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March 1924

STÙC A CHRÒIN FROM BEN VOIRLICH

G. R. Donald

THE SCOTTISH Mountaineering Club Journal.

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SOME EARLY INFORMAL MEETS.

BY GILBERT THOMSON.

THE Club is no longer young, and the Editor suggests that some of us who have grown old with it, and who can no longer hope to contribute records of new expeditions, might relate some of the doings of its early days. The younger generation of members may find interest in them even as ancient history.

The Meets, first suggested by Mr M'Kenzie in a letter which appeared in the *Journal* of September 1890, had a formal beginning in February of the following year. The informal Meets began earlier. Professor Ramsay, in his paper on "The Formation of the Scottish Mountaineering Club" (*Journal*, IV. 73-91), mentions four. The present writer is the only one who was at them all, and of the six who took part in the first, he only is now on the Club list. Professors Coats, Jack, and Ramsay, and Sir Hugh Munro, are all gone; another dropped out of membership long ago.

The first of these Meets began at Lochearnhead on the evening of Friday, 6th April 1889. On Saturday morning the party drove up Balquhidder by Loch Voil and Loch Doine. Jack, who was even then far from being young, went no farther, but the others crossed to Glen Dochart over Stob Coire an Lochan, Stobinian, and Ben More. The equipment would have brought down a severe and well-merited reprimand from the orthodox of the present day. It did not include a rope, and Ramsay's was the only ice-axe. Alpenstocks and

walking sticks served for the others, whose hobnailers would not all have come up to standard. Ramsay, in writing of the day, refers to "thick mist, bitter east wind, and driving snow," which were doubtless unpleasant enough at the time; but the chief recollection which has survived is the intense interest of the first snow climb, including an introduction to glissading. For Ramsay it was a standing glissade, for the others it was rather mixed, and the kilted member of the party did not altogether enjoy the sitting part of it. The conclusion of the Meet was scarcely satisfactory for the writer. He was anxious to get home that night, and left the others high on Ben More while he hurried down to Luib. The train overtook and passed him while he was still a good mile short of the station, but hoping that some such *deus ex machina* as came to the rescue of Brown's party at a later date (*Journal*, III. 22) might be forthcoming, he pushed on, only to be assured that "nothing on wheels will go east till Monday morning." The introduction to Scottish snow was well worth the compulsory "off" week-end.

The next of these informal Meets was the writer's first climb with Naismith, the beginning of a mountaineering "partnership" which has been one of his greatest privileges. One afternoon, shortly before the Glasgow Autumn Holiday of 1889, Naismith looked in to suggest that it might be spent on the hills. The holiday was then on a Thursday (it had not long ceased to be the Fast Day), and the West Highland Railway was still in the future. Our peak-bagging scheme included the Cobbler, Ben Ime, Ben Vane, and Ben Vorlich, and while we were ready to leave on Wednesday evening we wanted to be back on Thursday night. There was no available conveyance to Arrochar, but we found that we could get there somewhere about 9 o'clock on Wednesday night by taking boat to Garelochhead and walking the intervening ten miles. This we did, and inquired at Ross's Hotel first if they could put us up for the night, and second, if they could give us breakfast at 4.30. The latter request was received with some sarcasm, the lady in charge hinting that while it was not

uncommon to have breakfasts ordered at untimely hours, it was less common for those who gave the order to be up to time. She, however, accepted our assurance that mountaineers were not as other men, and breakfast was duly provided. As we had secured the co-operation of Hugh Boyd Watt and the late George Duke Stirling, along with a non-member, the party numbered five. The four members were down practically to time; the other had developed a cold during the night, did not turn up for breakfast, and the writer has never seen or heard of him since. We had hoped to be clear of the hotel at 5, but it was 5.15 when we actually got away. We were all more or less strangers to each other, and the writer was amused to find that Stirling was a man with whom he had occasionally had an informal race, going home in the evening on opposite sides of the street. He was very fast on the road and on easy ground, setting the pace for us all until the rocks were reached. The order was then promptly changed, Naismith at once taking (and keeping) the lead. We reached the top of the south peak by the long south-east ridge, including the awkward gap, and our inexperience may be judged from the fact that we thought it too risky to go down direct to the col on our way to the centre peak, and went down the way we came. Naismith and the writer followed the ridge to the centre peak, the others keeping the easy ground to the west. Ben Ime and Ben Vane were duly bagged, but on reaching Loch Sloy, Watt had to make straight for Arrochar to get the boat there about 3.30, so only three ascended Ben Vorlich. The finish was a considerable rush, as we only reached Arrochar at 4.10, and the boat left Tarbet at 5, leaving fifty minutes for dinner and the two-mile journey, for which no conveyance could be got. It was a near thing, but we got the boat. The expedition is described in some detail in the second number of the *Journal* ("The Arrochar Mountains," I. 63-69), and it may be interesting to note that Naismith's formula—three miles per hour on the map and an extra half-hour for each thousand feet of ascent—fitted this day's experience fairly well. Nowadays it might be necessary to introduce a

further factor, as a long day's journey would scarcely be done by old stagers at the same rate as a short one.

The most recent (not, we hope, the last) of the writer's joint expeditions with Naismith was, curiously enough, after the lapse of some thirty-seven years, over some of the same ground. He had undertaken to introduce a niece to the pleasures of rock-climbing, and succeeded in enlisting the co-operation of Mr and Mrs Naismith. On the 18th September 1926 the party took train to Arrochar, climbed the south peak of the Cobbler, descending this time by the steep face, and went up the arête to the centre peak. Ben Ime, Ben Vane, and Ben Vorlich were not included on this occasion, and a motor finally took us to the station.

The next of these Meets was in the beginning of April 1890. It took place at Kingshouse, the late Professor Coats going direct from Glasgow by Tyndrum, while Naismith and the writer went by Oban, starting a day earlier. Coats reached Kingshouse according to programme on Saturday afternoon, and waited for us with gradually increasing concern. We had got to Ballachulish on the Friday afternoon, climbed the Pap of Glencoe, and reached Clachaig that night. On Saturday morning we set out to keep our tryst with Coats, but our route lay over Bidean and the two Buachailles, and an unexpected encounter with a frozen slope on the final ascent played havoc with our time-table. It also gave us a valuable lesson in provisioning. We crossed Bidean and Buachaille Etive Bheag, and reached the Lairig Gartain well up to time. We stopped there for a final meal, and as we counted on being at Kingshouse in good time for dinner, we ate up all our provisions. But after getting well up on Buachaille Etive Mòr we found ourselves committed to a long spell of step-cutting, with the result that we reached Kingshouse some hours late and in a famished condition. The dinner which we had not arrived in time to eat made another appearance as supper, and its speedy disappearance did a good deal to remove any concern which Coats had felt. On the Sunday we all walked out to make a closer acquaintance

with the Moor of Rannoch, much more out of the way then than it is now, and on Monday we returned to Glasgow over the top of Clachlet and Stob Ghabhar. That expedition is the subject of a note (I. 85) and of two articles, "Bidean and the Buchailles" (I. 89-97) and "An April Day on the Blackmount" (I. 143-147), all in the *Journal*. (The revised spelling of Buachaille will be noted; it now has an extra "a.") The humiliating experience at Kingshouse was the direct cause of a big tramp a year later. We felt sure that our worn-out condition on arrival was due not to want of stamina but to want of food, and in order to put this beyond doubt we decided to join the next Easter Meet (Inveroran, 1891) by taking the night train from Glasgow to Dalwhinnie, and crossing Ben Alder and the Moor of Rannoch. We left Glasgow at 10 P.M. on Thursday, 26th March, reached Dalwhinnie soon after 3, and left at 3.30 A.M. on Friday and reached Inveroran—35 miles distant as the crow flies—at 8 P.M., without any special difficulty, after one of the finest days we had ever spent on the hills (*Journal*, II. 124-125). Next day, it may be mentioned, Naismith led in the first (and not quite complete) ascent of the Upper Couloir of Stob Ghabhar, which was somewhat unpleasantly in the limelight recently, along with Coats, Maylard, and Ramsay; while the writer, who had to reach Glasgow that evening, could do nothing bigger than Ben Odhar, in company with the late Mr Ballingall Gunn.

The last of the four Meets mentioned by Ramsay was on New Year's Day, 1891. It brought Stùc-a-Chròin into notice as a climbing face, and incidentally gave rise to the famous discussion about "strides" and "heaves." A party of five—Fraser Campbell, Lester, Maylard, Naismith, and the writer—reached Lochearnhead on Hogmanay night. Even in those good old days there was a railway strike; and Maylard, who had walked over from Callander, had to wait for two weary hours before the Glasgow contingent arrived. At 8.30 next morning we started to traverse Ben Voirlich and Stùc-a-Chròin, which Naismith and the writer had explored some time

before. In spite of the mist, which necessitated compass steering most of the way, the journey was easily accomplished, the most interesting incident being the discovery that the fence wires near the summit of Ben Voirlich were sheathed in ice crystals, each wire forming the core of a cylinder some 10 or 12 inches in diameter. Campbell hewed off a big section with his ice-axe, and shied it at the writer, but providentially missed. Maylard wrote an account of the expedition for the *Journal* (I. 222-234), and spoke of the rock face of Stùc-a-Chròin as requiring "breach-splitting strides and stomach-scrubbing heaves." This rather shocked the editorial sensibilities, and the phrase was deleted, but restored (under protest) on the emphatic request of the author. Some fairly energetic exchanges were finally summed up by Ramsay in an after-dinner explanation, that while the medical training of the one led him to understand the expressions in their anatomical sense, the mere layman could only see them in their sartorial significance. The rock face in winter gives quite a good climb, and has been responsible for more than one hurried rush for the train at Callander. The view which burst on us when we reached the top of Stùc-a-Chròin and found ourselves above the mist is most graphically described in Maylard's article. He mentions that to one of the party it recalled the passage in "Paradise Lost," where Satan stands gazing into the abyss, but it is not recorded which of us was cast for the leading part.

