chose to go to Persia. On his way there he stopped at Erivan, then a collection of mud hovels, now a modern city, capital of the Soviet of Armenia. Continuing south over the Araxes plain he was so struck with the appearance of Mount Ararat that he decided to climb it on his return.

Baker and his two friends provided themselves with native-made alpenstocks, small ice-axes and felted socks to pull over their boots. They were given an escort of Cossacks, and were hospitably entertained by their commanding officer. In the event, only Baker and one of his friends gained the 17,000-foot summit at 5 P.M.

The route had led from group to group of rocks, with hard snow in between, which required step-cutting. Baker wished to return by this route and use their steps, but his friend, against all advice, started to glissade the snow slope between the groups of rocks, with his alpenstock between his legs as a brake. He soon lost his alpenstock, his balance and all control, and was swept on to the 4,000-foot slope of hard snow, rolling and pitching over until lost to view. Baker crossed to some screes, descended to some projecting boulders, getting a nasty bump as well from a short glissade, and saw his friend some distance away but still alive. It was a lucky escape, as a few feet more would have taken him on to a smooth slope of 2,500 feet. Baker put his felt socks over his Persian-made boots and, with his hatchet, cut sixty steps to reach him.



He was, however, in a pitiable state, bruised, bleeding and shivering. They were still at 15,500 feet, and it was about sunset. They managed to return to the rocky ridge which they scrambled down, his friend with a right hand which was useless. At 11 P.M. they suffered from great thirst, but were unable to reach any water. The moon had gone down and it was very dark and cold. Thus they passed the hours until dawn, in a small recess formed by overhanging boulders. In the morning they were overjoyed to find that they were in the direct line of descent. Lower they came across tracks of their friends, whom they rejoined at 8 A.M. They had been without food for twenty-eight hours.

Baker had a great mountaineering record in many lands—Scotland, England, Wales, Caucasus (Eastern Daghestan), Norway, Rockies and Alps. In the Lakes the first ascent of the Eagle's Nest Ridge and the Arrowhead Ridge on Great Gable and also the Napes Needle with Solly, Slingsby and W. A. Brigg. In the Alps, with his brother-in-law J. Stafford Anderson, he made the first ascent of the Dent Blanche by the Viereselgrat with Alois Pollinger and Ulrich Almer; and with the same party the first ascent of the Schreckhorn by the N.W. ridge (Anderson Grat). In the Graians also, with his great friend George Yeld, he made several first ascents. It was with Yeld also that he made several first ascents in Daghestan (Eastern Caucasus, including Basardjusi, 14,620 feet).

In the Canadian Rockies, with Norman Collie, H. B. Dixon and others, he made the first ascent of Mount Gordon and of two rock peaks near Bow Pass, and Mount Sarbach, and the first passage of the Amiskevi Pass (Baker Pass). But here, in this *Journal*, we are more concerned with his doings in Scotland. In 1898, with James Maclay and G. A. Solly, he made a new route to the top of the First Pinnacle on Sgùrr nan Gillean from Loch a Choire Riabhaich and a new descent from Thearlaich to Loch Coruisk, with a long walk to Sligachan. The occasion was the August 1898 meet of the Club at Sligachan. He joined the Club as a life



*December 1950*

THE BEN LUI RANGE FROM ABOVE INVERRNAID  
(Lui in cloud with its head peeping through, Oss in sunshine and Dubhcraig in shadow)

*Tom Weir*

member in December of that year, proposed by Norman Collie. This is the only occasion I can trace of his attendance at a meet, but he used to stay with Colin Philip and Norman Collie at Glen Brittle House and also at Mrs Chisholm's. He knew the Main Ridge well and had been up the Cioch. He had a very high appreciation of the Skye hills, their scenery and colour.

The last year of his active climbing in the Alps was 1911, but he continued his travels in search of plants in Crete and the Balkans. He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1882, served as Vice-President in 1930 and was made an honorary member in 1946.

He had a strenuous business career in the oriental carpet trade and established the firm of G. P. & Y. Baker and Swaisland Printing Co. He was an authority, publishing a work on "Calico Painting and Printing in the East Indies in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries."

Of distinguished presence and fine physique, he was filled with a boundless energy. Even late in life he continued his travels in search of plants, and was President of the Iris Society, and in 1949 was awarded the Reginald Cory Memorial Cup for production of a new saxifrage deriving from a discovery of his on Mount Olympus.

His public activities also were many—Board of Guardians, St Bartholomew's Hospital Committee, Scout Movement, Juvenile Welfare, all benefited from his support, and he gave a hall in memory of his own sons who fell in the 1914-18 war. Last year he printed privately a most interesting account of his experiences, entitled "Mountaineering Memories of the Past." He deserved well of his fellow-men and will be much missed.

W. N. LING.

### **ROBERT STUART LOW.**

ROBERT STUART LOW was born on 7th April 1875 and died this year. He joined the Club in 1902 and was on the Committee 1924-26. He served his time as an engineer but, after a few years, turned to mountaineering

as his real vocation in life. He had climbed much more widely than most of us. In the Rockies, America, South Africa, the Alps, in New Zealand and all over Scotland.

He was one of the party who made the third ascent of Mount Cook in 1905. On the return from the summit at a comparatively low col he left the party to go down to the De la Beck Bivouac. He had the bad luck to fall, glissading on fairly easy ground, and broke the bones of a foot. He crawled, I forget how far or for how long, but he reached the bivouac. There he lay for ten days with a tin of cocoa as his only food. He rationed himself, but the tin was empty when a rescue party found him just alive. This did not daunt him, and when recovered he started climbing again and with a foot that was never in good shape. His son tells me Bob was rock-climbing in Skye when over 60 and that he did Sgùrr nan Gilleann when over 71!

In the early days he was always trying out ideas about new or better diet, light or heavy rucksacks—all that kind of thing. He was on the heavy idea when he and I left Aviemore one morning about 4 A.M. with 20-lb. ruckers! We walked over Braeriach and Cairn Toul and stayed the night at Braemar. Leaving next morning at about the same unearthly hour, we went over Tolmount, Cairn an Tuirc and Glas Maol down to Glen Isla and hence to Alyth. A distance for the two days of about 100 miles the way we had gone. A really dreadful party, but it cured Bob of heavy rucksack nonsense.

Bob Low was a delightful climbing companion; sturdy, resourceful and full of courage. He used to assume an air of deep pessimism which gave us, his friends, endless fun. And so yet another one of that decade of rare vintages of the seventies has passed away.

C. W. WALKER.

### **JAMES EDWARD MacLAREN.**

THE death in Birmingham, on 2nd October 1951, of James Edward MacLaren at the early age of 53 has deprived the Club of one of its most enthusiastic

supporters. Born in Nova Scotia, but of Highland descent, most of MacLaren's life was spent in the United States, in London, and finally in Birmingham. Between 1920 and 1930, however, he lived in Glasgow, a period which was undoubtedly one of the happiest in his life. Then, in congenial company, he was able to explore the home of his ancestors and to steep himself in the Highland history, folk-lore, customs and scenery which had appealed so strongly to his imagination from his earliest years. Then he discovered the hills! To be on and among them and to get to know them in their infinite variety of moods became his greatest interest, and he pursued it with that great enthusiasm which characterised all he did.

He was one of the early members of the J.M.C.S. and graduated to the S.M.C. in 1929. Business prevented him from attending many meets, but he was off to the hills at every opportunity. On the hills he was fast and full of energy; on the rocks he was efficient, enterprising and careful; and as a companion he was all that one could desire. Considering the comparatively short period during which he climbed he had his share of adventure, culminating in a "walk" to an Aviemore meet which might have had fatal results but for the temporary occupation of the Corrour Bothy. He never forgot that experience, and was grateful for the opportunity of acknowledging his debt when the bothy was recently restored.

As an engineer his life was associated with the manufacture of machine-tools. He was an outstanding member of his profession, holding important Government and industrial positions both during and after the war. These prevented his return to the hills, but his friends were delighted at his unexpected appearance at the dinner in 1949.

His love of the hills was such that he expressed the wish to be cremated and to have his ashes scattered among his beloved mountains. The last part of this wish was carried out by our member, the Rev. J. McCallum Young, on 17th November 1951, when a small party accompanied

him to the starting point of many of MacLaren's best climbing days—the Narnain Boulder in the Arrochar Highlands. He is survived by his widow and two daughters.

ARTHUR DIXON.

### I LOVE THE HILLS.

I LOVE the hills whose rugged crests  
 Soar jagged through the surging clouds,  
 On whose deep cleft the eagle nests,  
 Which swirling mist now clears, now shrouds.

I love the hills, those smooth round heights  
 Where you can laze a summer's day,  
 Whence one can scan the blended lights  
 Far down below in sunshine gay.

