

THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB JOURNAL

EDITED BY J. H. B. BELL



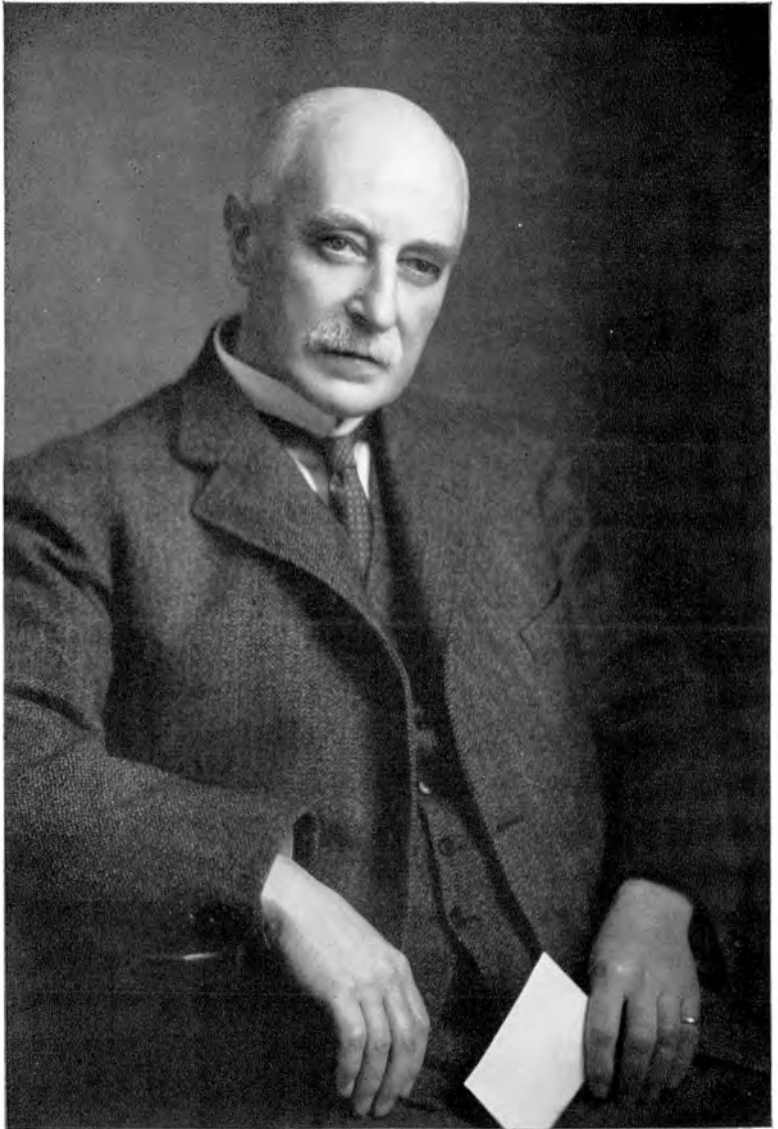
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CLIMBING IN THE STAUNINGS ALPS, GREENLAND.

By D. J. Bennet.

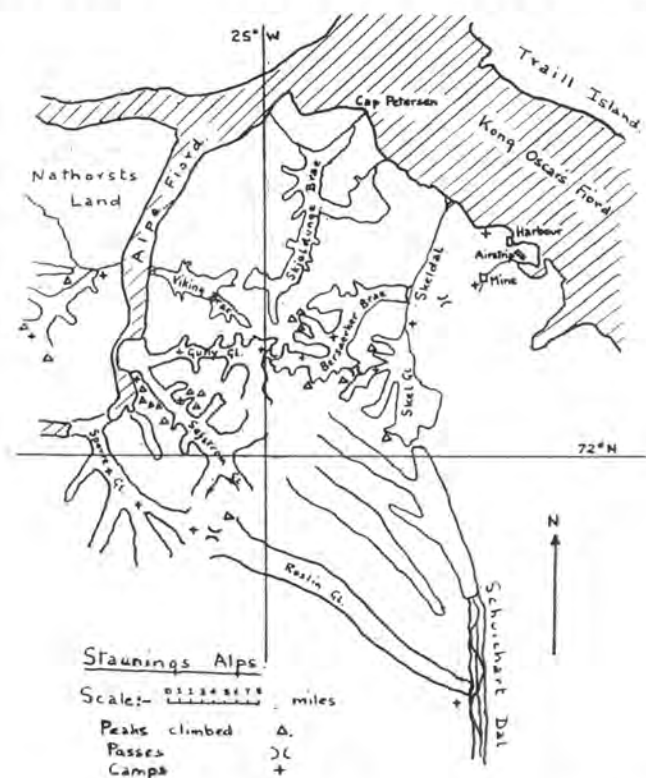
IT was Malcolm Slessor's idea to go to Greenland, and he waxed enthusiastic as he outlined his plans to Len Lovat, Charlie Rose, Douglas Scott and myself. On the east coast of Greenland, in Scoresby Land, was a range of mountains—the Staunings Alps, a compact group of rock spires and elegant snow peaks about 8,000 feet high, with great serpentine glaciers reaching from the heart of the mountains to the dark fiords at their feet.

Reports from the few parties which had already visited the Staunings, and the aerial photographs that we eagerly studied, convinced us that this was the place for an exploratory mountaineering expedition, where unclimbed peaks of Alpine quality abounded. In July and August the weather was notoriously good and the sun shone nearly all day. Furthermore, access would be easy as there was a mining camp at Mesters Vig, on the east coast of Scoresby Land, with an airstrip; we would be able to fly right to the mountains.

Our plan was to explore the Staunings first from the east side, where no climbing had yet been done. Then we would sail round to Alpe Fiord, on the north side of the range, continue the exploration from that quarter and cross the mountains from Alpe Fiord to Mesters Vig and to Syd Kap, an Eskimo settlement in south Scoresby Land.

As preparations went ahead we were joined by Stan

Paterson and Iain Smart, both Scottish exiles in Montreal. These two, along with Malcolm Slessor, lent a tone of scientific respectability to the party (for no expedition takes the field without its scientists) and Smart also acted as our doctor. Finally some young blood was injected



into our middle-aged band by the inclusion of Kenneth Bryan and Roderick Cameron.

Early in July we reached Mesters Vig, and pitched our large marquee near the mining camp in a stony valley surrounded by even stonier hills. Bright sunshine greeted us and so did scores of buzzing mosquitoes; from the mining camp the hum of machines and clouds of dust drifted up the valley. It was not a pleasant place and we hastened to move on.



D. J. Bennet

THEODOLITE WORK ABOVE SEFSTROM GLACIER
(S. Paterson taking angles. Lofty peak in centre is the Sefstromtinde)



D. J. Bennet

BERSAERKER BRAE—MORAINE CAMP
(Glamis in centre skyline)

Our immediate objective was to move inland to the next valley, the Skeldal (dal=valley), make a base camp there, and from it continue up the Bersaerker Brae (brae=glacier) towards the centre of the Staunings Alps. Paterson, Rose, Bryan and I set off the same evening to explore the route. We decided to do the first part of the journey by night, and the Arctic mid-summer night proved to be ideal for walking, for it was always light and delightfully cool. Early next morning we topped the pass above the Skeldal and saw the Staunings Alps on its far side with the sun shining on the tops. We descended into the wide, stony valley, but could not cross the river which rushed along at a great rate. However, a mile or two upstream it flowed in several shallow channels and Rose managed to wade across. We camped there and spent the rest of the day sunbathing. Meanwhile the others were sweating over the pass from Mesters Vig and arrived during the afternoon with large loads of food. It was their unhappy task during the next few days to build up a stock of food and equipment in the Skeldal; and it must have been hot work for they carried during the days, and the sun shone with unusual heat during that first fortnight of July.

Leaving early next morning, the four of us had a long and interesting day exploring the Bersaerker Brae and its approaches. First we went up the Skeldal and a side glacier, known to us then as Glacier 21 (there were so many unnamed glaciers in the Staunings Alps that we numbered them for reference), to a pass overlooking the upper reaches of the Bersaerker Brae. It was on our way up to this pass that we first encountered the difficult snow conditions that were to hamper us for the next fortnight. There seemed to be little or no frost at night, and the snow was always soft; by midday it became positively slushy. As we gained height on the glacier the snow became deeper, masking many a crevasse with a treacherous snow bridge; and even with four of us to break the trail we arrived at the pass exhausted after 9 hours. Here, while we rested for 2 hours, we obtained a wonderful view of the highest peaks of the Staunings Alps. The

descent on the other side to the Bersaerker Brae went easily, and soon we were pounding down that glacier which was a veritable highway of snow and ice. In 8 miles we hardly met a single crevasse, and the only obstacles were the streams of melt water which, in mid-afternoon, were in full flood. In the evening we dropped down into the Skeldal and waded across the river to our camp, 19 hours after leaving it.

The following evening, feeling sufficiently revived to make another sortie, we set out in two parties to do some climbing. Paterson and Rose were attracted to a rock peak on the opposite side of the valley, which because of its jagged appearance had already been named Garbh Bheinn. Unfortunately the glacier leading to it was broken by an ice-fall, invisible from our camp, which turned them back. Bryan and I went for a 6,000-foot peak at the very head of the Skeldal. We skied up the 6-mile long glacier to the foot of the peak. Then, exchanging skis for crampons, we climbed a steep gully leading to a narrow ridge which, in its turn, led to the summit without difficulty. Loose rock and remarkably hard blue ice were characteristic features of this climb, and of several of the others we did on this side of the range. On the summit a note in a cairn told us that ours was not the first ascent; a Swiss climber had been there alone in 1951. During the descent the snow on the glacier was so slushy that we had to push ourselves down the gentle slope, but the skis proved their worth, for without them the walk up and down the glacier would have been exhausting.

On our return we found that Slesser's load-carrying party had finished their job and gone up to camp on Glacier 21. Their objectives were two mountains standing together at the head of that glacier. They all climbed a steep face to the col between the two peaks, named Kisimul and Glamis, intending to split and climb them both. However, the ridge to Kisimul seemed unduly long and difficult, so they all, with Slesser and Lovat in the lead, climbed the shorter ridge to the summit of Glamis (7,000 feet).

These two peaks were named in accordance with the theme we had chosen for all new peaks that we climbed, which was Scottish castles. On the summit of Glamis, Slessor and Lovat had already started on their way down when Cameron, who was with Scott and Smart, became sick. These three had to bivouac at the col—not an uncomfortable night as the weather was perfect and they had plenty of food—and continued their descent next day. After 40 hours on the mountain they returned to camp just as the rest of us were setting out to look for them.

After two days' rest, four of us decided to go up the Bersaerker Brae, camp there, and climb some peaks. Rose, Paterson and Bryan, anxious to renew the attack on Garbh Bheinn, stayed in the Skeldal, as did Lovat and Scott who were going to spend a week bird-watching in the valley and at the coast.

Next morning, at about two o'clock, when we reckoned that the river would be fairly low, Slessor, Smart, Cameron and I waded out into the rushing waters, encouraged by the cheers and jeers of those left in camp. It was a painful crossing, taking about 7 minutes. The river was split by shingly banks into several streams. The water was icy and, at its deepest, swirled round our thighs and threatened to upset us, and gravel collected in our boots and was quite painful to our bare feet.

Walking slowly up the Bersaerker Brae we were better able to appreciate the scale of this huge glacier than when we came down a few days earlier. The mountains at its head were in front of us all the time, and after 2 hours' steady walking they seemed no nearer. Seven miles up the glacier we crossed to the west side and camped on a stony moraine.

Next morning, after the usual midnight breakfast, we set off up a side glacier to look for some climbable peaks. It was slow work plodding uphill for 5 or 6 miles, and the snow was in that exasperating condition when, for several steps it bore our weight, but then suddenly collapsed and we plunged in up to the knees, not knowing for an instant whether we were in a crevasse or not. In 5 hours we reached the head of the glacier and had a

well-earned rest for second breakfast. We were pleased to find three worthy peaks around us. On the left was a high snow peak throwing down a broad ridge to the glacier, in the centre was a line of rocky peaks and on the right was another rock peak with a summit ridge bristling with grotesque gendarmes. (Later we identified this peak as the Elizabethstinde, climbed in 1951.)

Smart and I staked a claim for the snow mountain; and Slesser, scanning the rocky wall at the head of the glacier through his binoculars, announced to Cameron that he could see a way to the top. So we went our separate ways. For Smart and me an easy rock buttress led to the snow ridge, up which we plodded for about 2,000 feet. Near the top it became narrower, with an impressive drop on one side, and the summit itself was perched on the edge of a sheer cliff, 2,000 to 3,000 feet high. We called this mountain Dunnottar. Meanwhile Slesser and Cameron were enjoying an exhilarating climb on their peak. Despite the steepness of the face, the route was not unduly difficult, and only near the top did they encounter severe climbing. In contrast to our earlier climbs, the rock was very sound, a rough gneiss with excellent holds. In mid-afternoon we met on the glacier and trudged off downhill, sinking even deeper into our morning tracks. How we regretted not having skis; on these early climbs we learned that skis were almost indispensable for travelling on the glaciers.

Next day Bryan, Rose and Paterson arrived at our camp. They had succeeded in climbing their peak and had survived 10 nerve-racking hours on its shattered north ridge where, in their own words, "every second handhold was a loose flake."

The weather since our arrival in Greenland had been beyond reproach—blue skies and bright sunshine for 12 days. Our only complaint was that it was really too hot. We were, therefore, a bit surprised when low clouds blew in from the coast that night. Early next morning the weather became very threatening with dark clouds and snow showers, so that two parties who had set out to climb returned to camp. Bryan and I, skiing



D. J. Bennet

CAMP ON SEFSTROM GLACIER
(Top right is Atilaborg, 8,500 ft., nearly climbed by
Slessor and Scott)



D. J. Bennet

LOCHAN ABOVE ALPE FJORD
(Unclimbed peak in the distance)

towards the head of the Bersaerker Brae, were not hampered by the weather and reached the pass at the head of the glacier, where we had a fleeting glimpse of the highest peaks of the Staunings as the snow began to fall.

That evening, Slesser, Smart and Cameron returned to the mining camp, leaving four of us for a last day's climbing. The weather, after its lapse, returned to its usual form. Rose and Bryan headed up the side glacier towards Dunnottar, their objective being an outlying rock *aiguille* of that mountain. From the glacier an ice slope, gashed by great crevasses, ended on a col from which a steep and exposed climb on splendid rock led to one of the two slender summit spires. Meanwhile, Paterson and I again skied up the Bersaerker Brae. We were bound for one of three giants at the head of the glacier which confronted us with rock walls 3,000 feet high. Our objective was a ridge which projected far out into the Bersaerker Brae from the snow-cap of the right-hand peak. Slesser and Paterson had tried this ridge 2 days earlier, but two huge towers half-way up had barred their way. Profiting from this experience we now avoided the lower part of the ridge by a gully on its flank and reached the ridge just above the towers. Thinking that our difficulties were over, we were surprised to find that they were just beginning, and the next 1,000 feet to the snow-cap gave hard climbing on loose rock mixed with ice. It was a relief to reach a fine snow arête that curved up to the summit.

Our exploration of the eastern Staunings was now over and, striking camp, we returned through the Skeldal towards the coast. Of seven peaks and two passes we had climbed, all except one peak were first ascents and had given us some very interesting climbing, although it must be admitted that the quality of the rock-climbing, with the exception of two peaks near Dunnottar, was disappointing. Down at the little harbour near Mesters Vig the rest of the expedition, having taken possession of a 14-foot dinghy lent to us by Mr J. Lauritzen of Copenhagen, were preparing for the move to Alpe Fiord.

The scientific work of the expedition, some of which was undertaken at this time, may now be briefly mentioned. Dr Smart's programme consisted in trapping and studying lemmings, small mouse-like animals. As the special lemming traps had been lost it was necessary to telegraph Copenhagen for others, and twenty-four mouse-traps arrived on the next aircraft. Smart camped by the sea and laid his traps, baited with cheese and dried fruit, outside the lemming burrows. He trapped seven animals in the week. Scott was spending much of his time in bird-watching. During August he made a long solo journey to Syd Kap, observing and counting birds and musk ox. Paterson's subject was glaciology, but he did not start his researches until he reached Alpe Fiord on the second boat journey. Soon he was trekking daily from the camp to the Sefstrom Glacier, where he was making measurements on the rate of movement and melting of the glacier.

The move to Alpe Fiord did not go according to plan, because we had over-estimated the capacity of our little boat, powered by its outboard motor. At the first attempt Scott, Lovat and Cameron put to sea heavily laden, and as soon as they ran into a choppy sea began to ship water. There followed a hurried dash for the shore, and a recasting of plans. The boat could evidently carry only half the expected load in safety, so that the move which was planned to take two trips eventually required four, and occupied 12 days at the end of July.

These were by no means idle days, for while some were manning the boat, others were inspecting lemming traps, or peering down a theodolite on the Sefstrom Glacier, and the rest were walking round the coast towards Alpe Fiord. Near the head of the fiord the combined snout of the Gully and Sefstrom Glaciers jutted far out across the waters, leaving a narrow channel to the inner fiord where our new base camp was situated. The highlight of the voyage was the sail through this channel, 2 miles long and only 300 to 400 yards wide, with ice cliffs on one side and the mountains on the other rising sheer from the fiord for 3,000 feet.



VIEW WESTWARD FROM BEAUFORT ACROSS SEFSTROM GLACIER

K. Bryan

By 4th August the whole expedition reached the inner fiord where our camp was pitched among boulders by the water's edge. It was an impressive place, for behind our tents rock buttresses soared up to 6,000-foot peaks in one sweep, while on the opposite side of the mile-wide fiord walls just as high descended from the ice-cap of Nathorst Land. Three miles away, beyond the head of the fiord, the Spørre Gletscher stretched right across the floor of the valley and dammed in a long, dark lake, the Furesö. The only sounds to break the silence of this desolate place were the rumblings of ice breaking off the Sefstrom Glacier and plunging into the fiord and the wild cries of occasional birds—ravens, gulls and divers.

An early reconnaissance party pronounced the Spørre Gletscher, with its miles of gaping crevasses and toppling séracs, a "natural obstacle course," so attention was directed to the Sefstrom Glacier. One night a party of six established a camp about 6 miles up the glacier, at over 3,000 feet, using for the first and only time a man-hauled *pulka* sledge to haul up 600 lb. of food and equipment. This sledge was ideal for haulage up a fairly level crevasse-free glacier such as the lower part of the Sefstrom, but would be of no use on a steep or difficult glacier.

It was obvious to us that the mountains on this side of the range were going to be tougher nuts to crack than those farther east, and this first impression was confirmed now that we were among them. As we surveyed a dozen peaks from our camp we could not see an easy way up any. Most of them had jagged rock summits and their lower slopes were either hanging glaciers or steep rock buttresses. They rose about 5,000 feet above us, and every foot had to be climbed on rock or ice; there was no walking on these mountains.

The first sortie was up a small glacier that joined the Sefstrom beside our camp. Lovat and Bryan climbed a striking peak on the south side of this glacier. After 2,000 feet of climbing, first on rock and then on steep ice, they reached the summit ridge, 1,000 feet of splendid red rock. The ascent of this ridge gave some of the hardest

climbing of the expedition. About two-thirds of the way up a small cairn, with Austrian chocolate papers, was passed. Beyond this two very steep and exposed pitches led to the top, where there was no cairn. This peak, which had evidently foiled the Austrians the year before, was aptly christened Beaufort.

On the same day Rose and Cameron were hard at work on the opposite side of the glacier, cramponing their way up a 3,000-foot snow and ice *couloir* to reach a col between the Sefstromtinde, the highest peak in the area, and its neighbour to the east. This latter peak was climbed by an ice ridge and named Ruthven. At 8,100 feet it was our highest peak so far.

The steep ice slopes and *couloirs* of these two mountains, and of others that we climbed in this area, required a special technique for rapid yet safe climbing. Twelve point crampons were indispensable, for the two front spikes could be kicked into the ice, and one man could climb rapidly in this way, while the other was belayed to an ice-piton. Leading alternately, this system made for quick climbing, either up or down, and on the only occasion when someone fell he was successfully held.

A third peak at the head of this side glacier was climbed by Slesser and Smart and named Tantallon. The highlight of their climb was an icefall on the glacier, which provided an intricate piece of route finding and ice-manship. The ascent of the peak itself followed the usual pattern—an ice *couloir*, several hundred feet of rather loose rocks and a delightful snow ridge leading to the summit tower which gave two pleasant rock pitches.

After these three successful ascents, the mountains struck back, and our last two climbs from this camp were not so successful. Lovat, Bryan, Paterson and I tried to climb the Sefstromtinde, just over 9,000 feet high, and the highest mountain in the area, but we underestimated the difficulties of the climb. After a late start we only reached the crux of the climb, a huge group of gendarmes, late in the afternoon. The first

attempt to pass them failed and, as we had no time left, we returned defeated.

Slesser and Scott had very hard fortune, for they were turned back only 100 feet below a big rock peak called Atilaborg on the west side of the Sefstrom Glacier. After 12 hours of climbing, involving a long approach and 2,000 feet of hard rock and ice, they reached a point just below the summit. Only a steep chute of ice separated them from their goal, but after so many hours of almost continuous climbing neither of them had the energy left for another bout of step-cutting, and they turned down.

In deteriorating weather Lovat and Bryan moved farther up the Sefstrom Glacier, but could only spend 2 or 3 days in their tent watching the snow fall around them before they returned to Alpe Fiord. They decided to stay at base and climb as many peaks as possible from there, while living in the lap of luxury.

The rest of us, having seen Slesser, Smart and Scott off on their respective routes to Syd Kap, sailed over to the north side of Alpe Fiord to spend a few days exploring Nathorsts Land. There, in the Schaffhauser Valley, the scene was less desolate than at our Base Camp, and the red and gold colours of the heaths and berry plants reminded us that already, in mid-August, the Greenland summer was nearly over. Three or four miles up the valley a pointed peak caught our attention and we climbed it. After the hazardous ice-slopes of the Staunings Alps it was a pleasure to scramble unroped up 3,000 to 4,000 feet of easy rocks and bask at ease on the summit without the nagging thought of a hard descent.

Our main objective in Nathorsts Land was to reach the ice plateau that covers half of it and is an outlier of the Greenland ice-cap. We camped on the plateau at about 6,000 feet for a night, four of us huddled in one small tent. The plateau undulated gently for miles over rounded tops. It would have been ideal for ski-ing, but we could only trudge up to the nearest tops where we were rewarded with a wonderful view of the Staunings Alps across the deep trench of Alpe Fiord.

On our return to Base Camp we found that Lovat and Bryan had climbed four peaks, all about 6,000 feet, in a cirque between Alpe Fiord and the Sefstrom Glacier. All these mountains gave excellent climbing, mostly on steep, sound gneiss. On two of these peaks the hard climbing extended for a height of over 3,000 feet, fully as much as on a Chamonix *aiguille* twice the height.

It was on one of these peaks, Inverarnan, that we had our last climbing adventure. Cameron and I had repeated the ascent by a different route and were on our way down. As we pulled the abseil rope from its belay at the summit a sizeable stone was dislodged and landed on my head. We continued the descent, chastened, and I could not help thinking that if this sort of thing was going to happen it was time we left. Furthermore, Slesser and Smart had just returned from Syd Kap, and we were scraping the bottoms of the food boxes. We bade farewell to our three companions setting off through the mountains and chugged down Alpe Fiord for the last time.

THE CROSSING TO SYD KAP.

By C. G. M. Slesser.

ONE of the avowed intentions of this expedition was the exploration of the South Staunings mountains, the largest part of the range, which was virtually unexplored. We largely failed in our object. From Alpe Fiord, on the north and west side of the range, the only access lay up the untrodden Spörregletscher, a most turbulent stream of ice. Soon after we arrived in Alpe Fiord, a party of four left to reconnoitre a route up it. They returned 15 hours later bearing a sorry tale. At first they had been able to make their way up the glacier edge by way of the moraine, then rock and grass ledges, until finally barred by an impossible cliff, so that further progress could only be upon the glacier. This was a formidable prospect, the glacier being, as far as the eye could see (4 miles), one continuous maze of séracs, the

like of which none of the party had seen before. It was felt that the time and effort required to place an advanced base camp at the head of this glacier was just not worth while. Further, the immediately visible peaks were not prepossessing. From the point of view of climbing pleasure much more was to be gained on the already known Sefstrom Glacier area. Only Smart, diffidently, held a different view, and on the following day while the rest of the expedition set about building up supplies on Sefstrom Glacier, I joined Smart in having another look. With the eye of faith we sketched a route which we felt sure would go more quickly, and which took us all but half a mile over the difficulties. We were hopeful, with an optimism borne higher by our very real desire to penetrate into this area and, if possible, go right across the range to the Schuichart valley on the east side. From there we hoped we might visit our nearest neighbours, a summer Greenland Eskimo hunting station at Syd Kap on North-west Fiord, 70 miles to our south.

On 12th August, since there were no takers for the idea, the two of us set off loaded with gear and food for a fortnight. Bennet, Rose, Scott and Paterson came with us, partly out of curiosity, and partly to help us with our loads, and so speed us on our way. Naturally we set a cracking pace to get the most out of our companions before they rebelled. Before such talent the glacier gave in with little fight, and it is remarkable to record that in 6 hours we had negotiated the entire lower icefall. Some estimates had been 3 days. Here we were left, and in the ensuing days, rather hindered by a snow-fall, we relayed loads up the Spörregletscher, choosing in the upper reaches a left branch, now called Duart Glacier, which on the basis of aerial photos seemed the most likely to be useful. This glacier was much crevassed, and two loaded men such as we, completely detached from the main party, had to move with some care. On the fourth day we reached the top, gaining a flat plateau at about 5,500 feet. To north and south spread two magnificent snow basins with peaks offering delightful climbing, especially if combined with the use of ski.

Ahead lay a gently descending glacier, which we named Roslin. Virtually without a crevasse it led in 20 miles to the Schuichart valley. There, to our surprise, we met Scott, who had wisely saved himself our labour by flying in a monoplane over the hills and landing on a neighbouring glacier. Both parties descended to Syd Kap and visited the Eskimos; ourselves in some haste, since we had only five spare days of food to play about with, and Scott, since he had ample food, slowly and more profitably. On our way home we turned aside for a few hours to bag Roslin, a snow-peak of elegant proportions over 8,500 feet, rising above the Roslin-Duart plateau. From it we got extensive views southwards, seeing for the first time a range of lovely peaks which will undoubtedly repay exploration. Some attractive rock peaks lay near the head of the Spörregletscher. North-eastwards lay many superb rock and ice peaks, presenting their easiest side to Roslin Glacier, which undoubtedly holds the key to this part of the Staunings.

THE CROSSING TO MESTERS VIG.

By K. Bryan, J.M.C.S.

WE were not the first party to attempt a crossing of the Central Staunings. In 1951 a small Swiss party tried to make a route from the upper basin of the Skjoldunge Glacier in the east over a high col leading into the Viking Glacier in the west, and in 1957 an Austrian party attempted our own proposed route. Both these parties were unsuccessful.

Our intended line was to follow the Gully Glacier from Alpe Fiord and reach a 7,000-foot col from which a steep descent of 1,500 feet would take us into the upper reaches of the Bersaerker Glacier. A farther 20 miles of glacier and we would reach the Skeldal Valley—the eastern boundary of the Staunings.

During July Donald Bennet and I made a trip on ski to the head of the Bersaerker Glacier and reached the

col (now known as Col Major) by a rock, snow and ice route which we both considered would present a considerable problem as a route of descent for a heavily laden party. The only alternative line leading to the col was a long ice *couloir*, which as a line of ascent would have been purgatorial and as a line of descent almost out of the question. It thus appeared that the descent from the col was going to be the crux of the whole traverse.

Our party was to consist of Charlie Rose, Donald Bennet and myself. Unfortunately, on the evening prior to our departure, Donald was struck on the head by a falling rock, thus providing Smart (our man of medicine) with his first and only patient of the trip. For once Smart's usual medical dictum of a light diet and no alcohol was cast aside and he insisted that Donald should not go on the traverse. It was decided that Malcolm Slessor should take his place.

At eleven o'clock on 26th August we made our final departure from the homely squalor of our Alpe Fiord base and tramped up hillsides awash with the scarlets and yellows of the Greenland autumn. Our enjoyment of the scene, however, was all too quickly dissipated among the moraines of the Sefstrom Glacier, and before long we were involved in some exasperating route-finding through the marginal crevasses and séracs of the far side. But the day was young and an amiable sun smiled on our ascent of the scree and boulder slopes to the promontory dividing the Sefstrom and Gully Glaciers.

Our highway into the heart of the Staunings now lay before us, but the eye was immediately attracted by the graceful lines of Norsketinde, one of the highest peaks in the area. It rose 7,000 feet from the glacier and, draped from its twin summits, a shining curtain of snow swept down to the granite spires of the supporting ridges. Every little detail stood out with remarkable clarity in the crisp arctic air.

Directly below us lay the lower icefall of the Gully Glacier, a veritable sea of tormented ice. Len Lovat and I had visited this icefall previously and worked out

a route along a tenuous series of snow ribbons between the glacier and its steep containing walls on the right. In the Alps such a route would have been so exposed to stone-fall as to be dangerous, but we had observed only one small fall of stones and we reckoned the route to be fairly safe.

For the next few hours the three of us carefully picked our way through the obstacle course set before us and where possible followed the still discernible tracks left by Lovat and myself. The route was not elegant and the steep snow slopes were interspersed with sections of fretted ice covered with loose gravel and mud and bristling with holes and crevasses. On occasions we were forced to digress on to the rock walls on our right where several awkward pitches added to the variety.

It was 8.30 P.M. before we at last found ourselves looking up the broad promenade that led to the second icefall, but by then our thoughts were turning to food and sleeping-bags. Before long a small orange tent sprang up in the middle of the glacier and the strong smell of pemmican stew permeated the still evening air.

Early the next morning, before the sun had crept down from the high summits and flooded across the glacier, we were winding our way through the crevasses of the second icefall. This, unlike the other, was a gentle, more amiable undulation in the glacier surface, and in less than 2 hours it lay behind us. Our aim was to reach the col that evening if at all possible, but from aerial photographs we knew that at least one other major icefall barred our way. This was not long in showing itself, and from a distance of several miles it could be seen as a long step-like wall of perhaps 500 feet in height cutting across the full width of the glacier.

The long approach could certainly not be described as tedious, for around us rose a most embarrassingly wide selection of magnificent unclimbed peaks. At intervals excited fingers would be pointed up as another great cirque of *aiguilles* presented itself. Grépons, Blaitières, Ravanel, Réquins—everywhere they abounded, their



INVERARNAN, STAUNINGS ALPS

(Lovat-Bryan route left-hand ridge to left top
Bennet-Cameron route right-hand ridge to right top)

K. Bryan

serrated granite arêtes and frail snow crests still untouched and unnamed.

Unfortunately we had little time to linger, and before long our attention was fully absorbed by the chaos of ice-blocks ahead. Here was no common icefall. It was what we aptly described at the time as a "porridge." Malcolm's theory was that, unlike a normal icefall where the ice was broken and fractured by gradual but continuous movement, this particular icefall suffered violent periodic movements which shattered the complete structure. Bowing to Malcolm's superior insight into the problematical mechanics that control such things, it was decided that we should press on unroped in the fond hope that we would reach the top prior to the next cataclysm. If we didn't, a rope would be of little assistance. Speed was the important thing. A short acquaintanceship with the "porridge" revealed that it was not altogether lacking in crevasses. In fact we found several impressively large examples. However, there was always some way over or around them. Sometimes a bridge of ice-blocks would supply the answer; at others a good jump would suffice. At about one o'clock we climbed over the last of the ice-blocks and crevasses to find ourselves looking into the inner sanctuary of the Gully Glacier. Before us the glacier opened out into a vast basin, a rolling sea of snow shimmering in the bright sunshine and breaking over the splintered islands of warm red granite around its shores. Here indeed superlatives seemed hardly out of place. Directly before us there rose an isolated rock pyramid of perhaps 3,000 feet in height, the steep walls of which would present a climbing problem of no small magnitude. To our left lay Dansketinde, the highest peak in the Staunings, its 9,000-foot summit throwing down a wide fan of clean-cut ridges and buttresses.

As we got the primus going for a brew-up we felt jubilant, for we knew that unless we encountered some unforeseen difficulty our route to the col was open and we would reach it that evening as planned. The hard-frozen surface with only a light covering of powder snow

made for fast progress, but it was 5 hours later before we plodded wearily up the last long slope and past the last of a seemingly endless succession of trench-like crevasses to find ourselves standing on Col Major.

Far below us lay the Bersaerker Brae, a deep shadowy furrow from which rose the dark silhouettes of peaks which, to us, now possessed the warmth of names and associations. In the distance could be seen the dull sheen of Kong Oscar's Fiord running out to the pale white rim on the horizon that marked the beginning of the pack ice.

The col itself was covered by a deep blanket of dry powder snow which, by the time we crawled into our tent, was showing the first coral tints of the setting sun. At 7,000 feet the air was bitterly cold, but Charlie insisted on sleeping outside under a bivouac sheet which he was testing for the army. Both Malcolm and I were truly impressed and shouted encouraging remarks from the warm fuggy atmosphere of our tent.