These, of course, were not the only informal Meets in the early history of the Club. The famous "Black Shoot," for instance, was tackled by Lester and R. A. Robertson in December 1889, and again by Campbell and Lester at Easter, 1890. (Two more attacks were necessary before the Shoot was conquered.) Some of the pioneer clubs, from which ours received many valuable members, had Meets in the early days, the most notable being those of the Cairngorm Club, as evidenced by Mr Inkson M'Connochie's paper on "The Cairngorms in Winter," which immediately followed the President's address in the first number of our *Journal*. The Gaiters,

The Cobbler Club, The Sandah Club, and The Tramps (*Journal*, XVII. 243) were among the pioneers of mountaineering as then understood.

The inclusion of Dundonnell among the centres for the Easter Meet of 1928 recalls the fact that an informal Meet was held there at Easter, 1893. For that year the official Meets were New Year, February, and May, but some of the members decided to have an Easter Meet of their own at Dundonnell. The chief objective was An Teallach, and the muster was on Friday evening, 31st March. The writer left Glasgow by the night train on Thursday, met Naismith in Dingwall, and with him took train to Garve and walked across the Fannichs (now spelt Fannaichs) to Loch a' Bhraoin, where a dogcart met us and took us on to Dundonnell. Douglas, King, Munro, and Rennie had arrived shortly before us, and met us with the tragic information that Mrs White, the wife of the hotel proprietor, had suddenly turned very seriously ill. She died within a few minutes of our arrival. Sympathy for the bereaved was mixed with concern for our own position. We were obviously much in the way at such a time, but for the moment there seemed to be no way out. Highland hospitality came to the rescue. The head stalker, who was in charge of the shooting lodge of Dundonnell, said that he would take the responsibility of giving us accommodation in the lodge, if we would write to his employer explaining the circumstances under which he had done so. Munro wrote the letter, and in due course got a reply expressing satisfaction that his employees had done in his absence what he would himself have done had he been at home. We hope that the stalker still lives to enjoy the pipe which was all that he would accept as a memento of the occasion. Next day we traversed An Teallach from end to end, Douglas and Rennie from the south for the sake of photography, the others from the north. On Sunday three members crossed to Ullapool and attended the parish church, where fitting reference was made to the sad event at Dundonnell. We went by the ferry, but the return was by the longer route round the head of Loch Broom. It was remarked

that under the leadership of a member who objects strongly to Sunday climbing, quite a number of places were encountered, always on the direct way home from church, which could not be surmounted without a very regrettable amount of scrambling. On Monday morning four drove to Braemore, having time to look at the wonderful gorge before the mail coach from Ullapool came along and conveyed us to Garve—all except Naismith, who dropped off to bag Ben Wyvis. Dundonnell is admirably situated for exploring An Teallach, and the Fannaichs also well deserve the attention of the Club. Our crossing of the Fannaichs was somewhat hurried, partly by the steady downpour of rain and partly because we had each a bet of a penny with Douglas that we would reach Dundonnell by 9 o'clock. We arrived about 8.30, having beaten the time of the other party by about an hour, and the pennies were duly collected. ("A Walk Across the Fannaichs," *Journal*, II. 306-310; and "An Teallach, Ross-shire," III. 10-18.)

The photograph which accompanies this article was taken during a somewhat informal Meet in 1897. That was the year of the "Yachting Meet," when at Easter the specially chartered steam yacht "Erne" made a valiant but (owing to the weather) not altogether successful attempt to carry members to some of the less accessible climbs in Skye and its neighbourhood. An alternative Meet at Tyndrum found only three definite adherents, but four others—Naismith, the two Squances, and the writer—called in passing. They had crossed Ben More in a blizzard, and the photograph was taken just after they got below its range. They afterwards went on to Roy Bridge, carrying one of the three (King) with them, and had some good fun, including driving a tunnel through a cornice on Stob Choire Claurigh.

One other informal Meet, of rather more recent date, deserves to be recorded. This was the famous "Cave" Meet of 1907. (The allusion is to the Cave of Adullam, which, according to Scripture history, was the refuge of all the discontented.) The Easter Meet had been fixed for Inchnadamph, quite out of reach of those with only a short

holiday. In such circumstances an alternative and more accessible place is also arranged, but on this occasion the Club went to the other extreme and fixed the alternative Meet at Arrochar. Arrochar is not at its best on a Glasgow Spring Holiday, and a number who could not go to one and would not go to the other decided to have a Meet of their own at Fort William. The description of this Meet (*Journal*, IX. 259-263) is a very amusing one, and there was a good deal of rivalry between the various Meets. Telegraphic greetings were interchanged, Inchnadamph informing Fort William that peaks were falling in all directions, and receiving in return the sympathetic hope that no members had been hurt by their fall, along with the assurance that the mountains at Fort William were overcrowded and that the Cobbler had seen his last. The actual attendances were eighteen and seven at Inchnadamph and Arrochar, and sixteen at Fort William. All were favoured with magnificent weather, comparable with that of the great Fort William Meet of 1895. In the *Journal* description of the "Cave" Meet it is mentioned that the old men of the party set a good example to the others by ordering breakfast at 5.30 on Monday morning, and being in time for it. The "old men" are named—the present President, Nelson, and the writer. Old men—twenty years ago!

A PEDESTRIAN TOUR IN THE HIGHLANDS, 1856.

WRITTEN BY CHARLES SIMPSON INGLIS IN 1856.

EDITED BY J. GALL INGLIS.

IV. LOCH CARRON TO KINLOCHEWE.

PRELIMINARY NOTE.

NOTE on the "sleeping-out" place. The travellers' route after the junction of the River Ling with the Amhainn Loch an Laoigh is only conjectural, for though there are many casual references in the text which might throw light on the subject when studied with the O.S. map, these leave it a mystery how they arrived on the S.S.W. slope of Carn Geur Aodainn, which the emergence at Attadale postulates as the position of the "New Craig Inn." The general conclusion is that they must have been fairly high up on that hill, but it is not possible to be definite without a thorough knowledge of the district. The following factors have to be satisfied :—

From Am Fitheach they had seen past Beinn Dronnaig a large glen which Wilson and Robertson thought would be Strath Carron, but which, having no carriage road, could not be that glen.

They would then reckon up their position on the map after travelling from An Socach, some 4 miles S.S.W., then some 4 miles N.N.W.

Craig Inn being 10 or 12 miles N.N.W. of An Socach by their maps and in reality, they would see that they must now be some 10 miles south, or even past south, of the inn, which must lie on the other side of the range on the west side of the glen they were in. Hence they must steer due north for many miles to come. A westerly course is therefore highly improbable; besides, one of the sketch maps indicates a northerly course for some distance.

They waded the Ling at 6.30 P.M.; C. S. I. apparently started off alone at 7 P.M. ("ridge climb"), and reached the top of the ridge at 7.30 ("finding junction"); the watershed was crossed at 8 P.M. This limits the distance travelled to 3 or 4 miles at most, in that time.

The most natural route would probably be to turn up the Allt Ruadh na-h-Airde and make for the 1,500-foot col to the N.W. A footpath is marked on the far side of the col, about half a mile away, on the other side of a burn, which exactly corresponds with the incidents in the text, but it is only on the 1,250-foot contour, and unless they climbed up several hundred feet in the dark they would not land in the Attadale basin; moreover, Loch Carron would

hardly be visible over its bordering hills, and many burns would have to be crossed going in the Attadale direction.

After reaching the path, they went on for an hour over a heather path at a "tolerable pace," say for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles and probably in a S.W. direction, otherwise they would hardly have seen Loch Carron; they then got into stony ground. Next morning Loch Carron was apparently visible from their sleeping-place, which seems to require a high altitude (they believed they were about 2,000 feet up); they also walked "a mile or two" before coming to the Eas Ban.

The only other alternative is that they climbed the southern shoulder of Carn Geur Aodainn and descended to the footpath south of them, and losing the path, wandered up the hill. The times and distances, however, do not fit very well, though seeing Loch Carron is in its favour.

It was now 6 o'clock in the morning, and beautifully clear. At a distance we saw the same sheet of water that we had got a glimpse of the previous evening, and we proceeded cheerily down the hillside. After walking a mile or two, we descended into a very romantic glen, wooded along the banks of the water, and full of grey rocks and numerous waterfalls.* Five or six miles' walking brought us near the mouth of the glen, and we passed very many melancholy memorials in the shape of ruined cottages, showing how populous this dale once had been, and now it was abandoned to the sheep and deer.

At the mouth of the glen we saw a woman coming out of a house, and asked her where we were, but this extraordinary question at such an early hour, and proceeding from three men who came down a glen where there was not a house for 20 miles, seemed to alarm her, and we could get nothing out of her, she was so frightened.† Seeing this, we proceeded till we reached the sheet of water we had seen and which now proved to be an arm of the sea—Loch Carron. After some little trouble we found a fisherman, and got him to take us across to the village of Jeantown, on the north side of the loch. Whilst being rowed across, one of the men asked if we were

* Evidently the Eas Ban, of Attadale.

† Very likely, also, she did not know what they were saying. Some thirty years later, even at an accessible place like Kyle Akin, we found many grown-up people who knew no English.

excisemen, our appearance and the unusual way in which we came giving him reason to think that we had been still-hunting.*

Jeantown is a pretty village stretching in a single line along the seashore, and it never looked more pleasant than it did that morning with the sun shining brightly on it and a large signboard before an inn, giving promise that our hunger should soon be appeased. We landed, and at 9 o'clock sat down to breakfast, which we much needed, after having walked 30 miles, climbed three ranges of hills, each about 3,000 feet high,† and fasted for twenty-four hours.