I love the hills when morning sun  
 Lights up their tops with roseate glow;  
 The valleys dark beneath them run,  
 Crests glistening with virgin snow.

I love the hills when evening lights  
 Suffuse the crests as home we wend,  
 The gloaming glow before the night,  
 The cheer ahead at journey's end.

I loved you first when boyhood's hopes  
 Sent me to gambol o'er your slopes,  
 Through years when hills and friendships blend,  
 Please God, I'll love you to the end.

J. S. M. JACK.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

### EASTER MEET, 1951—STRATHCARRON.

THIS was a new venue for a Club Meet and a most successful one, despite the bitterly cold and stormy weather at the start. This improved towards the end, so that Sunday and Monday were excellent. The high ridges commanded glorious panoramas, and there was good going underfoot with good sport in corries and on snow slopes.

At one time or another twenty-six members and two guests were present, distributed between Strathcarron and Loch Carron Hotels, which were filled to capacity. Food and comfort left nothing to be desired, except that certain enthusiasts complained of the lateness of breakfast.

At Loch Carron Hotel were seventeen members and two guests—The President, J. S. M. Jack and Messrs R. Grieve, J. F. Hamilton, R. R. S. Higgins, E. W. Hodge, R. G. Inglis, W. N. Ling, D. McArthur, P. E. McFarlane, T. D. McKinnon, G. G. Macphee, R. W. Martin, S. C. O'Grady, G. Peat, G. S. Roger, C. R. Steven, T. E. Thomson (members); and H. Coates, J. M. Frew (guests).

At Strathcarron Hotel were nine members—Messrs R. L. Beveridge, W. C. Carmichael, J. Dow, A. Dixon, R. R. Elton, A. Geddes, J. N. Ledingham, D. Mackay and W. Waddell.

### Expeditions.

Macphee and Coates enjoyed a preliminary meet by themselves, starting on their way north, on Sunday, 18th March, with Sron a Coire Ghairbh from Loch Lochy, Macphee also climbing Meall nan Teanga. On Monday they climbed Ben Wyvis and on Tuesday Moruisg. On Wednesday, 21st March, came their *pièce de résistance*, Bidean a' Choire Sheasgaich and Lurg Mhor, an expedition of eleven hours' duration carried out despite very stormy conditions.

*Thursday, 22nd March.*—On this day the meet may be assumed to have officially started. Weather was so bad that no one went out until after tea. Inglis, however, climbed Carn na Caim from Dalwhinnie in a blizzard on his way to the meet.



*Friday, 23rd March.*—Conditions were little better, but three parties climbed Fuar Tholl—Beveridge, Dow and Mackay from Coulags, Geddes and Waddell from Glen Lair, Martin and Thomson by a north-east gully from Glen Lair. Macphee and Coates walked up this glen to the bealach. Ling and O'Grady explored near A' Chioch of Applecross.

*Saturday, 24th March.*—A day of wintry showers and a bitter gale on the tops, with a few blinks of sunshine. The President, Hodge and Ling explored corries in Applecross (Sgorr na Caorach). Hamilton, Macfarlane and Roger traversed Beinn Liath Mhor, Sgorr Ruadh and Fuar Tholl, Grieve doing only the first two. Beveridge and Mackay climbed Sgorr Ruadh by the main north-east gully. Dow explored Glen Lair. Elton, Dixon and Waddell, from the Allt a' Chonais glen, climbed Sgurr Choinnich, Sgurr a Chaoruinn and Bidean an Eoin Deirg. Two other parties, less favoured mechanically, did the same round from Craig—Ledingham, Carmichael, MacArthur and Macphee, Martin, Thomson, Inglis, Coates; but only Macphee and Martin, of these parties, included the last peak. Higgins and Frew climbed Moruisg.

*Sunday, 25th March.*—This lovely day marked the peak attendance of the meet. Jack and Inglis, on Beinn Liath Beag, roused an eagle. Ling and Hodge were in Coire Lair. Peat and Beveridge used snow gullies both for ascent and descent of Fuar Tholl, and reported fine cornices. Higgins and Frew were on both Sgorr Ruadh and Fuar Tholl. Elton, Geddes, Dixon and Waddell were on Liath Mhor; the first two went on to Sgorr Ruadh. Mackay walked to Loch Coulin. Hamilton, Grieve, Macfarlane and Roger, from the head of the Chonais glen, did the round done by three parties on Saturday and added two tops of Meall Lunndaigh. Ledingham, Carmichael and MacArthur, from Craig, did all the Meall Lunndaigh tops. McKinnon and Steven did Moruisg. Dow, Thomson and Martin went to church, the latter two exploring the Chaoraichean corries (Applecross) later on.

*Monday, 26th March,* was dull and cold in the morning but clear and sunny later. The President, Ling, MacArthur and Dow went to Shielraig. O'Grady climbed Bheinn Bhan (Applecross). Elton and Geddes left, with designs on Fionn Bheinn. They took Ledingham, Carmichael and Dixon to Achnashellach, the first two doing Beinn Liath Mhor and Sgorr Ruadh, Dixon only Ruadh. Steven, Waddell, Mackay and Beveridge ascended Meall a' Chinn Deirg by the north-east ridge (Beveridge forgot his ice-axe). Inglis climbed Carn Mor Dearg; Roger, Grieve, McKinnon, Macfarlane, Hamilton climbed Ben Wyvis; Elton, Frew, Geddes, Higgins climbed Fionn Bheinn—all during return from the meet. The President and Ling got a rousing send-off on the evening train at Strathcarron—the end of a very successful meet.

**NEW YEAR MEET, 1952—BALLACHULISH.**

Weather conditions during the meet varied from the perfect to the impossible. Early arrivals met with poor conditions followed by a lovely day on Saturday, 29th December, of clearing mists and sunshine. Sunday, 30th, will long be remembered as one of the wildest days ever experienced. Winds of over 100 miles per hour, recorded at low levels, give an indication of conditions on the hills. No party succeeded in climbing a Munro, but John Wilson and Arnot Russell got very near the summit of Ben Sguliard before valour gave way to discretion. On low ground several members were picked up and blown some distance by the wind! The following two days gave high winds with hail, snow and mist on high ground. The 2nd of January, too late for most members, was a perfect winter day of brilliant sunshine and visibility. The hills carried much snow and gullies held ice, covered with new snow. Our thanks are due to Mr and Mrs Davidson of Ballachulish Hotel for a most comfortable and enjoyable stay. In all, twenty-eight members and guests were present at one time or another, while one or two stragglers resided at Clachaig, Lagangarbh and elsewhere. The list is as follows: J. S. M. Jack (President), R. R. Elton, J. M. Hartog, H. A. Hetherington, E. W. Hodge, R. G. Inglis, J. Y. Macdonald, J. E. MacEwen, T. D. MacKinnon, G. G. Macphee, D. H. MacPherson, W. H. Murray, S. C. O'Grady, Graham S. Ritchie, W. Arnot Russell, S. P. Taylor, T. E. Thomson, T. H. Tilly, D. G. Turnbull, H. W. Turnbull, J. D. B. Wilson (members); and C. Dodgson, Hill, C. G. Macdonald, D. Macphee, G. H. Read, G. Ritchie, C. C. Spence (guests).

Expeditions recorded were as follows:—

*Thursday, 27th December.*—G. G. Macphee and Hartog, Ben Sguliard.

*Friday, 28th December.*—Hartog and Hetherington, Buachaille Etive Beag.

*Saturday, 29th December.*—Macphee, Hartog, Hetherington, Dodgson, all tops of Ben Vair (also Tilly following later); H. W. Turnbull and T. E. Thomson, Sgurr Dhonuill; D. Turnbull, Macpherson and Read, Bidean by Ben Fhada ridge; Jack and Inglis went to 2,800 feet on Ben Vair; O'Grady and Spence, Sgor na h'Ulaidh.

*Sunday, 30th December.*—Russell and Wilson to near top of Sguliard; the two Macdonalds turned at 2,000 feet; O'Grady and Spence to Pap of Glencoe; D. Turnbull and Read to 2,400 feet on Sgurr Dhonuill with MacPherson part of the way. The President's party made the bulk of the congregation at Ballachulish Church.

*Monday, 31st December.*—MacEwen, Russell and Wilson by Glen Creran to Beinn Fhionnlaidh; the Ritchies and Hill to An Gearanach (Mamores); the Macdonalds, Sguliard; Inglis, Taylor and Thomson, Sgor nam Fiannaidh; Jack to the Pap of Glencoe; Macpherson, Read and Turnbull completed Ben Vair; H. W. Turnbull and Hetherington, Sgorr Dhearg; Elton and Tilly to Bidean via Stob Coire nam Beith and down Beinn Fhada with much step-cutting down to Coire Gabhail; O'Grady and Spence on Meall Garbh.