The following morning we set off, realising that we were about to embark on the crux of the whole traverse. We were prepared to devote a full day to the descent from the col and were equipped with a wide selection of rock and ice pitons together with 400 feet of spare rope.

The fresh powder snow raised grave doubts about our proposed line of descent. These were strengthened when I saw the steep upper slabs covered in a thick layer of unstable snow. Fortunately, however, there had also been other changes, and the ice *couloir* which Donald and I had previously regarded with disfavour now presented a promising route. Instead of the bare ice which prevailed during the previous month there was now a thin covering of fairly reliable snow. Without further delay we decided in favour of the *couloir*.

The snow proved to be a bit patchy and there were still areas of hard ice where we had to rely on the front points of our crampons for support, making it necessary to move in pitches taking rock belays on the walls. A rather tedious procedure perhaps, but as we watched Charlie somersaulting down the *couloir* we could not help feeling

that it was just as well the poor fellow was attached to a rope. He fell about 100 feet, but his grinning face looking up at us indicated that he was none the worse for it.

Two hours later we crossed the bergschrund which was conveniently filled with avalanche débris, and made our way down the last steep slope to the Bersaerker Brae. Nothing now barred our way, and in another day we would reach the Skeldal. All our spare equipment was jettisoned and after a hearty round of mutual back-slapping we set off down the glacier, happily dreaming of the hot showers that awaited us at Mesters Vig.

THE 3,000-FOOT MOUNTAINS AND SUBSIDIARY TOPS OF MACGILLYCUDDY'S REEKS.

By W. M. Docharty.

To accompany him on the last of his British and Irish three-thousanders, John Dow asked if I would join him and his son-in-law, Donald Hannah, in Ireland towards the end of September 1956. Instead of the traditional surface routes taking perhaps 12 hours, we availed ourselves, both outwards and homewards, of Silver City Airways Northern Ireland Car Ferry, which was then maintaining a service between Castle Kennedy and Newtownards. The flights took 17 minutes, and little more than half an hour elapsed before we were motoring along the road on the other side.

Our main interest lay in the above range. It is far and away Ireland's most considerable 3,000-foot group, including ten of the country's total of thirteen 3,000-foot tops, and, according to our estimations, the eight highest. The other three-thousanders which we also visited are Lugnaquilla (3,039 feet) in Co. Wicklow, Galtymore (3,018 feet) on the border separating Co. Tipperary and Co. Limerick, and Brandon (3,127 feet) in Kerry overlooking the Atlantic near the end of the Dingle or Corcaquiny Peninsula.

The group is situated in Kerry between the upper Kenmare Estuary and Castlemaine Plain and Harbour. It lies to the south-west of Killarney, immediately beyond the Gap of Dunloe, which was deepened about 200 feet in the ice-age by a northbound glacier.* Carrauntoohil, the highest point in Ireland, has pride of place at the junction of the three main ridges. These are Caher to the west, Knockoughter-Beenkeragh to the north, and the long Ridge of the Reeks running north-eastward towards the Gap.

Convenient centres are Killarney in the east and Glenbeigh on Dingle Bay where I stayed in 1951. In 1948 I put up at the Station Hotel in Killorglin and in 1956 John Dow and I chose Glencar to the west, by the River Caragh, perhaps the most suitable place of all.

Ice did not surmount MacGillycuddy's Reeks. At a height of about 2,000 feet it approached from a centre of dispersal in the upper Kenmare Estuary to the south. As the ice-cap withdrew westward a long glacial lake was formed farther east in the Kenmare Valley at a height of about 320 feet. The shore embankments or "roads" of this lake are better developed and preserved than any in these islands, excepting those in Glen Roy. The ice by-passed the Reeks to east and west in two great iceflows, which were nourished by glaciers in the range itself. Great deep corries were sculptured by these local glaciers, aided by frost action on their flanks, and above, where they abutted the ridges. Facing north-west, north-east and south, with loughs upon their floors, these corries are outstanding features in the architecture of the Reeks to-day.*

I was grateful for the opportunity to explore these splendid ridges a second time, for 8 years earlier on 13th September 1948, in deplorable conditions, I had been at fault in some of my deductions as recorded in List A of Irish Mountains and subsidiary Tops in my

* Epitomised from "The Geology of Killarney and Kenmare," by W. B. Wright and two others. Published by the Stationery Office, Dublin, 1927.

book.* I had failed to detect that splendid little top which commands the ridge between Carrauntoohil and Beenkeragh, which I have called "Knockoughter." After Carrauntoohil I completely missed Caher, the north-west top of Cahernaveen. To be certain that I had passed over all summits on this westerly ridge I descended about 200 feet in thick mist beyond the main top in what I felt was the proper north-westerly trend. Previously I had identified a tiny east top, and as I found nothing high beyond the main top, relied upon the conclusion that the main top and the tiny east top were the only two 3,000-foot features on the Cahernaveen ridge.

On the Ridge of the Reeks, both by aneroid and by fleeting glimpse through the mist which was temporarily less dense at that stage of the excursion, I suspected that the top south of Lough Cummeennapeasta was the highest on the ridge. John Dow and I were able to confirm this beyond all doubt. This is a fact which I suggest has either remained undetected or has been inadequately emphasised in earlier articles in the *Journal*.

This top, Knocknapeasta, I reckon must stand not less than 50 feet higher than the one east of Lough Cummeenmore, Barrabwee. Along with others it will be interesting to know its exact height when these unmeasured tops are levelled by the Irish Ordnance Survey. A comprehensive survey of this splendid group is long overdue.

On 29th September and 1st October 1956, John Dow carried one aneroid barometer and I had two with me. The readings of the three instruments we subsequently balanced. Since our visit these ridges have also been explored by Eric Maxwell and James S. Anderson of the Grampian Club, whose findings very closely approximate our own. It is to them I am indebted for the references of the National Grid which they inform me has been superimposed on the latest edition of the Irish Ordnance Survey Killarney District 1-inch map.

* "A Selection of Some 900 British and Irish Mountain Tops." Privately printed by The Darien Press Ltd., Edinburgh, 1954.

The weather in 1956, although very boisterous, was clearer than on 13th September 1948, when I made my first exploration. I was fortunate in 1956, therefore, to secure Leica sequences of all the MacGillycuddy ridges excepting that of Skregmore which, failing to reach 3,000 feet in height, is outwith the purpose of these comments.

Scope still remains for argument about "mountain" and "top" status. Supported by the Leica sequences and the findings of Eric Maxwell and James S. Anderson, the accompanying list, however, is what John Dow and I suggest is fair judgment upon the 3,000-foot tops of the MacGillycuddy ridges. The whole area is covered by $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch map No. 20 and the Killarney District 1-inch map of the Irish Ordnance Survey.

Just as precise heights cannot be stated for certain summits, so also is there indecision about names and the spelling. Carrauntoohil, Beenkeragh and Caher are the only tops which are named on the maps. For other names chosen I am indebted to Claude W. Wall's two articles on the subject of the nomenclature of MacGillycuddy's Reeks which appeared in the *Journal of the Irish Mountaineering Club* in 1951 and 1952. In these the writer warmly acknowledges the achievement of research by our member E. W. Hodge, and compliments him upon originating that lovely name Knockacuillion (3,141 feet). Among other friends I am also indebted to the Rev. C. R. P. Vandeleur, joint compiler of the Lynam-Vandeleur Lists of Irish Mountains, and Tom Quinn of An Oige, to whom the credit is due for the indicator which was erected on Carrauntoohil in 1955. Exceptionally, Knockoughter is my own, derived from Cummeenoughter, the deep corrie in which lies the little lough, the Devil's Looking Glass. Cummeenoughter is named on one of the two 6-inch maps, Nos. 72 and 73, which the Irish Ordnance Survey were good enough to send me with the upper contours (250 feet apart) drawn in and all known spot heights added.

On 29th September 1956, John Dow and I were driven by Donald Hannah to Maghanlawaun on the upper River

Caragh to the south-west of the group. In the teeth of a westerly gale and intermittent tearing mist, we made the circuit of the westernmost summits, Caher, Cahernaveen, Carrauntoohil, Knockoughter and Beenkeragh. There we parted, and I continued to explore the subsidiary ridges of Knockbrinnea and Skregmore, completing the tally of Ireland's 2,500-foot mountain tops. In turn we were both picked up by the car on the road by Lough Acoose. The only person we encountered was a shepherd with two red dogs. We were sheltering for a quick lunch just after we had passed the Cahernaveen-Carrauntoohil saddle. He was amazed to learn we intended to cross the Knockoughter ridge in the weather prevailing, and warned us against proceeding. Descending Carrauntoohil and before starting upon the crossing, we were inclined to agree with his local intuition. Afoot my time was $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours, the distance 9 miles, and the combined ascent and descent 9,500 feet.

On Sunday, 30th September, Donald Hannah joined me. In good but still windy weather we went to Beenkeragh where I secured several Leica panoramic sequences, an outline drawing of one of which is reproduced herewith. Estimations by aneroid were taken of the height of Knockoughter.

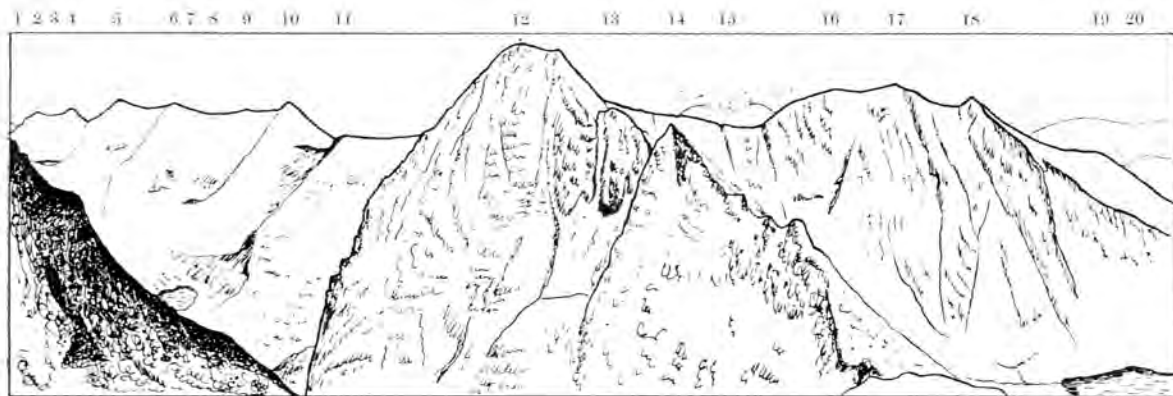
On Monday, 1st October, Donald Hannah drove us to Knocknafreaghau on the Gaddagh River in the north-east. Via the Hag's Glen track, and passing between Lough Gouragh and Lough Callee, we reached the crest of the Ridge of the Reeks at the east end of the 2,776-foot top which I now call "Carrigacashlaunbaun," again quoting from the 6-inch map. The ridge was quickly enveloped in mist but we identified all the tops round to Cruach (3,062 feet). This name has taken the place of "Knocknapeasta" which was given to this top in my book. More appropriately the name Knocknapeasta is now applied to the top which lies to the south of Lough Cummeennapeasta, the highest on the Ridge of the Reeks and fourth highest in Ireland. J. A. Parker, who contributed articles to the *Journal* in 1914 (vol. 13) and in 1929 (vol. 18), has paid tribute to the interest provided

THE 3,000-FOOT MOUNTAINS AND SUBSIDIARY TOPS OF MACGILLYCUDDY'S REEKS.

	Mountain.	Top.	National Grid Map Reference.	Notes.
	Feet.	Feet.		
Carrauntoohil . . .	3,414		V. 804/844	Tiny N.W. top— <i>ca.</i> 3,175 ft. an.
Beenkeragh . . .	3,314		V. 802/853	
Knockoughter . . .		<i>ca.</i> 3,160 an.	V. 801/848	Three summit eminences.
Cahernaveen . . .	<i>ca.</i> 3,300 an.		V. 795/838	Tiny E. top— <i>ca.</i> 3,225 ft. an.
Caher . . .		<i>ca.</i> 3,200 an.	V. 790/840	
RIDGE OF THE REEKS :				
Knocknapeasta . . .	<i>ca.</i> 3,250 an.		V. 837/842	South of Lough Cummeennapeasta. Alt. names, Cummeennapeasta and Slievenapeasta.
Knockacuillion . . .		3,141	V. 823/832	South of Lough Cummeenmore. Tiny N.E. top— <i>ca.</i> 3,080 ft. an.
Barrabwee . . .		<i>ca.</i> 3,200 an.	V. 828/834	East of Lough Cummeenmore. Alt. names, Barna Ruadh and Knockgrin.
Crom Cruach . . .	<i>ca.</i> 3,100 an.		V. 841/845	South-east of Lough Cummeennapeasta.
Cruach . . .		3,062	V. 841/848	Alt. name, Lackagarrin.
	5	5		10 Mountains and Tops

ca. before a height = *circa*/approximately.

an. *after* a height = aneroid estimations.



MACGILLYCUDDY'S REEKS.

Outline drawing by J. M. Thomson (vertical scale increased one and a half times) from a Leica panorama (155/160° from East to West-south-west) taken at about 1.30 P.M. on Sunday, 30th September 1956, from about 3,200 feet on the south ridge of Beenkeragh (3,314 feet).

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. South ridge of Purple (2,739 feet), $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles. <i>East.</i> | 11. East end of ridge, Carrigacashlaunbaun (2,776 feet), $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles. |
| 2. Cruach, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. | 12. Carrauntoohil, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. |
| 3. Lough Cummeennapeasta, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles. | 13. Tiny N.W. top, Carrauntoohil, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. |
| 4. Crom Cruach, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles. | 14. Knockoughter, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. <i>South.</i> |
| 5. Knockapeasta, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles. | 15. Knockduff (2,572 feet) (under cloud), $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles. |
| 6. Barrabwee, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles. | 16. Tiny E. top, Cahernaveen, $\frac{7}{8}$ mile. |
| 7. Lough Callee, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles. | 17. Cahernaveen, 1 mile. |
| 8. Lough Cummeenmore, $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles. | 18. Caher, 1 mile. <i>S.W.</i> |
| 9. Tiny N.E. top, Knockacuillion, 2 miles. | 19. Lough Eagher, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. |
| 10. Knockacuillion, $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles. <i>S.E.</i> | 20. Coomacarrea (2,541 feet) (deep in mist), 12 miles. <i>W., S.W.</i> |

by this ridge between Knocknapeasta and Cruach, as also to the Knockoughter ridge between Carrauntoohil and Beenkeragh. E. C. Thomson has also explored the MacGillycuddy group as reported on page 132 of vol. 18 (1929). From Cruach we descended to Knocknafreaghaun, having been $8\frac{1}{4}$ hours afoot for the 8 miles, and just over 7,000 feet of ascent and descent.

On 13th September 1948, when I combined these two excursions, I took $10\frac{1}{4}$ hours for the 13 to 14 miles and 12,500 feet of ascent and descent. Including the 15 miles to and from Knocknafreaghaun by bicycle, the excursion occupied $12\frac{1}{3}$ hours from and back to Killorglin. Wheeling my unlighted bicycle through the town, which was recovering from a cattle market held in the streets, as is the custom in those parts, I was taken in charge by the guards, but was promptly released at the barracks, when I explained I was a visitor to the place, and had just been afoot round the MacGillycuddy ridges.

In parenthesis it is intriguing to recall that Irish heights are referred to the datum of *Low Water of Spring Tides* at Poolbeg Lighthouse, Dublin Bay, as observed at that point on 8th April 1837, and it is 8.218 feet below mean sea-level. All Irish hills are thus about 8 feet higher than they would be if they were referred to the datum of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, which is mean sea-level.

POINT FIVE, A BEN NEVIS SAGA.

By Ian Clough.

ON arriving at the fish and chip shop in Fort William one evening during Easter 1958, I was presented with an envelope by the girl behind the counter, who said, "Hamish left this for you." Tearing open the envelope I found a short note which, with typical MacInnes casualness, said, "Fancy trying Point Five? Come up to C.I.C. as soon as possible. Bring food with you." From the last sentence I assumed that Hamish as usual

had no food! These few words were enough to quicken my pulse, however. I knew quite a lot of the story of Point Five Gully thus far, and I was very pleased to have the chance to climb it. I asked permission to leave the Kinloss Rescue Team, with which I was on exercise, and started up for the C.I.C. Hut that night.

I arrived at midnight. Hamish got out of bed and made tea for me and we talked. Point Five and Zero Gullies had for some time been the two really hard winter climbs left on Ben Nevis and several attempts had been made on each of them. Zero is on the left and Point Five on the right of Observatory Ridge; both are very steep ribbons of ice for about 400 of their 1,000 feet under winter conditions. A year ago Hamish, Tom Patey and Graeme Nicol had made the first ascent of Zero under perfect conditions. Since then attention had been concentrated on Point Five.

The first serious attempt on the gully had been in January 1956 when a "Rock and Ice" party consisting of Joe Brown, Allen and Underwood had tried it. I quote the entry in the C.I.C. Log Book: "80 feet and 35 feet. Very steep ice. The ice on the second pitch was poor, a mixture of icicles and rotten snow, vertical and bulging. The party descended at the terrible rate of 32 feet per second per second, 300 feet (no time)." It seems that Brown succeeded in putting in an ice-peg, breathed a sigh of relief, leant back on it and found himself in space. The second man was torn from his stance but the third man held both of them!

In February of the following year, a few days prior to the Zero ascent, Tom Patey climbed the first pitch of Point Five in 15 minutes. However, the second pitch looked formidable and was swept by spindrift; so he retired, abseiling from an ice-peg.

The Creag Dhu Club entered the lists the following month. Mick Noon and John Cunningham climbed the first pitch, overcame the second pitch and climbed 20 feet up the third pitch before they had to "bail out" owing to bad ice. Altogether 180 feet of the gully was climbed.

Hamish had descended the top 500 to 600 feet of the

gully on a long length of line anchored to an ice-axe at the top, and had then climbed the top part of the gully without the aid of the rope.

During all the earlier part of the 1958 season Noon and Cunningham had been paying regular visits to the climb to see if it had come into condition. Now Hamish (a member of the same club) was going to try his luck.

* * * * *

The first pitch looked quite amenable from below (due to foreshortening, as we were to find out) and Hamish suggested that I should lead while he played with his camera below. There was a coating of water-ice over rock slabs, fairly thick at the bottom but getting much thinner higher up. After 25 feet I decided that I'd done my bit. "Time for the experts to have a turn," I called to Hamish who had been boosting my confidence with tales of "zip-fastening" chains of ice-peg runners. I managed to drive in a peg and climb down. With a few cat-like movements he was up at the piton. He was no more happy about the next section than I had been, but muttering something about "dangerous" into his beard he continued up the strip of ice. The rope ran out slowly, very slowly, with only an occasional mumbling from Hamish and the steady beat of his new heavy-weight ice-hammer, accompanied by the hissing of the ice particles as they shot by. At last, after over 5 hours had been spent on the pitch he found a stance but no belay. "Tap, tap, tap"—Hamish was drilling a hole in the rock. After a while he came down on the rope which was fixed to a bolt he had driven into the hole. The rope was left in position and we went back down to the hut for supper.

The next day we climbed the fixed rope and, as Hamish's wrist was still weak from his long spell the day before, I was given the lead. I climbed slowly up the next 30 feet and was soon engaged in trying to fight my way up a bulge of rotten ice, spindrift avalanches harassing me all the while.

At this stage we had a visitor. We had seen two tiny

figures hurrying up towards us from the bottom of Observatory Gully. "A bit futile, isn't it?" was the comment of the first figure when he arrived at the foot of the climb. "Want to come up, Tom?" Hamish said. I knew then that this must be Tom Patey. As he climbed up the fixed rope he told us that he had been watching from the C.I.C. Hut. At one time, during one of the big avalanches, he thought we had both been swept off as he had completely lost sight of us! He was amazed at the difficulty of the first pitch from his experience the year before. It was now a rather different proposition, he remarked as he grasped the rope.

Hamish and Tom had quite a long "pow-wow" while I made valiant but vain attempts at step-cutting in the bad ice. One step flew just past Tom's head, and I was roundly cursed by Hamish for my lack of manners while his guest was with us. After a while Tom took his leave, asking if he could rope-down on the fixed rope. Hamish told him to go ahead and, when Tom was half-way down, thanked him for testing the bolt. Tom, still 50 feet above safety, did not seem to appreciate this form of practical joke!

After Tom had left I climbed down to Hamish and we changed over. Hamish then went up, but after some time had made no farther progress. The spindrift continued to fall and so did our morale. Eventually we decided we had had enough, and retreated, leaving the rope fixed on two rock-pegs ready for a further attempt the next week-end. Hamish took a label off his rucksack and attached it to the bottom of the rope. Very appropriately it read, "Hamish MacInnes . . . luggage in advance!" We did not know it then, but we had said good-bye to Point Five for that season at any rate. The following week-end we were involved in a big search of the Ben for three missing English climbers. And the thaw came.

* * * * *

January 1959 saw me back on the Ben with three friends. (A fourth did not partake in the climb.) After spending three days at the Hut we went down to the

town and restocked with food. On the following morning four little figures stood at the foot of Point Five ready to start on what turned out to be a five-day job.

Soon the sound of "Thor," our heavy slater's hammer, was heard as I started nibbling my way up the first pitch. Again the ice covering the slabs was thin and progress was correspondingly slow. One 10-foot section, which was approaching 80 degrees, with the ice only 3 or 4 inches thick, proved very awkward. Once above this, I found a scoop where I managed to drive two ice-pegs half-way in. Linking them with a sling, I clipped in my rope and climbed back down. This just happened to coincide with the arrival of Don Pipes who had been down to the Hut for a Thermos flask of tea. We were now about half-way up the first 100-foot pitch.

John Alexander, looking as though he were just back from the Himalaya, with his half-grown beard, took over and, traversing up to the right, found a groove with slightly thicker ice. He worked his way up the corner and over a vertical step which led to the snow patch at the start of Pitch 2. Hamish's bolts were still soundly in position and, as there was little daylight left, John roped down from them. This one pitch had taken 5 hours.

Next day three of us were back again. John climbed the rope and brought me up. While I was having a rest after working on the second pitch for about an hour, John brought up Robin so that he could watch the proceedings. Robin Shaw's appearance was unusual; his climbing outfit seemed to consist of rags held together by no one knew how. This, with his black beard and tousled hair, gave him a Robinson Crusoeish touch.

Soon I was back up the pitch. I climbed towards the place where we had left in the rock-pegs last year. Then I saw a peg with a piece of nylon hanging from it in the groove on the left of the ice bulge, just above where our pegs should have been. Reaching it, I clipped in and then saw another peg under the ice on the right. Soon I was standing on an *étrier* hanging from this peg and knocking in a further rock-peg on the same traversing

line. Next I used an *étrier* hanging from an ice-peg and, with another ice-peg for a hand-hold, I was over the crux. Another 25 feet up I found a place for a stance, but it took another $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours before I had found places for satisfactory rock-peg belays. With the rope fastened to the pegs, I roped off. Another day's work was at an end.

Don had not been idle meanwhile. He had done a climb, gone down to Glen Nevis and brought up more rope and ice-pegs. We now had 900 feet of rope, enough to do the climb on a top rope as someone had jokingly suggested.

Next morning, feeling lazy, I suggested that we should start a shift system. Don and Robin were elected to go up to what had by now been nicknamed "the unclimbed horror." They went up but were soon back, reporting that continuous spindrift avalanches were rather off-putting.

Don and Robin put in the third day's work on Pitch 3 after taking quite a time to get up the icy fixed ropes. Don spent a cold $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours on his stance while Robin battled away on the next section. Robin's crampons were not very good ones and, at first, it was with mixed feelings of amusement and anxiety that Don watched his partner's crampon points curl up as he climbed the steps in the ice. This, and the fact that the ice turned a dirty grey wherever Robin's trousers touched it, gave Don considerable amusement. The climbing was very difficult, although an ice-peg or two could be kept above the leader all the while; and at the end of the day only another 30 feet had been forced. We had been wasting a lot of time on getting up the fixed ropes, so John and I put them in a better position and then went off to take photographs.

We had made such slow progress that desperate measures were called for. At 7 A.M. next day John and I left the Hut.

After climbing the fixed ropes we had time to do a further 7 hours' work. John climbed up to Robin's highest pegs on a top rope and then continued up the pitch which had now narrowed to a chimney. The angle was still vertical, but fortunately the ice was sound and

John made good progress, cutting steps and keeping the rope through a peg above him all the while. Soon he reached a place where he cut a tiny stance at the foot of a very narrow chimney and drove in two good rock-pegs for belays. There was quite a performance when I tried to get past him to lead the next pitch. There was only room for each of us to put one foot on his stance and we had to squeeze in sideways to fit us both into the chimney!

Cutting a few steps I was able to move clear and climb the chimney. This I did by cutting steps every 6 feet and backing up. The climbing eased above the chimney for about 20 feet, and then a short wall of rotten ice took up some time. There was magnificent snow-ice above this. I made good speed and soon brought John up to my stance. Like myself, John was very pleased with the progress we had made and was soon cutting his way up the next pitch. We had been talking about a new continental ice technique, and at about 20 feet he became so pleased with life that he decided that he could crampon his way up. He had just put in an ice-peg runner when "swoosh . . ."—his feet shot from under him, leaving him dangling by one arm from the peg! After this he cut steps again and reached the foot of the steep section of what had been called the "cave" pitch. He put in some ice-pegs, as there were no cracks to insert a rock-peg. We thought it safer to put in an expansion bolt in order to protect the next pitch for the morrow. It was already twilight, so we roped off, both arriving at the foot of the gully less than 15 minutes later.

At 7 A.M. next morning Don and Robin left the Hut. By ten o'clock they were at the top of Pitch 4. John and I then set out. As we climbed up the ropes we could hear the sound of drilling as the others made a hole for the bolt. When we reached the top of Pitch 4 at 1.30 P.M., Don was already half-way up the steep ice of the cave pitch. The ice was good, but the positioning of holds was awkward and Don was executing all sorts of weird contortions. There were loud chuckles from the *pit* as Don twisted his body into one incredible position after

another. He retaliated by sending down some larger than usual lumps of ice which soon silenced the rabble below, although only one lump succeeded in drawing blood. The pitch took 3 hours, and by the time we were all four at the top it was getting dark. John and I took over again, leading alternately. The gully never gave up; one awkward pitch followed another and we began to wonder if it was ever going to end. Then, all of a sudden, we were on the top. The time was 10 P.M. We had made the first winter ascent of Point Five Gully.

Detail of Pitches.

Climbed by J. M. Alexander, I. Clough, D. Pipes, R. Shaw (G.U.M.C.) (alternate leads, alternate days). Completed on 16th January 1959.

Altogether five days were spent on the climb, fixed ropes being left in place. Total climbing time, 29 hours (several additional hours were spent finding and fixing belays, etc.). Ice-pegs were used to maintain balance while cutting steps on vertical sections.

(1) 100 ft.—Up steep ice-covered slab to bolt belay (in place) on left wall.

(2) 60 ft.—Up to groove on left of ice bulge (pitons found in place). Using *étrier*, surmount bulge on right on rock-pegs and one ice-peg. Stance and peg belay 25 ft. higher.

(3) 60 ft.—A difficult ice bulge was climbed followed by a vertical pitch in the narrowing chimney to stance and piton belay (in place) at the foot of a tight chimney.

(4) 60 ft.—Up chimney, then easier climbing, apart from a 10-ft. bulge, to stance and peg belay.

(5) 35 ft.—Up to foot of "cave" pitch. Bolt belay (in place) on left wall.

(6) 45 ft.—Climb a continuously steepening ice-pitch; vertical at top. Difficult exit on to snow slope, peg belay on right.

Easily up snow for 100 ft. 20 ft. of awkward ice-covered rocks climbed from left to right. About 500 ft. of climbing involving one small steep pitch and a strenuous ice chimney led to the top.



POINT FIVE GULLY—BEN NEVIS
(Don Pipes leading and Robin Shaw on Cave Pitch)

I. Clough

RAKAPOSHI—THE TAMING OF THE SHREW.

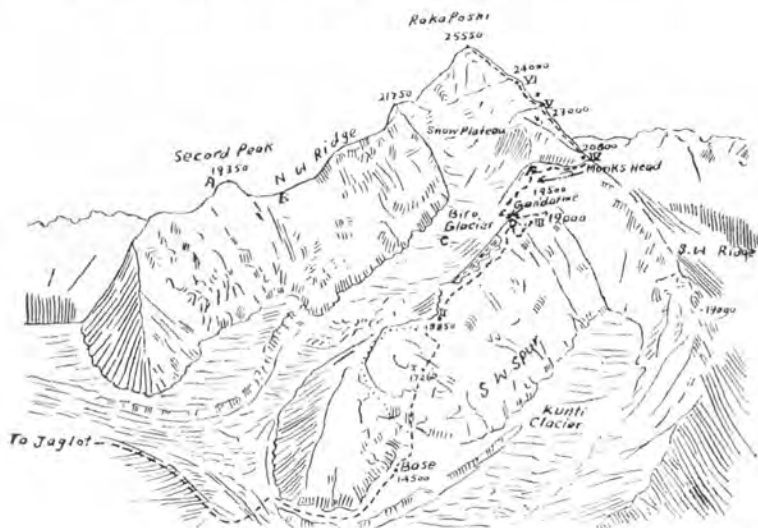
By Tom W. Patey.

No one could describe Rakaposhi as a friendly mountain. A tempestuous Himalayan virgin, it flatters only to deceive and although, as Mike Banks remarked pointedly, "It hasn't claimed a victim yet," it had at least made a creditable attempt to do so. On the last three expeditions, ours included, there have been fourteen falls, and unwelcome suitors have had to run the gauntlet of avalanches, collapsing cornices and an electric storm. Obviously its courtship would have to be conducted with resolute firmness. . . .

Curiously enough the 1958 British Pakistani Forces Expedition selected Rakaposhi as a safer alternative to their original choice of Disteghil Sar. Banks, our leader, had a say in the matter, for he had led the 1956 Rakaposhi attempt when a combined British-American four-man expedition (B.A.K.E.) failed only 1,500 feet from the top (25,550 feet). He attributed their failure to bad weather, lack of manpower and the inability of the porters to carry beyond Camp 2 at 19,000 feet. Another factor, perhaps not insignificant, was the fact that all the participants, liaison officers and porters included, had fallen at least 100 feet at some time in the course of the expedition. The American, Bob Swift, collected the laurels here: he had been charged during an electric storm on the Monk's Head and taken two weeks to recover!

The first name to be associated with Rakaposhi was that of Martin Conway, doyen of Himalayan explorers, who in 1892 pronounced the mountain "quite climbable if the upper part of the S.W. ridge can be reached." Yet it was not until 1938 that Vyvyan and Secord, employing rush tactics, climbed a 19,750-foot peak on the N.W. ridge within a week of leaving Gilgit. Here a deep gap, impassable to porters, prevented farther progress. After the war Secord returned to the attack with Tilman and two Swiss. They gained the N.W.

ridge beyond the impasse, but again it was not a route for laden porters. Climbers were only beginning to recognise the perverse nature of this obstinate monster: from afar the N.W. ridge appears to be an easy thoroughfare.



Prepared by Sahib Shah, Survey of Pakistan.

WEST FACE OF RAKA POSHI

(as if seen from S.W. at a height of about 20,000 feet)

- A, Second and Vyvyan, 1938 (19,350 feet).
- B, Gyr and Tilman, 1947 (ca. 19,000 feet).
- C, Tilman and a Sherpa, 1947 (ca. 16,000 feet).
- D, Tilman and others, 1947 (ca. 19,500 feet). (The Gendarme.)
- E, Austro-German party, 1954 (ca. 17,000 feet).
- F, Band, Fisher, Tissières, 1954 (ca. 20,500 feet).
- G, Banks, McInnes, Irvine, Swift, 1956 (ca. 23,400 feet).

----- Route followed by 1958 party.

..... Route on to the S.W. Spur followed by 1947, 1954 and 1956 parties.

The same party were the first to put Conway's theory to the test. They attacked the S.W. spur, the obvious stairway to those alluring upper slopes of the S.W. ridge. (See diagram.) The spur presented problems of no mean order, perhaps outwith the scope of pre-war mountaineering in the Himalayas. From the first subsidiary peak of 19,000 feet the crest of the spur, heavily corniced to the



THE 1956 ATTEMPT ON RAKAPOSHI
(H. McInnes leading the difficult section of the Monk's Head)

north, ran back on an undulating course for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles with little net gain in height before merging into the face below the feature known now as the Monk's Head. Half-way along this ridge Tilman came to a halt at the top of a razor-edged blade of snow, the Gendarme, and was moved to utter the famous words cherished by subsequent expeditions, "hopeless, hopeless." He referred to the 1,000-foot ice slope of the Monk's Head which confronted him and barred the way on to the S.W. ridge at 21,000 feet.

The dossier would not be complete without including the summary of the strong Austro-German Expedition of 1954, among their numbers Heckmair and Rebitsch: "the mountain appeared unclimbable by any of the routes we prospected." It needed the debonair Cambridge undergraduate party, following hard on the heels of the Germans, to bring Rakaposhi down to size. Their adventures were described by George Band in his book, "Road to Rakaposhi." They quickly realised that the S.W. spur was the only feasible route and, although hampered by unwilling porters and Wrangham's temporary departure through a cornice, they succeeded in forcing a route up the face of the Monk's Head. Band described this as his "finest day's climbing in the Himalayas." The door to the inner sanctuary was open.