After breakfast we started about 11 o'clock by a hired conveyance, which took us for 10 miles along the Dingwall road. We enjoyed the drive very much, and wondered that so little had been said about it in the guide books. The scenery is of the grand order, and we got some very fine sights through the openings among the hills. We were, in fact, among the mountains that we had admired so much the day before, and a nearer view did not diminish the respect in which we held them. We left our conveyance at the *Old* Craig Inn, the place we had been trying ineffectually to reach the night before. The effect of a little deviation from the right line at the outset had caused us to make a mistake of 10 miles: this, however, we had no cause to regret.

From the Craig Inn (if such a place can be called one, where you can only get herrings, milk, and potatoes, on which we dined heartily) we crossed the hills by a mountain path leading to Kinlochewe. This we believed would suit our purpose of seeing the country better, and we were not disappointed. The whole distance between the two places is only about 12 miles, with two mountain

* The boots at the Glen Affric Hotel recently told me that about this time his father was one of the three excisemen for that district, and that they had a very busy time still-hunting. He also said that his father used to tell a story of tourists who got lost when crossing the hills, and had to sleep out.

† This is in favour of their having climbed to near the top of Carn Geur Aodainn, which, however, is only 1,950 feet.

ranges of moderate height to be climbed. Here, again, we were struck with the strange and unusual character of these hills, so totally different from all others, and we now saw more minutely what we had before seen at a distance, and stayed our progress a hundred times to gaze at the strange peaks, rugged precipices, and ever-varying colour of these Ross-shire Alps. How it comes about that they are so little known is singular. Perhaps it may be from their distance from the common tourist centres and the comparative difficulty of getting at them that they are so little visited, but assuredly they are more worthy of being visited than scores of places that are lauded to the skies. Here it is all grand wherever you go: anyone expecting *pretty* scenery will be disappointed, but the lovers of the grand will most thoroughly enjoy a visit to the Ross-shire Highlands.

We arrived at Kinlochewe, on the shores of Loch Maree, about 7 o'clock in the evening, and after a little difficulty found the small inn there, which our maps placed in a different position from that which it occupies.* Next morning we went to look at the loch, but found it to have neither the beauty nor extent of Loch Lomond, at which we were somewhat disappointed. We were recommended, however, to go to the top of a mountain, Ben Sleoch, in order to get a proper view of the country, and procured the services of a man to show us the road and point out the hills in the neighbourhood.

We walked down the east side of Loch Maree for about 2 miles, and then went up the side of a tolerably-sized burn that came leaping down the mountain side.† As the day was very hot and the climbing pretty stiff in some places, we sat down to rest occasionally. When we had got up about 2,000 feet, we heard a slight sound from our guide, who had sat down a little distance from us, and on looking at him saw that he was making singular

* On their maps about half-way between Loch Maree and the place where the Loch Torridon road joins in, instead of a few hundred yards to the east, as corrected on their maps—no doubt on the site of the present hotel.

† Glen Bianasdale, evidently.

motions with his hand. On running up to him, I found he could not speak, and laying him gently on the ground took some water and dashed it on his face. He recovered slowly, and lay for some time very faint. It appeared that the hot day and the rapidity with which we were climbing the hill had been too much for him. We told him to follow us at his leisure, and taking our plaids from him, went on. There are some fine precipices on the sides of this hill, the one next Loch Maree excepted.

After a long ascent we stood on the top of Ben Sleoch, 4,400 feet high.* It was not Loch Maree itself that was the sight, but the mountains at a little distance from it, in the centre of which we now were. Most of these mountains were about the same height as Ben Sleoch, and the effect of looking around on so many of these everlasting monuments, not from a distance but close at hand and within a circuit of 2 or 3 miles, was inexpressibly grand. Being now on a level as it were with the tops of these immense masses, we could examine them as if we could touch them, and the longer we looked the more did their grandeur grow upon us. Ben Sleoch itself was rugged and precipitous on its east side, and from several places we could at one peep, taking precipice and slope together, look down 4,000 feet to the loch that lay close at the foot; but it was surpassed by the rugged top and naked side of the quartz mountain called Ben Each (Beinn Eighe), which lay on the west side of the loch. It is perfectly naked, unless millions of stones can be called a covering, and a jagged precipice runs along the top the whole way.

Our view extended southwards to the grand mountain ranges we had left some days before, and eastward included the towering Loch Broom Mountains, and to the westward those of the Applecross and Loch Torridon districts. To the north, the land gradually sloped to the sea from the foot of Loch Maree. This view presented a most extraordinary concentration of giant mountains of the most rugged character, and fully repaid our time and trouble. It ought to be mentioned that we had

* The actual height is only 3,260 feet.



13th April 1900

THE EASTERN PRECIPICES OF SLIOCH

J. Gall Inglis

beautifully clear weather, and not the slightest haze in any direction to obstruct the view.

We stayed about three hours on the top and scarcely ever had such an amount of pure enjoyment at such a height before. Our guide mentioned that he had accompanied the sappers and miners when they were surveying the district, and acted as their guide and assistant, only he never could understand what they were doing with their little telescopes mounted on three legs, and less what they meant by taking looking-glasses and flashing them in the sun. This would no doubt be when they were taking the angles in the large triangulation by means of flashes of sunlight. He said also that the country people were very suspicious of their intentions.

We left the top about 4 o'clock, and after having descended a few hundred feet in a different direction from the way we came up, saw lying before us at the bottom of a steep part of the hill a small loch. There were plenty of large stones lying invitingly close at hand which a little exertion sufficed to set in motion. This we practised with considerable success, and as the blocks of stone rushed impetuously down the steep and bounded with tremendous leaps into the air and then into the blue water, we could not repress a boyish "Hurrah" as the spray was jerked into the air 40 or 50 feet high, and sparkled dazzlingly white and beautiful in the sun.

Our descent was accomplished very rapidly. We ran down almost the whole way with scarcely a pause. The ground in many places was very rough, but being in good mountain trim, our elastic steps brought us to the shores of Loch Maree in an hour's time, and we then enjoyed a calm and pleasant walk to the inn at Kinlochewe.

We found the good folks there in a great bustle; there had been several new arrivals, and some of them not very reasonable. The inn was very small and there was, of course, neither the accommodation nor the conveniences that were to be had in a large-sized hotel in a cultivated country. What could be expected in a wild country where every loaf had to be brought from Dingwall,

50 miles off? In a short time, however, the grumblers were satisfied, and our evening concluded pleasantly.

Next day being Sabbath, we attended the Gaelic Church; though not understanding one word, we were much pleased with the attention and primitive appearance of the congregation. In the course of the day some gentlemen expressed their disgust at not being able to get a boat to go out on the loch either for love or money. It spoke much for the character of the poor people about, that none of them could be found willing to sell his conscience for money.

Next day we found that the clouds had lowered and the hills were almost entirely hid from view. We had intended to cross the hills to Loch Torridon, but seeing the weather so unfavourable, we resolved to take a conveyance and travel by the road. In this way we only got an occasional glimpse of the perpendicular sides of the rocky and savage pass that lies between Loch Maree and Loch Torridon, but we saw quite enough to make us form an estimate of its fearful character, the precipice rising in many places almost directly from the side of the road to a dizzy height above.

On arriving at Loch Torridon at the so-called inn—which is only used for selling whisky—we saw that we need not dwell long on the scenery there. The hills in the neighbourhood are not so high, and generally of a tamer character than those we had left, though we could see through the openings among them that a little way behind there were grand passes to be explored. As this, however, was not a part of our plan, after some bargaining and attempt at extortion, which was effectually resisted by a threat to walk round the head of the loch to our next station, Shieldag Inn, we engaged a boat to take us across to this place, and had a pleasant sail, the weather having quite cleared up. On arriving at Shieldag we took dinner, intending to take an easy walk back to Jeantown by road.

As the distance seemed so short, and as it was probable that we would arrive at Jeantown too early, Wilson proposed that we should climb a hill of a peculiar shape

behind Shieldag, called the Raven's Nose,* and see the nature of the country in the neighbourhood. This was agreed to, and we set out on our journey. This Raven's Nose was in many places very steep, so much so that the heather on the ground above where we were standing was almost touching our faces even when we were not stooping in climbing. It took much longer to get up than we had supposed, but the general view of Loch Torridon and its numerous little bays and islands recompensed us. The sea was beautifully blue, and studded with a fleet of fishing boats rising and falling gently on the swell, their various coloured sails glowing picturesquely in the evening sun. A few of the islands were clothed with wood, and with their wave-worn rocky shores gave a picturesque finish to the picture.

After looking at this scene for some time, we went, according to Wilson's proposal, a considerable way along the ridge, so as to cut off a portion of the road to which he had a strong dislike. On proposing to descend, we found that the hillside was not of such a nature as to make practicable the short run of a quarter of an hour, which we supposed would be all that was necessary. It was from the top to the bottom, for the best part of 2 miles, a series of gigantic steps or precipices, down which there was no possible way of going in a direct line. Had our legs been from 20 to 30 feet long we might have found no difficulty, but as ours were of the ordinary length, we were puzzled. To go back along the ridge was not to be thought of, so we resolved to go down where we were as well as we could. The peculiarity of these lines of small precipices was this, that they very frequently did not join on to one another, but melted away at one or both ends, so that by walking along the top until we came to a proper place we could get past their termination down to the next level above the next lower precipice.

In this way we proceeded, traversing and retraversing the hillside, till it seemed the most provoking and intermin-

* Evidently Beinn Shildaig, 1,620 feet, on the east side of the Jeantown road.

able descent we had yet encountered. Often and often had we to retrace our steps and climb up again, when we found a place impracticable, in order to begin anew : as the slopes generally terminated in a precipice, we, from the nature of the ground, scarcely knew this until we were close upon it, and therefore had to take good care. Occasionally, too, a stone would be set a-rolling by some inadvertence on the part of the one highest up, to the imminent danger of those below, and thus we had every reason to be on the alert. Here, then, we descended and ascended, and walked and climbed and perspired among these precipices for nearly an hour before we got down to the road. Most assuredly, after this we felt no inclination to despise the Raven's Nose, and as pedestrians, have now a most profound respect for it.