*Tuesday, 1st January.*—Inglis and Thomson, Pap of Glencoe; Jack and Taylor to a col on Ben Vair; MacEwen, Elton and Russell, Sgurr Eilde Mor; MacPherson and Read, Sgor na h'Ulaidh; Murray and McKinnon, Ben Vair.

*Wednesday, 2nd January.*—Elton and Russell, Ben Sguliard; MacEwen, skis on Meall a Bhuiridh.

*The doings of E. W. Hodge, who is allergic to records, remain shrouded in mystery.*

The Clachaig party consisted of George Arthur and Ross Higgins (members), with F. R. Wylie (J.M.C.S.) and D. G. Lambley (guests). On 31st December Arthur and Lambley were on Sgor nam Fiannaidh. On 1st January all went to Beinn Sguliard and on 2nd January all but Lambley were on Sgor na Ciche.

The Lagangarbh contingent were George Peat, G. J. Ritchie and A. H. Hendry. They climbed Curved Ridge of Buachaille on 31st December. On 1st January Ritchie climbed the Buachaille Beag with the J.M.C.S. The Editor and E. Chapman (J.M.C.S.) were at Black Rock, but visited all the meeting places between 31st December and 1st January, even discovering members at Kingshouse. They climbed Stob an Fhuarain on 31st, and the Editor climbed the face of Creag Dhubh (2,449 feet) by a steep and rather dangerous route on 2nd January over variable new snow and some ice.



*February 1951*

BEINN DUBHCRAIG

*Tom Weir*

## **ANNUAL MEETING, RECEPTION AND DINNER.**

THE Sixty-third Annual Meeting of the Club was held in the Central Hotel, Glasgow, on Saturday, 1st December 1951, at 4.30 P.M. Mr J. S. M. Jack, President, was in the Chair, and over fifty members were present.

The reports of the office-bearers and officials, having been already circulated to members, will not be detailed here, but a few significant particulars will be given in lieu of the *Bulletin*, which has not been issued.

On the Hon. Treasurer's report it appeared that expenditure was still rising, but receipts exceeded expenditure by about £25 as a consequence of the increase of subscription to £2. 2s. and a slight rise in membership.

The Hon. Secretary reported the death of four members—P. J. H. Unna, James MacLaren, A. J. Paton and R. S. Low—and the resignations of C. G. Andrews, J. A. Ramsay, Gordon Wilson and J. C. Davies. A. R. Lillie, whose whereabouts continued to be unknown, was removed from the list.

The following new members were admitted by the Committee and are welcomed into the Club: Stanley John Cairns, Leonard Scott Lovat, Ian Fraser Roberts, Iain Hugh Murray Smart. The total membership is now 316.

The Hon. Editor reported on the *Journal*, where costs were still rising, and sales offered some possibility of improvement. The net cost to the Club worked out at 8s. 7d. per member.

The Guide Books General Editor reported continued difficulties and publication delays. "Central Highlands" was nearly issued and "Islands," in proof stage, was expected to be issued in 1952. "Northern" was also well advanced. A party under the leadership of Dan Stewart was working on the "Skye" rock-climbing guide. The Committee had now decided to authorise production of "Munro's Tables" separately

(from "General Guide") and to defer other large guides, concentrating on the production of rock-climbing guides ("Nevis," "Skye," "Arrochar," "Arran"). In the course of discussion the meeting instructed the Committee to try to effect more rapid disposal of present stocks of guides.

The C.I.C. Hut report showed 470 hut nights, as against 514 for the previous year, with a slight decrease of revenue. J.M.C.S. and University Clubs were the most frequent visitors. The S.M.C. accounted for thirty-one nights by eleven members. Repair work included painting, pointing, stonework and minor repairs. Lagangarbh Hut showed 794 hut nights, also a decrease from the previous year. Some repair work was done and calor gas installed. The accounts showed a small surplus.

The Librarian reported book issues of eighty-seven during the year and thirteen sets of slides. Additions to slide collection comprised thirty from members, a box of slides from Allan Arthur and his whole collection from P. J. H. Unna.

The East of Scotland Section held eight lectures during 1951 with average attendance of fifty-seven. The Western Section held twelve evening lectures in the Glasgow Club Room, with an average attendance of seventy. Bus Meets were held fortnightly, but a few had to be cancelled, being insufficiently supported. A library had been started, and the visitors' book already recorded 223 visitors for the year. A photographic competition was held jointly with the J.M.C.S.

The Convener of the First Aid Committee reported fewer accidents, mostly in Skye and Lochaber, a further slow extension of posts and good co-operation with other bodies. (This report was made to the S.M.C. Committee.)

It was decided to hold future Club Meets as follows:—

Easter, 1952: Fort William and C.I.C. Hut, and Inchnadamph.

New Year, 1953: Newtonmore and Lagangarbh.

Easter, 1953: Tomdown, Kintail and C.I.C. Hut.

Office-bearers were appointed as follows:—

*Vice-President.*—T. D. MacKinnon in place of J. G. Osborne.

*Committee.*—J. F. Hamilton, A. H. Hendry, J. N. Ledingham and C. S. Tilly in place of D. Henderson, D. B. McIntyre, W. H. Murray and J. D. B. Wilson.

The Committee had approved the following changes: West Sub-Committee, J. C. Donaldson and T. Weir in place of J. N. Ledingham and J. R. Marshall; Huts Sub-Committee, David Aitken and Trevor Ransley (added); Advertising Manager, G. J. Ritchie in place of J. D. B. Wilson; "Guides" Publicity Manager, W. E. Forde; A.P.R.S. Representative, R. Grieve in place of E. C. Thomson.

The Meeting now proceeded to discuss the draft revised Rules as amended in Committee, accepting those upon which the Committee was unanimous, rejecting draft Rule 17 and accepting Rule 25 with an amendment excluding the Committee's power to co-opt additional members. (The revised Rules have been circulated to members.)

The Club then debated its policy concerning National Parks. J. K. W. Dunn moved that these should not be set aside purely for recreational purposes but that the Club should recommend balanced development of agriculture, forestry and rural industries. Alex. Harrison moved that the Club should disapprove the institution of State National Parks. I. G. Charleson moved that the Club continue to be represented on the National Parks Council and advise on matters pertaining to mountaineering. Mr Charleson's amendment was carried.

It was decided to hold the Annual General Meeting and Dinner on the first Saturday of December 1952.

The Reception was held prior to the Meeting and was attended by sixty-eight members and guests. These latter included Mrs W. W. Naismith and Mrs Winthrop Young, and all were received by the President and Mrs Jack. Robert Grieve, Custodian, showed a number of slides



from the Club's collection, ending with an appeal to members to offer negatives of a standard of interest and excellence comparable to those exhibited.

The Dinner was attended by ninety-seven members and guests. The President, from the Chair, gave a witty and amusing summary of the events of the year, as well as another example of his powers as a versifier (which appears on another page). He then set a presidential precedent by singing the Club Song. A. G. Murray proposed "The Guests and Kindred Clubs," to which Geoffrey Young gave a stimulating reply. J. G. Osborne proposed the "National Trust for Scotland." The Earl of Wemyss replied to this toast, neatly summarising the activities of the Trust and appealing for our continued support.

Following the Dinner, those of the official guests who were able to come were taken to Inverarnan for the night and to the hills on the following day. The weather played up, and they returned home with a magnificent impression of sunshine on snow-capped mountains. All agreed that it was one of the best of recent Dinners, and are grateful to George Roger and Percy MacFarlane for doing so much to ensure its success.

### **London District Committee.**

At a meeting held at The Paxton's Head, Knightsbridge, on 4th February 1952, the above Committee was formed, with I. H. Ogilvie as Convener and A. M. Smith (97 Fairedene Road, Coulsdon, Surrey) as Secretary. There were thirteen members present and five favourable letters from those unable to attend. The intention is to organise meets and meetings similar to those held in Edinburgh and Glasgow. There are about twenty-eight Club members in the area.

## THE JUNIOR MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF SCOTLAND.

### Annual General Meeting and Dinner.

GLASGOW Section, as hosts, selected Arrochar Hotel as the venue for this year's gathering. New Year's Day being a Tuesday meant that for many members Hogmanay was a working day and consequently the *mauvais pas* splitting a long week-end. Those who did have the continuous period were likely to go as far afield as possible, but it was hoped that they might break their journey at Arrochar on Saturday night (29th December). This reasoning proved to be merely wishful thinking, for the attendance was disappointingly small, viz., 22 members—Lochaber 8, Perth 3, Edinburgh 1 (domiciled in Leeds), London nil, Glasgow 10. Despite lack of numbers and the arctic conditions in the dining-room, an atmosphere of conviviality was speedily generated. The Annual General Meeting which followed was characterised by spirited exchanges of views, notably on the Club Badge question. An unfortunate allusion to Glasgow Section's Gilt-edged Securities brought forth some mildly abusive comments from the other Sections. Glasgow's insistence on some market research being carried out before an order for badges was made eventually prevailed. Tribute was paid to Lochaber concerning the excellent design of the badge and the vast amount of work undertaken so willingly in connection with the project.