In the summer of 1956 came the B.A.K.E. worthies—Banks, McInnes, Swift and Irvine. Hamish McInnes was put in charge of food supplies, an unfortunate choice. His final letter from New Zealand advised them "to prepare to live like peasants!" Nevertheless they succeeded in roping the Monk's Head and establishing two camps above this on the S.W. ridge. From their top camp at 23,000 feet they made their summit bid, but mediocre conditions forced them to give up after climbing 500 feet. McInnes was always supremely fit despite the Spartan fare.

A few lessons had been learned. Three camps were necessary above the Monk's Head. Banks was convinced that their top camp was too low to launch a successful summit attempt. For maximum safety six men must be

firmly established above the Monk's Head, a summit pair and supporting parties at the other two camps. To achieve this the porters would be required to carry at least to the top of the Monk's Head and this would only be practicable after 4,000 feet of fixed rope had been installed. Thus Rakaposhi, although not enjoying the exalted status of a Dyhrenfurth "Acht Tausender," promised to offer problems of organisation and transport quite equal to those encountered on the greater peaks.

This, in my opinion, is no recommendation. Himalayan climbing will be a much more rewarding pastime when all the peaks over 24,000 feet have been duly appropriated and an objective is selected not for its altitude rating but for the technical difficulties entailed in its ascent. These days have yet to come: the Mustagh Tower climb in 1956 was a pointer to the future.

Most of the team of nine had previous expedition experience. Mills and Deacock had been in the Army expedition to Alaska; Sims had visited the Lahoul Himalaya with the R.A.F. team in 1955; Brooke joined us direct from a winter in the Antarctic with Hillary's party. (With another expedition to the Arctic to his credit he perhaps holds a unique record.) Banks had considerable Arctic experience and of course had led the 1956 Rakaposhi bid, while I had already visited the Karakoram with the Mustagh Tower party. Dickie Grant, a Commando climbing instructor, joined us as a last minute substitute for Lester Davies. The two Pakistani members were Raja Aslam and Shah Khan, and upon the latter the success of our expedition hinged. He was the uncle of the Mir of Hunza and his presence was likely to inspire the Hunza porters with a sense of urgency! Brooke and Sims were survey officers, and the Survey of Pakistan had supplied us with Sahib Shah, a veteran of several expeditions. I envied the three of them their task, as the area had already been mapped several times. My own appointment as physiologist was an unpopular one—with my fellow climbers and myself.

On 12th May the expedition left Gilgit after a rousing send-off at the Northern Scouts' Mess where the Mir of

Hunza was the guest of honour for the evening. My accordion had its first airing, and a spirited rendering of "Glory, glory what a helluva way to die" impressed all present of our indifference to the perils ahead.

Rakaposhi is perhaps the most accessible of the greater Himalayan peaks, with an approach march of a mere 3 days from Gilgit if jeeps are hired for the initial 16-mile drive up the Hunza Gorge. Unfortunately we were held up the best part of a week at 10,000 feet by heavy snowfall which discouraged our poorly shod coolies. It had been an exceptionally severe winter and Banks reckoned that conditions higher up would be equivalent to those of late March in an average season. In some ways the delay was valuable for the purpose of acclimatisation as the direct ascent of 10,000 feet from Gilgit to Base Camp at 14,000 feet is a rather drastic initiation.

Base Camp on a lateral moraine of the Kunti Glacier occupied the same site as that used by the three post-war British expeditions. Our main party settled in on 20th May, but Banks and I had meanwhile pushed ahead to reconnoitre a possible short cut on to the S.W. spur, which would avoid the long traverse over the first 19,000-foot peak and bring us to the crest not far below the Gendarme. Here we would establish Camp 2 at the site of the Cambridge Camp 4, a substantial gain.

We reached a height of 17,400 feet on the first day, and erected Camp 1 on a minor shoulder abutting against the main face. Much labour was expended on digging in to the 45 degree slope, where perhaps a snow-hole would have been more satisfactory in the long run.

The rest of our projected route looked quite feasible, but more heavy snowfall enforced retreat. We felt sufficiently confident, however, to give the "go ahead" to stage one on the expedition schedule. This consisted of ferrying forty man-loads up the 3,000 feet of steep snow below the camp: in the steep gully leading up to the shoulder we fixed the first thousand feet of rope to safeguard our porters. Soon everyone (including a few half-hearted Jagloti auxiliaries who had been enticed by the promise of a pair of boots) was engaged on this

thankless task, and the language was hot enough to melt the virgin snow.

Every evening it snowed. The previous day's tracks were invariably obliterated by morning, and the dreary routine of breaking trail, often thigh deep, had to begin again. The riotous evenings at Base with my accordion and a vigorous percussion section led by Grant did much to relieve the monotony. They were also responsible for the premature broaching of the crate of whisky with which we had intended to celebrate our success on the mountain.

A day came when Rakaposhi decided to show her mettle. Richard Brooke, always an excellent companion on an ice climb, had accompanied me on a reconnaissance of the next stage of the route, the 1,200-foot face leading up from Camp I to the crest of the S.W. spur. For once it was a glorious day and our spirits rose as we climbed. Great ice slopes fell away below us to lose themselves in the depths of the Kunti Glacier, 4,000 feet below. At 11.30 A.M. I was only 200 feet from the crest. The snow was excellent for kicking steps with a firm surface crust. Suddenly a shout broke the stillness. "I say, I'm certain I felt the slope move just now." I made a mental note for the physiological diary: "Brooke, hallucinations, not yet fully acclimatised."

His next shout, seconds later, was drowned in a dull roar as the whole slope avalanched. An area about the size of a football field broke away above and below us. At the instant we felt ourselves moving we drove our axes firmly into the stable underlying *névé* and hung on grimly. A tremendous weight of snow piled up against my body, but just as the pressure became unbearable I managed to deflect it past me with a mighty heave. The crisis was all over in 10 seconds, and perhaps a minute later we saw the *débris* fan out on the lower slope 2,000 feet below.

The silence was broken by Richard, picking his words deliberately with an admirable display of *sang-froid* as befits an Alpine Club member. "This place is distinctly dangerous. I propose that we turn back." This



ASCENT OF RAKAPOSHI

(At top of fixed ropes above Camp 1 looking back from near Camp 2
X is about where the first avalanche broke away)

Alke Banks

time I needed no persuasion and promptly abandoned my ice-axe as an anchor for the 800 feet of rope we carried. On the way down we collected my smaller second axe which had fortunately lodged in the slope by its pick. The two of us were stunned by the incident. This was giant windslab on a scale beyond our experience. Indeed, despite similar episodes of a less serious nature later on, I still regard myself as quite unable to forecast the stability of Rakaposhi snow. The snow that day was the firmest we had met on the mountain!

More was to follow. A few days later another blizzard forced us all down to Base Camp. At the height of the storm Shah Khan, Raja and the porters sallied forth from Camp 1 intent upon a rapid descent to Base Camp. It was, in fact, considerably faster than they had anticipated. Without warning a huge powder snow avalanche swept out of the mist, picked them up effortlessly and deposited them 1,000 feet nearer Base Camp. They were unharmed but minus most of their kit and quite euphoric. Our initial enthusiasm had lost much of its sparkle, and the porters were beginning to develop strange illnesses.

A week later we returned to the scene of the first avalanche to find that the snow above the cleavage line was still in a highly precarious condition. Belayed by the others I went up the last 100 feet like an ibex. Once we had all assembled on the crest, Brooke and I descended on a tight rope and with a jump sent another huge mass of snow plunging down the face. This time most of the route above Camp 1 was cleaned of débris, and with the addition of another 1,000 feet of fixed rope the way was open for the next lift. Camp 2 went up a short distance along the ridge, within easy striking distance of the razor-backed Gendarme which reared up steeply for 400 feet.

For several days I was detained at Base Camp looking after Raja Aslam who had developed a recurrence of his malaria. During this time John Sims was performing heroics leading the Gendarme in waist-deep powder snow. Both sides had to be roped, for the steep slope on the far

side could be a death trap to a tired party retreating in a blizzard. When I joined Brooke and Grant at Camp 1 we were able to leap-frog the top party and proceed to Camp 3 below the Monk's Head. On the mile of ridge beyond Camp 2 there is no net gain in height, and despite all our hard work we were only a little over 19,000 feet.

Still the bad weather persisted. One night a violent thunderstorm hit us at Camp 3 and vivid flashes of lightning illuminated the interior of the tent. The mornings were usually fine and found the three of us hard at work on the "Rakaposhi treadmill." We attacked the 1,000-foot, 45 degree slope of the Monk's Head, as did our predecessors, by the left edge next to the abyss of the Biro Glacier. Every 100 feet we left a great hole in the snow where a piton had been planted deep in the ice substratum. Near the top, where the angle steepened slightly, Warwick Deacock's long aluminium stakes proved invaluable for anchoring the ropes.

After three days' work the route was completed and the summit plan could go into operation. The first stage was a single combined lift by all members and porters to the top of the Monk's Head at 21,000 feet. Only Shah Khan remained at Camp 3, suffering from altitude headache.

The Monk's Head belied its reputation for difficulty. It was little harder than Tower Ridge on Ben Nevis, and the porters justified their selection by making short work of the face, although aided throughout by fixed rope. They had climbed farther than their fellow Hunzas on the earlier expeditions, and much of the credit was due to Shah Khan. We could now afford to dispense with their services for the last section of the route up the S.W. ridge. The next day we shifted camp from the top of Monk's Head across half a mile of desolate plateau to a more satisfactory site below the first of the three great steps of the upper ridge. With complete lack of foresight we moved all the essential kit including the tents in the first carry, and on the second trip discovered that the

driving snow had obliterated our tracks. Visibility was nil and we could only proceed by the feel of the old tracks under the fresh snow. With only 1 hour of daylight left we found the new site, thus avoiding the bivouac to which our stupidity had nearly condemned us.

On 23rd June the seven of us attacked the first 2,000-foot step. Mills, Deacock and Sims shouldered all the essential equipment for the last two camps; the other four of us carried only our personal kit and were to form the assault team. It was a difficult choice for anybody to make, for each member had acclimatised well and was going sufficiently strongly to make the top. Indeed, we still hoped that the weather would allow us all to make an attempt.

Above 21,000 feet the snow had consolidated under the influence of the bitter north-west wind which sweeps the ridge, and the going was immediately easier. Crampons were now a benefit, but we often had to kick steps in the hard snow, as a result of which most of the team were to lose at least one toenail from mild frostbite. At least the avalanche danger was past; we saw no windslab above the Monk's Head. In the early afternoon we staggered on to a level shoulder above the step, the first available camp site on the upper ridge and the site of the B.A.K.E. top camp in 1956. As elsewhere there remained not a trace of their visit, a bitter disappointment as their top three camps had been left fully stocked for the second attempt which never materialised.

The support party left us here and we settled down in the two-man tents to spend a cold but reasonably comfortable night. Even during the day time the temperature seldom rises above freezing-point on this exposed ridge. Mike and I, benefiting from our experiences in 1956 when we both climbed above 23,000 feet, had acclimatised a little faster than the others and were to make the first bid for the top from the next camp (Camp 6). Richard Brooke and Dick Grant would sleep another two nights at Camp 5 before moving up to make their attempt.

By so doing they were able to relieve us of all but personal kit on the next day's carry up the second step.

A thin spine of shattered rock broke the uniformity of the 1,000-foot face and saved us hours of step cutting. The wind was strengthening and we often had to shelter in the lee of the boulders to restore circulation. Despite our 40 lb. loads we were all four moving well, and in an hour had passed the highest point reached in 1956. Near the top of the face the steepening rocks forced us leftwards on to a 50 degree slope up which Richard battered out a ladder of steps. At 1 P.M. we made an abrupt exit from the face on to the broad upper plateau which straddles the mountain from the N.W. ridge to the S.E. ridge. Through the drifting snow we could see the rocky summit pyramid shining dimly in the afternoon sun. It looked so near that Grant and I were tempted to carry on. However, it was not long before he and Brooke were prevailed upon by the wind, now almost gale force, to get back to their tent while they could, leaving the two of us at Camp 6.

Mike and I lay awake far into the night, listening to the blizzard raging outside. I estimated our chance of success as very slight as the food supply would allow the two of us only one attempt. We picked at our oatmeal biscuits half-heartedly, consoling our protesting stomachs by calling down the wrath of Allah upon the head of the absent food officer. Jimmy Mills was the next most unpopular man to the physiologist at the high camps. The fact that he had made a scientific study of his subject and condensed the daily quota of calories into a pocket-sized carton earned him none of the credit he anticipated.

We woke at 6 A.M. on 25th June to the roar of the blizzard. Mike was almost suffocating under the weight of snow piled up against the tent wall. A peep outside to collect snow for making tea revealed an icy inferno which sent a cloud of spindrift billowing into the tent. We ate a leisurely three-hour breakfast; as Mike remarked, "there's no need to hurry." *Duvets*, wind-proofs, every article of clothing went on. At 9 A.M. I stuck my head out and, with what I hoped was a debonair laugh, said, "Here goes." We had only gone a few paces when we realised that the sky was quite clear,

although this was only a minor consolation as we seldom glimpsed the sun in the driving spindrift. The gale force must have been 60 m.p.h. To face directly into the wind would have been to invite immediate frostbite.

We had 1,500 feet to climb and no technical difficulties to stop us, yet we had to fight for every step. The crampons were in the rucksack, but it was far too cold to remove our gloves long enough to strap them on, and so we settled into the mechanical routine of step kicking. For a long time we seemed to get no nearer to the summit rocks, intermittently visible through the snow streamers. Mike was complaining of numb feet and I had to stop several times to massage the life back into my hands.

As we learned later, Brooke and Grant were also fighting the gale in a gallant attempt to make the summit from the lower camp. They had to give up after 500 feet when they realised the impossible nature of their task. It proved to be their last chance of the success they deserved.

After four hours we were on the shattered rocks of the summit pyramid and moving more confidently. The difficulties were only moderate, but the last 200 feet of the S.W. ridge narrowed to a knife-edge with an enormous void on the Hunza side. We used the very crest of the ridge as a hand rail, with the gale threatening any minute to tear us from our holds and toss us over the brink. Twenty feet from the top I found a convenient boulder on which to scratch the initials of the expedition. Mike passed me and at 2 P.M. crouched uncertainly on the summit, a crazy pedestal of loose blocks. I staggered heavily after him, intent on placing my boulder on the very top, and succeeded in bruising my already numb fingers.

Ten minutes were sufficient to snatch a few random snapshots and to bestow our curses on the landscape; ten minutes of shivering misery as a climax to a year's preparations and six weeks of physical drudgery! I felt I could sympathise with the man who wrote, "The reason I enjoy climbing is because it is so entirely irrational."

We fled before the gale. The ascent had taken five hours, largely due to the appalling conditions; we regained the tent in ninety minutes. It had collapsed, half buried in the drift. In the process of digging it out I punctured my air mattress with a crampon spike, condemning us both to a miserable night on the remaining air bed. To make matters worse my bruised fingers were now badly frostbitten and Mike had numb feet. Luckily we had with us some anti-frostbite tablets.

During the night the sky became completely overcast, and in the morning the visibility was only a few yards. We left at the deadline of 12 noon and were lucky to strike the way off the plateau on our first cast. Near Camp 5 we were deceived by the mirage of an apparently huge *sérac* looming through the mist into considering ourselves lost. Banks blew himself hoarse on his whistle without evoking any response from the occupants of the tent. Then the sky cleared momentarily to reveal the camp site 100 yards away, and we realised the futility of our distress signals. The deserted tent lay flat on the snow. Inside was a note from Richard: "11 A.M. Tent roof tore to-day in the gale. Getting out quickly. Hope to hell you made it."

Two hours of daylight left. Spurred on by the thought of a night in a crevasse, we unroped and moved together, glissading wherever possible. This was no longer an orderly retreat but a rout: everything was sacrificed for speed. Suddenly shouts came through the mist. Our companions had heard our voices and were coming out to meet us. I was never more thankful to see anyone in my life, even if it was Jimmy Mills behind a cine camera, fired with a Stobart-like enthusiasm. A few minutes later we were tucking into a huge plate of chocolate porridge, the *specialité de la maison*. Then followed the less pleasant intravenous injections for frostbite, an operation complicated by Banks dropping the candle. Finally the sleeping-bag and oblivion.

That was virtually the end of a successful campaign which had lasted only five weeks. A few days of inactivity at this altitude leave their mark, and no one was keen on

mounting a second assault. In any case the bad weather showed no signs of improving. Forty-eight hours later everybody was back at Base Camp. Camp 4 was salvaged by the simple expedient of tossing the tent down the Monk's Head, thereby causing the porters some alarm. They ran all the way to the foot of the face, mistaking the sack for a falling sahib!

There is little more to add, save that the Hunza apricots are the most luscious fruit known to man, and on our return to the valley we did them full justice.

MOUNTAIN VIGIL.

I THOUGHT the dawn would flush to sudden glory—
It came pale of face.
I knew only
It grew slowly
Out of chill space.

I thought there might have been some revelation,
A glimpse beyond the known.
I sensed nothing
But mist brushing
Over grey stone.

I thought my vigil had been ill rewarded,
It found me unprepared,
The full measure
Of cool pleasure,
The secret shared.

D. J. FRASER.

GREAT CENTRAL GROOVE, THE BRACK.

By Pat Mitchell (Greenock M.C.).

Note.—This account of the solution of one of the last really big rock-climbing problems of the Arrochar district by two members of one of the youngest Scottish climbing clubs is in the form of a letter from Pat Mitchell to our member Ben Humble, who had instigated them to attempt the route. It should be noted that previous attempts by others had left two pitons *in situ* and that others were apparently not used by Mitchell. The details are given at the end of the letter (quotes omitted).—THE EDITOR.

First of all, thank you for your suggestion that I should investigate Great Central Groove on the Brack. My friend James Morrison and I climbed it on Saturday (14th June 1958). Since we had only one day's leave from our wives and families we could not afford time to investigate the upper parts from the gallery, but with the aid of a monocular we talked ourselves up the groove from a vantage point in the upper corrie.

We roped up at 1.10 P.M. and climbed a moderate 40-foot pitch to a grass platform (also accessible by a ledge). A chimney groove follows and is Severe at a bulge at mid-height and again at the final overhang which is turned by a traverse on right wall, followed by mantelshelf muscle-up (a corroded, heavy piton was noticed under roof of recess with rotted threads adhering to it). This 40-foot pitch finishes on a good wide ledge and we used a stone to fashion a floor-level belay in a rock crevice.

The next pitch is very hard, both physically and technically, and is 80 feet long. Back and foot for 12 feet till hold can be reached on right wall. Pull up to outslipping shelf below 3-foot bulge. (Another piton found here with ring attached, so thus far the groove had been climbed before our visit.) Above the bulge progress was painfully slow, while masses of wet moss and turf were slung down. The left wall curls over but the thin crack at the junction widens and permits entry of the body just before the right face rears up in another rounded bulge—chest high. After more gardening the bulge was surmounted, and the climb altered its character to a

right-angled corner with a vegetated crack on the right wall, topped by a massive block.

Gardening revealed small holds in the crack, and when the block was reached my delight was great on finding underholds on its lower edge. These, in conjunction with a 5-inch-wide sloping ledge, permitted a traverse to right being made to a crack at the junction of block with face. Strenuous muscle-up followed and, after a further 20 feet, a sentry-box was entered, at the back of which was a good flake belay. Communication between climbers is difficult here, but Morrison understood the heavy pulls on the rope! We were inclined to rate this Very Severe, but on second thoughts Hard Severe is better as the hardest climbing is near the foot.

The direction of the climb, which has been trending to left since the second bulge on the previous pitch, now bears farther left up a restricted shallow chimney, whose slimy walls were climbed back and knee to reach a rock platform below a great wall. This pitch was 65 feet and Mild Severe we thought.

The great wall is seamed by two cracks, the left-hand one narrowing and blending into vertical rock near the top of the 60 feet, the right-hand one being in a right-angled corner of the crag and possessed of two overhung recesses, one immediately above the other. I chose the corner and climbed a turf-filled groove to reach a curious double recess below the first overhang. After two attempts at surmounting the overhang, and finding a loose block balanced above my head, I retreated to the recess and, selecting a stone from the right-hand recess, fashioned a thread belay. (This was the wettest part of the climb, with muddy water draining from turf ledges above and soaking us to the shirt. The whole route was wet in some degree.) The running belay gave me confidence to use the top edge of the loose block, which moved, then jammed, as handhold; and I landed after a struggle in the tiny grass-floored upper recess where there was room to sit with my legs dangling in air. Still 9 feet to go! Another awkward bulge and pull-up, avoiding loose rock, landed me on an excellent rock ledge below a 15-foot open groove pitch.

Morrison came up after a great struggle. At a crucial moment his coil of spare rope slid off his shoulder, pinning his arm, and he came off and swung away from the recess. He pendulumed back in after an interval, and after a rest finished the pitch. Earlier, while cleaning the hard pitch above the piton preparatory to my leading it throughout, he jammed his boot in a crack. The operation of unlacing, removing, then replacing the boot took 20 agonising minutes, while he was in danger of turning upside down with foot still in boot. This pitch was probably Very Severe.

We romped up the last 15 feet to reach a grass ledge adjoining the Gallery and reached the summit by a narrow rock passage. Time, 7.5 P.M.—almost 6 hours of climbing, although with the route now much cleaner it should take less than half that time on a second ascent.

Having missed the bus home, we spent a few minutes erecting a small cairn at the foot of the climb before returning valleywards; and at Ardgartan we got seats on a tour bus full of benevolently drunk souls, and so returned home that day, after all—wet and dirty, but incredibly happy.

In our humble opinion this is the finest rock climb in the district and is a classic in every sense. Let's hope it makes the Brack more popular and acts as a lever to open up more routes on the great North Face.

Detail.—300 ft., Very Severe. Climbed on 14th June 1958 by P. Mitchell and J. Morrison of Greenock M.C., using vibrams. (1) 40 ft. (Moderate) to grass platform. (2) 40 ft. (H.S.). Climb groove to overhung recess (old piton for running belay). Up right wall to platform, floor-level belay. (3) 80 ft. (H.S.). Up groove back and foot until handhold on right wall gives pull-up to bulge (piton, but running belay inadvisable). Up groove till crack widens. Enter, and surmount bulge on right wall. Climb thin vegetated crack in corner to semi-detached block, passed on right. Up groove to foot of restricted chimney. Go left to sentry-box and flake belay. (4) 65 ft. (M.S.). Restricted shallow chimney, back and knee, to platform. (5) 60 ft. (V.S.). Climb vegetated crack in corner to recess. Make and use thread belay here. Climb overhang over loose block (careful) into another overhung recess. Final overhang to rock platform. (6) 15 ft. (just Difficult). Wide groove with loose rock finishing at gallery level, and then 30 ft. to top of crag.

EDINBURGH ANDEAN EXPEDITION, 1958.

By William Wallace.

THE expedition was originally to have consisted of four members—Mr William Brown, Dr Hugh Simpson, Miss Myrtle Emslie and Mr William Wallace. Unfortunately Mr Brown had to withdraw because of unexpected developments in the geological research in which he was engaged. As we were unable to contact a suitable replacement the expedition did not have a geologist.

As it is extremely difficult to combine mountaineering with useful medical work it was decided that the two must be segregated. In order to allow for any unforeseen difficulties in the medical work it was given preference over the climbing programme. Most of the first month was spent in the Cordillera Oriental of Peru about 40 miles south of La Oroya. During that time the work detailed in the medical report was carried out.

This part of the Cordillera Oriental had very seldom been visited by mountaineering parties and only the highest peak, Nevado Tullyuto, had been climbed. Although it was not possible to climb any high peaks during the period of the medical research several valuable reconnaissances were made. These enabled us to climb three virgin peaks of over 18,000 feet after the medical research had been completed. These were the Nevados Tunshu, Tatajaico and Tembladera.

Many expeditions to the Cordilleras of Peru suffer from mountain sickness, known locally as "the Soroche." This appears to be a particularly bad form of mountain sickness, but we were very fortunate in that none of us suffered from it at all except for very slight symptoms during the first few days at 12,500 feet. For this freedom we can probably thank the medical research programme which required us to acclimatise slowly. The need for gradual acclimatisation was emphasised by the very poor condition of other mountaineers with whom we climbed and who had come up to over 15,000 feet from lower altitudes much too quickly.

The medical work was completed towards the end

of July when we moved north to the Cordillera Blanca to begin the main mountaineering programme. We had been recommended to go to the Quebrada Rurec in the southern part of the range where there were several unclimbed peaks. Mr John Longland and two French climbers were already there. John was suffering from a slight stomach upset which caused him to return to Lima on the morning after we arrived. With the two Frenchmen we climbed the Nevados Huantsan Chico and Rurec, both virgin.

We next went up the Quebrada Quelcayhuanca to attempt the Nevado San Juan, the peak which was the main objective of the climbing programme. Before we reached Peru we were under the impression that it was unclimbed. In Peru we learned that it had been climbed by two North Americans in 1957. Future expeditions desiring information regarding the peaks of any of the Peruvian Cordilleras should write to Senor Cesar Morales Arnau, c/o Senor Griffis, *Peruvian Times*, Carabaya, Lima. Senor Morales is the recognised authority on the Peruvian mountains. We did, however, climb the San Juan by a different ridge, the north-west, from that used by the Americans. From the San Juan we were attracted by Nevado Chinchey which we climbed four days later by a new route. On both these peaks we were accompanied by Derek Fabian, an English friend.

In the town of Huaras we met a member of the North American expedition which climbed the Huascaran by a new route at the end of July. He gave us a rough description of their route, so we decided to attempt the peak by it. Everything went according to plan and we reached the summit on 28th August, the last day of fine mountain weather which there was to be before we left the area.

Finally we spent a week in the Selvas of Eastern Peru. From Huaras we travelled cross-country to Pucallpa, sometimes walking, sometimes travelling on top of trucks. From Pucallpa we were fortunate enough to arrange a 3-day sail down the Ucayali river, during which we visited several Indian tribes. From Pucallpa we returned to Lima.

We, all of us, are of the opinion that our success on eight peaks was mainly due to our relative mobility. Had we used porters our speed of ascending and descending would have been considerably reduced. This is borne out by the American expedition taking 15 days to our 5 to climb the Huascarán. Even allowing for their making a new route the difference is still great. A few porters are no doubt essential in the Himalayas where the distances to be covered are greater and the snow-line is lower, but they are definitely not necessary in the Cordilleras of Peru. This makes an expedition less expensive and should make the Cordilleras attractive to the young mountaineers of Britain.

LIST OF ASCENTS.

I. CENTRAL SIERRA (CORDILLERA ORIENTAL).

- (a) *Nevado Tunshu* (5,707 m.).—Climbed on 20th July 1958 by the N.E. ridge. Summit party: W. Wallace and Miss M. Emslie. This is believed to be a first ascent.
- (b) *Nevado Tatajaico* (5,504 m.—altimeter height).—Climbed on 22nd July 1958 by the east face and descended by the S. ridge. Summit party: W. Wallace, H. Simpson and Miss M. Emslie. This is believed to be a first ascent.
- (c) *Nevado Tembladera* (5,580 m.—altimeter height).—Climbed on 23rd July 1958 by a route starting near the base of Nevado Tatajaico. Summit party: W. Wallace and H. Simpson. This is believed to be a first ascent.

2. CORDILLERA BLANCA.

- (a) *Nevado Huantsan Chico* (5,703 m.).—Climbed on 5th August 1958 by the N.E. ridge running parallel with the upper Quebrada Rurec. Summit party: H. Chaunzy, Y. Merle d'Aubigne, W. Wallace, H. Simpson and Miss M. Emslie. This is believed to be a first ascent.
- (b) *Nevado Rurec* (5,320 m.).—Climbed on 8th August 1958 by glacier and the ridge running down to the Quebrada Rurec. Summit party: H. Chaunzy, Y. Merle d'Aubigne, W. Wallace and Miss M. Emslie. This is believed to be a first ascent.
- (c) *Nevado San Juan* (5,843 m.).—Climbed on 14th August 1958 by the N.W. ridge from the Quebrada Cayesh. Summit party: W. Wallace, Miss M. Emslie, H. Simpson and D. Fabian. This is believed to be a second ascent.

- (d) *Nevalo Chinchey* (6,222 m.).—Climbed on 17th August 1958 by the W. ridge from the Pucaraura col. Summit party: W. Wallace, H. Simpson, Miss M. Emslie and D. Fabian. This is believed to be a second ascent.
- (e) *Nevalo Huascaran* (6,768 m.).—Climbed on 28th August 1958 by the south face and ridge from the Quebrada Alta. Summit party: W. Wallace, H. Simpson and Miss M. Emslie. This is believed to be the tenth ascent of the mountain and the second ascent by the south face and ridge.

In Memoriam.

ARCHIBALD ENEAS ROBERTSON, M.A., B.D.
1870-1958.

WITH the passing of the Rev. A. E. Robertson, a great Scottish mountaineer and an honorary member of our Club, we may note the end of the epoch of topographical exploration of the Bens and Glens of the Scottish Highlands—if indeed that phase of the history of our Club and of Scottish mountaineering has not already given place to the newer epoch of more specialised rock and ice climbing some years ago.

In order to understand and appreciate the achievements of the early pioneers we must bear in mind that modern roads, easy transport, light equipment and miniature precision cameras did not exist during the active climbing years of A. E. R. He took little over 10 years to climb the 283 Munros in the original list, his explorations covering the years 1889 to 1901. Nowadays this is by no means regarded as an unusual achievement, but A. E. R. was the first to complete it. For transport over very bad roads to his base he used a bicycle. The base itself may not have been very near the hills, and he accepted the true wanderer's risk for securing accommodation, which he nearly always obtained in the cottages of keepers or shepherds, a welcome visitor as he talked their own language and shared their own interests. He was a magnificent photographer and, like Dr Inglis Clark and a few others, thought nothing of

carrying a whole-plate camera up the slopes of Carn Mor Dearg, to Coire Mhic Fhearchair or other remote corries. Of course he had an advantage over many of us moderns. It was a more leisured age, and his diaries record that in two of these years (1898 and 1899) his circumstances allowed him long holidays. In 1898 he added 75 Munros to his list within 3 months. On many of such expeditions he was alone, so he became a self-reliant path-finder. On quite a number he was accompanied by his close friend Alexander (later Lord) Moncrieff, and it was with him that he completed his Munros in September 1901, with a traverse of the Aonach Eagach ridge in Glencoe.

Needless to say, he made many contributions to the *Journal*, perhaps not so many full-length articles, but numerous topographical notes on the more remote mountains, and he wrote quite a number of these for the first S.M.C. Guide Book which appeared serially in the *Journal*. Those who are interested may refer to "The Munros of Scotland" (vol. 7, p. 10) which sums up his campaign, and to "Mountain Memories" (vol. 24, pp. 25 and 81) which was edited by J. D. B. Wilson and contains some of the more interesting excerpts from the climbing diaries of his most active years, starting with his introduction to the hills in 1882 and ending in 1901. He was an eager and careful student of the history of the Highlands and the old passes and routes. In "Old Tracks and 'Coffin' Roads and Cross-country Routes in the North-West Highlands" (*Journal*, 22, pp. 327-352) he gave a comprehensive yet concise account of his researches, which was afterwards re-issued in pamphlet form with a wide circulation.

It was natural that, with these interests, he was for many years associated with the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and the Scottish Rights of Way Society. He became a member of Council of the "Geographic" in 1941, was elected Vice-President in 1945 and was awarded the Honorary Fellowship in 1956, the presentation of the scroll (for services to the society and to Scottish topography) taking place in his own home, as by then he was unable to receive the honour in public. He

became a Director of the Rights of Way Society in 1923, Chairman in 1931, and after the reorganisation of the society he became its first President in 1946. In this year also he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. It may be noted that the Scottish Rights of Way Society is now raising funds for a memorial to him, which, it is intended, will take the form of a bridge over the River Elchaig in Wester Ross, to facilitate access to the Falls of Ghlomach.

A. E. R. was born at Helensburgh in 1870. He was educated at Glasgow Academy and the University of Glasgow. There he attended Lord Kelvin's class in Natural Philosophy and, later on, he obtained with Lord Kelvin's help an aneroid barometer especially suited for checking the heights of the Scottish Bens. This aneroid accompanied him thereafter on every hill and proved perfectly reliable. Mrs Robertson has now presented it to the Club for the personal use of the President during his term of office.

Later, after completing his B.D. course at Edinburgh University, he entered the ministry of the Church of Scotland and was assistant at North Esk (Musselburgh) and St Matthew's (Edinburgh) before being ordained to Rannoch in 1907, where he maintained that his congregation had a greater proportion of men in it than any other in Scotland. He retired and went to live in Edinburgh in 1920, but continued to serve as Chaplain to the Astley-Ainslie Institution until 1939, and then until the end of the war as Chaplain to the Forces when the institution became a military hospital.

He was twice happily married, climbing numerous hills with his first wife before her death in the middle 1930s, and once again finding happy companionship on the hills with the second Mrs Robertson, their last Munro together being the Clachlet in 1940. After the war he attended several Meets, but mainly for shorter walks and photography. A. E. R., in his spare time, was an accomplished craftsman and cabinet maker, doing beautiful work in his own home, and also making a table for the C.I.C. Hut. He was one of the small party

who occupied the Hut before its official opening at Easter 1929.