We walked on through a lonely, hilly country without an inhabitant until darkness overtook us, and as we plodded onwards the road seemed to lengthen out. By and by we reached a place where it entered a black gloomy defile, with the rocks and hills rising high on each side, and a river running beside us, which had a very impressive effect on the imagination. Jeantown was, however, not likely to make its appearance, and we began to doubt whether we were on the right road, and speculated on the possibility of another night on the heather ; but meeting a solitary passenger, we were informed that it was all right, and in a short time arrived in Jeantown at 11 o'clock, three hours later than we had intended.

A PILGRIMAGE TO SKYE.

ALEXANDER HARRISON.

“Whan that Aprille with his shoures sote
The droghte of March hath perced to the rote,
And bathed every veyne in swich licour
Of which vertu engendred is the flour ;
Whan Zephirus eek with his swete breeth
Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
The tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
Hath in the Ram his halfe cours y-ronne,
And smale fowles maken melodye,
That slepen al the night with open ye,
So priketh hem nature in hir corages ;
Than longen folk to goon on pilgrimages,
And palmers for to seken straunge strondes
To ferné halwes, couthe in sondry londes.”

THE season was somewhat later but the object the same, a pilgrimage to the Canterbury of Climbing—Skye. The conveyances were not of different grades like those of Chaucer's “Pilgrims,” but the homely Morris.

The six pilgrims were drawn from the east and west and also from the distant Sahara. The first car, driven by Murray Lawson, toured round Edinburgh and completed its complement by collecting Stewart Jack at the Waverley Station, where one of the party finished his packing on the down main platform !

The four passengers were literally embedded in rucksacks, ropes, and other baggage. Lawson, Menzies, and Jack, being hardy animals, started at 8 o'clock in the evening and decided to push on as far as possible and then spend the night under the stars. Harrison, being more effeminate, had thoughts of a bed, so was deposited at Callander, where he spent the night with Nimmo Allan and J. A. Scott.

This party set out next morning on the second day's journey about 8 o'clock in glorious sunshine. Inquiries were made at Ballachulish Ferry as to whether another car had passed, and the answer was that it had appeared

some time before the first ferry was due to go, so the conclusion drawn was that the three hardy ones had not had their full eight hours' sleep. The accounts subsequently gathered from the camping party were conflicting, viz.: (1) that they had all slept for six hours twined round the steering wheel; (2) that the moonlight walk through the Tulla Woods was most enjoyable; and (3) that the cuckoo is certainly related to Chaucer's *smale fowles*, and that his *meloide* gets monotonous when continued for the whole night.

The Callander party reached Fort William by noon and had lunch by the roadside; they made Cluanie Inn in a blatter of rain and reached Aird Ferry at about 4 o'clock. Here the new and old ferrymen were striving for custom. It was here, also, that the only trying incident was experienced. Possibly the car did not approve of the new ferry, or perhaps the sea air did not agree with its digestion; at any rate it refused to function when it was asked to climb the jetty, so it had to be manhandled to the top. It was an awkward situation. The party's combined knowledge of the interior of the car was slightly less than nil, and the prospect of spending a night at the hotel was not relished. Allan assumed an air of wisdom, played about with the inside of the animal, screwing and unscrewing various things, and filing anything he could lay hands on. For some reason or other the beast started and the journey was continued with the haunting fear that it might have another attack before Sligachan was reached. Fortune smiled and the party arrived in good time for dinner, the first car having already arrived.

The first day's work was a massed attack on Sgùr nan Gillean, one party by the Pinnacle route and the other by way of Bruach na Frithe, Am Basteir, and the Western Ridge.

Next day a move was made to Glen Brittle, some members going to the Lodge and the remainder to Mary Campbell. Here the seventh pilgrim was met—Steeple.

Five perfect days were spent at Glen Brittle, the members of the party doing something each day but

nothing very strenuous—the Cioch by the Slab direct, the Window Tower Buttress, and the Inaccessible Pinnacle—ascending by the short side and down the long side, Collie's Climb on Alasdair, the Thearlaich-Dubh Gap in all directions, and the Slanting Gully of Ghreadaidh. Incidentally the descent of the short side of the gap by merely allowing the rope to run through the hands is not to be recommended. Harrison found that it raises blisters in a record short time. (The method of abseiling used by the Dolomite guides may be of interest to members. One stands facing the cliff, passes the rope beneath the thigh from front to rear, then up across the chest and over the opposite shoulder, and down the back. One hand holds the rope coming from the hitch about the height of the shoulder, while the other holds the rope coming down the back. One should lean out from the rock as far as possible and walk down, letting out the rope through the hands. The friction of the rope on the clothes acts as a brake and the abseil can be stopped at any moment if a rest is required.) Collie's Climb was specially enjoyable.

The finish of each day was a bathe in a burn or the sea, followed by a liberal supply of Mary's milk, eggs, and excellent oat cakes.

Two days at Sligachan completed the holiday. The first was spent purely in bathing and posing for the photographer in a more or less nude condition, and the second in some climbing in the Sgùrr nan Gillean gullies.

The party broke up on the ninth day. Menzies and Lawson remained, and their places on the return journey were taken by two of Mary's puppies, Coolie and Coolin, which might well have served as advertisements for a well-known brand of whisky.

“ Come sing with me a holiday at Skye in early June,
The freshness of those glorious hills that rise the moors abune.
Day after day the sun shone fair on Sligachan and Brittle,
We did a when o' easy things an' ain or twa mair kittle.
The Cuillin ridges, peaks, and towers ne'er showed their glories
fairer,
The wild flowers, ferns, and mosses surely ne'er looked rich or
rarer.

Day after day the crackling moors slid by beneath our feet,
Day after day we rose anew the sunshine fresh to greet ;
Night after night the cuckoo's note pursued us to our beds,
Night after night the Cuillins rose empurpled o'er our heads.
The burns held pools all crystal clear, the sea its sandy bays,
Where in the coolness we refreshed from labours of the days.
Two chauffeurs in their motor cars provided transport rare,
Recked not of roads, nor ferry planks, nor yet of tip or fare.
What holiday in all the world could bear with this comparison,
With Allan, Lawson, Menzies, Scott, with Steeple, too, and
Harrison.

So while we tread the city street our thoughts will often fly
With gladness to the Cuillins of the Misty Isle of Skye."

J. S. M. J.

A WEEK-END ON BUACHAILLE ETIVE.

BY ALEXANDER HARRISON.

HAVING climbed the Crowberry Ridge with several variations, some of us thought that the time had come when we should round it off by doing Abraham's Traverse.

The party consisted of six—Bartholomew, Buchanan, Crearer, Harrison, Lawson, and Scott—transport, two cars. Bartholomew, Crearer, and Lawson decided to spend the night out at their favourite spot, Coupal Bridge, partly for the love of being uncomfortable and partly to save time in the morning. The other three decided to make Kingshouse their quarters for the night.

A start was made on a broiling hot Saturday afternoon in July. We had sampled the pot holes on the Airth road so often that we thought we would give the Fife roads a trial, so we made for South Queensferry and took our road by Dunfermline, Glendevon, Gleneagles—where cars swarmed like maggots in a cheese—St Fillans—where we had tea by the side of the loch—then on by Glenogle, at the top of which we found Allan Brown and Company sitting by the side of the well-known hog-backed bridge enjoying the sight of passengers being thrown into the air as their cars went over the bridge at too high a speed.

The weather so far had been perfect, but as we passed Inveroran we saw great purple thunder-clouds banking in the north, and presently the storm broke and the rain descended in sheets till the road was more like the bed of a highland burn than a first-class high road. However, Kingshouse was reached in a more or less dry state, where two of the first car-load were found in the act of fortifying the inner man. They were at last pushed out to their bivvy on the moor to rejoin Bartholomew, whom they had left trying to beguile the fishes with an ample supply of clegs for bait.

Next morning an early start was made from Kings-

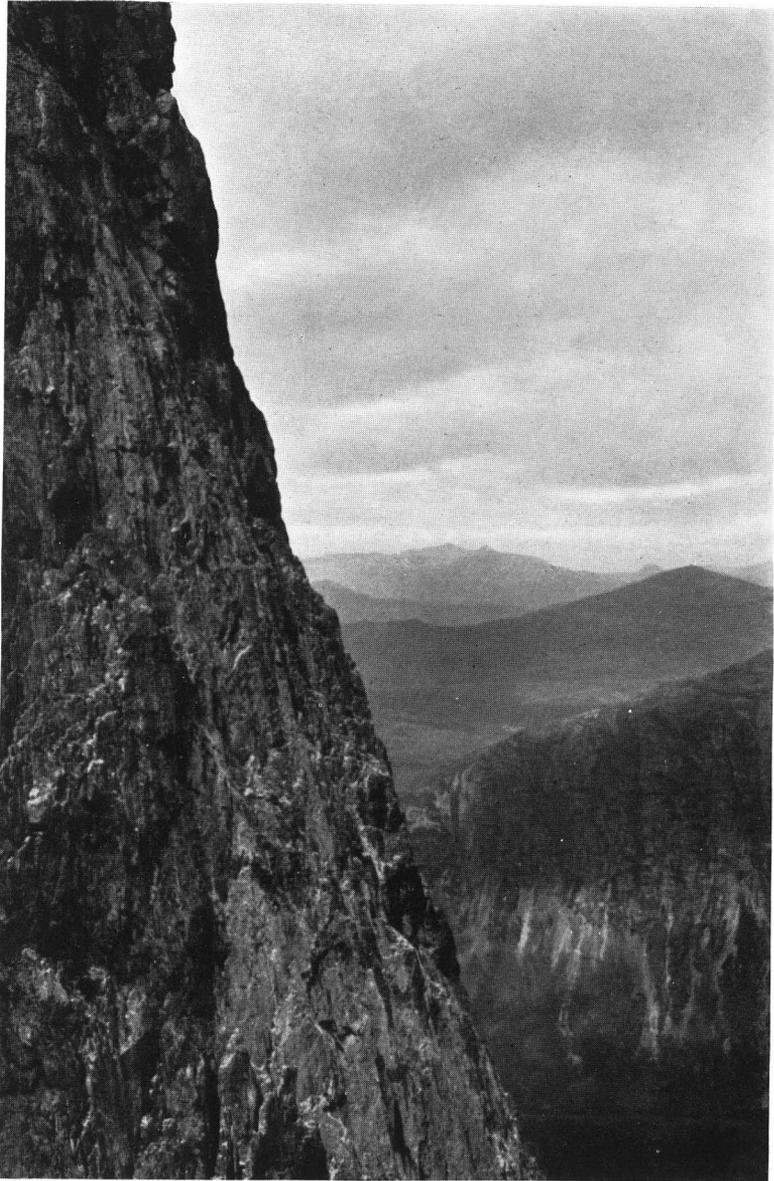
house, as we did not want to keep Bartholomew's party waiting too long, but we found that the camping party as usual had not really saved time and was just beginning breakfast. It did not matter much, as the mist was still clinging to the towers and gullies of the Buachaille, and the morning gave every promise of a perfect day to follow.