The remainder of the evening was given over to song and dance. A Hotel official appeared towards midnight, presumably to terminate the proceedings, but was so affected by the general gaiety that she joined in for the last ten minutes. Those residing at the Hotel saw the Inverarnan contingent off the premises, while some of the Lochaber boys sped off in their van in search of a resting place.

Sunday's frightful hurricane, which caused part of Loch Long to become airborne, strangled the Meet at

birth: and members went their several ways, some *de rigueur* in anoraks and windproof trousers, others in city clothes patently bound for the plains.

J. N. JOHNSTONE.

**Glasgow Section.**—The Section had a good year on lines previously followed. Seventeen meets took place, on most of which a bus was run. The Glencoe area was the most popular, but Dalmally, Killin, Strathtummel, Nevis and Arran were also visited. Generally, attempts to get off the beaten track were not so successful, and meets organised for the Merrick, the Lakes and Glen Shira fell through for lack of support. Half a dozen evening meetings were held alternately with those arranged by the Western District Committee of the S.M.C., and other events were the joint photographic competition and the Section's Annual Dinner. An unusual evening meeting took the form of a visit to the natural history section of Kelvingrove Museum, where Mr Eric Palmar gave a talk on Highland fauna. At the close of the year membership stood at a little over 200. The Secretary is J. Stanley Stewart, 10 Whitefield Road, Glasgow, S.W.1.

**Perth Section.**—The Section has 22 members, all of whom are active. Attempts to organise bus meets during 1951 were not very successful, for out of eleven arranged only two took place, but members made wide use of private transport. Finances are sound. The Secretary is T. P. Kemp, 151 South Street, Perth.

**Edinburgh Section.**—At the end of 1951 the membership of the Section remained at 71, with 5 Associate members and a good number of applicants and interested parties.

Only two of the proposed twenty meets had to be cancelled. With those exceptions, a well-filled bus was run nearly every fortnight throughout the year. Meets were held at Fort William, Glen Clova, Arrochar, Dalmally, Crianlarich, Creag Meaghaidh, Seathwaite in the Lake District and Glencoe, the latter being visited seven times. Unfavourable circumstances prevented buses running to Glen Etive and Ben Alder, but new ground was broken by a visit to the Merrick. During all these week-ends a large number of members, for better or worse, camped out.

During the summer months independent parties climbed in Skye and the North-west, while others held meets in the Alps. In addition, there has been much climbing on outcrops and quarries in and around the City.

As in previous years, the S.M.C. lectures have been well attended and enjoyed. The Annual Dinner, again held at the "Wee Windaes" Restaurant, was most successful, and the Section, refreshed, looks forward to an even more successful year of mountaineering in 1952.

The following are office-bearers of the Section: Hon. President,

G. J. Ritchie; President, H. C. Hampton; Hon. Secretary, Iain D. Haig, 9 Carlton Street, Edinburgh.

**Lochaber Section.**—The course of 1951 proved to be one of unprecedented mountaineering activity in Lochaber with week-end climbing of such a consistent nature that a large number of the local members missed only one or two week-ends during the whole year.

The scope of the sport was widened considerably, and the radius of activities extended to take in the peaks of the far north, the Cairngorms and those to the south of Lochaber. The most outstanding of the "further afield" trips was the "Three Peaks," which involved the summits of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in twenty-four hours. The amazing endurance of Pat Heron has won the admiration of the whole Section, for not only did he ascend the peaks but drove the whole distance, maintaining the somewhat alarming pace necessary for the undertaking.

Abroad, Section members climbed in France, Switzerland and Austria.

On the social side the larger local proportion has encouraged slide and cine lectures, among the speakers being Arthur D. MacPherson, Trevor Ransley, Douglas Scott and Harold Restall.

With Dan MacKellar (at normal) as the principal guest, the Annual Dinner was a great success, the Grand Hotel being bedecked with rucksacks, ropes and ice-axes for the occasion. The Section was very pleased to see that Stan. Stewart, Jeff Mason and Tommy Henderson of Glasgow were able to be present.

After further heavy expenses on Steall, Lochaber is again financially sound and looks forward to a steady accumulation of funds.

The Section has been congratulated on the speed and efficiency with which the several rescues at the beginning of the year were carried out, and this reflects on the whole Club.

President, J. Wyne; Secretary, J. Ness, Armadale Buildings, Fort William.

**London Section.**—Membership had reached 69 at the end of 1951, which is thought to be a record. Unfortunately several of our leading members took up posts abroad or moved too far away from London during the year for them to join the local meets often enough. We had sizable parties in Wales and the Lakes over the Bank Holidays; many members climbed in Scotland and several parties enjoyed themselves in the Alps. One member is reported as having put up 150 new routes on considerable outcrops in darkest Africa. The traditional sandstone meets were continued reasonably successfully throughout the year. The Section finances are sound and subscription and entrance fee remain unaltered.

The President is J. P. Wiltshire, and the Secretary is E. C. Kemp, 31 Kendall Avenue South, Sanderstead, Surrey.

**S.M.C. AND J.M.C.S. ABROAD.****Central Africa.**

(From A. L. Cram.)

During 1950-51, I spent many week-ends on the training ground of that healthy infant, the Kenya Mountain Club, at Lukenia, near Nairobi; an escarpment of red igneous rock, some 2 miles long and 500 feet high, both steep and sound. There one may compete with those virtuosi among climbers, the baboons (sadly insanitary), and dispute with those illiberal occupants of otherwise good stances, the leopards.

On my last ascent of Mount Meru, Tanganyika (*c.* 15,000 feet), clouds had concealed the inner wall of the crater under the summit, and this, I suspected, was precipitous. In October 1950, I went to see, climbing the very steep north-facing outer wall of the crater. Some members of the tribe living on the mountain threw in their lot with me and we ascended through antique and lovely cedar forest, carrying a heavy infestation of big game, to a bivouac at about 11,000 feet. Little Meru (*c.* 12,500 feet) dominates this place where the forest thins to bush. After a night of considerable disturbance by game, which is quite unprepared for visitors in this trackless pasture, I went on with one cheerful gun-bearer, reaching the ridge at a point where the bones of a dead rhino are not very attractively dispersed, at about 13,000 feet. The crater lies some 4,000 feet below with smoking fumaroles. Ash and tufa fell in huge quantities incessantly from the crumbling slopes on the west side. The whole eastern side of the crater has been blown away, facing towards Kilimanjaro, 20 miles distant. This approach is first difficult by game-infested rain-forest, then by the tortured state of the crater floor and finally by falling debris. The cliffs revealed under the summit are in two tiers and are laden with broken stones. The upper tier of cliff is some 2,000 feet high, and one or two routes seem feasible. The whole of this is unexplored ground. At about 14,000 feet the ash ridge became vertical on the left and so steep on the right that my companion's bare feet would not grip, obliging a return. An ice-axe would be required to cut steps in the packed ash. During the descent in the forest a cow rhino molested the party, charging through bush impenetrable to a man as if it were grass. Like all aggressors she eventually went too far.

In January 1951, with Miss Isobel Nicholson (now my wife), I went up to Mount Kenya, this time by the Naro Moru route; a long walk through cedar and an even longer walk through a muddy tunnel in the bamboo forest, with signs of big game everywhere. Only on the descent had we any trouble, a herd of buffalo compelling a halt until they chose to move aside. We pressed on to Two Tarn Col (*c.* 14,750 feet) in a day and a half, and in consequence suffered from

*malaise*. The tropical air seems thinner than at like heights in temperate climates, and reports from the Air Force tend to confirm this, suggesting that the "lift" at 20,000 feet over Kibo is no more than at 23,000 feet over Europe. A more important factor is probably the sudden change from very warm to very cold air, bacterial dust on the trail and a change of diet to fatty foods. On two successive days we crossed the shoulder of Point Piggott and tried to reach the Col Piggott-Kenya. This pass has not yet been reached from the Tyndall Glacier side, although it seems to have been used by Shipton and Tilman, who reached it from the other side on their first ascent of the North-West Ridge of Kenya. This great ridge has not since been attempted. We cut up a tongue of steep ice from the glacier to the rocks, but our poor condition obliged a retreat rather than the rotten ice and friable rocks. Stones fall here frequently, and it may be that this pass would be safer in winter conditions. Conditions vary enormously on Kenya and our attempts were made, roughly, at midsummer. We hope to reach this pass at some later date. A day was lost extricating mules from bogs and rock ledges, and a further day spent acclimatising on Point Lenana (*c.* 16,300 feet).