He joined the Club at its fourth A.G.M. in 1893, along with J. A. Parker. He served as Slide Custodian, 1903-6, and many of his own slides enriched the collection, besides illustrating the *Journal* and Guide Books. He was Vice-President, 1927-29, and President, 1930-32. This did not end his activities, however, for he acted as General Editor for the Guide Books from 1931 to 1945. Later he was made an Honorary Member, a fitting recognition of his prolonged services.

It would be wrong to consider that his climbing was restricted to expeditions devoid of technical difficulty. There was much less rock climbing done in his active years and it was more difficult to find skilled partners. Yet A. E. R. did some good rock climbs in his day—on the Cobbler and the Buachaille, with Inglis Clark on the ridges of Ben Nevis, in the first attack on the Rose Ridge of Sgoran Dubh (rather more snow than rock at Easter time) and all over the Cuillin (some of this, too, at Easter 1893). He climbed only once in the Alps, in the poor summer of 1908, when he ascended the Matterhorn and the Rimpfischhorn, but made the comment that he preferred his "good, sound Scottish snow"—on which, indeed, he was an excellent and reliable performer.

I first met him at the Easter 1925 Meet at Fort William in his bearded days. I had Frank Smythe with me as a guest, and he impressed us both with his terse greeting, "I'm Robertson, who are you?" Since then I have been ever happy to count him as a good friend and an encouraging helper after I took over the Editorship of the *Journal*. Robertson was an excellent after-dinner speaker, and no one present at the Jubilee Dinner of the Club in 1938 will forget the vivid brilliance and feeling with which he proposed the "Bens and the Glens"—all within a speech (or was it an incantation) of 3 minutes' duration. He was a good story-teller at meets, an interesting conversationalist and lecturer with a broad fund of humour, often very short and to the point. In his fullness of years he ever remembered his days on the

Scottish mountains and his old climbing friends, and the Club has assuredly lost one of its most colourful personalities.

J. H. B. BELL.

DR DOUGLAS C. HUTCHISON.

DOUGLAS COCHRANE HUTCHISON graduated in medicine at Glasgow in 1950. Then, after a short spell studying biochemistry, he found his métier in psychiatry, taking the D.P.M. in 1954. From 1955 he was a Registrar, later a Senior Registrar, at the Tavistock Clinic in London, at the same time continuing his psychoanalytic training. There has already been recorded in the *British Medical Journal* an appreciation of the regard in which he was held and the promise he showed in this field. On 3rd January 1959, aged 31, he lost his life as a result of a slip when climbing on Ben More, Perthshire, under hard winter conditions. He was recently married. Our sympathy goes out to his widow, his infant daughter and his parents.

Douglas started climbing with Glasgow University Mountaineering Club in 1946 and later was President of that Club. In 1952 he joined the S.M.C. He was a resolute but reliable climber with wide experience in this country and a fair number of successful seasons in the Alps. Mountaineering meant much to him. In this his interests lay neither in extensive Munro sloggng, nor in the proliferation of obscure and unnecessary new climbs (though in 1951 he played an enthusiastic part in the opening up of Beinn Lair). His delight, as he himself put it, was in the great classic routes.

Certainly in choice of route he could be fastidious. The best way of handling this was to produce something in print extolling a proposed expedition. His imagination thus fired, there was no holding him. Once we overcame his lack of interest in the Rimpfischhorn by digging out a journal article which gave a favourable account of its N.E. ridge. As we all relaxed on the summit after doing and enjoying this climb, someone maliciously suggested

that perhaps we had not after all hit upon the intended ridge. "Hutch's" characteristic and mildly indignant response was, "You don't mean to say we've come up a b— minor route!"

This is perhaps a lesser illustration of his positive attitude of looking for the best in life. On a wider scale, and without putting on any airs, he was a conscious seeker after truth. He is mourned by many friends whose lives are enriched by having known him, and who will not forget his gentle kindness, his generosity and his outstanding ability to give sympathetic understanding and companionship.

J. STANLEY STEWART.

WE regret to announce the death of **Mr G. B. L. Motherwell**, and quite recently of **Mr Frank G. Young**.

NEW CLIMBS.

BEN NEVIS.

North Wall of Castle Ridge (four routes, winter)—*Nordwand*.—Estimated 1,400 feet, by I. Clough, D. Pipes (alternate leads) with B. Sarll, F. Jones, J. Porter, on 11th February 1959. Time, 5 hours. A good mixed rock, snow, ice climb up centre of wall. Interesting route finding, but not difficult technically.

Start up small gully near right-hand side of face. After 80 ft. either break out on to buttress on left or go up ice-pitch and then traverse left. Follow natural line until about 700 ft. up. Join the *Serpent*, a *couloir* coming in from the left. Direct finish crosses *couloir* and up steep snow for 400 ft. to below summit rocks. Follow awkward wall on left by left traverses and further walls, to gain top of Castle Ridge near top of ordinary route.

The Serpent.—Climbed by I. Clough, D. Pipes, J. Porter on 12th February 1959 in 1 hour, unroped. A steep and interesting snow climb.

On left of north face above Luncheon Stone is a small gully, climbed to a shelf curving rightwards. After 500 ft. this joins lower part of *couloir* crossed by Nordwand. Follow this up to shoulder of Carn Dearg.

La Petite.—600 feet. Climbed by D. Pipes, I. Clough, J. Porter on 12th February 1959 in 3 hours. This is the obvious *couloir* on right of North Wall.

Start 100 ft. right of Nordwand. Climb 80 ft. up ice-pitch (peg belay) and 40 ft. of steep rock. Go up *couloir*, including two 60-ft. ice-pitches to top.

Red Gully.—400 feet. Climbed by D. Pipes, I. Clough, J. Porter, B. Sarll, H. Fisher, on 11th February 1959. A small deep-cut gully in the buttress to the right of North Wall of Castle Ridge. A pleasant snow climb with one pitch of snow-ice.

The Keep.—250 feet, Mild Severe. Climbed by J. M. Alexander and I. Clough (alternate leads) on 29th June 1958. This route follows the right-hand side of the steep upper section of the Castle. It branches off from the original route above the "shallow gully" and below "the slabs" at a grassy terrace. A cairn marks the start on right-hand end of terrace. Traverse down to block belay in corner, arrow.

(1) 20 ft. Up above block to ledge. Belay a few feet right.
 (2) 30 ft. Step right and follow groove above to a grassy ledge and block belay.
 (3) 40 ft. Climb directly above groove on to a projecting block and, passing spike runner, continue to good stance and belay.
 (4) 60 ft. Up the groove to a bulge. Thread runner, and continue using good finger jams and holds on right wall. Easier climbing to flake belay.
 (5) 100 ft. The groove is easy now, and a more pleasant finish is up the edge of slabs on left.

Raeburn's Buttress (winter).—R. H. Sellers and J. Smith on 31st January 1959 climbed bottom chimneys of this and finished with Intermediate Gully, the obvious winter continuation. W. D. Brooker and J. M. Taylor followed but went on to the arête instead, finishing to the top (3½ hours).

Carn Dearg, Waterfall Gully.—This separates the Great Buttress from Staircase, and was climbed by D. Pipes, I. Clough, J. M. Alexander, R. Shaw and A. Flegg (sharing leads), the first 150 feet on 7th January 1959 and, leaving fixed ropes, completing climb next day. Time was 4 hours on first 120 feet and 7 hours overall.

The first 80 ft. ice-pitch directly up shallow chimney for 45 ft. Above a rock piton on left (still in position) move round corner to right and climb wall. Go back left over ice-covered slab. Make stance and use ice-piton. Second part of pitch (40 ft.) at easier angle, using protective ice-pitons. After one short ice-pitch the gully climbed on easy snow, but exit was on snow-covered slabs.

Carn Dearg, Summit Buttresses; Surprise.—800 feet. Climbed on 3rd January 1959 by I Clough and B. Halpin. Time, 4 hours. This is the buttress between Arch and Surprise Gullies (*J.*, 1958).

Traverse on to buttress from foot of Arch Gully. After short groove traverse back to left edge of buttress, followed as far as possible for 300 ft. until above Arch in gully, and below final wall. Traverse right, under wall, for 100 ft. until above Surprise Gully. Climb short walls, slightly left, to reach small ledge and block belay about 30 ft. above traverse. Step down and right, into steep groove (crux)—a strenuous 120 ft. pitch. Easy up to Carn Dearg summit.

Arch Buttress.—700 feet. This was climbed by D. Pipes and A. Flegg in 3 hours on 3rd January 1959. It is between Colando and Arch Gullies.

Start from junction of the two gullies. Up crest of ridge for 150 ft. Traverse slightly right and climb groove. At top make awkward move left to platform, then up 100 ft. to snow patch. Move right again and climb the chimney (crux). Make long stride left, up into the centre of three chimneys, 100 ft. Easy to summit.

No. 5 Gully Buttress, Crack and Chimney.—120 feet, Very Difficult. Climbed by I. Clough and P. Nicholson on 8th April 1958. To the right and below the "big buttress" referred to in the description of Kellett's Easy Chimney is a big rake running up right, out of No. 5 Gully, and joining the Ledge Route. Above the rake and separated from the big buttress by a little gully is a smaller cliff.

There is a 100-ft. chimney on the right (probably Easy Chimney). In the middle of the cliff is a crack leading up to a chimney. Up crack, belay below chimney. Entrance to chimney awkward, easier to ledge. Scrambling to top of ridge a few hundred feet below the large cairn on Ledge Route.

Easy Chimney.—On 10th February 1959 I. Clough made a first winter ascent and also Fives Gully, a small gully in the corner above the Terrace and left of Easy Chimney, and Crack and Chimney. Bad rock, not to be recommended.

South Trident Buttress (winter).—R. H. Sellers and J. Smith traversed on to the Buttress above the initial lower section and followed snow and ice grooves immediately right of the crest to reach the easy arête above middle section. The arête gave delightful climbing. Time to summit, 2 hours.

Creag Coire na Ciste, Central Gully.—Climbed in winter conditions on 27th January 1959 by I. Clough and J. M. Alexander.

The route follows a line just left of Central Rib. Starting from foot of rocky spur follow snow patches to the left of this for 400 ft., making for the left-hand of two parallel icy chimney-like gullies (right one very fierce). Left one was 120 ft., strenuous, but with good protection. Use piton belay. Cross to right-hand gully which leads to snow funnel below cornice.

Green Gully on Comb.—Climbed by D. Pipes and I. Clough on 6th July 1958 in dry conditions. Very Difficult. First completed summer ascent.

First section climbed on steep rocks on right. It is not a true gully here. No difficulty as far as second steep pitch (80 ft.), where the rocks need careful handling, but two running belays available. Now 120 ft. up to final steep pitch (winter crux). Now 30 ft. up left wall to stance. Move up 40 ft. and across into gully. Scramble to top.

The Comb.—First winter ascent by Tower Face was done on 1st January 1959 by Robin Smith and R. K. Holt. Time, 10 hours, with much crusted snow and *verglas*, more or less on the line of original summer route.

Comb Gully.—Climbed by I. Clough and J. M. Alexander (alternate leads) on 29th June 1958. Standard, Severe. This is suspected of having been climbed several years ago in summer conditions, but no record available. Although loose rock was encountered on the first pitch the rest of the rock was reasonably sound and, on the line followed, though wet, was not slimy. Recommended after a hard winter when it can be quite profitable on account of the amount of "loot" which can be salvaged!

The gully was followed to the bottom of the first hard winter pitch and the point where Hesperides Ledge leads up and round to the right. (1) 35 ft. Up by right wall and traverse up to gully bed. Avoid slimy watercourse and use left wall; Delicate. Thread runner. Chockstone belay above. (2) 30 ft. Back-and-foot climbing avoids slimy overhanging chock. Belay and stance in gully bed. (3) 30 ft. Up to small cave under chockstone. Awkward, with strenuous pull-up over chock to gully bed. Piton belay. (4) 40 ft. Up the groove for 10 ft., then delicately up right wall past the big overhanging capstone to block belay. Two runners available. (5) 10 ft. Up groove on left to gully bed. Scrambling to top.

Garadh Gully.—Winter ascent by I. Clough and M. Bucke on 16th February 1958. It is the deeply cut gully to the right of and higher than the foot of the Italian climb, and it divides Garadh na Ciste from Tower Ridge.

It gave two fine ice-pitches at a high angle of 50 and 40 ft., respectively to the top of the Garadh. Time, 3½ hours. The gully is said to have been climbed several times, but not recorded. It gave an excellent hard climb.

Broad Gully.—Winter ascent by I. Clough and M. Bucke on 16th February 1958.

Follow summer route to Secondary Tower Ridge. Descend this parallel to crest of Tower Ridge for 100 ft. Climb a short gully to the ridge at the foot of Little Tower. Broken rocks at mid-height are the sole difficulty. Time, 2 hours.

Point Five Gully.—First winter ascent. See article in this issue.

Hadrian's Wall, West Face of Observatory Ridge.—This first winter ascent was made by W. D. Brooker,

J. R. Marshall and T. W. Patey on 1st February 1959 (Marshall and Patey shared leads). This is a natural winter route on the face, in the vicinity of the long smear of ice, optimistically named "Point 25 Gully." The route was not identified with any summer variants, so it has been given a name as it is the obvious winter line. Start to left of the tongue of snow below Point Five.

Traverse face left and upwards by three pitches on ice-covered rock, each 60 to 80 ft. Gain steep niche of snow, 200 ft. below crest of ridge. Return along face on rightwards, ascending line with continuous vertical wall above. This involves three more pitches of 80 to 100 ft., the second using a pendular *rappel* and the third a fine ice chimney. To this point, 500 ft., the difficulties are very sustained and exposed on ice with very little snow. Now the way is made easy by a broad snow gully to the immediate right of Observatory Ridge, finishing by the ridge near the top. Time, 5 hours.

Orion Face.—First winter ascent by Robin Smith and R. K. Holt in January 1959. The climb took 12 hours in fine conditions with the walls plastered with snow and ice. More or less standard route to Basin, but a poor piton used for tension left traverse at first pitch. The Great Slab Rib was turned by corner on the left (crux). Up from Basin on iced slabs, up and left on line of traverse and up groove to N.E. Buttress crest, well below Mantrap.

North East Buttress, Minus One Gully.—900 feet (?). Very Severe with one pitch artificial grade A2. Climbed on 5th July 1958 by I. Clough and D. Pipes after a week of fine weather. Owing to scarcity of natural belays, pitons were used for belays and runners. Time on first ascent, 11 hours. Easy climbing and a 50-foot pitch lead to the bed of the gully deep within the retaining walls, at the foot of the first overhang.

Bridging, then on left wall and by a short traverse reach a perch on edge of Minus One Buttress (70 ft.). Up the edge until under last few feet of overhang of gully. A piton (left) and *étrier* were used to climb this. Up slab above to stance on left (20 ft.). Move up to below next overhang. Overhang (70 ft.) surmounted by

bridging; then leave gully by a delicate right traverse across slabs to a detached flake at the bottom of a rib. Up the rib on small holds to a grassy stance. Piton belay in place. This pitch is the crux. A piton runner was left in on the traverse (30 ft.). Up corner, using two pitons and two large wedges (A2) (60, 50 and 100 ft.). Up by cracks and chimneys. The third pitch overlooks gully. Traverse for a few feet left into gully which is climbed more easily to an amphitheatre. Up left to final arête of Minus One Buttress. Follow this to crest of N.E. Buttress. Although this route follows a fine natural line of cracks and chimneys in the middle section, it was forced to deviate from its original intention of climbing the gully direct.

S.E. Face of N.E. Buttress—Slalom.—Climbed on 6th January 1959 by D. Pipes, I. Clough (alternate leads), with R. Shaw, J. M. Alexander and A. Flegg. The start is from same snow bay as Frostbite which takes an ice groove on the right. Slalom runs up a shallow gully on the left.

The route rises towards the Central Spur, zig-zagging to avoid rock walls. It is parallel to Frostbite but separated by a rock ridge. Below the Spur a 100-ft. traverse left is taken and an easy snow-slope leads to the final rocks, overlooking top of *Cresta couloir* and just left of Central Spur. These rocks, the hardest part of the climb, were followed by 150 ft. of easy climbing to the top. Time, 4 hours. It is mainly a snow and ice route.

Cresta Climb, Variation Start.—Climbed by I. Clough and J. M. Alexander on 27th January 1959 and by D. Leaver and J. Clarkson on 8th February 1959.

The bottom of *couloir* was gained from the left by traverse across a snow shelf linking with Bob-Run above its first pitch (Leaver and Clarkson). Clough and Alexander gained the shelf by a corner below its left end. The variation is probably easier than Patey's "steep curving ice-shelf of 250 ft.," used to enter *couloir* from the right.

Bob-Run.—Climbed by I. Clough, H. Fisher, B. Sarll (right variation) and D. Pipes, J. Porter, F. Jones (left) on 10th February 1959 in 1½ hours.

It is the *couloir* separating the S.E. face from a small buttress on the left. First a 100-ft. ice-pitch and then 100 ft. of snow. The route now splits into the two variations. Each has a short ice-pitch and then straightforward snow.

North Face Girdle.—The first winter traverse from right to left was made on 31st January 1959 by J. R. Marshall and T. W. Patey, from Observatory Gully to Carn Mor Dearg Arête, mostly by Bell's 1941 route. Easy snow bands round Observatory Buttress led to Point Five Gully above lower steep section. Crossing this gully was most awkward part of route. Thin ice bands to Observatory Ridge required a pendular *rappel*. Thence downwards to upper part of Basin below Second Slab Rib. Easy ascending shelf to crest of N.E. Buttress. Spiral finish round Coire Leis for good measure. Climbing almost entirely on ice and excellent hard snow. Time, 5 hours.

Minus Two Gully.—Winter ascent by J. R. Marshall, with J. Stenhouse and D. Haston (both J.M.C.S.), on 11th February 1959. This was a winter ascent *par excellence*, the gully being barred by an impressive ice bulge which proved a bit of an impostor.

Difficulties thereafter almost continuous. At the exit pitch below the final forking an *étrier* was used and the left fork followed to the crest of N.E. Buttress, gained at nightfall. By the feeble light of a crescent moon, stars and aurora, the Buttress was climbed. The gully took 8 hours, three pitons used for protection, and piton belays used at each stance.

Hesperides Ledge.—Winter climb on 12th February 1959 by same party as above. A delightful 1-hour climb to the top of Comb.

Gardy Loo Buttress, Direct Finish.—210 feet, Very Severe. Climbed on 14th September 1958 by J. Stenhouse and D. Haston.

Instead of climbing gully mentioned by Kellett, the left-hand arête of buttress was climbed, with a finer finish. (1) 120 ft. Up arête on small holds to block belay. (2) 90 ft. Move over block and go straight up on to prominent nose at top of buttress.

Polldubh Crags—*Styx Buttress.*—The following two climbs were done by J. M. Alexander and I. Clough



February 1950

PARALLEL GULLY—PINNACLE BUTTRESS, COIRE ARDAIR
(Creag Meaghaidh)

J. R. Marshall

(leading through) on 28th June 1958. Both are well sustained. The Buttress, previously unclimbed, lies 200 feet above the top of Pinnacle Ridge and about 200 yards to the right. The simplest way of reaching it is to follow stream on left of Pinnacle Ridge to its source where the Buttress, steep with several overhangs, is seen.

Damnation.—95 ft., Very Severe. Runs up the middle of buttress. (1) 20 ft. Up on to large semi-detached flake. Step round on to slab on right. Small tree belay, poor stance. (2) 35 ft. Up wall on right to piton runner (in place). The overhanging nose is reached by a strenuous pull-up. Trend left to small stance, piton belay. (3) 40 ft. Up on to slab on right which is followed to top. Delicate. Piton runner.

Doomsday.—100 ft., Very Severe. On the west (left) wall of the buttress is a 20-ft. diagonal chimney leading left. (1) 35 ft. Up the chimney, tight. At top, swing back and up right to stance. Piton belay or poor spike belay. (2) 65 ft. Climb wall on right by piton and sling. Follow dirty slab and groove up edge of buttress to top. Last few feet particularly difficult.

Creag Meaghaidh, Coire Ardair.

Pinnacle Buttress, Smith's Gully.—This rightmost of the parallel gullies on east face was climbed on 8th February 1959 by J. R. Marshall and G. Tiso (J.M.C.S.). It was an almost complete runnel of very steep ice and, in such conditions, must rank as one of the most difficult winter climbs, taking the party 6 hours to complete; about 550 feet in height. Three pitons used for protection on account of very long run-outs.

Pinnacle Buttress, 1959 Face Route.—Start a little right of lowest rocks of Buttress [right of 1936 route (J. R. M.); probably near the 1936 start (J. H. B.)]. It was climbed on 9th February 1959 in hard winter conditions by J. R. Marshall, J. Stenhouse and D. Haston (both J.M.C.S.) in 5½ hours. Climb extended to about 1,500 feet, as rope lengths. It provided a magnificent day on steep ice, snow, rock and frozen grass (excellent for crampons), with exciting situations, hardly any foreground and the frozen loch 1,000 feet below.

Follow depression in face, trending left after 200 ft., developing into shallow gully, and higher a series of icy chimneys. Quit this gully 150 ft. below base of first chimney and traverse left for 200 ft. to gain base of left-raking chimney-groove with obvious chockstone (a landmark). Follow groove for 300 ft. to large snow ledges in middle of face. Here, another gully develops, going leftwards to finish some 200 ft. below summit of Buttress. Base of gully was barred by impressive icefall which was turned on right by a rock wall. Gully now followed, with one ice-pitch, to crest of Buttress.

CAIRNGORMS AND LOCHNAGAR

Creag an Dubh Loch (three routes).—To the right of Labyrinth the huge Central Slabs sweep down to the lowest point of the cliffs. Tucked in close to the Central Gully side of slabs is a high groove terminating about 100 feet above the scree. This becomes, higher up, a series of grassy troughs leading to Central Gully Ridge. The route climbs to the groove, follows it and then goes up left to a buttress leading to the upper overhanging cliff.

Theseus Grooves.—750 feet, Mild Severe. Climbed on 10th July 1958 by R. W. P. Barclay and W. D. Brooker.

Start up crack in smooth pink slabs to left edge of grassy corner (Hard Severe), or use an easier line more to the right. A grassy crack leads in 100 ft. to the groove. Follow this by a series of corners (no diverging to the right) and by a fine 100-ft. pitch up pink slabby grooves. Ignore easy line up to right, and go up the buttress on the left. Follow this line by good rock to upper overhang. Now on a grooved wall beneath a pock-marked slab, trend right (zig-zag movement) to a final slab pitch which lands one on a slope leading to the upper shoulder of Central Gully Ridge. A slightly artificial line but mainly on clean rock, and not more than Very Difficult after first pitch.

From the lowest rocks at the foot of Central Gully a great slabby wall, seamed with overhanging roofs, extends all the way to the shelf-like lower part of False Gully (*J.*, 1953, p. 157). The only obvious weakness lies somewhat left of and below False Gully, where a diagonal crack slants left to a grass ledge. This sloping ledge, The Caterpillar, goes left for about 100 feet,

rising slightly and petering out amid a welter of smooth slabs.

Caterpillar Crack.—300 feet, Very Severe in vibrants. Climbed on 2nd July 1958 by R. W. P. Barclay and W. D. Brooker. The route follows the diagonal crack and then continues upwards for 100 feet to join False Gully.

Climb the very vegetative crack easily to belay at 80 ft. The next 80 ft. are continuously hard; awkward step across a wall to a groove (use piton); 20 ft. up, move round corner, using piton; final slabby wall leading to 40 ft. of grass to right end of Caterpillar. Above this two grassy troughs are split by a rib. Climb left one for 30 ft. and get belay on rib. Go up line of rib for 80 ft. of shattered rock to False Gully (Hard Severe). One can escape this by 40-ft. right traverse and then 20 ft. up to lower shelf of False Gully. An unusual route which would be unpleasant if wet. Pitons were removed.

Water Kelpie Wall.—About 500 feet, Very Severe in vibrants. Climbed by R. W. P. Barclay and W. D. Brooker on 26th August 1958. The slabby face between the foot of Central Gully and False Gully is very steep for about 350 feet, above which it falls back slightly. In the centre at about 300 feet and above the left extremity of The Caterpillar is a prominent vertical wall, dark red in colour and seamed by a thin crack which continues through the slabs above. From The Caterpillar the route traverses below the Red Wall and well to its left, returning above it to the line of the crack.

From the end of The Caterpillar climb up 15 ft. to a good rock ledge close under the Red Wall and then continue left for 20 ft. round an unlikely corner and up to some flake belays set in a slab. An obvious groove lies above, but instead pursue the traverse across 25 ft. of smooth rock (Hard Severe) and then up a 20-ft. slab to small ledge and poised block (piton). Above and left is a wet leaning corner (Very Severe, 10 ft.) beyond which traverse right across a crack and go up right to a ledge under final bulge. Use piton for combined tactics to gain narrow mantelshelf from left end of ledge. From here, using piton on the left, climb the bulge (Very Severe). Slant right across slabs to stance and poor belay at 60 ft.

Line of crack is just to the right. It is set in a 15-ft. wall. Climb it by layback or jamming, to belay on right (Hard Severe). Crack or chimney continues through slabs and walls. Follow chimney for

100 ft., trending slightly left where it becomes shallow (Hard Severe) to ledge dominated by a huge bulging slab. Go left up ledge and more left across slabs to crack, climbed past an overhang (Hard Severe) to slabs on a big ledge at 100 ft. Use ledge system to left for easy climbing to plateau, if tired. But a further 100 ft. of steep, direct climbing is available. All pitons removed.

This is an exciting, continuously hard route on steep, clean rock. Caterpillar may be reached directly or by escape route from False Gully. A direct start from near foot of Central Gully may be possible and so add 300 feet of hard climbing to make one of the finest rock climbs in the Cairngorms.

Creag an Dubh Loch, The Labyrinth (winter).—This was climbed on 8th February 1959 by R. H. Sellers, G. Annand and J. Smith (through leads). Climbed in good snow and ice conditions in 5 hours, rated Grade V.

Initial ice-pitch avoided on right, traversing back into groove 80 ft. up, in order to save time. From here to Hanging Garden Basin was easy climbing on steep snow. Above this an open chimney climbed to reach overhang in 200 ft., where an ice-pitch climbed for 100 ft. with a move left on to snow-filled groove and up this, trending right at the top, to reach the plateau.

Labyrinth Edge.—First winter ascent on 10th February 1959 by W. D. Brooker and D. Duncan. Time, 8 hours. Grade IV. A magnificent climb under perfect hard snow and ice conditions. Natural belays few until above Great Slab and four piton belays needed in lower part. Upper part climbed in darkness.

Start up rib on right of first pitch of Labyrinth and thereafter follow summer route with significant variation on pitch above Great Slab, where good snow allowed V groove to be climbed (avoiding left traverse below). Thus gain ridge crest above tower which forms hardest pitch in summer. The Great Slab, its lower part a snowy ribbon of frozen turf and the upper part coated in grey ice and hard snow, was superb. The exit to the right from the chimney in the upper buttress gave a second crux.

Shelter Stone Crag; The Citadel.—800 feet, Very Severe. This was climbed by Ronald H. Sellers and

George Annand some time in August 1958. The route follows the prominent chimney rather left of the centre of the crag, starting on steep grassy cracks and followed on to the large terrace.

Here enter the chimney, climbed in three pitches till overhangs force exit on left side to ledge with piton belay. From ledge somewhat left, and then up over small ledges to take a 10-ft. right traverse and reach a *dièdre* with crack on right wall next overhangs. This is crux of lower section, climbed by layback to overhang. Then move up by using piton and swinging right on another piton to hold on lip of overhang. Surmount the next slab and go right to grassy fault with stance and belay (120 ft.). Scale wall on right and up to large stance at 60 ft. From fault traverse right to corner with following chimney to gain a ridge (80 ft., piton). Follow ridge 60 ft., traverse left over nose and go up to stance beside large flake next huge overhanging wall (70 ft.). To left of stance use beautiful hand traverse for 15 ft., then mantelshelf to a block (piton runner), up a crack (wooden wedge) to a crack on smooth wall climbed with an *étrier*. Reach top of this, where delicate move into a chimney leads to stance (60 ft., piton, Very Severe). Go up, trending right, following rim of overhang to ledge with loose block (60 ft., Mild Severe). Steep but easy climbing in the fault up to two 20-ft. chimneys, left one of which leads to plateau.

Hell's Lum Crag, Loch Avon.—These two routes lie between Deep-cut Chimney and Devil's Delight (*J.*, 1958, pp. 263, 264),

Hell Fire Corner.—Climbed by R. H. Sellers and G. Annand on 14th September 1958. 300 feet, Severe. The route follows the obvious large corner to the left of Devil's Delight.

From lowest rocks follow fault leftwards across cliff towards Deep-Cut for about 100 ft. Then traverse right across glaxis, descending a little to reach slab with crack running down from corner. Go up crack 20 ft. and follow corner till obliged by a block to climb the right wall, then return. Stance and belay 20 ft. up (at 120 ft.). Climb series of steps on corner, then go left on to wall to reach a crack. Climb it, then mantelshelf and traverse right to stance and piton belay at 60 ft. Continue right to attain corner again, then up sharp arête to beneath a breach in overhang. Use chimney with large chockstone for aid at lip of bulge and move up on to slab at 50 ft. Ascend cave pitch on left and follow other easy chimneys and a grassy recess to top (180 ft.).

Brimstone Groove.—250 feet, Mild Severe. Climbed by G. Annand and R. H. Sellers (through leads), with R. Reid, on 5th October 1958. Again follow the fault leading to Deep-cut, but at start of the glacis another fault can be seen coming down the face on to smooth slabs.

Go up slabs on small holds just beneath a projecting nose for 30 ft. Traverse right till under small *dièdre*. Using piton high up and a sling, reach hold on right edge and swing to right wall. Straight up short wall to ledge (belay at 100 ft.). Surmount nose above by cracks and then go up fault, now at an easy angle, and on good holds until it steepens again beneath crack (piton belay, 120 ft.). Climb crack by jamming and go up over steps to ledge in 100 ft. Follow two large moderate steps to top in 60 ft.

Beinn a' Bhuid, Garbh Choire, South-East Gully.—This was climbed on 15th February 1959 by R. H. Sellers and G. Annand (through leads) in 4½ hours. Grade V. It is the beautiful *couloir* on left, east of Mitre Ridge, very shallow and about 500 feet long.

First a 40-ft. ice-groove and slab. Then 120 ft. of snow to point where gully steepens. Here, Patey's East Wall route goes right. From here to summit continuous difficulties with fine ice-pitches—a magnificent snow and ice climb.

Creagan a' Choire Etchachan, The Red Chimney.—The first winter ascent was made by J. Y. L. Hay and R. Ibbotson on 8th February 1959 in 6½ hours, Grade IV to V. Start by the twin right-angled grooves to right of chimney.

The second pitch, a smooth iced slab with very delicate left traverse, Very Severe at the top, was the crux. After 20 ft. difficult work in line of chimney, cut out on to rib on left. A short ice-pitch leads back to central part of route. Then 70 ft. of snow and a 50-ft. ice-pitch lead to below final part of chimney. Here, as in summer, traverse right and end up Flanking Ribs route. The best winter route in the corrie to date. Previous attempt at New Year 1958 was defeated near the top.

Braeriach, Coire Bhrochain, Campion Gully.—Winter ascent on 19th February 1959 by J. Clarkson, R. J.

Tanton and T. M. Lawson (Edinburgh J.M.C.S.). The first half on snow. Then a short ice-pitch above cave, followed by steep, unstable snow to cornice in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours. This is the gully which forms a left fork of West Gully.

Beinn a' Bhuird, Corrie na Ciche, Quartz Vein Route.—First winter ascent was made on 31st January 1959 by W. A. Christie and J. W. Vigrow. Follow summer route throughout, using crampons for the first 200 feet of frozen slabs. Remaining 200 feet on ice-covered rock of sustained difficulty (Grade IV).

NORTH WEST REGION.

Beinn Laoghal, Sgor a Chleirich, S.W. Face, Priest's Rake.—850 feet, Very Severe. Climbed by D. D. Stewart and R. Tombs on 8th July 1958. Possibly the best crag on this surprisingly rocky mountain, the south-west face of Sgor a Chleirich overlooks Loch Fhionnaich. A rake, ill-defined at first, rises from left to right across the crag, and another fault divides it in a vertical plane. Below the rake this second fault forms a groove, above it a steep, broken, dirty-looking *dièdre*.

Start at a small cairn below the lowest rib, a few feet left of the dirty groove (piton, 100 ft.). Traverse right here and climb into groove. Follow the groove until escape on the left leads to overhung grass patch. Exit on left leads out over exposed slabs to a larger grass patch which is the start of the defined section of the rake. Follow it up to the right to its highest point, whence a rib leads directly to the top of the crag.

As far as the rake the climbing is serious and difficult; the rake itself is narrow but easy and the final section is straightforward. A direct continuation from the rake up the steep *dièdre* would give a difficult but elegant finish. The climb occupied 5 hours and four pitons were used, one of which remains in place.