The attack on the Buachaille was carried out in three parties, one by the Curved Ridge, one by the Crowberry ordinary route, and one by the Abraham Traverse. Bartholomew and Harrison, who had decided on the Abraham Traverse, started at the very foot of the ridge. The ridge can be commenced from a point on the east side, about 100 feet higher up, but it is quite worth while doing the bottom part as well, as it gives some quite amusing climbing. The climb, as far as the Abraham Traverse, is straight forward, steep, but with excellent holds.

It was decided that the Abraham Ledge was a suitable spot for sustenance in the form of peppermints to fortify the nerves. Harrison, who was leading, started the reconnaissance of the tit-bit of the climb.

There is no very satisfactory hitch for the leader, but the rope can be run over a knob about 6 feet above the ledge and this hitch might hold the leader if he slipped. We had no idea how the pitch was to be done, and so a direct traverse was made to the left. The ledge which, to begin with, was 2 or 3 inches wide, gradually narrows until, after 5 or 6 feet, it disappears in the face of the cliff, which at this point is practically perpendicular. A foothold still further to the left was prospected and condemned as impossible. Some footholds a foot or two below the small ledge were also prospected and also condemned, and the decision come to was that probably the proper way to take the pitch was to go straight up after traversing about 4 feet. Bartholomew then went out along the ledge and confirmed this view, and in a few minutes was up the pitch.

The solution of the problem is the resolute use of a hold for the left foot, a certain amount of assistance being given by the palms of the hands gripping the angle of the



1922

Alex. Harrison

THE CROWBERRY RIDGE FROM THE CURVED RIDGE

rock where the pitch eases off somewhat. Twenty or thirty feet of somewhat holdless slabs follow and then the ordinary route is regained. The day was perfect and the view from the top wonderful.

After resting our weary bones on the cairn, a leisurely descent was made and it was decided unanimously that tea should be preceded by a bathe. There is a perfect pool just below the Coupal Bridge, having shingle at one side and a rock wall on the other, a gentle current, and really warm water. The flies unfortunately were not in the ointment, they were on us. Fierce and ravenous clegs settled on any part of one's anatomy that was exposed to the air. We got even with quite a lot of them by slowly sinking in the water until only our heads were above, then quickly submerging, drowning any foolish insects which had remained to get a final mouthful of blood.

Tea followed the bathe, the only deficiency being the tea itself. Some one—name unknown—knocked the kettle over just as it was coming through the boil, and it was too late to boil any more, so we contented ourselves with tinned pears—a horrid sight to behold respectable members of society using knives, spoons, heather stalks, any old thing, to spike the luscious lumps in the tin.

Our only stop on the return journey was at Mrs Cameron's hospitable roof at Inveroran, where we really had tea.

We reached Edinburgh just as darkness was falling after a most perfect week-end—perfect in weather, company, and climbing.

In Memoriam.

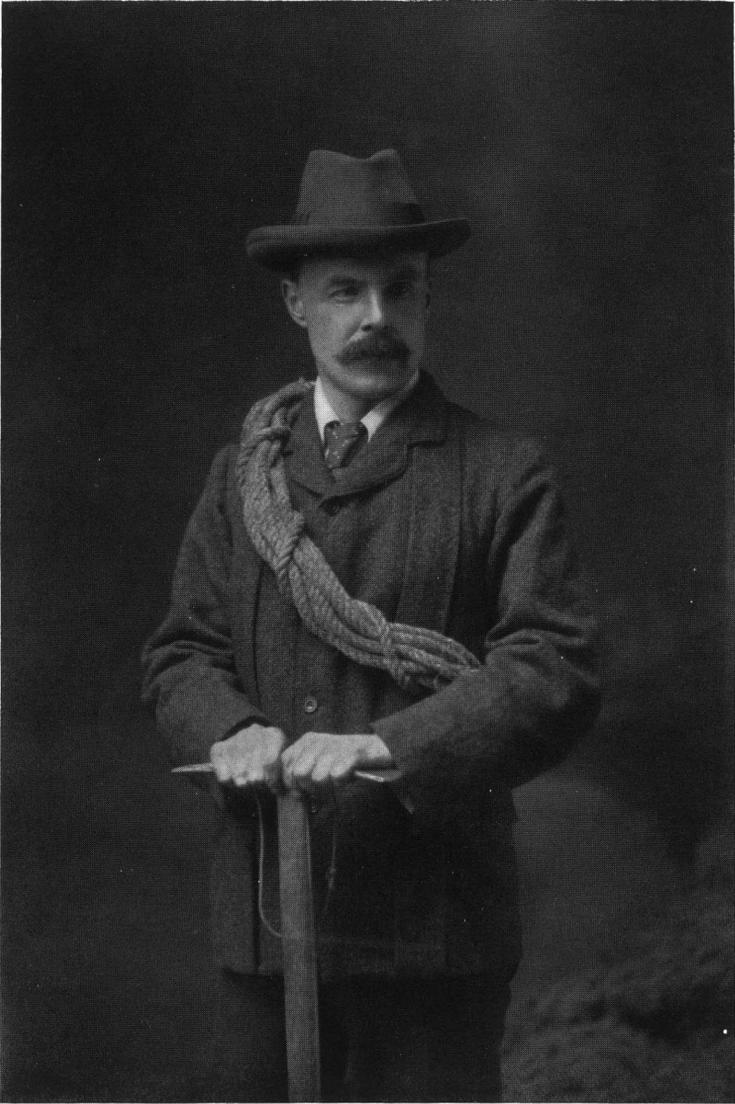
HAROLD RAEBURN.

BY W. N. LING.

BY the death of Harold Raeburn on 21st December 1926 this Club and the mountaineering world in general have lost an outstanding personality. Few have had a wider knowledge, or a more intense love of Nature in all its aspects—birds and beasts, flowers and rocks, the natural features of the countryside—all attracted his keen observation, and to a nature such as his the call of the mountains was irresistible. His own native hills were the first to receive his attention, and he quickly showed that he possessed in a marked degree the qualifications of a mountaineer. Light, wiry, and active, with supple limbs and a beautiful balance, he added to his physical gifts an indomitable will, a sound judgment as to routes and possibilities, and a fearless self-reliance.

It was an education to be out with him on an expedition, to see him pick out a route and demonstrate that it could be followed, and it was an education extended to many, for he was as willing to help the aspiring novice as the more advanced climber. This advice and help were given without any display of superiority, and to the young climber he was particularly tender, so that it was small wonder that he was universally admired and loved.

The first Meet he attended was at New Year, 1896, and he joined the Club in December of that year, and at once began to show great activity in exploring new climbs and routes, of which notes appear in the *Journal*, always written in a most lucid manner and leavened with humour. In the index to the first ten volumes of the *Journal* his name as author appears forty-nine times, and many first ascent and new routes are recorded—Corrie



HAROLD RAEBURN

(About 1905)

Arder, Ben Nevis North-East Buttress, Castle, Observatory Ridge, North Trident Buttress, Cobbler, Allival and Askival, Salisbury Crags, Glencoe, Skye, Arran, Tarmachans, Sgoran Dubh, Garbh Bheinn of Ardgour North-East Ridge, Aonach Beag, and many others. He was a most regular attender of the Meets, and at any other time was always ready to go for an expedition, so that his knowledge of Scotland was very extensive. He also visited the Lake District and did most of the severe climbs there.

With the increase in his experience and skill he now began to look further afield, and in 1900 he went to the Dolomites and made some good ascents there. The following year he was at Zermatt and Chamonix, and climbed, amongst others, Weisshorn, Matterhorn, Monte Rosa, and Dent du Géant. The next two seasons were spent in Norway, and from 1902 all his ascents were made without guides. The chief ascents of these two years were the first ascent of the Saetretinder, the complete traverse of the five Skagastolstinder, and the ascent of Slogen by the face overlooking the Norangsfjord, which has not yet been repeated. An interesting account of this appears in the *Yorkshire Ramblers' Journal*, Vol. II., No. 6, p. 134.

In 1904 he was in Dauphiné and climbed the S. Aiguille d'Arves and the Meije, and then in Tarentaise the Pointe de la Glière and the traverse of the Grande Casse, first ascent by the north face, and from Courmayeur the Aig. Noire de Péteret, involving two nights out in the open. The following year he was again in Dauphiné, where he made a fine ascent of the Ecrins, and from Chamonix the ascents of the Petit Dru and the Charmoz.

1906 was a fruitful year and gave a rich harvest. A new summit, La Mouche, in the Aiguilles Rouges du Dolent, the first traverse of the Aiguille d'Argentière over the south peak—La Flèche Rousse—the Finsteraarhorn traverse over the S.E. ridge, and down to the Schwarzegg hut by the Agassizjoch, a long day, Schreckhorn first traverse by the N.W. ridge (Andersongrat)

and the S.W. ridge, first descent of the latter, first British guideless ascent of the Matterhorn by the Z'mutt Ridge with descent by the Italian Ridge.