Next day we made an attempt on the South-East Ridge of Mount Kenya (17,040 feet). The route lies up the south flank of the ridge and is by no means easy to find. Once off the route the difficulties increase, and at one stage we climbed slabs that were severe. The rocks vary from moderate to very difficult. One 150-foot chimney contains ice and is climbed on the left wall; there is a very exposed corner followed by a 30-foot exposed traverse, and an awkward overhang above leads into a steep 100-foot chimney. The ridge is reached at a rock tower (unclimbed) which is passed on ice to the left, and an overhanging icy chimney of 20 feet leads back to the ridge, where one can see down the very steep and unexplored east end of the ridge. The route goes out across this great precipice and a crack is climbed—"Shipton's" or the "Rickety Crack." In the mist we could not find its beginning, but we examined an intermediate shallow chimney which may offer possibilities, and the beginning of Mackinder's (1899) route going off to the left and the Diamond Glacier. We turned back at about 16,600 feet, reaching the Lewis Glacier after dark, using our second rope several times, doubled. The unvarying length of the tropical day of twelve hours is a factor to be reckoned with, since every minute is necessary. The rock is very sound.

Kenya is not isolated but is surrounded by a wild group of great *clochers* and lava peaks of 15,000 to 16,300 feet, as yet not well known. We also revisited the Mau and the Aberdare Range during the year and explored the intricate tangle of rocks near Longonot Volcano, locally known as "Hell's Gate." This immense rift contains three isolated lofty lava needles. These gigantic and tenebrous cliffs, enclosing green lawns and frantic waterfalls, are the habitation of malicious buffalo and coldly watchful snakes and the den of lion and leopard. As night pours down in a swift rush over the Mau, the



climber hurries to his car, clutching his rope in one hand and his rifle in the other, glancing over his shoulder and vowing he will not again be late and have a blood trail from the household joint, swinging from the pole between the bearers; for in Africa night does not belong to the mountaineer.

E. R. Zenthon writes from Uganda of an attempt on Mount Kenya in company with A. Greenwood (A.C.), B. Cartland and Pat Hudson (M.C. of Uganda), spending two weeks on the mountain, of which eleven days were lived between 15,000 and 16,000 feet. Every day it snowed from 11 A.M. onwards, the mountain being fairly plastered with snow and ice. They made two attempts on Mount Kenya (17,040 feet) and two on Point Piggott, but all unavailing. It was Greenwood's second failure and they concluded that they would have done better on the north face or in the month of January.

At Whitsun at a M.C.U. Meet they found good rock buttresses near Nsika in the Ankole district. Nearer home, near Kampala, Zenthon and others are exploring granite outcrops and putting together a guide book. Zenthon is now on the committee of the M.C.U.

### **Corsica and Norway.**

J. N. Johnstone (J.M.C.S.) was in Corsica for three weeks from 21st May, and writes as follows:—

“ From Ajaccio we went by auto-rail-car to Corté in the centre of the island, thence to Calaccucia. With a mule for baggage transport, we reached the Grotte des Anges in three and a half hours. This cave, at 4,500 feet, was good for food storage, but draughty and uncomfortable. We camped on turf between cave and river. The snow-line was just above the tree-line. The Paglia Orba (8,500 feet), of dark red rock, called the “ Corsican Matterhorn,” dominates all the others. We spent nine days here, climbing eight peaks and being repulsed from a ninth by a 100-foot cleft on the summit ridge, not having time or enough rope to negotiate this. Corsican rock was very sound except for one narrow, rickety ridge on this peak.

“ Our finest expeditions were Paglia Orba by the south-east face (perhaps a new route); the traverse of Cinque Frati (five huge pinnacles); the traverse of Capo Tafonato, a remarkable peak consisting of a great narrow wall of rock, about one-third of a mile long, rising 1,500 feet from the col next to Paglia Orba (to the east) and plunging 6,000 feet on the west to a valley coming in from the sea. A great hole pierces the narrow ridge between the two summits, 500 feet or so below the crest. Monte Cinto (9,000 feet), the highest peak of Corsica, was a long climb, thirteen and a half hours from the Grotte. Its long southern ridge was a delightful mixture of sharp snow arête and small pinnacles. Vibram soles were excellent on Corsican rock. Weather was always fine in the morning but often clouding in the afternoon. The nights were cold and sleeping-bags necessary.



"Our next camp for four days was in the Monte d'Oro range, 30 miles north-east of Ajaccio. We had to camp rather low and had bad weather for a day. We ascended Monte d'Oro (8,100 feet) by its south-east ridge, straight above our camp. It was easy. Our last was a snow expedition on the lovely Pointe Migharello (7,800 feet) from the head of the valley. The south-east face throws out several steep, sharp ridges, which are admirably seen from the railway, but cloud on the summit prevented closer inspection of these.

"We finally enjoyed some good swimming in the sea and other pleasures at Ajaccio. The Corsicans had been helpful and charming to us throughout. The peaks, for variety, interest and sheer beauty, can have few rivals."

J. S. Orr, J. C. Maclaurin (J.M.C.S.) and J. D. Kinloch (all three G.U.M.C.) were in Norway for twenty days from 20th June. Only five days were entirely dry. In the Turtagro district the party stayed at a bivouac near Tindeklub Hut beneath the Skagastols Glacier. They climbed Nordlige Skagaskolstind on 24th June, traversing the ridge to Skagastolsnebbet. Two days later they climbed Store Skagastolstind by a severe 700-foot buttress (a first ascent), gaining the upper part of the south-west ridge, climbed by Heftye's route; descent by Slingsby's route and glacier. It was a grand fourteen-hour expedition, but mostly in mist. Next day N. Dyrhaugsrygge, in perfect conditions, gave a first realisation of the magnificence of the range. There was still much winter snow and a month later would have been better. Later they climbed Goldkop-pigen (8,097 feet), rather dull. Orr now departed and the others went to Andalones (Romsdal), where much snowfall prevented climbing except for a 4,600-foot shoulder of the Romsdalshorn, giving grand views of Romsdalshorn, Wengetind and the fantastic pinnacles of the Trolltinden. Wengedalsaeter, easily reached from Andalones by bus, would be the best base. Scottish climbers should get in touch with Herr Randers Heen of the Norwegian Tirich Mir Expedition, who will gladly advise or act as guide.

### **The Alps.**

A. L. Cram writes as follows:—

"With my wife I was home on leave from Africa in June. After some climbs in the Cuillin we spent the time from July to early October in the Alps, following them from the Mediterranean to the Adriatic. Weather was generally warm and moist with big peaks in bad condition. In Dauphiné we climbed the Pic Coolidge in rain, the Meije was hopelessly iced, but Mont Pelvoux and Les Agneaux gave good climbs. We visited Pennines and Oberland in bad weather, avoided the Bietschhorn, ascended Wilerhorn on mud, slush and rotten rock and the Fusshorn in rain.

"In Italy we followed the crest of the Apennines, climbing the

Gran Sasso (9,583 feet), and then visited the Alban hills. We visited all the main Dolomite groups, an education in finding the way and dealing with loose rock, doing the following peaks: Monte Cristallo; Piz Popena; Pale di Misurina; Drei Zinnen; many peaks in the Tofana group; Cinque Torri; Marmolata; Sella group (several peaks); Rosengarten group (Kesselkogel); Sassolungo group (Langkofel-Fünffingerspitz); in bad weather up Innerkoflerturm and Sassopiatto. Rain defeated us on Brenta, Pressanella and Adamello groups.

"We then drove to Chamonix in early October. Finding peaks out of condition we attended a strenuous school of rock-climbing (Clocher and Clocheton de Plan Praz traversed). After a visit to the Jura we had a day on gritstone rocks near Fontainebleau, near Paris, a great resort for Parisian climbers."

I. H. Ogilvie writes as follows:—

"C. C. Gorrie and I were in the Alps, starting from Champex. On 29th July we went to the Trient Cabane, from which we traversed the Aiguilles du Tour from north to south and the Chardonnet by the Arête Forbes, descending by the west face. On 3rd August we went to the Cabane de Valsorey, but bad weather compelled a retreat from the Grand Combin. In the Hut were numerous S.M.C. friends. Gorrie now had to go home. On 5th August, with René Marcoz, guide, I went to the Neuvaz Hut, traversing thence the Tour Noire to the Argentièrè Hut, then returning over the Aiguille d'Argentièrè in bad weather to Champex. Finally, I crossed the Fenestre d'Arpette alone."

Tom MacKinnon writes:—

"The first few days of my holiday in September were spent near Zermatt. Only the Täschhorn was climbed, from the Täsch Hut. Next week, with two C.U.M.C. friends, I climbed Mont Blanc from the south by the classic traverse over Aiguille de Béranger and Dôme de Miage to the Durier Hut. Next day we traversed the Aiguille de Bionnassay, but bad weather spoiled the sensational views. Mont Blanc was climbed, but bad weather forced a return by the same route. An interval followed and we climbed the Réquin."