Foinaven, Creagh Coire nan Lice, Cantilever Climb.—The route was climbed on a previously unexplored cliff below 2,646-foot top, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles south of Ganu Mor, and facing into an unnamed hanging corrie for which the name Coire nan Lice is suggested. Approach from

Strath Dionard, continuing up large unnamed corrie between north ridge of Creagh Dionard and A'Cheir Gorm. A short ascent over moraine at the head of this valley gives access to the hanging, scree-covered Coire nan Lice, dominated by Lord Reay's Seat and on the left by Creagh Coire nan Lice. Between these is the pass, Cadha na Beucaich. The Creagh is convex, about a third of a mile long and about 500 feet high. It is very steep, with a grassy terrace running round it about 200 feet up. Rock is unsound in places. This difficult climb was done on 21st June 1958 by B. Halpin, J. Bradley and I. Clough.

From near small lochan in corrie climb a shallow gully for 200 ft. (amid the more broken rocks on right of the buttress) to the terrace, where a large block, the Cantilever, leans against the cliff. This involves two short pitches. Above this are three pitches of 100 ft., leading by corner and a ridge to the top.

Ben Stack.—On the N.E. side of Ben Stack above Loch Stack are two bands of cliff. The higher starts at about 800 feet above sea-level. Three short routes were climbed on the left end of the upper band by I. Clough and J. M. Alexander on 20th and 22nd June 1958. Another route was climbed by B. Halpin and A. Flegg (also Kinloss Mountain Rescue Team) on 22nd June 1958. The main feature is a big right-angled corner about 100 feet high, well seen from the road near the south end of Loch Stack. These are enjoyable short climbs on good rock. There is scope for other short routes both here and on the lower band, though some parts look rather vegetative.

Cracked Slab.—80 ft., Very Difficult. Climb the big right-angled corner for 20 ft. and then go up slab (60 ft.). This forms left wall of corner, finishing up wall above on good holds.

Eastern Buttress.—100 ft., Very Difficult, goes up buttress to right of corner. Start 15 ft. right of lowest part of buttress. Up to flake, mantelshelf on to it, and trend right over small overhang to groove. Up short chimney, then diagonally left to top of buttress.

Halpin's Route.—100 ft., Very Difficult. Reach the same stance as on previous route by a difficult crack to the left of the start of that route. Up short chimney, then straight up or slightly right.



July 1949

CREAG AN DUBH LOCH—THE SLABS
(Between Labyrinth and Central Gully)

F. Schusser

The Groove.—80 ft. An obvious groove with overhangs on left of big corner. Mostly artificial (A2). Some pitons still in place. Finish up wall as for Cracked Slab.

Cul Beag, Coigach, Lurgain Edge.—Only two climbs on Cul Beag find mention in the 1953 edition of "Northern" Guide, and the descriptions are quite useless for identification. Yet the crags facing Linneraineach have well-marked features and should offer a number of climbs. About the middle of the face is a prominent gully enclosing in its base a wedge-shaped buttress with apex below. This is quite conspicuous from Stack Polly or Beinn an Eoin (across the loch). This gully is also defined by possessing the longest scree tail down to the moor. It could be called Y Gully, with the two upper arms enclosing Wedge Buttress. Our route had a lower section on the lower rocks to left of Y Gully, and the upper section is on the right of the shallow upper gully and above the Y, where there is a long steep cliff face. Lurgain Edge, almost a true ridge, separates the easier rocks facing the upper gully from the wall extending south-eastward.

Lurgain Edge was climbed on 11th August 1958 by Dr and Mrs J. H. Bell. The lower introductory part gave little over 150 ft. of climbing, and would be improved greatly by going up a sharp, rather holdless arête on left of Y Gully. We started up behind a detached flake more to the left, with one or two difficult pitches on steep, good rock followed by scrambling. Above this we crossed Y Gully above the Wedge and then to the base of Lurgain Edge which gave 200 to 250 ft. of delightful climbing on good, steep rock, with fine airy situations. After 100 ft. a difficult chimney to a platform. A cairn was left at a big platform about 100 ft. higher. Then there is a really very difficult 30-ft. chimney and some roof-tile slabs to the finish at the top of the rocks. From here a little grassy ridge runs up to subsidiary southern summit of the mountain with another little dip before the main top.

An Teallach, Toll an Lochain Face, Lord's Gully.—This long gully, about 600 feet, was ascended on 9th August 1958 by D. Robertson and F. Old of Carn Dearg, M.C., Dundee. See photo, p. 80, "Northern Highlands" Guide, where this gully runs upward from a point below the summit of Sgurr Fiona to the base of the upper rocks

of Lord Berkeley's Seat. The gully was dry even after several rainy days, and the rocks clean and sound.

Follow the line of the watercourse over many pitches, one of which, near the top, was Severe. From the base of the upper rocks proceed to the right up a steep slab, but this became impossible owing to wet mud at 150 ft., so descent of 60 ft. was made to a poor belay. Thence a 100-ft. traverse across the slabby face below Sgurr Fiona was made to grass ledges and then up to the main ridge. In dry conditions a direct finish up the slab should be possible. (The Editor and E. E. Roberts went up this gully at Easter, 1923, when it was full of good snow. They, too, were obliged to go out to the right, probably about the same place, in order to gain the ridge between the Seat and Sgurr Fiona.)

An Teallach, A' Ghlas Toll, Hayfork Gullies, Fourth Prong.—Winter ascent on 15th February 1959 by T. M. Lawson, R. J. Tanton and J. Clarkson (Edinburgh J.M.C.S.). These gullies form a set of vertical prongs towards left side of cliff. Gully climbed was fourth from left and appeared to be the steepest. It is just left of Central Buttress, the most defined buttress in the corrie. It gave an excellent snow climb in iron-hard conditions with a 25-foot ice-pitch half-way up. Time, 2 hours.

Coire a' Ghlas Thuill, Minor Rib.—Climbed on 21st September 1958 by Fraser Henderson (Etchachan Club), George Sim and Ronald Sim (Hall Russell, M.C.). Time taken 2½ hours and standard Difficult. This Rib has been already climbed in winter conditions by R. Barclay and W. D. Brooker on 15th April 1956 (see *J.*, 1956, p. 156). Description, therefore, is abbreviated.

Easy for 200 ft. to grass ledge. Then short difficult wall, more easy rocks to another grass ledge and short difficult wall to large grass scoop. Pinnacle avoided by 80 ft. (V.D.) chimney on right leading to next scoop, from which easy 100 ft. to Fork of Hayfork Gully. Follow right branch to a 40-ft. chimney on left leading to small upper face. After 80 ft. of moderate rocks a 10-ft. chimney climbed, and the party split up and followed their own routes to the top. There is a good deal of vegetation here and there, but the upper face is clean and enjoyable. Party roped only for the 80-ft. chimney.

Beinn a' Mhuinidh (near Kinlochewe), Upper Band, North Buttress.—Reports of five routes, all about 200 feet, climbed in July 1958 by R. Harris and P. Bamfield, as well as of three routes climbed on 9th and 10th May 1958 by I. Clough, have been received and proved difficult to reconcile with each other. From a rough diagram supplied by Harris and viewing the band of cliff from below (N.W.→S.E.) the order of climbs is as follows: Staircase Ridge, Original Double Flake Route (see Guide); Stepped Chimney; Silver Slab; Pinnacle Gully; and Pinnacle Face, with Pinnacle on right above yellow overhangs.

Staircase Ridge.—Severe, is the steep, stepped ridge seen in profile from the foot of Double Flake. 15 ft. up white quartzite to ledge. Traverse left up overhung wall and on to true ridge. Now direct over two further 70-ft. pitches to top of crag.

Stepped Chimney.—Severe. The deep chimney on second pitch can be seen clearly from foot of crag. Go up over loose blocks to short crack on right and up to chockstone belay. The next chimney is wet in rainy weather. It is strenuous. Then ascend overhanging crack, hardest pitch. Belay at 100 ft.

Silver Slab, Severe, follows right-hand edge of fine, steep slabs left of deep gully called Pinnacle Gully. Ascend broken wall below slabs by right edge (45 ft.). Climb silver-coloured slabs and go diagonally right to heather-filled crack at edge of slab, which climb and over loose blocks to good stance, 85 ft. Rib on right of belay climbed, then easier to top.

Pinnacle Gully, Very Difficult, comes next. Climbed direct over some grass to belay at 50 ft. Then loose blocks and grass to foot of Pinnacle on right. Easiest way up is between Pinnacle and wall at the back. Poor stance and belay on top of Pinnacle. Leap from here on to broad grass ledge. Move left to face overlooking Pinnacle (crux). Exposed ridge above climbed on good incut holds to belay (40 ft.) and 30 ft. of easy scrambling to finish.

Pinnacle Face is a Hard Severe, up face on right of Pinnacle Gully, starting from recess on left, difficult for 20 ft., and then easier to stance and chockstone at 60 ft. Go right over blocks to base of overhung crack, difficult, to belay at 60 ft. Ascend Pinnacle on the right on friable holds. Then continue above Pinnacle as on previous route.

I. Clough's descriptions are as follows: (1) *Soliloquy Gully,* 120 ft. (V.D.). On right of North Buttress is gully with battered

tree at bottom. Go up crack above tree, on right of gully to small cave. Climb steep rib on left, then easy. (2) *Heather Grooves*, 150 ft. (V.D.). Near middle of buttress is prominent pinnacle or flake 30 ft. high, up against buttress. Start 30 ft. to left and go up past ledge and small tree to corner crack, and up it with care. Above crack climb short gully and traverse right to holly tree. Go up a groove and then easy. (3) *Sunset Chimney*, 150 ft. (Difficult). Start 30 ft. right of pinnacle in former route. Go up obvious line of cracks and a chimney. From top traverse diagonally up right until easy way to top.

ARROCHAR DISTRICT AND ARRAN.

Cobbler, North Peak, The Nook.—140 feet, Very Severe. Climbed by Creagh Dhu M.C. party in August 1955. First ascent first pitch by W. Smith, M. Noon, J. Cunningham, G. McIntosh; second pitch, Cunningham and Noon; third pitch, P. Walsh and Noon. Completed first ascent by M. Noon. Pitons: one for first pitch, five for second pitch, and three for third pitch.

(1) Start 6 ft. right of direct start of Cat Crawl at back of recess. Climb up crack to roof of overhang, then awkward layback move to follow crack to shallow right-angled corner, then piton used to continue upwards left to large block belay at 70 ft., as for Punster's Crack. (2) Above and slightly left of block is thin crack with fixed pitons, used until possible to follow crack to left where awkward move made to ledge with belay at 35 ft. (3) From left side of ledge step down and round corner: then go horizontally to finish near top of Cat Crawl direct finish.

South Peak, Dicer's Groove.—Very Severe. Climbed on 2nd September 1956 by E. Taylor and A. Crawford (C.D.M.C.). Climb is on west face of peak, starting a few feet below and right of overhanging crack on Porcupine Wall.

(1) 30 ft. Climb 12 ft. to obvious ledge sloping upwards to right. Semi-hand traverse the ledge till piton seen on rock above. Belay on this. (2) 95 ft. Climb left into groove, which ascend till it bulges and becomes holdless. Insert piton and force outward move on to exposed wall on right. Climb wall on small holds, then diagonally right over easy ledges to grass platform with large block in corner.

Ben Ime, Fan Gully Buttress—Buttress Route.—400 feet, Difficult. Climbed by P. Mitchell and D.

McLuckie (Greenock M.C.) on 12th October 1958. Start at a stepped grass ledge 30 feet higher and to right of lower rocks and to right of Ben's Fault.

Climb grass ledge until direct upward progress can be made on vegetated rocks to prominent grass ledge at 110 ft. Steep wall above this turned on left by grass ledges until upward progress can be resumed over steep vegetated rocks which lead to overhanging rocks of the buttress nose. Avoid the nose on the right by climbing a long difficult chimney to reach easy ground near top of buttress.

Creag Tharsuinn, Upper Tier, V Groove.—140 feet, Very Difficult. Climbed on 31st May 1958 by P. Mitchell and J. Morrison (Greenock M.C.), using vibrams. The route starts in grassy bay above the rake, 100 feet up from lower end of crag. The mouth of the groove is 35 to 40 feet above lowest rocks, and lower mossy slabs are avoided by using grassy bay approach, which ends on left below sloping ledge. Groove is left of Solo Buttress (*J.*, 1958, p. 281). Route is harder than Maclay's Gully, and not so hard as McLaren's Chimney.

(1) 45 ft. Climb to sloping ledge and traverse left to corner below steep arête. Make awkward move round corner, enter foot of deep groove and move up into shallow cave. Belay. (2) 95 ft. Climb groove, using holds mainly on left wall, finishing on grass slope near summit.

Arran ; Rosa, South Slabs.—250 to 300 feet, Severe. This was climbed by a Greenock M.C. party, but reported by J. W. Simpson (J.M.C.S.). It is probably the only route up the slabs, which lie about 400 yards south of the main belt of Rosa Slabs and are very noticeable from the glen. At the centre of the base of the Slabs a fault runs up to the left.

(1) Climb the fault for 150 to 200 ft. of easy climbing. (2) When the fault peters out go for the slabs above. The route taken, probably as easy as any other possible, was Severe. A run-out of 110 ft. reaches easier ground and a belay. Rock is firm but becomes greasy in wet weather.

A' Chir, Glen Iorsa Face, November Chimney.—180 feet, Very Difficult. Climbed by J. W. Simpson

and W. Wallace on 22nd November 1958. Approach by col (d) in diagram on page 45, "Islands" Guide. Just south of the gully leading to this col (on west or Glen Iorsa side) is a wall of 60 feet leading to expanse of slabs below crest of the ridge. The only breach in the wall is a prominent curving chimney with a large chockstone at the top.

(1) Climb this narrow and strenuous chimney. Chock is firm. Good stance and belay 15 ft. beyond, at 60 ft. (2) Go up to right to easier rocks leading to foot of slabs. Gain these by a variety of cracks. Belay about half-way up slabs at 90 ft. (3) More slabs and then exit to crest of ridge in 30 ft. In summer the chimney is the crux. With wet rocks the slabs are harder.

SKYE

Sgurr Mhic Coinnich, Coireachan Ruadha Face.—

The following two climbs were reported by L. J. Morris with a St Andrews U.M.C. party on 25th to 27th June 1958. This face, J Buttress, lower cliffs, is split by a great gully which was attempted but found unclimbable by L. J. M. and W. B. The climbs described are to the right of this. Both routes were done in rubbers and the St Andrews Crack proved magnificent, climbed only to top of Pitch 3 on 25th June by L. J. M. and M. J. Hill, completed by W. Bonthron and L. J. M. on 27th June, with conclusion that if this route were followed by Crack of Dawn or Fluted Buttress it would give the best hard-climbing day in Skye.

The other route, *Chemist's Constitutional*, is the quickest and safest way to the Terrace from below the lower cliffs, and much preferable to Rotten Gully. From Glenbrittle one should cross Bealach na Banachdich, when $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 hours would be a normal time. It is probably also the quickest way to Fluted Buttress, using this route to the Terrace.

Chemist's Constitutional.—Ca. 400 ft., Very Difficult. (L. J. M. and W. B., unroped.) It starts on lowest rocks, about 100 ft. to right of great gully and just right of another gully (cairn and arrow). About 200 ft. of moderate to difficult up buttress to Amphitheatre. Traverse left across mouth of this, and over left wall to the first

gully. Climb this to top of buttress, 110 ft. This gully is that used on first attempt on St Andrews Crack as an escape route after Pitch 3.

St Andrews Crack.—360 feet, Very Severe. Two cracks run up the face just to the right of the Great Gully, and the route follows the left one. Start at 30 feet to right of Great Gully, at foot of this crack (cairn and arrow).

(1) 95 ft., Severe. Climb up right-hand side of the crack and traverse upwards to left. Then up to right over a small slab (piton used here) to stance and belay. (2) 80 ft., Very Severe. Climb left-hand crack, which overhangs in two places. Piton and *étrier* used on first overhang. (3) 70 ft., Mild Severe. The crack is followed and after surmounting two jammed blocks easier rocks lead to a pinnacle which gives excellent belay and stance at its crest. (4) Up crack for 20 ft., Hard Severe. Belay here, then under and over jammed blocks for 90 ft. (V.D.) to the Terrace.

Escape Route.—From top of Pitch 3 descend the crack rightwards from the top of pinnacle (30 ft., V.D.) to a wide, sloping terrace, and scramble up this for 100 ft. to the right to an obvious gully. Ascend this to top of the buttress (120 ft., V.D.).

Dawn Groove.—This route is also on Coireachan Ruadha face of Mhic Coinnich, but on the upper cliff. Very Severe in rubbers and 650 feet in length, it was climbed on 22nd August 1958 by R. W. P. Barclay and W. D. Brooker. Above its second pitch, at about 150 feet, Crack of Dawn is intersected by a shelf slanting up to the left, which soon develops into a prominent groove forming the left-hand boundary of Fluted Buttress and is traceable all the way to the summit ridge. The route is an attempt to follow this groove and provides good climbing of continued difficulty. Neither quality nor standard are as high as in the two initial pitches of Crack of Dawn, but the more disappointing character of the upper part of that route is avoided. At its most sensational part about 100 feet of the Groove was turned on the right. If a future party can include this section the entire route would have a character and standard attained by few, if any, Skye climbs.

Climb the first two pitches of Crack of Dawn (V.S.) to a shelf. This steepens leftwards to form the Groove. Climb this (V.D.) for

about 150 ft. to below the point where the main groove becomes a clean-cut V and throws a lesser groove up to the right. Traverse 15 ft. to a crack splitting the right enclosing wall of the lesser groove. Climb the crack, following its line up the slabby edge of buttress to a good ledge (H.S.). A steep 50-ft. wall then leads to the ledge girdling the upper part of Fluted Buttress. [Here one is beneath and left of "stupendous overhanging nose split by a crack," and the final pitches of Fluted Buttress may be joined either by traverse right along ledge or by going straight up for 50 ft. (V.S.) on left of the nose.] Traverse left along ledge for 40 ft. to chimney marking line of Groove. Up chimney to overhang and exit left by a flake to a ledge with a huge block (30 ft., H.S.). Climb steep slabs above, trending right to regain Groove which forms here a steep and strenuous pitch, a narrow chimney topped by a 15-ft. V corner (V.S.). The summit ridge lies within easy reach.

Sgurr a Mhadaidh, Tairneilear Face—Sanguinary Cracks.—700 ft., Very Difficult with Severe finish (can be avoided). Climbed by D. J. Temple and I. S. Clough (through leads) on 30th May 1958. To left of the start of Shining Cleft is a long slope of scree leading up to a large amphitheatre. To the left again is a large broken buttress with an obvious line of cracks on the right; between the cracks and the amphitheatre are slabs set back from the rest of the buttress. Start near the bottom of the slabs.

Climb to the cracks by a rising left traverse for 100 ft. to chockstone belay. Then 100 ft., using crack and slabs to right of it, to a shelf. 100 ft. up the shallow chimney above (V.D.) to a horizontal trap shelf. Easier climbing up crack for 250 ft. to another shelf. A short steep pitch is taken direct to a ledge where the line of cracks finishes. Here easy scrambles could apparently be made to the summit by going either right or left, but the climb finishes with two pleasant Severe pitches directly to summit of buttress. A short scramble leads to the Main Ridge.

Sgurr a' Mhadaidh, Tairneilear Face, Mantrap.—400 feet or more, Hard Severe. Climbed by N. Drasdo (Yorkshire M.C.) and C. M. Dixon (J.M.C.S. and C.C.), September 1958. This follows the fault line, well seen on the diagram on page 135 of the pocket "Skye" Guide. It slopes slightly left, running from the screes to Foxes' Rake and just left of Archer Thomson's route.

Route starts up easy rocks on right of fault, at first wide and broken, to a broad ledge. Continue up rocks on right of fault to stance with poor belays. Fault steepens and climbing harder. Go up and leftwards over slabby rocks with steeper bit under them, to a bottleneck in fault. Traverse right with awkward step and up on steepening rock until a last bulge passed at narrowest bit of fault (crux and usually wet). Easier now to very steep, wet, loose, overhanging section passed on rocks on the left. Easier pitches to Foxes' Rake.

Coire nan Laogh (Southern Cuillin).—Two routes are reported on the cliff of the "three prominent gullies" mentioned in the Guide. They were climbed on 30th July 1958 by T. Shallice and R. C. Mason. They only identified two gullies, deemed to be west and central.

Lambda starts 30 yds. left of Central Gully, 50 ft. above the large grassy terrace. Aim for left-hand side of recess. Climb the chimney forming it and continue up slabs above. A 400-ft. Difficult, which deteriorates after a good start.

Mu lies on buttress to left of West Gully. It starts in this gully some way below bridging chockstone and 10 ft. below large square overhang on left wall. Climb wall and follow slab edge to below overhang (65 ft.). Traverse left 30 ft. until wall nearly vertical, and then go straight up wall. Veer right then and climb leftwards sloping crack in slabs above, and on to belay in crack at 90 ft. Climb two short walls to left of crack (60 ft.). A good climb of 245 ft., Severe.

Sgumain, West Buttress, Sunset Slab, Direct Exit.—200 feet, Hard Severe. Climbed by D. J. Temple and I. Clough on 31st May 1958. Break off original route some 30 feet along the 140-foot easy traverse on fourth pitch.

Go 40 ft. to corner below overhanging crack, piton belay. Avoid crack by wall on left, traversing back across crack to shelf and flake belay (30 ft.). Climb overhanging crack (25 ft.), using sling with jammed knot in crack and good finishing holds. Short crack now leads to easier climbing diagonally to middle of buttress. Join West Trap Route.

Sgumain, West Buttress, The Slant.—About 400 feet, Difficult. Climbed on 1st September 1958 by A. H. Greenbank, J. Wilkinson and D. Murray (F.R.C.C.).

This pleasant climb on sound rock follows an obvious natural line and crosses the face diagonally from right to left. Start up slabby rocks to left of prominent white blaze described in Sunset Slab, and proceed to an open chimney, ending at the cairn below last pitch of Superstition.

Sgumain, Final Tower (Stone Shoot Face) Introduction.—200 feet, Very Difficult. Climbed by I. Clough and D. J. Temple on 29th May 1958. This climb is on the face below the terrace which crosses the buttress below the Final Tower on the Sgumain Stone Shoot side.

There are three prominent lines, the right-hand one continuing up the final tower in a big *dièdre*. The middle groove was climbed for 100 ft. to a sloping shelf and chockstone belay. Continue up delicate slab above and by easier rocks to finish on the terrace near the start of the Final Tower Direct.

Sgumain, North Buttress—Theseus.—380 feet, Hard Severe. Climbed by J. M. Alexander and T. R. Wilkinson (Kinloss M.R.T.) (through leads) on 29th May 1958. The start and left fork of Prometheus and Prokroustes was climbed to where the gully eases.

The start of Prometheus and Prokroustes was easier than on the first ascent, due to much better conditions, and one piton was left in place. Theseus was started 20 ft. up and right of the gully where an open corner was gained (cairn). Obvious ascending line to right was taken, parallel to right branch of Prometheus and Prokroustes, to large block belay (100 ft.). Crux at 30 ft. Steep wall above climbed (30 ft.) to an exposed traverse left, followed for 60 ft. Easier climbing led to a terrace, followed right to foot of open corners (90 ft.). Climb corners and continue to the summit ridge above a line of red trap (100 ft.).

Sron na Ciche—Slab and Groove Route, Slab Corner Variation.—120 feet, Hard Severe. Climbed by I. Clough, G. Grandison and D. Pipes on 19th May 1957. Start from sloping shelf where original route traverses to West Central Arête.

Climb a steep corner immediately above for 30 ft. when awkward move brings one to foot of prominent slab corner. Up the corner

with an excursion across the slab to the left and back. Exit by overhang on right or directly up short wall to ledge which is just above and left of gully next to W.C. Arête. Climb into gully.

Cioch Buttress, Crembo Crack.—390 feet, at least Severe in vibrams. Climbed on 27th July 1958 by D. Gregory and R. Hutchison, jun. (Lomond M.C.). The route follows a series of shallow chimneys and cracks immediately left of Cioch West route. The start is about 15 yards right of that of Cioch Direct and 2 yards left of Cioch West. It ends on easy rocks above the airy traverse of Cioch West, which must be passed round a corner on the left.

(1) 110 ft. Climb undercut wall to left of Cioch West by thin crack, which forms an inverted V about 30 ft. up. Continue for 80 ft. more, finally in trap dyke. (2) 90 ft. Climb shallow chimney slightly left until it narrows to crack in a corner. Use piton belay to protect leader over awkward bulge. Good belay at top of slab above. (3) 60 ft. Easy slabs to square corner where 15 ft. traverse right was made. (Some nail marks here.) (4) 130 ft. Use large flakes to climb crack above for about 30 ft. to exit on left over a bulge (piton safeguard). Climb series of short walls to reach another crack, capped by bulge at 70 ft. Use peg runner here. Climb by using undercut holds. Easy slabs to Cioch West Route.

Eastern Buttress, West Wall, Staumcracks.—250 feet, Severe. Climbed on 9th June 1958 by J. D. Pitts and G. M. Biggar (St Andrews U.M.C.). Start from Eastern Gully, just below 10-foot step near start of easy traverse to Cioch.

(1) 60 ft. Go up first of obvious line of cracks up side of buttress, 30 ft. to top of large block and then layback crack to ledge and thread belay. (2) 120 ft. up wide crack at easier angle to terrace below slightly overhung crack. (3) 70 ft. crux. Climb 40 ft. to large block splitting crack, then up right edge of block and finish up wall on right.

An enormous amount of climbing has been done in the summer of 1958 in Skye, mainly by Hamish McInnes and others. Many of these have been graded by H. McInnes, following the continental classification of such routes where artificial methods have been used (*i.e.*, the

use of small expansion bolts of high-strength steel, for which a hole is often jumped into the rock with drill and hammer). Space does not allow of complete descriptions, except in a few cases. For the rest a brief note is given only. No belays mentioned.

Cioch Upper Buttress, Atropos.—340 feet, Very Severe (A3). Climbed by McInnes and I. Clough on 29th May. Start a few feet left of Integrity in overhanging crack.

Climb direct to gain slab. Crack continues up slab for 35 ft. to stance (65 ft.). Same crack up wall for 25 ft. to sloping ledge. Up to right to under roof. Traverse left and down to small ledge. Up and round overhang to good ledge (65 ft.). Avoid big overhang by climbing to right to ledge left of Integrity (35 ft.). Climb overhang on left of slab corner above and escape by awkward move left to large slab. Ascend obliquely left to small sloping niche (60 ft.). Climb direct to ledge above; climb chimney on left to ledge (50 ft.). Climb slightly right to finish on glaciais (40 ft.). (Belays, pitons, bolts, tension traverse involved.)

Depravity (same buttress).—300 feet, Very Severe. Climbed by McInnes, Clough and D. Pipes on 1st June. Start 40 feet right of Left Edge route, 3 feet left of overhung sentry box (arrow).

Awkward initial moves, then rising traverse left to overhang. 6 ft. above is tiny stance. Climb rib on right for few feet. Cross groove to left and up to platform and belay. Continue to top keeping a little right of Left Edge route.

Eastern Buttress (Sron), Boreas Grooves.—240 feet, Very Severe. Climbed by same party on 4th June. Start in Eastern Gully below point where shelf from Cioch enters, and some 40 feet above second pitch of gully (arrow).

Up to foot of obvious corner. Climb this by finger jamming and artificial chockstone at exit. Go up big groove 100 ft. to terrace. Crux is slightly overhung corner above, with chock belay at 25 ft. Gain shelf 12 ft. higher and so up overhang on right on good holds. Easy to top.

Thearlaich-Dubh Buttress, Grand Dièdre.—190 feet, Very Severe. Climbed by same party on 1st June. This

runs up middle of face, very prominent from Ghrunnda corrie.

Start up slab on right. Up slab with left traverse at top to stance (65 ft.). Climb *dièdre* over overhang which is crux, to small ledge (65 ft.). Follow *dièdre* to top (60 ft.).

Sgurr Dearg, Aesculapius.—310 feet, Hard Severe. Climbed by H. McInnes, J. A. Hartley and Misses M. C. Munday and M. E. Elliot on 24th June.

A gangway rises steeply to the right from point 60 ft. right of Toolie Grooves. Climb this 70 ft. and follow round large stone to scree ledge. Go right to basalt dyke. Up a few feet and traverse left and up to ledge at 45 ft. Follow right side of chimney and enter it. Climb to small triangular ledge, 70 ft. Climb steep wall on left and gain shelf under overhang (25 ft.). Move back across top of wall to ledge. Climb to narrow chimney above and to ledge (50 ft.). Traverse right and up rising ledge, awkward move to right. Continue right to easy ground at top (50 ft.). Hygeia variations comprise a direct start (H.S.) and direct finish (A2).

The following routes are given in outline :—

Sron, E. Buttress, Vulcan Wall.—Over 200 ft. V.S. (A2). Climbed by McInnes, J. Temple and Clough on 30th May. Fine route following great slab between Creag Dhu Grooves and Kinloss gully, high up on stone shoot side of E. Buttress (arrow). 60 ft. to ledge, with block. 15 ft. to ledge left of block. 85 ft. up line of cracks to small ledge on right. Rising traverse left to better holds (30 ft.). Traverse left to edge of wall 15 ft. Climb to glacis. Sustained difficulty, 8 hours.

Cioch Upper Buttress, Ajax.—M.S. (no height given). Climbed by McInnes and A. N. Other. Approx. half-way up glacis above Crack of Doom is start at white mark on rock. Follow slab and corner 50 ft. Climb chimney above, where several cracks converge. Then follow left crack to ledge. Up crack to platform.

Sgumain, Final Tower, West Face, Penitentiary Grooves.—150 ft. S. with A2. Climbed by McInnes and Clough on 9th June. In middle of face overlooking stone shoot is big *dièdre* capped by roof. Start below and go 50 ft. up groove to stance. Then 15 ft. overhang. Then 60 ft. up *dièdre* over two small overhangs to below roof. Artificial move across right wall and so to ledge. Then 25 ft. up groove.

Hermaphra (same face).—210 ft. approx., M.S. Climbed by McInnes and Miss C. Munday on 27th June. Start straight below

dièdre on previous route. Up Hermaphra chimney from screes to terrace, 60 ft. pitch to sentry box and chockstone, then straight up chimney to good ledge at 110 ft. Easy for 40 ft. to terrace. Some 30 ft. right of start is another chimney (*Priam*) climbed direct with left traverse at top to sentry box (M.S.), same finish. From where Hermaphra reaches terrace is an arrow, the start of (*Ditus*). After short ascent go right to chimney, often wet, and climb it on right for 50 ft. *Priam* and *Ditus* are variations.

Petit Dièdre (same face).—160 ft., V.S. (A2). Climbed on 6th July by H. Insley and J. A. Hartley. Start from terrace directly under obvious *dièdre* with triangular roof. To ledge below first overhang 40 ft. Ascend *dièdre*, and crux is on overhang below final roof (100 ft.).

Sgurr Dearg, Window Buttress, Melpomene.—300 ft., D. Climbed by McInnes and Misses C. Munday and M. E. Elliot on 19th June. Some 40 ft. to right of Buttress is steep corner to right of small chimney. Climb this to top of Buttress with exit to right of Window up overhanging crack.

Dearg, S. Buttress, W. Face Oedipus, S. (A2), is a variation to Pitch 3 of Mistaken Crack. Ascend overhang on right instead of normal way up left side.

Sgurr Thuilm, S. Face, Aegis.—Height not recorded, D. Climbed by McInnes on 2nd June. Just below summit a small broken face falls away to corrie in terraces. *Aegis* follows right side by series of arrows.

Clach Glas, W. Face, Penelope.—230 ft., V.D. Climbed by McInnes on 12th June. On Guide diagram of face a line runs vertically to right of summit. This small gully is *Penelope* and contains five pitches. The *Odysseus* variation goes to right of this gully, about 10 ft. away. First pitch 115 ft. to belay in gully and top section rather loose. It rejoins *Penelope* at hole with chockstone belay (S.).

Glencoe District—No list of New Climbs in this district appears in this issue as the Regional Editor is incorporating them in the forthcoming edition of the Guide to the area. Whatever cannot be included will be published in our 1960 issue.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.**EASTER MEET, 1958—BRAEMAR.**

THE Easter Meet at Braemar was most agreeable and we are indebted to the management and staff of the Fife Arms Hotel for looking after us so well. On 3rd April those members who were free to travel in the hours of daylight reached Braemar via the Devil's Elbow, but those who travelled later found that they had to go by Aberdeen and they did not arrive at Braemar until the early hours of the morning when the obliging night porter welcomed them with hot drinks.

No thermometer reading was taken during the minor excursions on Good Friday, 4th April, but it was extremely cold and no one was late back for tea. On the subsequent days of the Meet, however, much activity was shown, and Lochnagar, Glas Maol, Beinn Bhrotain, Beinn a' Bhuid and many other fine hills were climbed. The snow was a little soft and not suitable for the skis which some members had brought, but nevertheless at least one first-class ascent was accomplished by a ski party.