In 1907 an attempt to traverse the Meije by the Western Ridge from the Brèche was frustrated by bad weather, but the traverse of the whole ridge of the Mont Pourri, several mountains at the head of the Val de Rhêmes in one day, the Grand Paradis by the South Face, with a thunderstorm on the summit when both climbers were slightly struck by lightning, the first guideless traverse of the Bec de l'Invergnan, and later Mont Blanc by the Rochers, with descent to Chamonix in a heavy storm, were successfully carried through.

In 1908 the chief expeditions were :—

Traverse of the Rothhorn, of the Dent Blanche by the Viereselgrat, first time by a British guideless party, under very difficult conditions, entailing a night out on the mountain; complete traverse of the Aiguille du Chardonnet, and the traverse of the Grand and Petit Drus—another night out owing to a snowstorm.

The next year an attempt on the Aiguille Verte by the Moine Ridge was nullified by the enforced rescue of a solitary climber, but the Grépon was traversed and also Monte Rosa by the East Face from Macugnaga to Zermatt, another first British guideless expedition, the Rimpfischhorn, and the traverse of the Wellenkuppe and Gabelhorn.

In 1910 the principal ascents were those of the Disgrazia by the North Face, a very difficult ice climb, done for the first time and not repeated since, and the ascents of the Monte Scerscen and Bernina under difficult conditions.

For the next two years, owing to an accident, his energies were restrained, but in 1913 he led a mountaineering and exploring party to the Caucasus, where his knowledge and tact, coupled with his powers of organisation, made him an ideal leader. The travelling covered about 300 miles and seven mountains were climbed and many passes crossed. Five of the mountains were climbed for the first time and were very difficult. Tur Choch, Ullar Choch, Tschantschachi Choch (which took forty-five

hours), Mamison Choch, and Nuamquam. Elbrus (18,400 feet) was also ascended, and a most determined assault on Ushba, the double-headed Matterhorn of the Caucasus, which extended over five days, was only defeated by the condition of the mountain.

The next year, 1914, saw him back again in the Caucasus, and two new passes were crossed and four new mountains ascended—Bubis Choch, Karagom Choch, Vologata Choch, and Laboda. The last-named was climbed on 1st August, and on descending to the valley it was found that the world was at war. Many adventures were met with on the journey home across the Black Sea to Constantinople, and England was reached on 2nd September. He had always been theoretically interested in aviation and tried hard to join the R.F.C., but his age was against him and he found an outlet for his patriotism in an aeroplane factory, where he worked fifteen or sixteen hours a day. With the exception of an occasional two or three days in the English Lakes or the Highlands, the mountains had to be left alone till the war was over.

In 1919 what was perhaps the most daring of all his expeditions was carried out—the solitary traverse of the ridges of the Meije, which had always strongly attracted him. But more ambitious projects still were maturing. In 1920 he set out to visit the Himalaya. He wished to visit Kangchenjunga and, if possible, get an idea of the approach to Everest. The Guecha La (Pass) was crossed and the Talung Glacier descended, but conditions were bad, and a return was made to Darjeeling.

A later expedition crossed into Nepal by the Chumbab La, crossed the Semo La, passes between 15,000 and 16,000 feet, and ascended the Tallung Glacier. The highest camp was pitched at 20,000 feet, below the highest point of Kangchenjunga (28,150 feet), and about 1,000 feet higher was reached, but the face of the mountain was impossible, owing to continuous avalanches. The return was made to Darjeeling by a new pass, the Rathong La, between 18,000 and 19,000 feet.

The attempt on Mount Everest was projected for 1921, and by reason of his experience and skill, the choice

of the leader of the mountaineering part of the expedition fell naturally on Raeburn.

Before he set out he was exceptionally hard worked, organising supplies and equipment when he was suffering from influenza, and in India also he was rather overdone, so that when the expedition reached Tibet, and dysentery broke out amongst them, it took great hold of him, and he had to be carried back under difficult conditions over a high pass to Lachen, in Sikkim, in a very weak state. Another of our members, A. M. Kellas, died at this time, and has his last resting-place in full sight of the mountains he had conquered.

For two months Raeburn was in hospital, but as soon as he was up again, unconquerable, he set off across country, and after an arduous journey which involved wading icy streams and much hardship, he rejoined the expedition. He went with the party up to 22,000 feet, but it was by sheer will power. He had shot his bolt, and although he was able to do the return journey to Darjeeling and home, the effort was a great strain, and after he got home, a complete breakdown supervened, and for four long years he was gradually getting weaker, till the end came. The spirit had always been stronger than the flesh, and large drafts had been made on his reserve. His breakdown was a great disappointment to him at the moment of the fulfilment of the supreme ambition of his life, the assault on Mount Everest.

He was elected to the Alpine Club in 1904, and was a welcome contributor to the *Alpine Journal*. He was also an honorary member of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club and a member of many foreign clubs. In our own Club he served twice on the Committee and was Vice-President 1909-11, and it was the wish of the Club to elect him President, but his modesty forbade his accepting the honour. In 1920 he published an extremely valuable book, entitled "Mountaineering Art," which is one of the standard books on mountaineering and serves as a model for all such works.

It is impossible to overestimate what this Club owes to him. His energy in opening up new country and explor-

ing new climbs, his kindly encouragement and help to young climbers and those not so well qualified as himself, his unselfishness and thoughtfulness for others will never be forgotten, while in the circle of those of his friends more immediately connected with him his death leaves a void which is only filled by the fragrant memory of his friendship. He rests from his labours, but his spirit and example remain with us.

HERBERT PORRIT CAIN.

JUST on the point of going to press we very much regret that we have received news of the sudden death of Herbert Porrit Cain, one of our members and the present President of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club of the English Lake District. He died while walking down Langdale on Saturday, 19th March, and was buried at Ramsbottom on the 23rd.

Cain was one of the most popular presidents the Fell and Rock have had. Always unsparing in his efforts to benefit the Club, his splendid work in connection with the consummation of their glorious war memorial project of the gift of the Fell tops to the nation can never be forgotten.

Though he was unable latterly to take any very active part in the more strenuous exploits of the English Club, his presence at the Meets was always a criterion of success.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to Mrs Cain and her daughter in their bereavement, as also to all his numerous friends who will mourn the loss of one of the best of companions. He joined the S.M.C. in 1920 and was present at several of our Annual General Meetings and Dinners, and also at one of our Summer Skye Meets.

G. S.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING.

AT the close of the last year of Mr J. A. PARKER'S presidency there was held in the North British Station Hotel, Edinburgh, the Thirty-Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Club, at which there was a fairly good representation of members from different parts of the country, both Aberdeen and London being represented, as well as the West—the last in considerable force.

The meeting, which started at 6 o'clock, was opened by the customary reading of the minutes of the last General Meeting by the Hon. Secretary. After the approval was signified by those present, the President called for the Hon. Treasurer's Report.

Mr HARRY MACROBERT referred the members to the annual statement of the Club's financial transactions issued with the notice calling the meeting, and pointed out that for the first time in his experience as Treasurer he had to report that he had been able to close the accounts with no subscriptions in arrear. He explained, however, that owing to the large expense incurred in making the *Journal* a really attractive publication, the balance at the Club's credit had suffered materially, and it would be necessary to ask the Hon. Editor to exercise strict economy in the future issues, if the Club accounts were to show no loss on the year's workings; he said that in his opinion the general business of the Club had been conducted on the usual economical lines and that the Commutation Fund now showed a contribution per member of £5. 7s. In referring to the present position of the Club Button Fund, he pointed out that 200 buttons had been stocked, and it was necessary to sell the greater portion of these at the fixed price of 1s. 9d. each before

the initial cost was cleared off. So far, only some 55 buttons had been applied for and sold. The whole remaining stock was held by the Hon. Secretary, who would be very pleased to supply members not already in possession of the Club emblem. [As the result of these remarks, the Secretary appeared to be doing a roaring trade at the close of the meeting.] His report delivered, the Hon. Treasurer was warmly thanked by the meeting for his work, and for his able explanation of the financial position.

The President next called upon the HON. SECRETARY for his report on the year's doings of the Club. The Secretary stated that the membership still continued to increase. The Club had lost through death, 1 honorary member and 1 ordinary member; and through resignation, 1 member; and they had added, as a result of the November Ballot, 5 new members, bringing the total up to 228. He went fully into the present position of the somewhat delicate transaction of acquiring ground for the proposed Ben Nevis Hut, and, at the end of his report, a discussion on this subject was engaged in by several members, the result of which showed that little progress could be hoped for until the pending application for disentail proceedings had passed the Court and freed the hands of the new owners of the ground to deal with the Club on the matter of acquisition of a site. [These proceedings are now concluded.]