"Our most enjoyable excursion was over the Grands Charmoz and the Grépon in magnificent conditions; blue sky above and granite summits rising above a sea of cloud. A few days later, with a French friend, I climbed the Mer de Glace face of the Grépon from the new Hut. It took us one and a half hours to reach the old refuge and then five hours to the Brèche Balfour. The Knobel chimney was not attempted owing to late start and deteriorating weather."

Towards the end of July, Ian G. Charleson, B. Goodfellow, F. Mayo and M. Wilson crossed from Simplon to Saas Grund. Due to poor condition of snow and lack of time an attempt to reach the

summit of the Fletschhorn was abandoned. Later in the same week, from the Britannia Hut, they traversed the Rimpfischhorn from the Allalin Pass by the north ridge, descending to Zermatt. Charleson then joined Charles S. Tilly and J. Carswell at Chamonix, and they climbed the Aiguille de l'M and the Petits Charmoz. In excellent weather they ascended the Aiguille Verte by the Whymper couloir (descent by same route) in six hours from the Couvercle. On 29th July, with André Roch, they proceeded to Réquin Hut. After a night there they made for the fixed bivouac at the Col de la Fourche on the frontier ridge, and climbed the Brenva face by the Pear Buttress. Left bivouac 0.45, above Col Moore 1.40, foot of Pear Buttress 5.00, top of Pear 8.15. First short halt was made there, but the party was still in line of fire from the séracs above. Above the upper séracs, however, a good meal and a rest of over half an hour was much appreciated. The summit of Mont Blanc was attained at 12.30, but it was cold, and little time was spent there, and the Vallot Hut was not visited on the descent. The weather, which had been good during the night and in the early part of the day, steadily deteriorated. After the Bossons glacier had been passed, it became quite unpleasant. It improved later, and they reached Chamonix about 23.00. This was a most interesting climb, made possible by good if somewhat icy conditions on the buttress and the excellent route-finding of André Roch. A breakdown of the weather put a stop to further climbing.

G. G. Freeman, A. M. MacAlpine, D. McKellar, T. Ransley and G. S. Roger left Fionnay on 30th July, and from the Panossière Hut climbed the Combin de Corbassière and the Petit Combin. They crossed the Col de Meitin to the Valsorey Hut and climbed Mont Vêlan. On 3rd August Freeman, McKellar and Roger climbed the Grand Combin by the west ridge. Owing to bad weather they returned by the same way, reaching the hut at nightfall. Here they found Iain Ogilvie and Charles Gorrie, and a very good night was had by all. Next evening, at Martigny, they met Charleson and André Roch and helped them to celebrate their ascent of the Pear Buttress of the Brenva face of Mont Blanc.

On 6th August, from Cabane d'Orny, they climbed the Aiguille du Tour and descended to the Trient Hut. That night the weather broke for several days. Meanwhile several of the party had to return home. On 11th August, Freeman and Roger were rewarded with a fine spell to finish the holiday. From the Vignettes Jenkins Hut they climbed the Pigne d'Arolla, the west ridge of Mont Collon, the Petit Mont Collon and l'Évêque.

J. D. B. Wilson, A. Russell and J. E. MacEwen were climbing in the Bernese Oberland, and, later, Russell and MacEwen in the Zermatt area. Changeable weather and new snow in the Oberland confined their activities to ascents of the Mönch from the

Jungfrauoch, an unsuccessful attempt on the Grünhorn from the Konkordia Hut, and the Mittaghorn from the Hollandia Hut. At Zermatt, Russell and MacEwen climbed the Pointe de Zinal from the Schönbühl Hut, and then, with the Zermatt guide, Albert Furrer, from the Rothorn Hut, ascended the Zinal Rothorn and the Wellenkuppe-Obergabelhorn-Arbengrat traverse. From the Weisshorn Hut the Weisshorn was ascended by the east ridge, but thereafter unprecedented snowfall stopped further climbing.

G. J. Ritchie spent July in Dauphiné and Mont Blanc areas with T. Wilkinson, A. Brown Douglas and L. Brown. At La Béarde snow was low but they slept in the open. Variety and beauty of flowers were exceptional. From the Temple Hut they tackled the Écrins, but 150 feet below the summit violent brush discharge enforced retreat in a storm of wind, lightning and snow. It was safest to spend a night out and, after the storm, to rope down the buttresses of the couloirs previously ascended. Later, from the Promontoire Hut, similar conditions enforced a retreat, in good order, from the Meije.

From Courmayeur (via Torino) the Tour Ronde was climbed to view the big Brenva climbs, beautiful but unattainable yet owing to masses of unstable snow and ice. They climbed the Dent du Géant, and later climbed the Aiguille Verte by Whymper couloir in just over four hours. In bad conditions and a late start from the Réquin Hut they were overtaken by snow on the final rocks of the Réquin. Continuing bad weather ended the holiday.

Dr R. L. Mitchell, with J. Anderson and Miss E. J. Lawrence (Cairngorm Club), spent ten days at the Weissmies Hut and in Zermatt. Deep soft snow defeated them near the top of the Weissmies on 14th July. While awaiting better conditions they were on Jäghorn, Riffelhorn, Untergabelhorn and Schönbühlhorn. The latter is an excellent viewpoint, and a pleasant half-day above the hut. Their final ascent was the Zinal Rothorn, with Josef Biner, on 23rd July.

C. L. Donaldson, with James Rodgie (J.M.C.S.), were in Zermatt for the first half of July in mixed weather, with much snow on the peaks. They climbed the Trifthorn and Wellenkuppe from the Rothorn Hut in good weather, but failed on the Rothorn owing to dense cloud and bad snow on the traverse beyond the Schneeegrat. During the second week they ascended the Dom from the Dom Hut, and later the Rimpfischhorn just when an electric storm was seen raging on the Matterhorn.

E. S. Chapman (J.M.C.S.) was, unfortunately, alone for most of his Alpine scrambles, with the exception of the ascent of the Bietschhorn, up the north and down the west arête with Alfred Heuzen, guide, in good weather.

He spent ten days at Ried, Lötschenthal. The landlord of Hotel Nesthorn has a visitors' book dating back to 1868 with the names of Leslie Stephen, W. A. B. Coolidge, Adams Reilly and others. He ascended Tennbachhorn by east ridge in rain, Hockenhorn from Lötschenpass, descending to Kandersteg and part of Bluhendenspitze. Later, from St Niklaus he went to Topali Hut, then to Turtmann Hut by Schöllijoch, ascending Barrhorn to the north of the joch. Returning to St Niklaus by Gruben and Augsbord passes he then moved to the Pierre Bordier Hut and ascended the Gross Bigerhorn and the Balfrin in strong wind and hail. Later he went to the Schönbühl Hut and climbed the Pointe de Zinal, a grand viewpoint, and so back to Zermatt in a snowstorm.

Dr and Mrs J. H. Bell had eleven days Alpine climbing as from 8th September, starting in the Maderanerthal, one of the most beautiful Alpine valleys, with an excellent range of peaks of moderate height for the opening days of a holiday and a delightful hotel just below the upper tree-line. From there they climbed the Piz Cambriales (easy), and made a traverse of the Dussistock (10,710 feet), ascending the north-west ridge of excellent rock and descending the north-east ridge, more broken and difficult, all done from the Hüfi Hut. From the Planura Hut, on the pass at the upper end of the Hüfi glacier, they climbed the Tödi (11,890 feet) by the west wall, a grand mountain and the king of the district.

Moving to Grimsel, they took four days' food to the Oberaar Hut. Owing to wind and snowstorm they had to retreat from the Hugisattel (4,090 metres) in an attempt on the Finsteraarhorn. The weather cleared next day and they made a short and easy ascent of the Oberaarhorn, with splendid views. Next day they traversed the Finsteraarhorn, ascending by the "route of the four guides" from the Studerfirn to Tower II on the south-east ridge, which they followed to the top (ten and a half hours from the hut). A fierce, cold north-west wind and icy conditions assailed them, so that one and a half hours were required to reach the Hugisattel on the ordinary descent. But they gained the Finsteraarhorn Hut by 7 P.M.

Climbing in early September generally affords good weather according to knowledgeable Swiss climbers. They had generally good conditions, especially as regards the snow, which never softened unduly with the sun; of course, the huts were sparsely occupied and comfortable, and less toil and sweat were needed to reach them.

C. G. M. Slesser sends the following details of an Alpine holiday with members of the J.M.C.S. and G.U.M.C. :—

T. S. Stewart, D. Hutchison, D. Easton, M. Cunningham in the party. Itinerary and ascents were as follows: 8th July, Zermatt; 10th July, Trifhorn to Mountet Hut; 13th July, Zinal Rothorn, up north ridge and down S.E.; 14th July, Rimpfischhorn, up north ridge down to Täsch Hut; attempt in bad weather up Rotgrat of Alphubel.