J. Dow was a most active member at the Meet and, at 76, could out-distance on the hill many car owners of half his age. Another active climber we were particularly glad to see was Robin Beveridge, this being, so far as the writer knows, his first Meet since his serious illness. There were in all thirty-three members and four guests at this successful Meet. The list is as follows:—

W. B. Speirs (President), J. W. Baxter, R. L. Beveridge, D. L. Campbell, I. M. Campbell, W. C. Carmichael, E. S. Chapman, W. L. Coats, M. H. Cooke, I. G. Cumming, A. Dixon, J. Dow, W. L. G. Duff, R. R. Elton, J. C. Henderson, R. R. S. Higgins, R. M. G. Inglis, J. N. Ledingham, T. D. Mackinnon, I. A. T. MacPhail, Dr G. G. Macphee, D. H. McPherson, R. W. Martin, M. Morrison, T. Nicholson, G. S. Roger, A. C. Russell, A. M. Smith, J. S. Stewart, E. C. Thomson, T. E. Thomson, R. D. Walton, F. R. Wylie (members);

also W. Macphee, K. Macrae, R. Martin and A. Speirs (guests).

The peaks climbed during the Meet included Derry Cairngorm, Carn a' Mhaim, Carn Bhac, Beinn Bhreac, Cairnwell, Carn Aosda, Glas Maol, Lochnagar, Meikle Pap, Carn an t-Sagairt, Beinn Bhrotain, Beinn a' Bhuird (south top) and many lesser heights.

The sole party at the C.I.C. Hut was J. E. Proom (member) with J. Gillespie (guest). They climbed No. 2 Gully and South Castle Gully, and descended No. 3 Gully in reasonable weather with plenty of hard snow for step-cutting.

NEW YEAR MEET, 1959—DALWHINNIE.

WEATHER conditions were, on the whole, inclement and boisterous. Following a reasonably good day on 31st December some snow fell in the evening and New Year's day provided high south-westerly winds with snowfall and rapid drifting on the heights followed by slush and heavy rain at a lower level. By 2nd January the wind had shifted to the north with fierce blasts of spindrift raging over the hillsides where the very breakable crust over the drifts made the going slow and laborious. By the late afternoon the wind was much less and the view southward down Loch Ericht from the Fara was wintry but impressive. On 3rd January very little snow fell and occasional sunshine brightened the frozen hillsides. The Meet was housed in the Loch Ericht and Grampian Hotels, the first of which was very comfortable, providing also excellent drying accommodation. The remaining occupants of the Grampian migrated to the Loch Ericht on the Saturday. Thirteen mountains were ascended during the Meet, some as distant as the west end of Loch Laggan, but mostly in the Drumochter area. Some members used skis, quite an advantage on breakable crust. At one time or another twenty-five members and four guests attended the Meet. An excellent slide show was provided by George Roger, followed by Earl McEwen on the Thursday evening. The New Year was well

ushered in at the Loch Ericht, with a courteous visit from the proprietor (with laden tray), but an attempt to first-foot the Grampian party thereafter proved futile. Everyone had gone to bed before midnight in order to keep warm. Charleson travelled north by car overnight, having sundry adventures and arriving at the Loch Ericht Hotel at 7.30 A.M. Very sensibly he spent New Year's day comfortably in bed, rising at 6.30 P.M. in good and hungry condition. Dutton divided his time and place between the hills, the Loch Ericht for food and social activities, and his van for sleep. He departed for a camp in the Cairngorms not long before midnight on the Friday, and not long after Charleson had left for a second overnight journey to Edinburgh.

Present at the Meet were the President, Tom Mackinnon (who was away for the Friday in Glasgow), and J. W. Baxter, J. H. B. Bell, W. C. Carmichael, I. G. Charleson, M. H. Cooke, Q. T. Crichton, C. V. Dodgson, W. L. G. Duff, G. J. F. Dutton, J. C. Henderson, L. M. Hill, R. M. G. Inglis, J. N. Ledingham, G. Little, J. Y. Macdonald, J. E. McEwen, R. W. Martin, Theo. Nicholson, F. E. O'Riordan, G. S. Roger, A. C. Russell, T. E. Thomson, J. D. B. Wilson, F. R. Wylie (members); and J. E. Govan, Colin Macdonald, D. Martin and R. M. Martin (guests).

The following twelve mountains were climbed: Meall Chuaich, Carn na Caim, A' Bhuidheanach Bheag, Meall a' Chaoruinn (east of Drumochter); A' Mharconaich and Geal Charn (west of same); Am Faireamh (head of Loch Ericht); Carn Ballach (Monadh Liath); Creag Meaghaidh; Creag Pitridh, Beinn a' Chlachair, Geal Charn (south of Loch Laggan). All except the Fara (2,986 feet) are above Munro line. The latter is a high ranking Corbocharty. Coire Ardair was also ascended to the Window.

Readers who would like to study the campaign and how the forces were deployed (with whom, when and where) may decipher the following terse summary of the expeditions. Personnel goes by numbers in the order of the list of those present at the Meet, the President being No. I, and guests following members. Hills go by

letters A to L in the order given above. On squared paper, using numbers and letters as co-ordinates, you get a scatter diagram (quite useless), or you can make a frequency diagram to prove that Mharconaich is the most popular peak, but only by a very short margin in spite of the skiers' preference.

31st Dec.—2 B. 1st Jan.—(1, 10, 17, 21) L; (2, 13) E; (3, 12) C; (6, 19, 22, 23) H; (7, 8) A; (16, 27) E; (18, 28, 29) K. 2nd Jan.—(2, 13, 26) F; (3, 5) G; (4, 14, 25) E; (6, 19, 23) DCB; (7, 8, 16, 18, 22, 27, 28, 29) Cor Arder; (9, 11) B; (17, 21) EF; (10, 24) E. 3rd Jan.—(1, 17, 24) I; (2, 13, 26) C; (4, 14, 20, 25) A to E; (9, 11) J; (16, 19) G; (22, 27) DCB. 4th Jan.—(1, 4, 14, 20, 25) F; (9, 11) E.

Lagangarbh Section of Meet.—Two parties were at Lagangarbh. (1) J. R. Marshall and R. Marshall, with D. Haston, G. Tiso and J. Moriarty (all three in J.M.C.S., Edinburgh); Haston, Moriarty and R. Marshall on Beinn a' Chrulaiste (2nd Jan.); Marshall and Haston were on Garrick's Shelf route on Buachaille (3rd January), on which day Moriarty and R. Marshall looked at North Buttress. J. Marshall and Tiso did Lagangarbh Chimney on 4th January.

(2) J. E. Proom with three guests—R. R. Gardner, J. A. Gillespie and I. Breckenridge. On 2nd January the first two traversed Meall a' Bhuiridh and Clachlet. Gardner now departed and the others did Stob Coire nam Beith by N.W. gully on 3rd January; and Stob Coire nan Lochan (by Forked Gully) and Bidean nam Bian on 4th January.

Annual General Meeting.

THE 70th A.G.M. of the Club was held in the George Hotel, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 6th December 1958, at 5 P.M., with the President, Mr W. B. Speirs, in the chair, and an attendance of eighty-seven members. There follows a brief survey of the main points of the reports by office-bearers, and of other business transacted.

Hon. Treasurer.—The year commenced with a credit balance of £24. 16s. 4d. and ended with one of £48. 12s. 2d. (contrasting with a loss of £42 in the previous year). The members' list was not reprinted this year but falls due for next year. No member has

commuted for life membership. A survey of the Hut Funds showed a rise of about £120 for C.I.C. Hut, to some extent balanced by depletion of fuel stocks, but little change for Lagangarbh where, however, some improvements had been effected along with repairs, and a gain of about £27 on the Ling Hut with no repairs necessary. *Guide Book* sales were good with a corresponding increase in the funds, which will be needed for future issues. The new Central Club Room in Edinburgh, recently opened, absorbed £400 out of General Reserve, but as a result the true annual value of the premises exceeds the rent payable, and it is intended to make a charge against Revenue Account in future years, to be credited to General Reserve for building this up against future contingencies. The investments during the year are unaltered. Accounts on deposit and at current credit in bank had shown an increase.

Hon. Secretary.—After commenting on the outstanding climbing activities of the year the Hon. Secretary reported the deaths of Rev. A. E. Robertson and J. Bruce Miller. Two members were struck off the roll. The following new members were admitted to the Club at the October Committee Meeting: John J. L. Bell, Quintin T. Crichton, William J. R. Greaves, Derek Leaver, Gilbert Little, Ronald Marshall, Andrew G. Nicol, George A. Roberts, Ronald H. Sellers, Robin C. Smith and William Wallace. To these the Club extends a hearty welcome.

Hon. Editor.—No. 149 of *Journal* was slightly larger at 106 pages of text, 18 pages advertisements and a printing number of 1,000 (900 last year when supplies were almost exhausted). Total cost came to £412, revenue from sales and advertisements £206 and the difference, ex. Club Funds, came to about 12s. 5d. per member (12s. last year). Net advertisement revenue, deducting estimated cost of printing, was about £25. *Journals* sold to J.M.C.S. and kindred clubs at reduced price of 5s. were 301.

Hon. Guide Books General Editor.—R. G. Inglis, who is now retiring and handing over to G. Scott Johnstone, pointed out that of the 1946 *Guide Book* programme only the second volume of the new edition of the "Glencoe" Guide remained to be published in the spring of 1959. The "Western Highlands" was now sold out and would require to be reissued. The "Cairngorm" rock-climbing Guide was nearly complete in manuscript. Mr Inglis thanked all the local Editors and the Club as a whole for the privilege of acting as General Editor for twelve very happy years.

Huts Sub-Committee.—G. S. Roger reported a record visitation of 576 nights in the C.I.C. Hut, which was in a satisfactory state. The Ling Hut had 233 occupation nights, rather less than last year. No repairs were necessary. Lagangarbh had 658 nights. Two work parties under W. Bennet repaired the gable-end, carried out painting and made the barn habitable with simple equipment for six men.

A presentation of a chimney clock was made to Mr and Mrs Cameron of Allt-na-Feidh (on the occasion of their leaving the neighbourhood) in recognition of their long association with the Club and help in keeping the keys and rescue equipment. Mr Hector Cameron, the new keeper, is now continuing this work for the Club. There are no changes in the Huts Sub-Committee.

District Conveners.—G. C. Williams reported for the Eastern District that the usual lecture programme was carried through with varied attendances, scanty towards the end of the session. The active section produced a Bulletin on notable performances (sent out in the circulars). Work on the new Central Club Room started in January but later on the volunteers were fewer and the opening date delayed until November. Trevor J. Ransley reported for the Western District that the Hill Street Club Room had to be vacated in October, the furnishings having to be stored meanwhile pending the discovery of a convenient room at a moderate rent. With plenty of private cars available, members were able to attend joint week-end Meets with the J.M.C.S., but attendance tended to decline. A varied lecture programme, extending from the Pentlands to the Antipodes, drew appreciative audiences. Revenue from the hire of the projector and screen was less than usual but wear and tear was also less. Convener J. C. Donaldson left for Braemar in March and was replaced by T. J. Ransley for the year. Donaldson had an unrivalled experience of Club affairs and will be much missed. The new Convener will be C. G. M. Slesser.

First-Aid Committee.—Dr Maitland reported on the accidents during the year, suggesting that the use of cleated rubber soles on Ben Nevis and other Scottish mountains was often a source of danger. A new edition of the M.R.C. booklet is now published. An analysis suggests that many who go to the hills nowadays have undoubted climbing ability which is not matched with adequate skill in mountaineering. In one fatal accident the injured man lay out all night because the first search party was misdirected: in another the correct route for descent was lost in mist. It is essential to take correct bearings to locate an injured man, as in winter a small margin of time in rescue may be essential to ensure survival. Mountaineering Clubs should all train their members with map and compass. Attention was also drawn to a B.M.C. circular (see under Notes) dealing with nylon loops of inadequate strength. Thanks are again due to the Rescue Service of the R.A.F. for their excellent voluntary work on behalf of injured climbers.

Library and Slide Collection.—The Librarian reported that books were now being transferred to the new Club Room and a new catalogue was in preparation. Meanwhile members were asked to defer borrowing books for the next six months. The Slide Custodian reported less borrowing of slides. Thanks are due to Dr Malcolm

Slesser for a large donation of colour slides of the 1952-54 British North Greenland Expedition.

Report by J. McK. Stewart (on the British Mountaineering Council).—He reported disappointment in the delay regarding the proposed Skye Hut, due to arrangements with the owner of the ground and the surveyors. Equipment Committee had considered types of rubber-soled climbing boots, the testing of loose rings on pitons where failures had resulted in accidents, also adherence of suppliers generally to B.M.C. specifications. B.M.C. membership now included seventy-two clubs, but thirty clubs were still non-members. Harrison Rocks had now been purchased so that free access is available at all times. The journal, "Mountaineering," has been enlarged and revised.

Meets.—The following were passed for year 1960: New Year at Fort William with C.I.C. and Lagangarbh Huts; Easter at Strathcarron with C.I.C. and Ling Huts.

It was decided to hold a Special General Meeting to discuss the formation of a Trust for Club publications as soon as the Committee was ready. At the close of the meeting R. G. Inglis was thanked by the President for his services and received an ovation from the meeting.

Reception and Dinner.

Before the A.G.M. the President received eighty-two members and seventy-eight guests. A highly entertaining account of the Scottish East Greenland Expedition was given by L. S. Lovat, with interjections from other members of the party in the audience. Slides by Douglas Scott enhanced the interest and impressiveness. At the close Mrs Winifred Robertson presented to the Club the aneroid which had accompanied her late husband to the summit of every Munro, suggesting that, instead of becoming a museum piece, it should be the property of each succeeding President during his period of office and so continue its usefulness.

In the evening came the Dinner at which eighty-two members and forty-two guests were present. The President reviewed the year. Pat Baird proposed "The Greenland Expedition" in most entertaining style to which Malcolm Slesser replied in the speech of the evening. Ian Charleson proposed "The Guests" in excellent vein

and Eric Newby gave us an entertaining discourse on the women's fashion trade. The President then demitted office to Tom Mackinnon and, at the same time, presented to the Club a gold replica of the badge to be worn by all future Presidents. Bob Grieve proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring President and a toast to the new President in Doric verse.

THE JUNIOR MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF SCOTLAND.

Annual General Meeting.

THE Dinner and Annual General Meeting of the whole Club was held in the Bridge of Orchy Hotel on 14th February 1959 when 35 members were present from Glasgow, Perth, Edinburgh and Lochaber.

The business consisted first of Secretaries' reports, from which it appeared that all Sections, and notably London and Edinburgh, had been active on the mountains. The other business included two proposed changes in the Constitution—one to enable the Sections to become property-owners if the opportunity should arise, and the other a short clause declaring that the Club could not accept responsibility in the event of accidents on the hills. Other points discussed were a proposal to carry out some repairs to Ben Alder Cottage, which the owner would permit the Club to do, and a request to republish the Hut list.

After the Meeting, members disappeared into the night, some to stay at Clashgour and Lagangarbh, and some to camp. Two members from Perth slept in a mobile horse-van, while the people from Lochaber preferred the comfort of their own beds.

Sunday was a clear, sunny day and climbing was widespread and varied. From Clashgour, Stob Ghabhar was ascended by one party which had hoped to climb the *couloir*, but had no time left after cutting steps in the hard snow below, while another party strolled over Beinn nan Aighenan and Glas Bheinn Mhor. Meanwhile many climbs were made on the Buachaille, including severe routes on Rannoch Wall in spring-like conditions. Farther down Glencoe a

winter ascent was made of Arch Gully. Parties were also on Clachlet and Beinn a' Chleibh.

Edinburgh Section.—The winter climbing season was overshadowed by the death of Ted Wise on Ben Nevis on 8th March. Ted fell while descending from the Carn Mor Dearg Arête into Coire Leis in very icy conditions. He was one of our keenest and best-liked members.

The summer season has seen some remarkable rock-climbing achievements. Notable at Glencoe was Robin Smith's route, *Shibboleth*, which is a magnificent line up the centre of "Slime Wall" on the Buachaille. A number of members have visited the Welsh cliffs, and both Ronnie Marshall and Robin Smith have led *Cenotaph Corner*. In the Alps, Robin Smith has climbed the west face of the Dru and the "Voie Britannique" on the west face of the Blaitière.

During the year, 11 successful bus meets have been held, the places visited being Glencoe, Fort William, Buttermere, Lochnagar, Ben Alder and Linn of Dee. The average attendance was 30, a slight drop on the previous year. Indoor meets were held monthly during the winter months, and evening meets were held at Salisbury Crag during the summer months.

The present membership stands at 92, with 6 associate members. During the year 13 new members were admitted, one has been transferred from Glasgow, and 7 have either resigned or been removed from the list for arrears of subscription. Five members have recently moved on to the S.M.C.; they are John Bell, Derek Leaver, Ronnie Marshall, Robin Smith and Bill Wallace.

The financial position remains sound. Our reserves have again increased, and the current subscription of 10s. is adequate to cover all present commitments. Honorary officials are R. MacLennan (Vice-President) and D. Leaver (Vice-President). The President is J. Clarkson and the Secretary is A. Barclay, 2 Parsons Green Terrace, Edinburgh, 8.

Glasgow Section.—This year has been one of steady progress and we hope enjoyment as well, in which no major triumph or disaster can be reported. The Section's financial position has remained sound and membership has remained steady. The 13 new members were offset by 17 resignations, and the total membership at the end of 1958 stood at 134.

A large number of meets, using members' private cars, were held in all parts of Scotland, but they were all attended by the same small group. In fact a total of only 31 members attended a Meet SOMETIME in the year. There has, however, been an increase in hut bookings by members in England.

The usual lectures were organised along with the Western District S.M.C., and again they were of a high standard. It is a credit to

the climbing fraternity that the source of lecturers never seems to dry up! The photographic competition was judged by D. Scott, who appealed for a little more drama in the photographs. This year the prints' section had only one entry (no prize).

The Annual Dinner was the usual boisterous affair, attended by over 50 members and guests. It was held in the establishment of a well-known Glasgow spinster, and is best summed up by the statement of the wine waiter who said to a member of the S.M.C.: "There are two wines, one white and one pink, but they are both Bordux!"

A second successful number of the Journal has been published, and in order to give wider circulation it will be distributed free to all members in 1959.

The hut in Skye is complete, but for a little work inside, thanks to a strenuous week's work by Thrippleton, Robertson and Whitham. Work was held up in the early summer by the builder's illness, but it is safe to say that it will be in use by the summer of 1959.

Apart from K. Bryan's participation in an expedition to Greenland, there was only one trip abroad, notable only for the failure of the President to reach the summit of the Matterhorn.

Office-bearers for 1959.—Hon. President, J. S. Stewart; Hon. Vice-President, D. J. Bennet; Hon. Member, W. H. Murray; President, K. Bryan; Vice-President, D. Barclay; Hon. Treasurer, J. W. Simpson; Hon. Secretary, C. R. Ford, 8 Hillfoot Avenue, Bearsden, Glasgow.

Perth Section.—The Section has maintained its membership this year, losing 4 members and gaining 5, making a total of 43, and since the Annual General Meeting several new members have joined.

We held our usual monthly meets and it is encouraging to have several of the Perth Academy pupils come out with us as we require some young members to take over from some of the "not-so-junior" ones.

Apart from the meets our members are out most of the other Sundays, as well as climbing in the more remote parts during the holiday periods. It is also encouraging to see some of our members moving up into the S.M.C.

The Section is still in a healthy condition and at a well-attended Annual General Meeting the following office-bearers were elected: Hon. President, J. Anton; Hon. Vice-President, J. Proom; President, A. Marshall; Vice-President, I. Robertson; Secretary and Treasurer, J. Grant, 37 Burghmuir Road, Perth.

London Section.—The Section has had a very satisfactory year. Membership continues about the same at 50, with 2 Associate Members. Several new members have joined during the year.

A record number of 20 meetings has been held. For the first time

for several years a meeting was held in Scotland at Linneraineach. Other meetings were held at the Kent sandstone outcrops, Cheddar and Avon Gorge, Stanage Edge, North Wales and the Lake District. These events were supported by the usual hard core of members and—a welcome sign—by the new members.

Arrangements regarding Linneraineach have worked smoothly in this, the first year, and our administration of the hut is now well established. The number of users was somewhat higher than in the preceding years.

Several members visited Scotland and others were abroad in the summer. Areas visited include Chamonix, the Dauphiné, Gross Glockner, Zillertal and Stubai.

The office-bearers comprise: Hon. President, R. G. Folkard; Hon. Vice-President, E. R. Zenthon; President, G. R. Cornish; Vice-President, A. Zaluski; Hut Custodian, K. R. Cox; Secretary and Treasurer, K. N. Reed.

S.M.C. and J.M.C.S. ABROAD.

G. G. Freeman, Paul and Phyllida Roberts, with Vinzenz Fender of Sölden as guide, traversed the Ötztal on ski during the period 17th to 28th March. They were fortunate in having settled, fair weather apart from one or two days which were marred by strong, cold winds at high altitudes. From the Hochwildehaus, reached via Obergurgl and the Karlsruher Hut, they crossed the Shalfkogeljoch to the Samoar Hut, climbing the Shalfkogel *en route*. They climbed Similaun from the Similaun Hut at the second attempt, the first being repulsed within about 100 ft. of the summit owing to slight frostbite on the faces of two members of the party. Finail Spitze was climbed on the way to the Hochjoch Hospitz and Mittl. Guslar Sp. *en route* to the Vernagt Hut from which the Fluchtkogel and Kesselwand Sp. were climbed. Freeman, who had developed a temperature, then descended to Sölden via Vent, whilst the others reached there via the Wildspitze and Braunschweiger Hut.

With G. S. Roger, Freeman was also in the Bernina and Bregaglia Alps based on Pontresina from 31st August to 13th September. The weather was excellent throughout and climbing conditions almost perfect. From the Hotel Diavolezza they climbed Bellavista by the Fortezza Ridge, and traversed Piz Palü from west to east. (Roger actually traversed Piz Palü twice in opposite directions on successive days, Freeman being content with the east peak on the first day.) After moving to the Tschierva Hut, they climbed Piz Roseg (Schneekuppe) by the north ridge (Eselsgrat) and traversed Piz Bernina to the Marco e Rosa Hut over the Biancograt. This excellent ascent took 8 hours from the hut in perfect conditions. They returned to the Tschierva Hut the following day via the Boval Hut and

Fuorcla Boval. They then went by bus to the Bregalia Group where Cima di Rosso and Monte del Forno were climbed on successive days from the Forno Hut.

Erratum, S.M.C. Abroad, 1958 Journal.—On page 300, lines 22 and 23, there is an error. Mr Freeman was not on Dent d'Hérens, as stated. On that day Rawlinson, Hobhouse and Freeman were on the Pointe de Zinal with Hunt's party.

Louis M. Hill was in the Arolla and Zermatt districts, accompanied by J. Watson and Dr Watson (Grampian Club), from 19th July to 6th August. The weather was good and the following expeditions were made: La Roussette; Grandes Dents de Veisevi; Pigne d'Arolla; L'Evêque; Arolla to Zermatt via Col Bertol and Tête Blanche. (Hill now continues in his own words.)

The Watsons made their way from Arolla to the Cabane de Bertol by the usual route. I ascended by the Arête de Bertol (otherwise known, I think, as the S.W. Arête) which gave 6 hours hard work on continuously interesting rock. This was a guided climb.

From Zermatt I did the Matterhorn by the usual Hornli Ridge. This was also a guided climb. Whilst the Matterhorn is always the Matterhorn, I must say that I found the standard quite a bit lower than I expected and a bit lower than that on the Arête de Bertol. Time for the Matterhorn, 4 hours up and 4 hours down; probably would have found it more enjoyable if I had been given more time.

Eric Langmuir writes to say that he has spent 2 years in Canada, getting to know the crags of Eastern Canada and the States fairly well. He had a summer in Newfoundland and in the Spectrum range of North British Columbia, his best climb being a first ascent of Edziza Peak (over 9,000 ft.), an outlier of this range. He would gladly advise anyone wishing to visit these parts.

This summer he was at Chamonix with George Fraser (A.C.). There was a large British contingent, and the run of bad seasons was almost but not quite broken. On the Walker Spur, as barometer of conditions, some parties reached its base, a thing undreamt of in recent years! The snow was poor and the emphasis was on rock. With only twelve days available and unpromising conditions, they took a chance and the *téléphérique* to the Aiguille du Midi. The Rébuffat Route on the east face was a delightful little climb despite the agonies of altitude sickness (well deserved). They fared better on the Roc-Grépon traverse, though the Mer de Glace face echoed their abuse during vain attempts to lasso that wretched little knob. After two more climbs from the Albert Hut they decided to see what the east face of the Capucin "was like"—an extraordinary Aiguille, 2,000 ft. of cobra, reared to strike and bristling with two hundred assorted fangs. "On the climb the upward view was of

multicoloured overhangs, a very pretty sight; and below, between our legs—only white glacier.”

The monotony of artificial climbing was rarely relieved except in one or two places where one could pretend that the pitons were not really there. A curious climb! Twelve hours later, with arms racked with cramp, they reached the top.

Mr J. M. Johnstone writes as follows :—

This summer I acted as guide-chauffeur (unpaid) to two ladies, Miss E. Wrench (L.S.C.C.) and Miss W. Wallace, during a three-week visit to the Alps, from 19th July. We began from La Bérarde in the Dauphiné, and in mixed weather climbed Mont Gioberney, Les Bans, Point Amont and Aiguille Dibona. A move was then made to the Aosta Valley via Turin. We took the car up to Pont in the Valsavaranche (not recommended) for the Vittorio Emanuele Hut, from which the Bocca di Monciair was ascended. This is a lovely peak to look at, but of little interest as a climb. The ladies had no desire to set foot on the Paradiso, on which the populace was madding, so we went off to Courmayeur and thence to the Torino Hut (full of skiers, hardly any climbers). We did the Dent du Géant and returned to Courmayeur. Next stop was Breuil. The Italian ridge of the Matterhorn was in grand condition and provided an enjoyable excursion, spoiled for me by envy of a party going up the Zmutt at the same time. Three days were spent on the Ligurian Riviera to round off the holiday, which might be considered as an example of *Alpinisme à l'Américaine*.

An Edinburgh J.M.C.S. party, consisting of George Allan, Howard Brunton, Jim Clarkson and Jim Waddell, were in Switzerland for three weeks from 26th July. Starting at Grindelwald, they climbed the Wetterhorn and the Rosenhorn. Other climbs were the Schreckhorn from the Strahlegg Hut, the Mittellegi Ridge of the Eiger and the Mönch. The second part of the holiday was spent in the Zermatt area with ascents of the Bieshorn, Matterhorn, Rimpfischhorn (north ridge) and the Täschhorn-Dom traverse. This last expedition was by far the finest of the holiday. After the first few days the weather was almost continuously fine.

Robin C. Smith (J.M.C.S.) achieved two great climbs in the Chamonix area between 11th and 17th August. With C. Trevor Jones (Climbers' Club) the Voie Britannique (Brown-Whillans) on the west face of the Blaitière from a bivouac on Plan de l'Aiguille and another at the half-way *Fausse Vires* on the face. Descent was by the Bregliaux Ridge to the Nantillons Glacier. The climbing time to the summit was about 20 hours, and this was believed to be the second complete ascent—continental parties having traversed to the Col du Fou by the half-way ledges. Weather was good in spite of cloud.

With Mortimer Smith (Rock and Ice Club) he did about the thirteenth ascent of the west face of the Petit Dru, starting from a bivouac on the Rognon des Drus, on the platform below the 90-m. *dièdre*. They spent a night out on the way down, having missed the correct route, somewhere under the *Flammes de Pierre* above the Charpoua Glacier. This expedition involved about 23 hours of climbing. On the first day conditions were wet with melting snow, but drier next day, with not much ice when on the north face. The Blaitière climb was much harder technically; but the Drus were more magnificent and serious, spoiled only by a vast excess of pitons. The party used none of their own, as all very severe sections were well nailed-up. The 40-m. crack was the crux. There the wedges were rotten. The *Fissures Vignes* were like the cracks on Sou'Wester Slabs, the knotted rope on the tension traverse getting very much worn.

In August, B. S. Fraser, his wife and daughter, and D. J. Fraser were camping on the Spanish side of the Pyrenees. Weather was good apart from some thunder storms, although at times it could be seen that the French side was under cloud. In the Encantados region camp was set up by the Lago de San Mauricio (1,890 m.), which can be reached by car. B. S., D. J. and Miss A. Fraser climbed the Encantats (2,747 m.), a spectacular twin-peaked mountain which gave a surprisingly easy scramble to the main summit. The other summit looked a hard nut to crack. B. S. and D. J. Fraser climbed the Pic de Colomes (2,932 m.) by an unstable granite ridge. The normal route is merely a walk, but sporting routes by various ridges could be followed. The whole area abounds in fine granite ridges, some of which could provide magnificent expeditions. Others look too shattered to be pleasant.

B. S. and D. J. Fraser crossed from the mouth of the Viella road tunnel to Benasque via a high pass near the Fourcanade, passing the night at the Rencluse, a mountain hut providing beds and meals. On the way a visit was paid to the famous Trou de Toro where the head waters of the Garonne vanish underground to emerge on the other side of the watershed. From the refuge in the Valle de Estós (alt. about 1,900 m., beds and good meals provided), B. S., D. J. and Miss A. Fraser climbed the Pic de Posets (3,367 m.). The mountain from this approach proved to be a pile of loose rubble, steep enough to be dangerous. The best route appeared to be by a deep groove slanting across the face above a small glacier.

From a camp in the Val d'Ordesa at about 1,300 m. (reached by car), B. S. and D. J. Fraser climbed to the Brèche de Roland (2,804 m.) and explored Casteret's Cave, crossing a subterranean frozen lake and eventually emerging on the other side of the mountain. In planning expeditions the Guide Soubiron was used but was not found to be of great practical assistance.

Theo Nicholson sends the following brief particulars of a ten-day ski-tour as leader of a S.C.G.B. party in the Jotunheim district of Norway from 18th to 28th March of this year:—

Jotunheim Glaciers and Peaks.—Amongst other tours the following were made:

1. *From Leirvassbu.*—(a) Kyrkjeglupen, Bukkehols Glacier, peak at 2,168 m., South Illaa Glacier, (b) Langvatn, South Vis Glacier, Semmelholstind (2,145 m.) and down by Vis Glacier. (c) Kyrkjeglupen, Bukkehols Glacier and Col (2,100 m.) and down Tverraa Glacier to Spiterstulen.

2. *From Spiterstulen.*—(a) Stygge Glacier to Porta (2,226 m.) and gully descent carrying skis and using fixed ropes to upper Storjuv Glacier; over the Illaa Col (2,087 m.), across upper Illaa Glacier, over the Tverraa Col (1,969 m.) and down Tverraa Glacier to Spiterstulen. (b) By Svellnose and Keilhaus Toppen to Galdhöppiggen (2,468 m.) and back same route (ascent made on foot after Keilhaus Toppen). (c) Uladalen, Semmelholet, Vestre Memuru Glacier (2,120 m.) and down the Heilstuggu Glacier.

In July 1958 Adam Watson, sen., after a week in Jotunheim, linked-up with Norsk Tindeklub, and with Arne Randers Heen (of Tirich Mir) climbed Romsdalshorn, Store Trolltind and Bispen, all in Romsdal.

W. L. Coats was in Zinal from 11th to 28th July, climbing alone and doing mostly training walks. With a guide he climbed the Bieshorn and the Tête de Millon from the Tracuit Hut, and the Grand Cornier from the Moiry Hut.

Iain H. Ogilvie has been exploring the mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan where there are some fine ones rising to 12,000 ft. He had two good expeditions. The first was to Parassia (over 7,000 ft.) near the Turkish border. He climbed this with Charles Boswell and Oleg Polunin, a simple but attractive mountain. From the summit they descended westward over about 2 miles of summit ridge with much good scrambling on rock and snow. The second was to Pira Magrun (about 9,000 ft.), a fine isolated mountain, a few miles south of Sulamania in north-east Iraq. He climbed this with J. C. Clough, descending alone over the eastern peak and the south-east ridge. The descent occupied 7 hours, including 5½ hours of rock work on the ridge, much of which was by no means simple.

J. Russell, R. W. MacLennan and H. Stirling were in Ötztal, Austria, in July. In good weather and wretched snow conditions various glaciers were waded and summits reached, principally the Wildspitze, Fluchtkogel, Hintere Schwärze and Similaun. Little technical ability was required but considerable weight was lost by the two members who could afford it.

Roped parties in this area should allow sufficient slack for taking

in tow heavyweight hausfraus abandoned by exhausted husbands, teenage youths skating in golf shoes clutching ornamental ice-axes and similar holiday flotsam encountered on the lower slopes.

The party had been unable to gain access to the Ortler group as planned, through non-compliance with Italian regulations restricting frontier crossing to two points elsewhere. While continuing what a malicious friend called their "walking tour" in the Ötztal, extremely friendly relations were established with the local guides by the party's rather partisan attitude on Italo-Austrian politics. Following a convivial evening in Vent on which agreement was reached on Süd-Tirol, J. Russell must be congratulated on his solo traverse (in darkness) of the bridge while a guided party (MacLennan, Stirling and Vincenz Schöpf) reached a hotel bedroom only by employing combined tactics which reflected little credit on the first-named.

(A. G. Waldie was ski-touring in the Ötztal in April. The weather was not good but his party got several good peaks.)

K. Grassick and A. G. Nicol motored to the Dauphiné, but an ambitious programme was curtailed by poor weather. From La Béarde, by the modern Soreiller Hut, they climbed the S.W. ridge of Aiguille Dibona (route Gabriel-Livanos), and then the south face direct on 10th and 11th July. The latter has a crux of Grade VI, comparing favourably with a Cairngorm V.S. They then climbed the Tête des Fétoules by the west ridge on 14th July from the picturesque Lavey Valley, almost Scottish in scenery, but quite a lot of loose rock.