The next business before the meeting was the report of the Hon. Editor. Mr G. B. GREEN explained to the meeting that he had to apologise for the delay in issue of the November number. This was due principally to the difficulty experienced in compiling an index to Volume XVII., which could not be completed until the number was in its final proof. He expressed himself as still far from satisfied with the number of articles sent in by members, bemoaning the fact that to a certain extent he was forced to rely upon the same contributors both for material and illustrations. He urged all members to do what they could to widen the scope of the *Journal* and to contribute articles of interest to the mountaineer,

declaring that he would be delighted to consider the suitability of any contribution submitted for his approval. He also raised his voice in the interests of orthography, requesting that contributors to the *Journal* might, in pity, consider the sufferings of an editor faced with the task of collating Gaelic names. He very fairly suggested that all writers might conform to the spelling used by the Ordnance Survey, and exercise especial care when, in an article, a hill had been named in a certain way; they should, at least, make an effort to be consistent throughout; this, he urged, would greatly facilitate his work of correcting proofs. It applied, equally, to home articles and to reports of S.M.C. Abroad. He explained that the question arose of printing more than the usual number of 500 copies, No. 101 having been practically sold out, and stated it as his opinion that there should always be a small surplus of *Journals* for future buyers. The cost of printing 50 more of No. 102 would be £1. 9s. 6d., and of 100 more, £2. 13s. 6d. It was explained to the meeting that an arrangement had been come to between the S.M.C. and the J.M.C.S., that members of the J.M.C.S. should be provided with copies of the *Journal* at a considerably reduced price compared with that charged to the general public, and the meeting willingly accepted this concession to the Junior Club, expressing its hope that the Editor would find himself able in future to supply the required numbers to that Society at the same figure, and yet leave a sufficiency of profit on the sales to allow of the continued concession being made without financial strain. The Editor pointed out that the Committee had at their meeting approved of the printing of an additional 100 copies of the *Journal* to supply the number required by the J.M.C.S., the J.M.C.S. on their part having agreed to take at least 80 of each issue at the reduced price. The Editor stated that the cost of No. 101 was £49. 18s. 11d., and that the twelve extra pages of Index included with No. 102 would, in all probability, make the cost of that number £10 more, without taking into consideration the additional cost of the illustration blocks. He stated that the thanks

of the Club were due to certain members who, following a suggestion made some years ago, had paid for the blocks illustrating their own articles, thus materially relieving the Club of the resultant cost. It was pointed out to the Editor, by Mr Harry MacRobert, that a considerable saving might, perhaps, be effected, were the illustrations to appear on both sides of the paper, as was done in the case of the "Guide to the Island of Skye," a suggestion which he accepted with pleasure. At the close of his report a very cordial vote of thanks was passed to the Editor by the meeting, and he was complimented upon the excellence of the issues which had appeared under his charge. Before closing the discussion upon the *Journal*, he drew the attention of the meeting to a suggestion made by the Hon. Secretary, that the envelopes used for the issue of the *Journal* should be of the class employed in the case of the last number sent out, and known as "Tuckslit Bags," which prevent the *Journal* from falling out in post, and do away with the necessity of tying string round the outside of the envelope, a procedure apt to destroy its contents; and further, that it was the Secretary's hope that the meeting would see its way to allow of the small extra expense being incurred of including, in each envelope, a piece of strawboard of sufficient size to protect the *Journal* from crumpling. The meeting gave its cordial approval to these suggestions, which will be carried out in the succeeding issues.

Mr MURRAY LAWSON, the Hon. Librarian, made a report upon the present condition of the Club Library, stating that with the aid of the Librarian of the Signet Library in Edinburgh, he had succeeded in compiling a complete new catalogue of all the volumes at present housed at 12 South Castle Street, in which work he had been ably assisted by Mr Arthur R. Anderson, of Glasgow. He gave details of the presentation, by Mr Anderson, of several volumes which had been added to the Library, and also a volume presented by the Hon. Secretary, and books purchased during the year. He stated that the sale of back numbers of the *Journal* had been slightly

more brisk, and that now it was becoming increasingly difficult to supply the demands for the earlier issues owing to the stock of certain numbers having been cleared out. He was warmly thanked by the meeting for his work, and complimented upon the present apple-pie order of the Library under his charge.

The PRESIDENT intimated to the meeting that as no other nominations had been received, the Committee's recommendation of Mr Goggs as President to take his own place, when he retired by rotation on the 4th of December, and of Messrs A. G. Hutchison, D. P. Levack, R. C. Paterson, D. F. Pilkington, and J. A. Scott to take the places on Committee of R. Arnold Brown, W. Galbraith, R. S. Low, James M'Coss, and E. C. Thomson, who retire by rotation, and the appointment of Mr L. St C. Bartholomew in place of Mr A. J. Rusk, whose resignation had been forced on him by his absence abroad, must all be homologated by the meeting, and he duly declared them elected to the posts; the other Office-Bearers, Members of Committee, and Trustees of the Club Funds he also declared re-elected conform to Rule No. 26.

Thereafter he made an interesting statement on the present position of the Mountain Indicator on Ben Nevis, explaining to the meeting that the work had been all in train to be carried out during the past summer, and that the Indicator would have been erected and all finished off had it not been for the unfortunate intervention of the Coal Strike, which had prevented Messrs Doulton from carrying out the correct firing of the table bearing the Indicator markings. He stated that he hoped, however, to be able to get delivery of this from Messrs Doulton in good time to have the whole erection carried through in July 1927. On the motion of Mr GARDEN, a very hearty unanimous vote of thanks was passed to the President for all his work in connection with this effort.

The meeting next considered the Committee's recommendations for the Club Meets to be held in 1928. They were reminded that the New Year Meet of 1927 was to be held at Arrochar and the Easter one at Ballachulish.

Messrs LAWSON and ARTHUR moved that the Easter Meet of 1928 be held at Kinlochewe, Loch Maree, and Strathcarron. Mr E. C. THOMSON and Mr ALEXANDER HARRISON moved an amendment that these places be chosen, with the addition of Dundonnell. There being no counter motion, votes being taken by a show of hands, the amendment was carried. Messrs SANG and CLAPPERTON moved that the New Year Meet be held at Loch Awe. There being no counter motion, the meeting agreed to adopt the Committee's recommendation.

Mr ARTHUR R. ANDERSON brought forward a suggestion to the Club that they should adopt a Club Flag. He submitted designs, and suggested that the Flag might be used on the headquarters hotel occupied by the Club at their Meets, and for decoration behind the President's chair at Club Dinners; and also, that it might be flown at the Club Hut. A certain amount of discussion followed upon this proposal, and on the motion of Mr GARDEN, seconded by the Rev. A. E. ROBERTSON, the meeting decided that Mr Anderson's suggestion be left in abeyance in the meantime.

An interesting statement was made by the PRESIDENT upon the present position of the Cairngorm Section of the "Guide Book." He pointed out that the Cairngorm Section was an exceptionally large one, including, as it did, one-fifth of the Munros of Scotland; that the book had been all rewritten, and only required the introduction and one or two outlying districts for its completion, and that he expected it would be ready for the press early next spring.

Mr ALEXANDER HARRISON stated to the meeting that, as he and the Secretary comprised the original Club Tie Committee, they had given a patient hearing to the complaints of a few members who assert that a woven silk tie would be much more suited to mountaineering purposes than the present knitted silk design. He had therefore obtained from the makers designs of woven silk embodying the same colours as had been selected for the present tie, and these designs he now submitted to the meeting on a card, which was passed round the members. Some of the

members present having protested that the present knitted tie was all that could be desired, except, perhaps, in the point of unequal ends, and Mr MURRAY LAWSON having expressed himself, according to the President's interpretation, as entirely in favour of the present design, the meeting unanimously decided to let the tie remain as it was, it still being considered a very pretty confection and quite suitable to its purpose.

After a hearty vote of thanks to the President, the meeting adjourned to arrange the placing of guests for the Dinner, which was held in the same hotel at 7.45.

DINNER.

The General Meeting ended in such good time that members were enabled to enjoy some conversation before sitting down to the dinner, which was served in the North British Station Hotel, and which was enjoyed by a large attendance of members and guests. The toast list was as follows :—

<i>The Toast.</i>	<i>Proposer.</i>
" The King " - - - - -	The President.
" The S.M.C." - - - - -	The President.
" Our Guests " - - - - -	Rev. T. Ratcliffe Barnett.
" Reply " - - - - -	Robert Burns.
" Kindred Clubs " - - - - -	J. S. M. Jack.
" Replies " - - - - -	Raymond Bicknell and H. E. Scott.
" The J.M.C.S." - - - - -	George Sang.
" Reply " - - - - -	J. G. Osborne.
" The President " - - - - -	Dr W. Inglis Clark.
" Reply " - - - - -	J. A. Parker.

The speeches generally were excellent and entertaining, but might a suggestion be ventured to future Dinner Committees that many members, especially those who come from across the Border, would prefer to have fewer speeches to listen to, and more time to talk to friends whom they have not many chances of seeing ?

The guests of the Club were: Mr Robert Burns; Mr Raymond Bicknell, representing the Alpine Club; Mr F. Leach, representing the Yorkshire Ramblers; Mr H. E. Scott, representing the Rucksack Club; Dr T. R. Burnett, representing the Fell and Rock Club; and Messrs J. G. Osborne and C. M. Robertson, representing the Junior Mountaineering Club of Scotland.

RECEPTION.

On the afternoon of Friday, 3rd December, a Reception was held in the North British Station Hotel. There was a large attendance of members and guests. After tea had been partaken of, Mr W. N. Ling gave an account of his climbing expedition to the Caucasus in 1913, under the leadership of Mr Harold Raeburn, and aroused the interest and admiration of the company by his description of the party's experiences and climbs, especially of their several first ascents, and delighted them with the many beautiful slides which he showed in illustration of the country and its mountains.

NEW YEAR MEET, 1927—ARROCHAR.

THE New Year Meet, 1927, was held at Arrochar. There had been a spell of exceptionally mild weather just after Christmas, which caused a previous fall of snow to disappear almost entirely.

The following members and guests were present during the Meet at Ross's and the Arrochar Hotel:—

PRESENT:—*Members*—F. S. Goggs, R. Arnold Brown, Ronald Burn, J. W. Burns, J. F. A. Burt, T. Fraser S. Campbell, J. Rooke Corbett, James Craig, Percy Donald, R. R. Elton, W. Galbraith, K. K. Hunter, A. G. Hutchison, T. Hutson, J. Gall Inglis, J. S. M. Jack, G. Murray Lawson, W. N. Ling, H. MacRobert, R. W. Martin, R. C. Paterson, J. R. Philip, D. F. Pilkington,

J. Rennie, A. W. Russell, A. C. Russell, R. N. Rutherford, G. Sang, E. C. Thomson, Gilbert Thomson, J. C. Thomson.

Guests.—J. G. Burns, R. H. G. Inglis, J. E. Lyle, J. C. M'Iver, A. D. M'Nab, Capt. J. C. Martin, Lieut.-Commander G. V. A. Phelips, W. H. Valentine.