The others, with L. Lovat, now went to Arolla, where Cunningham and Stewart climbed Dent Blanche from Bertol Hut, down to Zmutt. Petite Dent de Veisivi and Aiguilles Rouges were climbed by the Arolla party.

Slessor, with Iain Fox (Y.R.C.) and D. Bennet (from Chamonix on 15th July), traversed Chardonnet on the 17th July. On 18th July D. Bennet and I. Fox did the Argentière. Tour Noire climbed on 19th July. Return to Zermatt with original party and L. Lovat, whence, on 24th July, they climbed Matterhorn by Hörnli as far as Ober Dach (bad weather). On 25th July they traversed Obergabelhorn by Arbengrat, and Wellenkuppe (Stewart and Slessor).

A. Harrison, M. H. Cooke and P. A. Fletcher went out to Kandersteg on 4th August but, like most other people, their programme was restricted by weather. The first expedition was the traverse of the Weisse Frau and Morgenhorn from the Blümlisalp Hut. The final 300 feet of the Weisse Frau on steep snow and iced rock was the best part of the climb. From the top of the Weisse Frau the party had a race against deteriorating weather conditions and just crossed the bergschrund before the mist came down. A couple of days later they did the Doldenhorn. Owing to the abnormal amount of snow the final bergschrund was snowed up and presented no difficulty. After a period of bad weather the party, joined by Alan Hudson of Manchester, again went to the Blümlisalp Hut in rain. During the night the weather turned to frost and next day the party, less Harrison, amused themselves on the Wilde Frau. Cooke, Fletcher and Hudson then went to Zermatt. They were only able to do one climb, namely the Zinal Rothorn by the south ridge, with Theodor Julen, before the weather broke. Harrison, with his daughter Jane and a friend, crossed the Lötschenpass to Ferden. The views were magnificent. Harrison managed to get in the Blümlisalp with Paul Grossen the next morning before the weather broke.

**Mount Everest Reconnaissance, 1951.**—A small reconnaissance expedition, sponsored by the R.G.S. and Alpine Club, was sent to Nepal last August to reconnoitre the south-west approach to the summit of Everest. (For political reasons a return cannot be made to the old north route via Tibet.)

The party consisted of Eric Shipton, W. H. Murray, Dr Michael P. Ward, and Tom Bourdillon, who were joined in Nepal by two New Zealanders, E. Riddiford and E. Hillary.

The expedition was unexpectedly successful in discovering a promising line of ascent to the South Col between Everest and Lhotse via the West Cwm glacier, which they climbed to 21,000 feet. Further advance was stopped by a great crevasse. A second expedition will go out in 1953 if permission is gained from the Government of Nepal.

W. H. MURRAY.



# SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN ACCIDENTS, 1951.

*21st February.*—Gordon Boon (20), Trevor Jones (20), Reg. Atkins (20) (all English), benighted when descending from Stob Ban (Mamores); descended at dawn and met search parties in Glen Nevis.

*12th March.*—Dr Donald McConnach (22) (S.) fell and was killed when descending Beinn-a-Bhuird.

*15th March.*—Hamish Nicol (S) and Arthur Rawlinson (E.), Oxford U.M.C., staying at C.I.C. Hut, fell and both injured while climbing Zero Gully.

*1st April.*—Search party out on Ben Lomond for Hamish Park (30) and Muriel Williams (23). Climbers descended to Inversnaid while search party was out.

*9th April.*—Jonathan Mackay (17) stuck while climbing in Glen Clova; rescued by roped party next morning.

*10th July.*—Ronald Snodgrass (S.) fell when climbing Buachaille Etive Mor; fatal.

*11th July.*—W. L. Pickell (E.) and Thomas James (E.) (20) started to climb Waterpipe Gully, Sgùrr an Fheadain. Pickell fell and was injured, but was held on the rope by his companion. Stretcher party brought him down after dawn.

*23rd July.*—Miss Audrey Holderness (E.) (N.), member of a tourist party from Onich, fell and seriously injured on Ardgour Hills. Died later in hospital.

*30th July.*—Mr and Mrs Rhodes both fell when climbing as roped party on Ben Nevis, the former suffering from fractured leg, the latter concussion.

*1st August.*—J. R. Kenyon (55) (E.) fell and was killed when descending the Cioch, in Skye, unroped.

*29th August.*—Miss Jones (E.) fell near Bad Step, Loch Scavaig; head injuries. Search parties out.

*3rd September.*—E. R. (47) (E.). Fractures of skull and arm in Skye. Precise place unknown.

*4th September.*—Dennis Whiteley (20) (E.) fell when climbing Sgùrr Mhic Coinnich alone; died after rescue party reached him.

*27th September.*—J. H., Edinburgh U.M.C. Fracture of skull on Buachaille Etive.

*30th December.*—James Grieve, John Black, Sidney Tewnton, John Bradburn (Glencoe M.C.), encountered great gale on track between Corrour Lodge and Ben Alder cottage. All four died of exposure.

**Errors in 1950 List.**—Accident on 14th June on Inaccessible Pinnacle of Sgurr Dearg. The climber had previous experience, was leading, and was held on a running belay by the second. The slip caused fracture of the jaw. Those implicated in Lairig Ghru accident on 26th September had rock climbing and other experience.

(E., English; S., Scottish; N., Novice; U.M.C., Univ. Mount. Club.)



## NOTES.

**Carlin Maggie, Bishop Hill, Kinross.**—This sensational-looking dolerite pinnacle, on the side of the Bishop Hill overlooking the northern end of Loch Leven, was climbed by an Edinburgh U.M.C. party (Ian H. Oliver, Ian Brown and Alistair Grieve) on 12th August 1951. The 12-foot upper section above the shoulder was overcome by the use of a piton, using a foot sling. It could be done with a shoulder alone. The top seemed to be quite secure. It may not be a first ascent as a piton was seen on a previous visit and some suspicious scratches were also found. It would be of interest to trace a former ascent, if any.

**Caenlochan Glen** (Reference "Cairngorm" Guide).—G. J. Ritchie notes that a climb there described is indirect. He, with Bobby Smith (Glasgow J.M.C.S.), October 1950, went to the left, more directly, up the true face (snow and verglas made the grassy gullies impracticable), approaching the steps from the left and the upper from the right. The ridge is shattered higher up but was compacted by frost. Smith lost his knee in the war, but finished the climb where earlier parties had retreated.

**Stob Ghabhar, Upper Couloir Keyhole.**—This was ascended in icy conditions by C. L. Donaldson and G. J. Dutton (J.M.C.S.) on 16th March 1952. A short distance to the right of the Upper Couloir a bay cuts back into the upper rocks, at the extreme left corner of which the route goes up a narrow, deep-cut gully. It starts with steep, hard snow leading to a 20-foot pitch (high-angled wall below heavily iced chimney, very difficult to cut holds). The next stretch of about 100 feet was almost pure ice with a thin, hard snow cover here and there. (Thread belay above.) The next pitch of 20 feet consists of jammed boulders climbed direct. More steep hard snow led to the top of the gully, a sharp snow ridge, from the crest of which a short icy descent led into Upper Couloir above the ice pitch, and more step-cutting to the top. The route is harder and more interesting than the Upper Couloir. Another party may finish it directly up the rocks without entering the Couloir.

**Have the Cuillin been seen from the Cairngorms?**—The answer to this interesting question appears to depend on abnormal conditions of atmospheric refraction. Would anyone with positive evidence, which should include noting the relative positions of the Glenshiel peaks, please communicate with Dr G. Barlow or the Editor.

## BOOKS AND JOURNALS.

**The Scottish Himalayan Expedition.** By W. H. Murray. (Dent, 274 pp., 4 colour illustrations, 34 half-tones and 11 maps, 30s.).

This is W. H. Murray's third and easily his best book. The beautiful illustrations are by Douglas Scott and Tom Weir. Especially fine are the colour plates of Rhododendrons (p. 50) and the Rishi peaks (p. 98). Of the others the portraits of the Dhotials (p. 46) and goats (p. 194) are excellent, and the mountain studies of Uja Tirche (p. 159) and Panch Chuli (p. 254) outstanding.

In contrast with most books on Himalayan travel and mountaineering, the initial part on the organisation and approaches fully maintains the interest of the reader. He becomes one of the party and eagerly consults the Appendix to see what stores are taken and how much it costs! Human relations with Dhotials, Bhotias and other Himalayan peoples are described with full interest and shrewd humour. The porters are all live characters.