After several days of storm and new snow the Pic Nord des Cavales, a training climb, was done on 18th July. A landslide had swept away most of the first section, making it perhaps the second ascent in these new conditions, with a crux strewn with ropes, slings, pitons, etc. Then they found a corpse on the glacier which Dr Nicol certified as a death from unnatural causes—his first case since his graduation triumph in June!

A hazardous motor circuit now took them to Cézanne for the South Pillar of the Écrins, climbed on the 21st July in fine weather until storm hit them near the top and enforced a bivouac on the Glacier Blanc and a very tiring descent of the easy north face under terrible conditions. This climb was long and arduous, but spoiled in parts by bad rock and inaccurate description in the guide book. Another storm followed and put the big peaks out of condition. The campaign ended on 25th July with the short and sweet S.W. face direct of the Dibona, with an A2 pitch with 15 ft. of horizontal roof and *étriers*, the second hanging from a piton. The south face of the Meije remained undisturbed for another year, from two wild *Écossais*.

Ronald H. Sellers, with George Annand, John Vigrow and Alex, Thom (all Etchachan Club), were at Chamonix at the end of July.

A thunderstorm wrecked the first attempt on the Mayer-Dibona route on the Réquin at the Brèche, but it was completed two days later. Terrible weather followed for a week, after which Sellers and Annand climbed the Blaitière by the Rocher de la Chorde route. Hailstones pelted them throughout the descent. On that day, too, Thom tackled the Grépon by the normal route, finishing solo up the Knubel Crack. On the other fine day Sellers and Vigrow did the N.N.E. arête of the M. and the Petits Charmoz. They then bade farewell to Chamonix and its weather to return to a lovely week-end on Shelter Stone Crag.

NOTES.

Scottish Mountain Accidents, 1958-59.

This year's list is unfortunately a long one—thirty-six incidents—with many details in its complete form which cannot be included here but are all reported to the Mountain Rescue Committee. In twenty incidents English climbers, in ten incidents students were involved, whereas many others concerned young novices of both sexes, several of them solitary climbers. The Kinloss Mountain Rescue Unit was extremely helpful in many cases. Some extra comments are made at the end of the list where the incident has been marked with an asterisk.

23rd March 1958.—G. Sykes (33) and P. Evans (19), Yorkshire members of Leuchars R.A.F. Rescue Unit, slipped and fell on hard snow below Church Door Buttress, Bidean, Glencoe. Other team members helped to bring them down.

24th March.—B. Slater, Bolton, and A. Brookes, Redcar, Leeds U.M.C., lost control when glissading in Mamores. Lacerations.

**25th March.*—D. Hill and another (O.U.M.C.), wearing crampons, unroped, descending from head of Coire Leis (Nevis). Hill tripped and fell, injured with concussion, about 6.30 P.M. Other man went to C.I.C. Hut for help. Successive rescue parties in mist and darkness failed to locate injured man. Finally, Kinloss men found him dead next afternoon.

**28th March.*—C. Pilkington (33), S. Struthers (21), J. Boyd (20), N. Weatherall (20), all of G.U.M.C., missing four days in Cuillin. Found by campers later, after search parties and Kinloss Unit summoned. No notification had been made of change of plans.

3rd April.—J. Henderson, Leeds U.M.C., fell and twisted ankle on scree in Glencoe. Treated in hospital.

4th April.—R. Watters (16), Neath, M. Tait (21), West Kirby and D. Ebbutt (18) fell from Sgurr Alasdair on snow. Watters had concussion. Local rescue party.

4th April.—Boy aged 16 missing from school party on hill near Achnashellach. Returned unhurt after 10 hours—after local search for many hours and arrival of Kinloss Unit.

6th April.—T. Rodger (18), R. Sanderson (17), Dewsbury, novices, fell when descending Carn Mor Dearg arête, to Coire Leis. Cuts and bruises suffered but descent made to their camp in corrie. Both taken to hospital by civilians and Kinloss men, on stretchers.

*9th April.—P. Knap (29), Birmingham, A. Beanland (31), Bradford, and M. Morgan (26), Oldbury, left Glen Nevis Camp to climb on Ben and failed to return that night. Rescuers did not know where to look. H. MacInnes was out searching next night. Bodies found at 1 P.M. on 11th April, roped together, at foot of Zero Gully.

13th April.—Climber collapsed on hill above Steall Hut, Glen Nevis. Kinloss men took him to hospital. Suspected food-poisoning.

15th April.—Captain Ingham (46), R.A.F. (ret.), fell a short distance in Coire Sputan Dearg (Macdhuil), in severe weather. Kinloss Unit called out, but man reached Derry Lodge unhurt, and team was recalled.

18th April.—An 18-year-old student lost on Fannichs south of Droma. Last seen at 6 P.M.; without map or compass, poor visibility. His party called out civilians, police and Kinloss men, sweeping wide area of country. Found by police after 5 hours.

20th April.—J. Cull (20), Richmond, Surrey, Glasgow University student, fell when climbing Cobbler. Broken ankle. Local rescue.

14th May.—Schoolgirl slipped on summit plateau of Braeriach. Ankle injury, unable to walk. Carried to Glen Einich by instructor.

26th May.—Girl broke ankle descending Sgurr Alasdair stone shoot. Kinloss Unit were in Glen Brittle and rescued her.

1st June.—W. Gartshore (22), Lomond M.C., fell when leading Echo Crack, Cobbler. Multiple injuries and great pain. Local rescue party. Criticism because morphia not immediately available, as this kept separate and its custodian absent, temporarily.

11th June.—G. Kipling (50), Sheffield. Death from heart-failure on tourist path near top of Ben Nevis.

15th June.—A. Frazer (E.U.M.C.), leading Shibboleth, Slime Wall, Buachaille Etive, fell when leading and broke his leg. His second went for help, leaving him belayed on a ledge. Very complicated and difficult rescue by members of Creag Dhu, J.M.C.S. and S.M.C. With aid of five ropes he was sidled off the cliff, and carried round top of Cuneiform Buttress and down Great Gully.

17th June.—Mrs Alice Blunt (39), London, slipped on hill in Glen Orchy. Broken arm and bruises. Novice. Local rescue.

17th July.—H. Arensbrust (17), Germany. Boulder fell on him and killed him in Loch Shiel area, when scrambling.

27th July.—A. Macdonald (20), Airdrie (in party of three), fell from summit of Sgurr Mhic Coinnich and was killed.

2nd August.—Party of two climbing final tower of Central route on Sron na Ciche. Leader moving over bulge, 20 ft. above second, fell 50 ft. when a hold gave way. Second's bare hands badly burned in braking him. Second brought up leader to top by climbing easier rock. Kinloss Unit and civilians helped with rescue.

9th August.—N. Harding (25), Bath (Master), with D. Larkin (16), Cheam, and R. Sewell (15), Hants (boys), were climbing roped in Coire a' Ghrunnda. Harding fell and pulled others down. Larkin killed, Sewell severe head injuries, Harding broken leg. Glen Brittle alerted and about forty people out from 2 A.M., 10th August. Kinloss Unit summoned by police. Injured carried down corrie and rescue expedited by use of boat on sea loch.

18th August.—D. Austin (19), Sunderland, with inexperienced party. Came off when leading Crowberry Ridge, Buachaille Etive, and fractured skull and both arms. Leuchars R.A.F. Unit rescue in very bad weather. Stretcher lowered on ropes.

26th August.—C. Palmer (16), Middlesex. Party of four from Youth Hostel. Palmer fell on Third Pinnacle, Sgurr nan Gillean. Broken ankle and head injury. Local rescue party.

16th November.—D. Price, Birmingham, separated from party on Saddle (Loch Goil). Police used launch and searchlight for rescue.

30th November.—I. Wasson (20), Stockport (St Andrews U.M.C.), fell on N. Peak, Cobbler. Head injury. News received 1.45 P.M. Arrochar, and stretcher party out at 2 P.M. and down at 6.10 P.M. Own party and local help.

29th December.—J. McLay, Birmingham, student at Imperial College, London, fell on snow slope, Glencoe, losing ice-axe. Taken to Belfort Hospital.

30th December.—J. Spring (25), B. Baird (25), students, Glasgow University, went on hills at Arnisdale, Loch Hourn, and failed to return. Police and Kinloss Unit out. Climbers, who had sheltered in bad weather overnight in disused bothy, returned next day.

*1st January 1959.—R. McFaul (36), H. Duffin (35), F. Daly (40) and J. Boyle (17) left Braemar Youth Hostel *en route* for Glen Doll Youth Hostel by Callater. Delay in raising alarm as telephone line down, owing to blizzard. Large search parties out many days. Boyle's body found 3rd January near small bothy at head of Glen Doll. Others only found after snow melted. Men belonged to Universal Hiking Club, Glasgow, and well equipped. Severe blizzard conditions.

2nd January.—C. Sim (26), ski-ing accident, Glencoe. Fractured leg. Belfort Hospital.

3rd January.—Dr D. Hutchison (S.M.C.) slipped on hard snow on Ben More, unroped; fell long distance and was killed. Brought down by climbers and local help.

16th January.—V. Kneafey (17), Huddersfield, fell when descending Sron a' Choire Odhair, Glencoe. Fell 300 ft., ending in snowdrift. Arm and facial injury. Local and naval rescue.

31st January.—D. Reid (18) in party of three on Lochnagar, slipped when step-cutting. Fractured leg and arm injury. Others built snow wall round injured man. One fetched stretcher party and returned in 5 hours. Man carried down.

31st January.—Dr Carter (42), Cardross, and R. Birrell (45),

Holiday Fellowship M.C. Party of four descended unroped into Coire Gabhail, Glencoe, on very hard snow. Birrell, with smooth vibrams, slipped. Carter, with nailed boots and instep crampons, tried to stop him. Both fell a long way and were killed. Long search by Leuchars R.A.F. Unit. No ice-axes found. One body in ice-covered stream.

8th March.—J. Glennan (21), London, and R. Budge (19), Derby, climbed in No. 2 Gully, Ben Nevis. Near top the new snow slipped with them from underlying hard snow. Both fell down. All were naval ratings from Lossiemouth, and the others dug a hole in snow to protect injured men, whilst awaiting rescue. Dislocated hip and chest injuries. Carried down by climbers and locals.

The following additional comments, mainly on starred incidents, may not be out of place.

25th March 1958.—The climbers carried no spare clothing, torches or compass. When accident occurred it was clear weather and daylight. If a bearing could have been taken on the C.I.C. Hut from there, then a back bearing from the Hut would have guided the first rescue party to the victim. The post-mortem showed that Hill had lived for 15 hours after accident.

28th March.—No notification of destination or plans. This also applies to incidents of 9th April, perhaps 30th December and many other cases.

9th April.—Leader fell from 3rd Pitch and dragged others down. Both their axes snapped off and stumps were still embedded in the snow. Zero Gully was in a dangerous state. The party had no ice-pitons for security, but they seemed to have had crampons. The party was strong, with previous Alpine experience, but the choice of Zero Gully in such conditions without adequate equipment showed very poor knowledge of Scottish winter conditions. (Comment by H. MacInnes.)

1st January 1959.—This party tried to force their way through the pass in the teeth of a blizzard. The existence of an old drove road does not imply a continuous path, even in summer. In a blizzard there is a stretch of 2 or 3 miles with no landmarks at all, and every chance of failing to hit off the descent into Glen Doll. Retreat from anywhere short of this summit section would have been both easy and advisable, even if unpleasant after the blizzard got going.

General Comment.—Little over one-third of the incidents arose from technically difficult climbing problems. It is difficult to be precise. About one-fifth arose from slips on hard icy snow, sometimes owing to smooth vibrams but also when using crampons. It seems to be regarded as a troublesome waste of time to cut steps in such conditions—or even to use the rope. Even more accidents occurred on what the modern English climbers call hill-walking expeditions. Too many clubs and books on technique are to blame here for teaching young people how to climb rocks or ice by mechanised methods

before they have learned simple hillcraft on our Scottish mountains, first in summer and then on the easier hills under snow.

British Caucasus Expedition, 1958.

THE members of this Expedition, under the leadership of Sir John Hunt, included George Band, Alan Blackshaw, Christopher Brasher, Derek Bull, Michael Harris, Ralph Jones, John Neill and David Thomas. In the mountains they were accompanied by Eugene Gippenreiter, mountaineer and member of staff of Soviet Ministry of Sport, a fluent English speaker, who came by invitation and whose presence was invaluable. It may be recalled that Gippenreiter was one of the two Russian mountaineers who, on a visit to this country in 1956, lectured to the S.M.C. at Edinburgh. The report is a condensation of a longer one by Mr Neill, who has been an occasional contributor to our *Journal*.

The part dealing with travel to and from the U.S.S.R. has been omitted. A party of nine or ten Russian mountaineers has been invited to visit Britain in 1959 and, if this eventuates, hope to include the Western Highlands and Skye in their climbing tour, in which they would naturally wish to meet Scottish climbers.

The party left London on 26th June by car (left at Russian frontier), and reached Moscow on 30th June. After a short stay they reached the Caucasian foothills by air, and thence by bus to Naltchik, up the Baksan valley (leading to the foot of Elbruz) to Tegenekli and south-east up the Adyl Su valley to the mountaineering camp of "Spartak," which was the base for the next ten days. This was primarily a training camp, though several leading Russian mountaineers were using it as a base. Some interesting meetings took place with the other mountaineers, with discussions on equipment and technique.

The first expedition was to Pik Kavkaz (4,037 m.). The whole party went along with two Georgian mountaineers, very competent, like first-class Alpine guides. There was a bivouac on 4th July above the Shkhelda Glacier. Next day the peak was climbed, fairly easy, with return to base. On 7th July, accompanied by two Russian climbers, they bivouacked high and ascended the Ushba (Shkhelda) icefall to an advanced base camp on the Ushba plateau (*ca.* 13,000 ft.), just north of Ushba itself. Two groups were to traverse Ushba simultaneously from opposite directions.

On 9th July most of the party climbed the easy Pik Shchurovsky (4,259 m.) in poor weather. Some went to Little Ushba (4,300 m.) but retreated before bad weather. On 10th July the blizzard raged and parties remained in tents and in an ice-cave. On 11th July, still in a blizzard, the party retreated while the descent of the icefall was still possible, as there was considerable avalanche danger.

On 13th July the party left for Bezingi, descending to Naltchik and reascending to a camp at the snout of the Bezingi Glacier. Here

were two camps of Russian mountaineers and cordial relations prevailed. The British party split up into three groups. Band, Harris, Bull and Kutsovsky climbed Skhara (5,201 m.) by the north rib, only twice climbed previously. It was a splendid mixed snow, ice and rock climb of a high order of difficulty. Descent was by the N.E. ridge. In all, five nights were spent in bivouacs. Hunt, Brasher, Blackshaw and Jones climbed the Schwarzgruber rib on the north face of Jangi-Tau (5,051 m.), once previously climbed; also a splendid mixed expedition, and very dangerous at the top owing to deep snow on steep ice. The party did not, therefore, climb the last few hundred feet but retreated as they had come. Neill, Thomas and Gippenreiter climbed Gestola (4,859 m.) by the north face of Gestola-Lyalver col. Main difficulties were in the ascent of icefall and those caused by deep soft snow on steep ice everywhere. A day was lost on this account. Descent was by a ridge nearly to the summit of Lyalver (4,350 m.) and down north-east face. Three bivouacs were required.

On 22nd July, Hunt, Blackshaw, Brasher and Gippenreiter set out for Dykh-Tau (5,198 m.) by the classical Mummery-Zurfluh route. They had to turn back owing to illness of a member of the party. Band and Harris meanwhile tried Dykh-Tau by a new line, suggested by the Russians, up the south buttress of the east peak. It was a fine climb of sustained and considerable difficulty. They descended by the north ridge. Four bivouacs were needed. They overstayed their estimated time, but met the search party only 2 hours from base camp.

On account of military manœuvres, the party was unable to cross the Zanner Pass to Svanetia and the Black Sea on their return, but came down the Bezingi valley in a storm, and so back to Moscow as they had come, spending two days there for sightseeing and leaving Moscow for England on 31st July.

Inadequate Nylon Belay Loops.

The following is a summary of British Mountaineering Council Circular, No. 265, in association with A.S.C.C.

At Easter 1957 two young but experienced and able climbers fell from Main West Wall Climb on Cynr Las, Llanberis, and were killed. The 1¼-in. circumference nylon rope between them was intact. Investigation showed that they had belayed at the bottom of Pitch 3, using a loop of ¾-in. circumference nylon and a karabiner attached to a waist loop. The leader fell, and it is likely that his second was pulled from his stance. The loop broke at the belay; it was found and photographed.

These ¾-in. nylon loops are widely used, and it is necessary to warn climbers that they are inadequate. The load falling on a second when the leader falls may rise to over 3,000 lb. and the loop must withstand this. New ¾-in. nylon has a breaking load of only 2,000 lb.

under perfect conditions: over sharp or rough rock this may fall to 1,000 to 1,500 lb. The use of several loops of $\frac{5}{8}$ -in. nylon gives little more protection, as such loops will not take the strain simultaneously.

Belay loops should be of the same quality and size as the main climbing rope. If the nature of the belay prevents this, the heaviest possible loop should be used and should be protected from sharp rock edges at the belay.

Short Items.

James Y. Macdonald writes to say that he and his son Colin have both completed the ascent of the 277 Munros on 28th August 1958. He says it has been well worth it and has included many fine expeditions which would not otherwise have been undertaken.

Robin Smith and A. Frazer send a belated report of the ascent in May 1958 of the Closet Climb on the Princes Street face of Edinburgh Castle Rock, about 350 ft. (S.). (1) 80 ft.—Up broken rocks and short steep column to start of obvious white shelf left of great central overhang. (2) 70 ft.—Up shelf and left to belay. (3) 50 ft.—Right by zigzags past tree to stance above overhang. (4) 120 ft.—Up overhanging corner 15 ft., then by steep grass to foot of Castle wall (no belay). (5) Up wall.

Mountain Rescue.—At the mid-March Committee Meeting Dr D. G. Duff was elected an honorary member of the Club in recognition of his services to Mountain Rescue, on the occasion of his retirement from his post at Belfort Hospital, Fort William. He has already been honoured by the British Mountain Rescue Committee.

LIBRARY, BOOKS AND JOURNALS.

Climbing the Fish's Tail. By Wilfrid Noyce. (Heinemann, 18s. 150 pp., 24 pp. plates and 2 maps.)

The Puma's Claw. By Simon Clark. (Hutchinson, 21s. 223 pp., 16 pp. plates and 4 maps and diagrams.)

One expedition book tends to be very like another. Both of these are easy reading. The Fish's Tail in the Annapurna massif defeated the expedition when very close to the summit (22,960 ft.). They got Fluted Peak (at 21,800 ft.) by way of compensation. The Puma's Claw (20,490 ft.), in the southern Peruvian Andes, reserved its major difficulties to the final section at close on 19,000 ft. Artificial technique there was essential, and the final section of ridge was on fantastic, rotten, honey-combed snow. Half the book deals with the climb.

Rock Climbing in Britain. By J. E. B. Wright. (Nicholas Kaye, 15s. 142 pp., 20 pp. plates and 23 diagrams.)

Mountain Climbing. By Godfrey Francis. (Teach Yourself Series, English Universities Press, 7s. 6d. 192 pp., 8 plates and numerous drawings.)

The first of these gives a good all-round picture of the British mountains with useful general diagrams and suggestions for first visits to the Scottish hills by English climbers. Naturally the Scottish climbing information is a bit sketchy, considering modern developments. Dr Francis has written an extremely compact book of technique both for British and Alpine climbing. As a book for a beginner, the section on hill walking seems far too brief. The mountaineer is taught to concentrate on tools and mechanism before he has sufficiently trained his natural powers and senses on the mountains. He still underrates the training value of Scottish peaks in winter conditions. Why should such training *start* on Ben Nevis? The first steps in snow and ice training do not require any previous training on rock more than unroped scrambling. An adequate training on Scottish rock, snow and ice has proved an enormous advantage for Alpine or Himalayan climbing.

Rock Climbing (Know the Game). By C. M. Dixon, in collaboration with the British Mountaineering Council. (Educational Productions Ltd., 2s. 6d. 48 pp., over 80 illustrations.)

This is a short paper-back as a guide to beginners climbing British rocks in summer conditions. It has all the technical detail of equipment and rope management.

Enjoying the Lakes. By E. W. Hodge. (Oliver & Boyd. 217 pp., 31 plates.)

This book by one of our members is a thoughtful historical work presenting a full picture of the changes of attitude to Lakeland and its scenery over the last 200 years. One has to get over the first few pages before the narrative begins to run more easily and one becomes fascinated by the local characters and their attitude to railways, modern houses, reservoirs, and finally National Parks where the pros and cons are well discussed.

National Planning (10 miles to inch) Maps.—Our member, Dr Arthur Geddes, who has been working on these from the beginning (1945), considers that they are of the greatest interest to mountaineers. They are (or will all shortly be) available (north or south sheets) at 5s. each, with explanatory texts 9d. each, and cover Relief, Geology, Rainfall, Vegetation (severally) in a handy pocket size, stoutly made for outdoor use.

OFFICE-BEARERS 1958-59

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Committee.—The Office-bearers as above, as far as Guide Books General Editor, and Messrs P. D. BAIRD and C. L. DONALDSON in place of T. Nicholson and J. S. Johnstone, the others same as last year.

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Communications.—Distribution of *Journal*, P. E. MacFarlane, 217 Crofthill Road, Glasgow, S.4. Advertisements, S. J. Cairns, 22 Roull Road, Corstorphine, Edinburgh, 12. Editorial, Dr J. H. B. Bell, 3 Park Place, Clackmannan. Please send all 1959 New Climbs and S.M.C. Abroad as promptly as possible with all proper and place names in BLOCK CAPITALS. The Editor will be handing over the *Journal* to his successor—Dr G. J. F. Dutton, Biochemistry Department, Queen's College, Dundee, Editor designate—after 5th December 1959.

The Editor wishes to thank all contributors and members of the Club and the J.M.C.S., and also several outside contributors, who have helped to maintain the quality of the *Journal* during the last twenty-four years. He trusts that they will extend the same ready co-operation to his successor in office.

SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB GUIDE BOOKS

Western Highlands. Price **15s.** Postage, 1s. 6d.

Deals with the district West of the Caledonian Canal and South of the Dingwall-Kyle of Lochalsh Railway.

Island of Skye. Price **15s.** Postage, 1s. 6d.

Southern Highlands. Price **15s.** Postage, 1s. 6d.

Covering South and East of Oban, Tyndrum, Blackmount Road, Loch Rannoch, and North of Forth and Clyde Canal.

Cairngorms. Price **18s.** Postage, 1s. 9d.

Central Highlands. Price **15s.** Postage, 1s. 6d.

Northern Highlands. Price **15s.** Postage, 1s. 6d.

The Islands of Scotland. Price **15s.** Postage, 1s. 6d.

(excluding Skye)

The Cuillin of Skye. Price **9s. 6d.** Postage, 9d.

Rock Climbers' Guide.

Glencoe and Ardgour. Revised edition. 2 vols.

To be published during 1959.

Ben Nevis. Rock Climbers' Guide. Price **7s. 6d.** Postage, 9d.

Arran. Rock Climbers' Guide. Price **3s. 6d.** Postage, 6d.

Arrochar. Rock Climbers' Guide. Price **3s. 6d.** Postage, 4d.

Cairngorms. To be published during 1959.

Rock Climbers' Guide.

Outline Contour Map of

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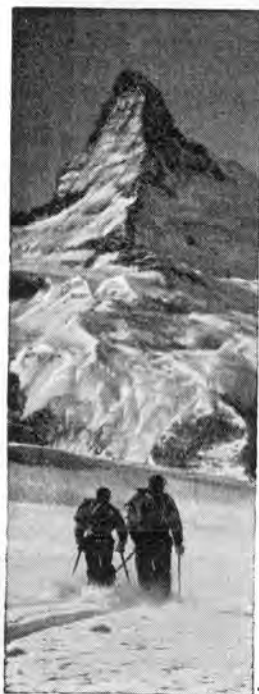
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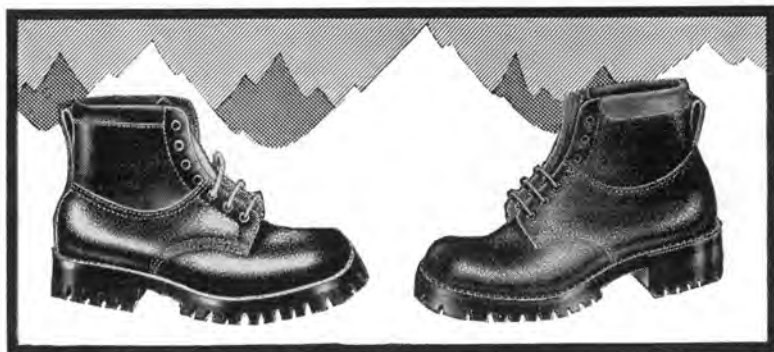
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REPORT FROM HON. GUIDE BOOKS' GENERAL EDITOR: R.M.Gall Inglis.

The remit entrusted to me in 1946 is virtually complete, and only the second volume of the Second Edition of the GLENCOE Guide has still to be published, but it will be next Spring. The post-war edition of the WESTERN HIGHLANDS is now sold out and the decision of the Committee as to whether this should be reprinted will be reported to the A.G.M., as also the position in relation to the CAIRNGORM ROCK-CLIMBERS Guide, responsibility for which I recently had to admit to them.

As I hand over to my successor, I wish again to thank all the local editors and others with whom it has been my pleasure to cooperate, and the Club as a whole, for the privilege of acting as Guide Books General Editor for what have been for me twelve very happy years.

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REPORT FROM CONVENOR, HUTS SUB-COMMITTEE: G.S.Roger.

C.I.C.Hut: The number of hut nights for the year was 576 showing an increase of approximately 20% on the previous year. The hut is in a satisfactory condition and no large repairs have been necessary during the year.

LING Hut: Hut nights for the year amounted to 233 which is slightly less than last year's figure. No repair work was carried out on the building which, apart from the lean-to porch is in reasonable condition.

LAGANGARBH Hut: This hut had a quieter year with 658 hut nights. During the year two work parties undertaken by Bill Bennet and helpers repaired the west gable-end and carried out painting and snow-cem work on the main hut. The barn was brought into habitable condition by waterproofing the roof and fitting a coal-burning cooking stove. It is now stocked with simple equipment for six men.

In April, Mr.Duncan Cameron, who has looked after the keys and rescue equipment since the hut opened, left Allt-na-Feidh for a farm at the foot of the glen. The Club presented Mr. & Mrs.Cameron with a chimney clock in recognition of their long association with the Club and Lagangarbh. Mr.Hector Cameron is now keeper at Allt-na-Feidh and is carrying on the work for the Club.

In presenting the foregoing reports, I should like to thank once again the Hut Custodians and helpers for all their efforts during the year. There are no changes to report in the composition of the Sub-Committee.

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REPORT FROM CONVENOR, EAST OF SCOTLAND SUB-COMMITTEE: G.C.Williams.

The usual lecture programme was carried through. Attendances were varied and tended to be rather scanty towards the end of the session.

The active element in the East remains small but competent and a "Bulletin" in the Circular records any performance of note. Lesser mortals climb and hill-walk unrecorded, of course, not forgetting the stalwarts of the once almost officially recognised "Pentlands Section".

Work on the new Clubrooms was started in January. Good progress was made at first, but the number of members prepared to give voluntary aid, however, turned out to be drastically smaller than the minimum hoped for. The date of completion has consequently been somewhat retarded and may now be early in November.

The new Committee will be: R.Grieve, Convenor; A.H.Hendry; G.Scott Johnstone; J.R.Marshall; J. Russell; I.D.Haigh; & R.W.Maclennan, Secretary.

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REPORT FROM CONVENOR, WEST OF SCOTLAND SUB-COMMITTEE: Trevor J. Ransley.

Club Room: As a result of the Rent Act, the room at 154 Hill Street, ceases to be available as from October 6th., 1958. The library, book shelves and other furnishings are being stored in the meantime at 11 Kew Terrace, Glasgow, W.2., by the kind permission of W.C.Harrison (J.M.C.S.) The problem of finding a conveniently sited room at a moderate rent seems less & less amenable to solution as time passes but an "all out" effort is being made.

Meets: With a plentiful supply of private cars, members had no difficulty in attending the joint meets with the JMCS and in getting to the hills at intervening week-ends. Despite this, the number of active members seems generally to be declining.

West of Scotland report, continued.

Lectures: A varied programme of lectures drew appreciative audiences to Rowan's Smokeroom throughout the winter. Subject matter extended from the Pentlands to the Antipodes and, in general, the illustrative slides were of high quality.

Projector: The reduction in takings from the hire of the Projector & screen seems to indicate that some members have now acquired their own. Wear & tear was consequently reduced and no bulb replacements were required.

Committee: Convenor J.C.Donaldson resigned in March following his unexpected migration to Braemar. The loss of his services was a severe blow to the Sub-Committee who relied so much on his unrivalled experience of Club Affairs and capacity for organisation. T. J. Ransley agreed to act as Convenor for the remainder of the year. The new Committee will be: C.G.M.Slessor, Convenor; D.J.Bennet; D.Goldie; A.S.Dick; K. Graham; T.J.Ransley; Wm.B.Young; & J.M.Johnstone, Hon.Secretary.

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REPORT FROM CONVENOR, FIRST AID COMMITTEE: A.I.L.Maitland, F.R.C.S.

First Aid Posts: No change in the position or number has taken place in the current year.

Accidents: There have been twenty-one serious accidents this year, to date, seven of them fatal. A large group occurred during the severe spring conditions on Ben Nevis and in Glencoe; a further group occurred in July & August in the Glen Brittle area, single accidents were reported from Arrochar, Arran & Glen Isla. In relation to the group of serious and fatal accidents on Ben Nevis, it is considered that the use of cleated rubber soles, which is almost universal, is a very great source of danger on the Scottish mountains, especially in severe conditions of the type which prevailed for so long this spring.

Mountain Rescue: A new edition of the Mountain Rescue Committee Booklet has been published with up-to-date information on posts and other matters. An analysis of the accidents of this year suggests that among those going on our hills to-day are some whose undoubted climbing ability is not matched with mountaineering skill of equal calibre. In one fatal accident, the injured man lay out all night, partly, at least, because the first search party were mis-directed as to his whereabouts. In another incident, the circumstances strongly suggest that the correct route was lost on the descent through mist. These regrettable occurrences may not be prevented but will at least be rendered less likely if everybody coming on our northern hills is equipped with a compass, a map of adequate scale and the ability to use them. The site of an injured man on the hills must be marked or pin-pointed in such a way that it can be found by rescuers without delay. If cross-bearings cannot be taken, then an adequate bearing of the route away from the scene affords a reasonable chance of re-tracing it by the use of a "back-bearing". Time saved in reaching an injured man in our severe winter and spring weather is frequently the small margin which ensures survival, and it is suggested that some evidence of knowledge in the use of map & compass would not be out of place in the conditions under which members are admitted to recognised mountaineering clubs.

The attention of members is drawn to BMC Circular No.265. This describes a tragic accident in Llanberis to two young but experienced climbers. Investigation has established beyond doubt that this was due to the use of a loop of 5/8" nylon rope as a waist loop belay. This weight of rope is inadequate for this purpose as its breaking load is NOT MORE THAN 50% of the anticipated load in such circumstances, and probably nearer 30% of that load. This circular deserves detailed study by all those interested and will be published in full in the Journal.

In conclusion, we must once more record our thanks to the Mountain Rescue Service of the Royal Air Force for their excellent and unselfish voluntary work on behalf of injured climbers on our hills.

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REPORT FROM THE HON.CUSTODIAN OF SLIDES: Robert Grieve.

This year, only three requests for slides are recorded. The number involved was less than 100 and affected only the 2" collection. Last year, it was noted that requests for slides had dropped; this year shows an accelerated trend. It is probable that the growth of simple colour photography is encouraging the private collecting by members. If this continues, the Club will have to consider its future policy in relation to the Slide Collection.

Thanks are due to Dr.Malcolm Slesser for donating a considerable number of colour slides of the 1952-54 British North Greenland Expedition.

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REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVE ON B.M.C.: J.McK.Stewart.

Hut Committee: Expressions of disappointment at the reasons for the delay for the new hut in Skye. This we understand is due to arrangements with Dame Flora Macleod of Macleod and to settlement with the surveyors.

Equipment Committee: The main items concerned the nylon ropes and for the pressing of suppliers & retailers to adhere to BMC specifications.

The question of rubber soled climbing boots has also been brought up and we wish to accumulate evidence such as the type of rubber (hard or soft), the disadvantages of the sole coming away from the upper sole compared to the leather welt allowing the edge of the rubber sole to extend beyond the boot.

A further item for consideration and testing is the loose rings on pitons as there have been sufficient failures recently causing the deaths of two climbers in Wales.

Mountaineering: A new revised larger Journal is being prepared for the next issue, still at the same price.