The maps are good and plentiful; one gets to know the lie of the land and appreciate the difficulties. The passage of the Girthi Gorge and the Ralam Pass are especially interesting. The ascent of Uja Tirche, a thrilling chapter, is the highlight of the book. It is true that there are attempts on other big peaks which are unsuccessful, but these are big unknown Himalayan peaks. They are valuable reconnaissances. The expedition completed its main programme of exploration without mishap and covered much new ground. Murray is the narrator, but all contributed alike to the success of both the expedition and the book. Members of the Club need only be told that the book is as good as the article which Murray contributed to our *Journal* last year, only more so.

J. H. B. BELL.

**Highlands of Scotland.** By Seton Gordon. (Robert Hale. 15s.)

The latest addition to the publisher's series of "County" books is welcome, though unlikely to cause such controversy as A. A. Macgregor's book on the Western Isles. The author is a happy and well-informed guide. Climbers will be interested in his forthright views as to the future of the Highlands, and both appalled and impressed by his traverse of Ben Macdhu without an ice-axe on a wild winter day. On that occasion he carried bagpipes and played them on the summit! There are many reminiscences of old Highland stalkers and much lore of the red deer and all other beasts and birds of the hills. Mr Gordon has much to say of Corroir Bothy, but is not informed of the good work of the Cairngorm Club in making it once more a well-equipped and welcome haven for all wanderers.

B. H. H.

**Climbing Guides to the Snowdon District.** General Editor, C. W. F. Noyce. Vol. VI. *Llanberis Pass*, by P. R. J. Harding (215 pp., 9 illustrations). Vol. VII. *The Carneddau*, by A. J. J. Moulam (123 pp., 8 illustrations).

These excellent pocket guides are published by the Climbers' Club and printed by the Cloister Press, Heaton Mersey, Stockport. No prices are stated on the copies. They are handsome publications, well bound and generally got up and arranged, models of what a rock-climbing guide should be. In these regions are many recent discoveries, mostly of a high order of difficulty. Pitons have been used on some of the newest and fiercest routes.

**Mountain Shadows.** This is a vivid and moving account of the tragedy of Baird and Barrie in the Cairngorms at New Year 1928. It is a pamphlet of twelve typed pages, compiled by Edwin M. Davidson of Elgin. It contains Barrie's last poem in full. It is intended to place copies in Derry Lodge and at Corrour Bothy, and we shall have one in our library.

**Studies in Regional Planning.** Arthur Geddes draws our attention to the above compilation under the general editorship of Professor H. J. Daysh, obtainable from George Philip & Sons, 98 Victoria Road, London, N.W. 10 (248 pp. with 8 maps in colour, 25s. net.). Scottish papers available separately are as follows:—

*The Highlands and Isles*, by A. Geddes and F. D. N. Spaven (54 pp., 2 maps, 7s. 6d.). *Central Scotland*, by A. C. O'Dell and J. M. Houston (22 pp., 1 map, 5s.).

**Additions to the Library.**—*Walking in the Alps*, by J. Hubert Walker (Oliver & Boyd, 274 pp., 33 illustrations, 12 maps, 25s.). *The Dolomites*, by C. Douglas Milner (R. Hale, 208 pp., 96 illustrations, 25s.). *The Magic of the Dolomites*, by W. A. Poucher (Country Life, 143 pp., 108 illustrations, 35s.). *The Scottish Himalayan Expedition*, by W. H. Murray (reviewed above). *Mountains of Tartary*, by Eric Shipton (Hodder & Stoughton, 224 pp., 28 illustrations, 20s.). *To the Arctic*, by J. Mirsky, and *Lost in the Arctic*, by E. Mikkelsen (both presented by Dr H. Drever).

**Journals Received**, for which we tender our thanks.—*The Alpine Journal*, Nos. 282 and 283 (1951); *The Fell and Rock Journal*, No. 45 (1951); *Mazama*, 1950-51; *Wierchy*, 1950-51; *Sierra Club Journal*, 1951; *Appalachia*, 1951; *Canadian Alpine Journal*, 1951; *Midland Association of Mountaineers' Journal*, 1951; *Climbers' Club Journal*, 1951; *Cambridge Mountaineering*, 1951; *Ladies' Alpine Club Annual*, 1952; *Ski-ing in Scotland* (Scottish Ski Club, 43 pp. and maps); *G.U.M. Club Magazine* (an excellent and lively production); Irish Mountaineering Club, Rock Climbing Guides (small format): I. *Bray Head, Dublin Sea Cliffs* (23 pp. and drawings); IV. *Ben Corr* (South-west) (29 pp., illustrated).



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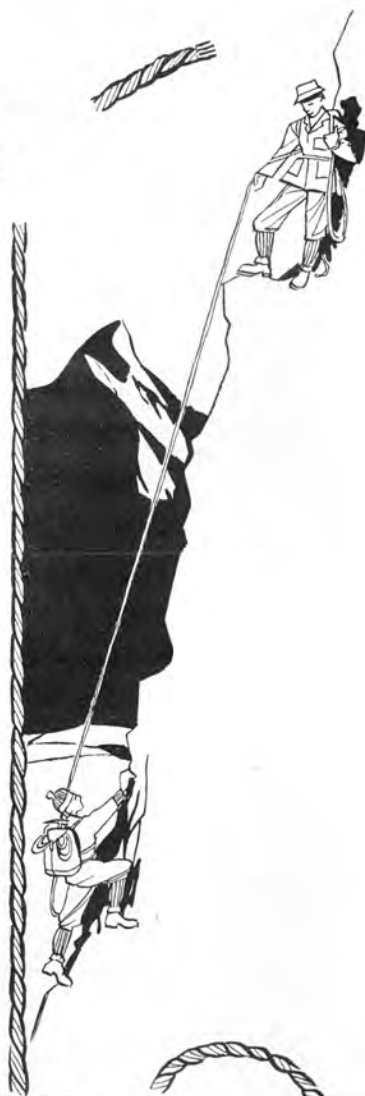
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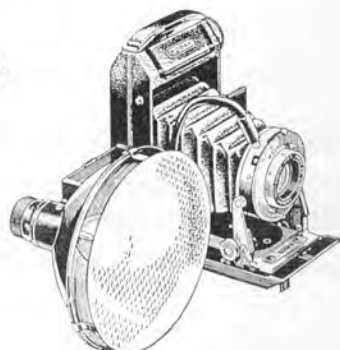
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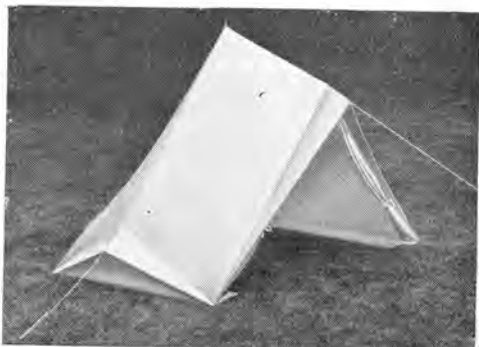
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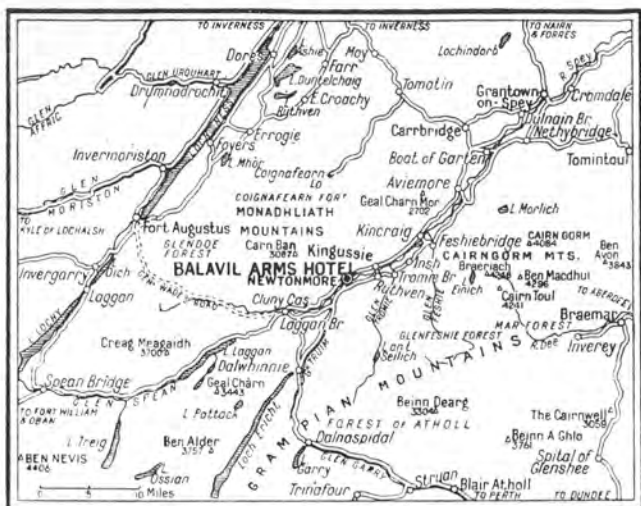
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THE following abbreviations have been used :—

ar.	= Arête.	L.	= Loch.
asc.	= ascent, ascended.	M.	= Meall.
B.	= Ben, Beinn.	mt.	= mountain, Mount.
Bidean	= Bidean nam Bian.	mtg.	= mountaineering.
Buachaille	= Buachaille Etive Mor.	necess.	= necessary, necessity.
Butt.	= buttress.	obit.	= obituary.
C.	= Carn, Cairn.	pinn.	= pinnacle.
chim.	= chimney.	pk.	= peak.
co.	= corrie, Coire.	ref.	= reference, referred.
Cr.	= Creag.	reqd.	= required.
desc.	= described, description.	sect.	= section.
diag.	= diagram.	sep.	= separate.
fr.	= from.	Sg.	= Sgùrr.
Gl	= Glen.	trav.	= traverse.
Gu.	= gully.	var.	= variation.
ill.	= illustrated, illustration.		

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