Membership: 72 Clubs are members and as far as can be ascertained approximately 30 clubs are still not members of the B.M.C. The President at our last meeting of the U.I.A.A. and the admission of the Soviet into the Association. Certain countries have objected, including Swtzerland, but at our last committee meeting, the representatives were all in favour of admitting them to the Institution.

Himalayas: In case you have not already been informed, the Nepal Government now states that a Himalayan Society has been formed, with its office at Katmandu, with the main object of providing Sirdars and high altitude porters for expeditions.

Harrison Rocks: The C.C.P.R. have now completed, in conjunction with the B.M.C., the purchase of Harrison Rocks, and at present arrangements are being made with the Forrestry Commissioners on certain conditions for the transfer of ownership. This means that Londoners and the South of England have free access at all times.

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REPORT FROM THE HON.EDITOR: Dr.J.H.B.Bell.

No.149 of the Journal was again slightly larger at 106 pages of text, 18 pages of advertisements, the number printed being 1000 (instead of 900 the previous year when supplies were exhausted, or nearly so). The total cost, including illustration blocks, came to over £412 and the revenue from sales and advertisements to £206, the difference coming from Club funds represented an average cost to the members of 12/5d., very slightly more than the previous year. The net revenue from advertisements, after deducting printing & block costs, was about £25. Number of Journals sold to kindred clubs at a price of 5/- (including J.M.C.S.) was 301 copies.

Attention might well be drawn to the salient considerations (a) That net advertising revenue was very small considering the number of readers and the modern printing costs. (b) that sales to the J.M.C.S. were unequally **distributed** considering the membership of different sections.

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R E P O R T FROM THE HON.LIBRARIAN: Frank Bennett.

The general use of the Library has not shown any marked difference from previous years. At the present time, the books are being transferred to the new club room, and a catalogue has now been started.

It is hoped that the better display of the Library will lead to its greater use. Meantime, will Members please note, however, that it will help in the general reorganisation if they defer borrowing books etc. for the next six months.

A list of additions to the Library since publication of the 1958 Journal is attached.

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NOTICE OF RECEPTION, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER, 1958

THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

SEVENTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Club, to be held in the George Hotel (Adam Rooms), George Street, Edinburgh, on Saturday, December 6th, 1958, at 5 p.m.

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Minutes of the Sixty-Ninth Annual General Meeting.
2. Report and Financial Statement by the Hon. Treasurer: G. J. RITCHIE.
3. Report by the Hon. Secretary: ROSS HIGGINS.
4. Report by the Hon. Editor: DR. J. H. B. BELL.
5. Report by the Hon. Guide Books General Editor: R. M. GALL INGLIS.
6. Report by Convenor, Huts Sub-Committee: G. S. ROGER.
7. Report by Convenor, East of Scotland Sub-Committee: G. C. WILLIAMS.
8. Report by Convenor, West of Scotland Sub-Committee: TREVOR RANSLEY.
9. Report by Convenor, First-Aid Sub-Committee: DR. A. I. L. MAITLAND.
10. Report by Hon. Custodian, Slide Collection: ROBERT GRIEVE.
11. Report by Hon. Librarian: FRANK BENNETT.
12. Report by Club's representative on the British Mountaineering Council: J. McK. STEWART.
13. Meets:
 - (a) 1959: New Year: DALWHINNIE & LAGANGARBH HUT.
Easter: ULLAPOOL, C. I. C. & LING HUTS.
 - (b) 1960: The Committee put forward the following suggestions as a basis for discussion:
New Year: FORT WILLIAM, LAGANGARBH & C. I. C. HUTS.
Easter: STRATHCARRON, C. I. C. & LING HUTS.
14. Nomination of Office-Bearers, etc.
 - (a) President: T. D. MACKINNON in place of W. B. SPEIRS, who retires.
 - (b) Vice-President: A. I. L. MAITLAND, F. R. C. S., in place of ROBERT GRIEVE, who retires.
 - (c) Hon. Guide Books General Editor: G. SCOTT JOHNSTON in place of R. M. GALL INGLIS, who resigns.
 - (d) Committee: P. D. BAIRD & C. L. DONALDSON in place of THEO. NICHOLSON who retires and G. S. JOHNSTON who resigns on appointment as Guide Books General Editor.
 - (e) Hon. Auditor: R. ELTON, C. A., in place of N. K. EASTON, who resigns.
 - (f) Advertising Manager: S. CAIRNS in place of J. FERRIER, who resigns.
 - (g) Assistant Editor: G. J. F. DUTTON.
 - (h) Representative to A. S. C. C.: W. M. MACKENZIE in place of ROSS HIGGINS, on the election of the latter as Chairman of that body.
 - (j) The remaining office-bearers, officials and members of Committee offer themselves for re-election in accordance with Rule 25.
 - (k) The Committee have approved the various changes in the composition of sub-committees as notified in the respective Convenors' reports. The remaining sub-committees and our representatives on other bodies continue unchanged.
15. Proposal to set up a "Scottish Mountaineering Trust", interim report.
16. Date of A. G. M. 1959 (? December 5th ?)

RECEPTION & ANNUAL DINNER

The Club Reception will be held in the George Hotel (Adam Rooms), Edinburgh, on Saturday, 6th December 1958, from 2.30 p.m. Len Lovat will give an illustrated talk on the 1958 Scottish East Greenland Expedition. Tickets price 5s. each.

The Seventieth Annual Dinner of the Club will be held in the George Hotel at 7 (for 7.30) p.m. on the same date. The principal speakers will be Mr. Eric Newby (Author of "A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush") and Dr. C. G. M. Slessor, leader of the 1958 Scottish East Greenland Expedition. Tickets will be 21s. inclusive of tips (but exclusive of wines). Dress will be informal.

Any member is entitled to introduce guests, at his own expense, to these functions. Will those who intend to be present please complete the enclosed form and sent it, together with the appropriate remittance, to T. Evershed Thomson, 6 North St. David Street, Edinburgh, 2., as soon as possible and not later than November 30th.

NEW MEMBERS

At the meeting held on 11th October 1958, the Committee elected the following applicants to membership: J. J. L. BELL; Q. T. CRICHTON; W. J. R. GREAVES; D. LEAVER; GILBERT LITTLE; RONALD MARSHALL; DR. A. G. NICOL; G. A. ROBERTS; R. H. SELLERS; ROBIN SMITH; & WM. WALLACE.

The attention of all members is drawn to that section of Rule 37 which directs that all applications for membership must be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary by September 30th, in order that the list of applicants may be circulated to members for their remarks ten clear days before the October meeting of Committee. It is also pointed out that if the applicant omits to complete the form in an adequate manner he may fail to be elected through the lack of available information. Any member who intends to propose a candidate and who is in any doubt about the procedure should apply to the Hon. Secretary for a note of the qualifications expected and the method to be employed.

DELETIONS FROM LIST OF MEMBERS

The names of J. F. Anton; G. K. MacLeod; & A. O'F. Will should be deleted from the list of members under Rule 11.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMITTEE

The following extract from the minute of a meeting held in Manchester on January 18th of the Mountain Rescue Committee, is published for the information of members: "By a unanimous vote, the Committee decided to award a Testimony of Appreciation to Mr. A. I. L. Maitland, in recognition of the long and devoted service he has given to the Scottish Rescue Scheme. His work in its reorganisation during the immediate post-war years was felt to deserve special mention".

SLIDE COLLECTION

The Hon. Custodian of the Club's Slide Collection makes his annual appeal to any members who, having photographs depicting action on modern rock, and ice routes, would let him have them for a short time to enable slides to be made from them. He would also welcome donations of suitable colour transparencies (which need not be mounted) and slides, particularly those measuring 2" x 2".

S. M. C. ABROAD

The Hon. Editor requests that all members who were climbing abroad during the year will let him have a note of their activities without delay.

OBITUARIES

It would be of great assistance to the Hon. Editor if personal friends of members recently deceased would let him know of their willingness to contribute an obituary notice.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

As a new edition of THE LIST OF MEMBERS will be published early next year, it would be greatly appreciated if all members who have recently changed their address, or who know that they are doing so shortly, would advise the Hon. Secretary accordingly.

At the same time, would any member who possesses degrees or decorations not hitherto recorded, or who wish their present entry altered, also advise the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible.

INFORMAL LUNCHEONS

Members resident in the EDINBURGH area meet for lunch on the first Thursday of each month at Mackie's Restaurant, Princes Street, Edinburgh, at 1 p.m. Those wishing to attend should notify E. C. Thomson, 69a George Street, Edinburgh, 2, (Phone: CAledonian 3345) by 11 a.m. on the day of the lunch in order that adequate accommodation may be available.

Members in the GLASGOW area meet each Thursday between 12.30 and 2 p.m. in the Blue Room, The Princes Restaurant, Renfield Street, Glasgow, C. 2.

All members who may happen to be in either city on the appropriate days will be very warmly welcomed at these informal gatherings.

CLUB ROOMS

The new club-rooms at 369 High Street, Edinburgh (facing the north door of St. Giles) are now in use, and the Committee are anxious to record the stalwart service of many members of the Club and of the J. M. C. S. in the conversion of these to their present use, notably Iain Haig, Bob MacLennan, Dick Brown, Scott Johnston, Jimmy Marshall, George Ritchie, Jimmy Russell, Hugh Stirling & George Hood of the S. M. C. and D. Gordon, D. Lamont, A. Stewart & F. Mantz of the Edinburgh J. M. C. S.

The Committee are very grateful to these men for all their hard work, and would appeal to those who were unable to contribute in manual labour to help by providing some of the following items of equipment which are still required (or cash in lieu): Rugs; Crockery; Coffee Table; Electric Convector Heater. Any offers of this nature should be made to Iain Haig who has been responsible for the re-decoration.

Keys are available, on payment of a nominal deposit, from the Eastern District Secretary, R. W. MacLennan, 30 Roseburn Street, Edinburgh, 12.

As a result of the rent act, the Glasgow Club Room at 154 Hill Street has been given up, and the Western District Committee ask for the help of all members in their search for new and central premises at an affordable rental. For the present, the library and fittings have been stored by Bill Harrison, J. M. C. S.

CLUB TIE & BADGE

The Club Tie, price 28/6d. is available, to members only, from Messrs R. W. Forsyth Ltd., Edinburgh and Glasgow. The Club Badge, with pin attachment, is available from the Hon. Secretary, price 2/6d.

406 Sauchiehall Street,
Glasgow, C. 2.
November 12th, 1958.

ROSS HIGGINS
Hon. Secretary.

SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

3 Stirling Road,
EDINBURGH, 5.

January 22nd, 1959.

To: All Members

EASTER MEET - 1959

The Easter Meet will be held at ULLAPOOL, C.I.C. & Ling Huts from Friday, March 27th, till Tuesday, March 31st 1959.

Accommodation has been arranged at THE ROYAL HOTEL, Ullapool, Ross-shire, (Telephone: Ullapool 6) at an inclusive daily rate of 30/- per head.

Please book direct with the hotel, stating that you, and your guests, are attending the Meet. The management of the hotel would appreciate early booking.

C. I. C. Hut: Members intending to go to this hut should make early application to the Hon. Custodian, Dr. John Berkeley, Onich House, Cameron Road, Fort William, for a booking.

Ling Hut: Members intending to go to this hut should make early application to the Hon. Custodian, George Peat, Faseny, Cononbridge, Ross-shire, for a booking.

Any enquiries regarding this Meet should be sent to me at the above address.

Maurice H. Cooke.

Hon. Meets Secretary.

Notes.

1. The new "ROCK CLIMBING GUIDE TO ARRAN" is now available, price 3/6d. from all good bookshops.
2. The Hon. Secretary has a small stock of the new edition of the Mountain Rescue Committee's handbook, price 1/- post free.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, RECEPTION & 71st. ANNUAL DINNER, 1959.

THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

71st. Annual General Meeting of the Club to be held in the St. Enoch's Hotel, Glasgow, on Saturday, December 5th., 1959, at 5p.m.

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting.

1. Minutes of the Seventieth Annual General Meeting.
2. Report and Financial Statement by the Hon. Treasurer: G.J. Ritchie.
3. Report by the Hon. Secretary: Ross Higgins.
4. Report by the Hon. Editor: Dr. J.H.B. Bell.
5. Report by the Hon. Guide Books General Editor: G. Scott Johnston.
6. Report by Convenor, Huts Sub-Committee: G.S. Roger.
7. Report by the Convenor, East of Scotland District Committee: Robert Grieve.
8. Report by the Convenor, West of Scotland District Committee: C.G.M. Slesser.
9. Report by the Convenor, First-Aid Sub-Committee: A.I.L. Maitland.
10. Report by Hon. Custodian, Slide Collection: Robert Grieve.
11. Report by Hon. Librarian: Frank Bennett.
12. Report by Club's Representative on B.M.C.: Charles Rose.
13. Report by Club's Representative on A.S.C.C.: W.M. Mackenzie.
14. Meets:
 - (a) 1960 - New Year, Fort William, C.I.C. & Lagangarbh Huts.
Easter: Strathcarron, C.I.C. & Ling Huts.
 - (b) 1961 - The Committee put forward the following proposals as a basis for discussion:
New Year: Crienlarich and Lagangarbh Hut.
Easter: Braemar and C.I.C. Hut.
15. Nomination of Office-Bearers, etc.
 - a. Honorary President: J.S.M. JACK.
 - b. Vice-President: ROSS HIGGINS in place of W.M. MACKENZIE, who retires.
 - c. Hon. Editor: Dr. G.J.F. DUTTON in place of Dr. J.H.B. BELL who resigns.
 - d. Hon. Secretary: J. STANLEY STEWART in place of ROSS HIGGINS, who resigns.
 - e. Hon. Assistant Secretary: J.C. DONALDSON in place of P.E. MACFARLANE who resigns.
 - f. Committee: A.E. ANTON, J.C. DONALDSON, LESLIE DUFF, MILES HUTCHINSON, GILBERT LITTLE & ROBIN SMITH in place of J.R. MARSHALL, JAMES RUSSELL, J.M. JOHNSTONE, J.S. STEWART & ADAM WATSON Jr., who retire, and P.D. BAIRD who resigns.
 - g. Club's Representative to B.M.C. CHARLES ROSE in place of J. McK. STEWART who retires.
 - h. Club's Representative to A.S.C.C.: J.S. STEWART in place of W.M. MACKENZIE who resigns.
 - j. The remaining office-bearers, officials and members of Committee offer themselves for reelection in accordance with Rule 25.
 - k. The Committee have approved the various changes in the composition of Sub-Committees as notified in the respective convenors' reports. The remaining sub-committees, and our representation on other bodies, continue unchanged.
16. Proposal that the Club approve the constitution of a Trust for purposes and with powers and regulations as near as may be to those set out in the draft circulated to all members of the Club, as adjusted by the Committee, and authorise the Committee:
 - a. To nominate five Trustees to adopt such constitution, coopt the remaining Trustees and act under such constitution;
 - b. To make such arrangements with the Trustees as the Committee consider desirable in respect of such activities of the Club as lie within the powers of the Trustees accepting always the C.I.C., Lagangarbh & Ling Huts and reserving the Club's copyright in all publications.
 - c. To transfer to the Trustees in consideration of the publication and distribution by them of Guides, maps & Journals such funds and assets as to the the Annual General Meeting may think expedient for the purposes of enabling the Trustees to carry out such activities.
 - d. To lend to the Trustees for the like purposes and the purposes of the Trust, such sums as the A.G.M. may consider expedient and to determine the terms of such loan.
 - e. Generally, to take such steps as seem to them necessary or desirable to give effect to the above resolution.
17. Western District Club Room:
 - (a) Proposal that money should be found as soon as possible for a Club Room in Glasgow, large enough to hold lectures and to house the Western District Library.

- 17.(b) In connection with the acquisition of a Glasgow Club Room on the scale desired by the AGM of the Western District, the Western District Committee urges the Club to authorise the necessary expenditure, even should this mean raising the annual subscription by a small amount.
18. Date of A.G.M., 1960 (? December 3rd.?)

RECEPTION AND 71st. ANNUAL DINNER.

The Club Reception will be held in the St. Enoch's Hotel, Glasgow, on Saturday, December 5th., 1959, from 2.30p.m. Dr. Tom Patey will give an illustrated account of the ascent of Rakaposhi. Tickets 5/- each.

The 71st. Annual Dinner of the Club will be held in the St. Enoch's Hotel at 7 (for 7.30) p.m. on the same date. The speakers will include Colonel J.P. Grant, Younger of Rothiemurchus, M.B.E., and H.P. Spillsbury, O.B.E. Tickets will be 26/-, inclusive of tips but exclusive of wines. Dress will be informal.

Any member is entitled to introduce guests, at his own expense, to these functions. Will those who intend to be present please complete the enclosed form and send it, together with the appropriate remittance, to J.M. Johnstone, 130 Novar Drive, Glasgow, W.2., as soon as possible and not later than November 30th.

NEW MEMBERS.

At the October Meeting of Committee, the following applicants were elected to membership: KEN BRYAN; JOHN DUNN; W.M. GUEST; G.S. PRENTICE; DOUGLAS STEWART; GEORGE SUTHERLAND; ALEX. THOM; G.J. TISO; J.G. BURNS; L.J. GRIFFIN; DUNCAN HASTON; & JAMES MORIARTY.

The attention of all members is drawn to that section of Rule 37 which directs that all applications for membership must be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary by September 30th. in order that the list of applicants may be circulated to members for their remarks ten clear days before the October meeting of the Committee. It is also pointed out that it is the duty of the proposer and seconder to satisfy themselves that the form has been adequately completed, for failure to do so may lead to the rejection of a candidate owing to insufficient information. Any member who intends to propose a candidate and who is in any doubt as to the procedure should apply to the Hon. Secretary.

SLIDE COLLECTION.

The Hon. Custodian of the Club's Slide Collection makes his annual appeal to any members who, having photographs depicting action on modern rock and ice routes would let him have them for a short time to enable slides to be made from them. He would also welcome gifts of suitable transparencies (which need not be mounted) and slides.

S. M. C. ABROAD.

The Hon. Editor requests that all members who were climbing abroad during the year will let him have a note of their activities

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

A new edition of the List of Members is in preparation; will all members who have recently changed their address, or know that they will be doing so shortly, please advise the Hon. Secretary. At the same time, would any member who wishes his entry amended to include degrees or decorations recently received please advise the Hon. Secretary.

INFORMAL LUNCHEONS.

Members resident in the Edinburgh area meet for lunch on the first Thursday of each month in Mackie's Restaurant, Princes Street, Edinburgh, at 1p.m. Those wishing to attend are requested to notify E.C. Thomson, 69a George St., Edinburgh 2., by 11a.m. on the day of the lunch in order that adequate accommodation may be available.

Members in the Glasgow area meet each Thursday between 12.30 & 2p.m. in The Blue Room, The Princes Restaurant, Renfield St., Glasgow, C.2.

All members who may happen to be in either city on the appropriate days will be very warmly welcomed at these informal gatherings.

CLUB ROOMS.

Members wishing to obtain a key to the Club Rooms, 369 High Street, Edinburgh, should apply to the Western District Secretary, R.W. MacLennan, 30 Roseburn St., Edinburgh, 12.

CLUB TIE & BADGE.

The Club Tie, price 28/6d. is available, to members only, from Messrs. R.W. Forsyth Ltd., Edinburgh & Glasgow. The Club Badge, with pin attachment, is available from the Hon. Secretary. price 2/6d.

CONVENORS' REPORTS - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, DECEMBER 5th., 1959.

1. HON.EDITOR'S REPORT: No.150 of the Journal was again somewhat larger, having 111 pages of text; 11 pages of half-tone illustrations; and 15½ pages of advertisements. The printing number was 1000. The printing & postage costs (Darien Press) amounted to £410.11.0d. to which must be added the cost of half-tone blocks @ £29.0.0., a total of £439.10.0d.

Revenue from Sales and Advertisements respectively was £93.0.0. & £107.2.0d. The net revenue from advertisements after deducting printing and block costs was only £17.0.0.

An analysis of sales shows that the JMCS took 196 copies; other kindred clubs took 50 copies; sales through the trade, 181 copies. The net cost to the Club of the Journal is therefore £245.8.0d., divided among 336 members this comes to 14/7d. per member (as compared with 12/5d. last year) and a return from sales to kindred clubs or trade sales of only 5/- a copy.

J.H.B.Bell.

2.GUIDE BOOK GENERAL EDITOR'S REPORT: Total sales of guide books are rather less than for last year but, in general, are considered to be satisfactory. There has however been a significant drop in the sales of "The Island of Skye" coincident with the publication of "The Rock Climbing Guide to the Cuillin". It seems probable that similar results will follow the publication of rock climbers' guides to other areas and, in view of this, suggestions for the rationalisation of the Guide Book Publishing programme are being considered.

The "Climbers' Guide to Glencoe & Ardgour - Vol.I" has been delayed beyond its expected date of publication, but it is now in the press and should be available shortly.

The "Climbers' Guide to the Cairngorms" has also not progressed as quickly as hoped, in this case due to the inability of the General Editor to devote adequate time to this considerable work. It should, however, be ready for the printer early in 1960. The Club will learn with regret of the death on Lochnagar of Mr.R.Sellars who not only assisted the author in compilation of the guide but was one of the diagram artists.

It has been decided that "The Western Highlands Guide" should be considerably revised rather than reprinted and this work is presently well under way. Preparatory work has been commenced in connection with the Rock-Climbers' Guides to "Glencoe II", "Ben Nevis" & "Northern Highlands", while the Committee has accepted the offer by a member of the L.S.C.C. to provide a climbers' guide to Rhum for inclusion in the "Cuillin Guide" when a re-issue of that volume becomes necessary.

A meeting of the Publications Sub-Committee was held under the chairmanship of Mr.R.Grieve in order to consider whether the present arrangements for the printing and distribution of Guide Books were satisfactory. It was found that there was no need at present to alter the existing arrangements.

The General Editor would like to express his thanks to his predecessor in office, Mr.R.Gall Inglis, for his invaluable assistance throughout the year.

G.Scott Johnston.

3. REPORT FROM CONVENOR, HUTS SUB-COMMITTEE:

C.I.C.Hut: The hut is in a reasonable state but repairs are required to the roof. It was used to much the same extent as in previous years and for the exact numbers of bed nights at this and other huts, reference should be made to the Hon.Treasurers financial statement.

LING HUT: The hut is in a satisfactory condition but repairs are required to the porch. During the year, Hector Cameron of Coulin left the district and the keys are now kept by Mrs.Macdonald, Torridon Road, Kinlochewe.

LAGANGARBH HUT: Kindred clubs have made less use of this hut during the year. Work parties have made progress in rendering the barn more comfortable & weatherproof. Another work party has been arranged to carry out repairs to the roof, shed & lavatory. The General condition is satisfactory.

Thanks are due to the Hut Custodians and Work Parties for all their work during the year. There are no changes to report in the composition of the sub-committee.

G.S.Roger.

4. REPORT FROM CONVENOR, EASTERN DISTRICT SUB-COMMITTEE: Last winter was marked by a surprising increase in the number of those attending lectures, the capacity of the new club rooms being severely taxed on occasions. Rock climbing talks were the most popular, although there was a large turn-out for the Edinburgh Andean Expedition. The provision of teas served a double function of augmenting Club Room funds and fostering a "kirkyard clash" atmosphere desirable on such occasions. On the other hand, apart from a Thursday lunch group, few members as individuals seem to make use of the Club Rooms, or, if they do, they omit to sign the visitors' book.

The degree of activity is much as before. The standard of climbing has risen steeply and, most heartening of all, the welcome phenomenon of young members ascending from the junior ranks in a steady stream appears to continue unabated.

The composition of the sub-committee remains unchanged.

Robert Grieve.

5. REPORT FROM CONVENOR, WESTERN DISTRICT SUB-COMMITTEE: A varied programme of lectures drew appreciative audiences to Rowan's smoke room throughout the winter. The subject matter extended from Galloway to Amadablam and the illustrations were generally of the highest quality.

A plentiful supply of private cars ensured that members had no difficulty in attending meets with the JMCS or in getting to the hills on other occasions. Despite this, there seems to be a general decline in activity in the district.

A search for a new club room has continued throughout the year and though several attractive possibilities have come to light they have been beyond the means of the district's allowance of £50.0.0.p.a.

The club projector was stolen during the year. The insurance claim has been met and a new Aldis 1000 with long focal lens will shortly be obtained.

The interim convenor, T.J.Ransley, declined to continue in office and was succeeded by the present convenor. Following the District General Meeting this autumn, the Sub-Committee is now made up of K.Graham, Bill Young, Daniel Goldie, Allan Dick, G.Baillie & Wm.Mackenzie, with J.M.Johnstone remaining as Hon.Secretary.

6. REPORT FROM CONVENOR, FIRST-AID COMMITTEE: No new posts have been installed nor alterations made to existing posts this year.

In view of the possibility of contraction in the RAF Mountain Rescue Service, the previous scheme which involved volunteer panels drawn from the principal climbing clubs is being reviewed and brought up to date. In this connection Mr.D.G.Duff has kindly arranged to hold a course on mountain rescue on two week-ends in November. Details of these have already been circulated.

Arrangements are at present under discussion for financing a general scheme of insurance for official rescue parties against the dangers inherent in such operations.

As a direct result of representations from one of our members, an approach is being made to the boot trade pointing out the dangers which under certain conditions are intensified by the use of cleated rubber soled footwear for climbing, especially by inexperienced people.

Owing to the Lochaber Section of the JMCS, two cupola shelters have been erected on Ben Nevis. (i) between the observatory & old hotel, grid ref.26767942.; (ii) Carn Mhor Dearg 350 yards north of the top of No.4 Gully, Grid ref.26677949. It is hoped that these will help to prevent some of the accidents on that range.

Since the previous list was published there have been twelve accidents on the Scottish hills. Five of these were fatal; the areas involved were Nevis (3), Wester Ross (2), Cairngorms (2); the other areas involved were Skye, Arran, Arrochar, Lawers, and Meall Bhueridgh.

It is a pleasure to record our gratitude to the R.A.F.Mountain Rescue Service for their invaluable help in search & rescue parties over the past year. I should also like to thank those members of the First Aid Committee, and others, who have helped in various ways during the past twelve months.

A.Ian L. Maitland.

7. REPORT FROM HON.CUSTODIAN OF SLIDES: Eight requests for slides were met during the year. These involved 504 2" slides and 62 3/4" slides. This represents a substantial improvement in the use of the collection compared with last year.

The collection is in reasonably good condition.

Robert Grieve.

8. Hon.Librarian's Report: The better display of books in the new ClubRooms has resulted in a greater use of the library. The preparation of a new catalogue has been slower than anticipated but a start has now been made.

In addition to the usual periodicals, the following new books have been added to the library:

Pasc	Great Days in New Zealand Mountaineering. Mountain World 1958/59.
Newby	Short Walk in the Hindu Kush
Clark	Puma's Claw
Noyce	Climbing the Fish's Tail
Dixon	Rock Climbing
Wright	Roch Climbing in Britain
Steel	Ben Nevis Race
Francis	Mountain Climbing
Maxwell	Tables of 3000ft.Mountains of England, Wales & Ireland.
B.S.S.	Nylon Mountaineering Ropes
McClymont	Exploration of New Zealand
Banks	Rakaposhi.

Frank Bennett.

9. Report from Club Representative on B.M.C.:

Mr.Basil Goodfellow retired from the Presidency of the B.M.C. at the beginning of the year and was succeeded by our own member Dr.Graham Macphee.

The past twelve months have seen a number of developments which indicate that the B.M.C. is coming into its own as an invaluable asset to the mountaineering community. Probably dearest to our heart is the recently launched appeal for the Glen Brittle Memorial Hut, proof positive at long last that things are under way. Of deeper import perhaps was the revised Constitution with its new Rule 10 entitling the ASCC to nominate a representative to attend BMC Committee meetings. The ASCC has returned the compliment and we can see in this gesture a healing of the breach between the two bodies.

Two extremely competent books, filling long standing gaps, have been published with the backing and approval of the B.M.C. One, Goff Francis's "Teach Yourself Mountain Climbing" is an up-to-date handbook of basic climbing techniques at a price all can afford. The other - Ted Wrangham's edition of "Selected Climbs in the Range of Mt.Blanc" is a much needed précis, in English, from the Guide Vallot.

The equipment sub-committee has had a very active year and has at last seen its efforts rewarded with the publication of British Standard 3104/1959 (Nylon Mountaineering Ropes) In addition it has tested and approved the Jumar Steigbugel (brass monkey), negotiated for manufacture for general sale of the "Scott" alloy karabiner, is currently testing suspect ring pegs, and will shortly publish a circular pointing out once more just how weak nylon "bootlace" slings are.

Finally, I should like to mention that the B.M.C.'s Honorary Secretary, Mike Holton, has at last retired. It is impossible to overestimate the amount of hard work and enthusiasm Mike has poured into this job over the years.

Charles Rose.

10. Report from Club Representative on A.S.C.C.

The Annual Meeting was held in the SMC Club Room in Edinburgh on May 9th. A brief report was made on the progress of the appeal for the Memorial Hut to be erected in Glen Brittle, and all member clubs were urged to support the appeal when it was issued this autumn.

The most important item for discussion was the steps to be taken should the RAF Mountain Rescue Teams be withdrawn. It was decided to revert to the system of volunteer teams formed from members of the Scottish Clubs, and it was decided to hold another meeting in the autumn of 1959, to coordinate areas and responsibilities. The S.M.C. assumed responsibility for the S.W.area and only some minor details need to be settled.

W.M.Mackenzie.

SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

MINUTE of a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, held in the Club Rooms, 369 High Street, Edinburgh, at 6. 30 p.m. on Saturday 14th March, 1959.

- Present: The President, Mr. T.D. McKinnon, in the Chair and approximately forty members.
- Minutes: The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on December 6th, 1958, which had been circulated, were taken as read and approved.
- Trust: The President outlined the reasons for calling the meeting, which were to explain, in greater detail than was possible in the time available at an A.G.M., the advantages which might accrue to the Club from the establishment of a Scottish Mountaineering Trust, and to give members the opportunity of a full discussion.
- Mr. Alex. Harrison then formally moved that the meeting should approve in principle the establishment of a Scottish Mountaineering Trust and this was seconded by Mr. W.B. Speirs.
- The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. G.J. Ritchie, then outlined the history of the Club's publishing of the Guide Books and stated why, in his opinion, a Trust was necessary. From 1947 to 1958 cash and stock had risen by £4,600, thereby creating a liability for tax which, if it had to be met, would seriously impair the present programme for publishing further Guides. Guides might be published in other ways which would free our Guide Book account, but only at the sacrifice of control of the editorial policy and revenue. He estimated that tax due would be between £900 and £1,900.
- In response to questions, he added that, although powers would be given to the proposed Trust to operate huts, it was not intended to hand over to it those huts presently run by the Club, and that it might be possible for the Trust to run the Journal if the name were changed to "The Scottish Mountaineering Journal".
- The meeting was then thrown open for discussion, which became involved and confused as members delved into the precise wording of the clauses in the proposed constitution of the Trust. The Hon. Secretary clarified the position by restating the purpose of the meeting and pointing out that the present intention was to transfer only the Guide Book Fund and stock to the Trust and that if the motion were approved, the draft constitution could then be discussed in detail and amended as required.
- On the financial side, questions were asked on the evasion of tax and the extent of the legal, and moral, responsibility. In this connection a very cogent letter from Mr. Dow was read to the meeting.
- Mr. Dunn said that it could not be definitely stated that, should a Trust be established, tax would be avoided, but it was unlikely, as a matter of practice, that the Club would then be taxed on its apparent past profits.
- Mr. E.C. Thomson stated that in 1930, when Hon. Treasurer, he had given to the Inspector of Taxes an assurance that the Club was not, and would not, make any profits for the Club from the sale of Guide Books to the general public.
- Mr. MacLennan asked if the Special Sub-Committee was unanimously in favour of the establishment of a Trust as the only way of dealing with the matter. The Hon. Secretary replied that the Special S/C had been agreed that it was in the best interests of the Club to form a Trust to publish the Guides, and possibly the "Journal", but had decided against the inclusion of huts.
- Mr. Maitland asked if the Special S/C had considered any other ways of dealing with the problem; Mr. Harrison replied that the remit to the Sub-Committee had concerned only the establishment of a Trust but that, in dealing with the problem, they had naturally explored other aspects and solutions.
- Dr. Slessor then moved that "the meeting does not approve of the establishment of a Scottish Mountaineering Trust", and this was seconded by Dr. Bell.
- On a vote being taken, the meeting approved, in principle, the establishment of the Trust by 25 votes to 9.
- The Hon. Treasurer then outlined the next steps to be taken, and asked that guidance be given to the Committee as to the amount of money which the meeting felt should be transferred to the Trust when it was established. The Hon. Secretary pointed out that this would have to be ratified at the Annual General Meeting. After some discussion, it was agreed to recommend that the Trust should be given outright the sum of £1,000 and the existing stock of Guides, together with a loan, repayable in a number of years, of £1,500.
- A further vote was then taken to decide whether the meeting should proceed to discuss in detail various amendments to the constitution of the Trust, and it was decided by an almost unanimous vote to do so. The Treasurer and Mr. Dunn took each amendment in turn and the results will appear in the next draft of the constitution to be submitted to the Club.
- The meeting then closed, with a vote of thanks to the Chair, the Hon. Treasurer and Mr. Dunn for their strenuous efforts, about 9 p.m.

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