Thirty-nine in all.

30th December.

Pilkington, who had arrived the previous day, ascended Tullich, Ben Bhreac, and Ben Reoch.

Burn and Burt climbed Crois in a gale. Burt had the misfortune to fall on the pick of his ice axe and returned to Glasgow that night.

There were seven arrivals during the day.

31st December.

Ling and Sang climbed Ben an Lochan.

Pilkington, Lawson, and Burn did some climbs on Narnain.

Goggs, Corbett, Galbraith, and Phelips went over Narnain and two peaks of the Cobbler.

Conditions stormy, with a good deal of rain and mist at about 1,800 feet.

The numbers were increased by the arrival of twenty-one members and guests to-day.

1st January.

Two parties climbed Ben Buidhe—Ling, Sang, MacRobert, M'Nab and Jack, E. C. Thomson, Elton, Philip, Valentine. They motored about 3 miles up Glen Fyne from the head of the Loch.

Ten altogether climbed Ben Vorlich from midway along Loch Sloy. Lawson led, and the others were Goggs, Corbett, two Russells, two Burns, Pilkington, Galbraith, and Phelips. They got the full benefit of the gale during their ascent, it being directly behind them.

Craig, Lyle, and Paterson went up Ben an Lochan from a point about 1 mile from the "Rest" along the Lochgoilhead road. They returned by Glen Croe.



April 1926

BEINN BUIDHE, NORTH TOP AND RIVER FYNE

P. Donald



April 1926

P. Donald

THE COBBLER AND GLEN CROE FROM THE SLOPES OF BEINN AN LOCHAIN

Hutchison, Rutherford, and Martin were also up Ben an Lochan, having first come over the Cobbler to the "Rest," accompanied by Hunter, who returned direct down Glen Croe.

J. G. and R. H. G. Inglis and Gilbert Thomson were on Narnain, and just failed to reach the top owing to the severity of the wind.

Brown, Burn, and Donald went over the three tops of the Cobbler. They reported that on "Jean" it was too windy to stand up, and they returned down the long route.

J. C. Thomson climbed Cruach Tarbet.

There was a wind of gale force all day, with mist about 2,000 feet and intermittent rain after 1 o'clock. A. W. Russell left by the evening train.

This evening the President and other members and guests from Ross's Hotel forgathered with those in the Arrochar Hotel after dinner.

The President made sympathetic reference to the loss the Club had sustained by the death of Harold Raeburn. He reminded all those present of the interest taken by Raeburn in the Club and its members, and of the generous way in which he had used his knowledge for the benefit of others.

The evening was occupied with a sing-song under the competent direction of the Club's indefatigable impresario. While Gilbert and Sullivan bulked largely in the entertainment, very pleasing variety was provided by an ex-President, the "Precentor," and others, and Burn lent further variety by persevering instruction in the singing of a Gaelic chorus. The palm for the best rendering of the first words of each line must be awarded to our versatile Treasurer. A special word of praise is due to the pianist, and his own composition, inspired by a climb on the Cobbler, was much enjoyed.

2nd January.

Pilkington, Corbett, C. Russell, and Valentine traversed "Jean" and the centre top of the Cobbler.

Lawson, Philip, and J. G. Burns did some climbs on the South Peak.

Burn and Hunter climbed Ben Donich by the North-East Ridge.

Ling, Sang, MacRobert, M'Nab, Jack, Galbraith, Phelps, Donald, and Brown went up Ben Ime.

E. C. Thomson and Elton climbed the Brack.

Hutchison, Rutherford, and Martin did Narnain and Crois. Martin returned, but Hutchison and Rutherford being anxious to complete 5,000 feet of climbing for the day, went on over Cruach Tarbet. They had hoped that this last would be an original climb, only to find themselves forestalled by J. C. Thomson (*see* previous note).

Craig, Lyle, and Paterson walked to Loch Sloy, going and returning by Glen Loin. The wonderful russet brown of the bracken round the Succoth Burn has been very noticeable.

Burns walked about 5 miles down Loch Long and was on some of the lower slopes.

J. C. Thomson visited friends in the neighbourhood.

The President, Gilbert Thomson, J. G. and R. H. G. Inglis represented the Club at Church.

Captain J. C. Martin arrived this afternoon.

The weather conditions remained stormy, and are best described by a remark of MacRobert's, that "The view was the same as yesterday."

A return visit was paid to Ross's Hotel by a number of members and guests, and a pleasant time was spent recounting adventures old and new. The President intimated that he, along with Gilbert Thomson and the two Inglis, had paid a visit to Fraser Campbell that afternoon at his house at Helensburgh, where they were entertained to tea. Rennie was also present, so this little gathering included three original members of the Club.

3rd January.

There had been a change during the night to colder conditions, and the Cobbler was occasionally visible with a light covering of snow.

Hutson and M'Iver arrived.

E. C. Thomson, Elton, and Philip traversed "Jean."

Pilkington and the two Martins went up the Cobbler

and returned by the Ben Ime col, Corriegroggan, and Glen Loin.

J. G. and R. H. G. Inglis, Gilbert Thomson, and J. C. Thomson climbed Ben an Lochan, and Brown, Burn, and Valentine did the same.

Goggs, Corbett, and Donald traversed the Brack and Ben Donich.

Craig, Lyle, and Paterson climbed Narnain and went over the Succoth Ridge and Crois.

Snow bunting and white hares were seen on Narnain and Ben an Lochan during the Meet.

Hutson and M'Iver climbed "Jean" by the short route and also the Cobbler.

Hutchison and Rutherford took the morning train to Tyndrum and went up Ben Dubhchraig and along the ridge to Ben Oss.

Fraser Campbell and Rennie motored from Helensburgh, and were at Ross's Hotel for lunch, thus registering an attendance at the "Meat." (Oh! Ed.)

The wind was again strong and there were frequent squalls of snow and hail, but there were many bright intervals with rewarding views of the surrounding hills and down the Firth of Clyde. It was pleasant to be able to see about one again after the previous days of climbing in the mist, and the spirit of hilarity produced may be judged by the remark of a sedate member of the party who were on Narnain. When at a particularly steep part he was asked if ptarmigan might be seen on these hills, he replied that at that moment he would much prefer to see tarmacadam.

4th January.

Everybody had left yesterday and this morning, except Pilkington, Corbett, Hutson, and M'Iver, who went up Ben Ime and Narnain. There had been a considerable fall of snow during the night to about 500 feet and the strong wind made the going rather severe. They were, however, rewarded by a magnificent view from the tops extending from Cruachan to Stùc a' Chròin and down the Firth of Clyde to the Arran Peaks.

5th January.

Pilkington left. There was more snow during the night.

Hutson, M'Iver, and Corbett attempted Ben Vorlich and got to about the 3,000 feet line, but did not reach the cairn.

So ended the Meet, which was, as usual, a great success despite the stormy conditions. He! He!

A word of thanks is due to the proprietors of Ross's and the Arrochar Hotels for the arrangements made during our stay, which added materially to the individual comfort of all the members and guests who were present.

Mr A. J. Rusk sends the following note from Nigeria :—

“ Two members of the Club in Nigeria, C. E. Andreae and A. J. Rusk, forgathered in the latter's survey camp near Ilaro on 11th December 1926. Mr B. H. Hughes was present as guest. Dinner was served in the ' Palm Court,' and the toasts of the ' S.M.C. ' and the ' J.M.C.S. ' were given and received with great enthusiasm. The toast of ' The Guests ' was omitted by his express request.

“ By a happy chance, the mail bringing the *Journal* arrived the same day, and with this and photograph albums a most enjoyable and reminiscent evening was passed.”

CLUB-ROOM MEETINGS.

The following meetings have been held in the Club-Room during the winter :—

1926. 21st *October*—“ Tomdoun, Cluanie, and Elsewhere in Scotland, 1926,” by the President.

25th *November*—“ Some Holiday Hikes on the Callander and Oban and West Highland Lines,” by the Custodian.

16th *December*—“ Blackmount, Glencoe, Loch Quoich, Loch Hourn, and Glen Elg,” by the Rev. A. E. Robertson.

1927. 25th January—"Some Dolomite Climbs," by
A. Harrison.
23rd February—"Placing" untitled Scottish
Slides.

There must be many photographers among the members who have never shown slides at these meetings. It is to be emphasised that these meetings are of quite an informal nature and that a prepared lecture is not required. Fifty slides are sufficient for an evening, and there is no reason why two members should not show half that number of slides each. Members with likely material at their disposal are invited to communicate with the Custodian, who will be pleased to advise regarding selection of negatives and, provided sufficient notice is given, possibly to assist in the making of slides.

LIBRARY.

Since the last *Journal* was issued the following books have been presented by Dennis F. Pilkington:—

- "Switzerland; or, A Journal of a Tour and Residence
in that Country." L. Simond. Two vols.
"Voyages en Zigzag." R. Topffer.
"In den Hochalpen." Paul Gussfeldt.

The Club takes this opportunity of thanking him for his gift.

There has also been presented to the Club by the publishers, "On High Hills," by G. Winthrop Young.

Professor W. G. Watson's "The Celtic Place-Names of Scotland" has been purchased.

The following publications have been received since the last issue:—

- Swiss Monthly. October 1926 to December 1926.
Italian Alpine Club Journal. October 1926 to December
1926.
La Montagne. October 1926 to January 1927.
Les Alpes. Vol. II. October 1926 to December 1926.
Vol. III. January 1927.

Bulletin Pyrénéen. October-December 1926; January-February 1927.

Sangaku. Vol. XX., 1926, No. 2.

Alpine Journal. Vol. XXXVIII., No. 233.

Cambridge Mountaineering. 1925-26.

Scottish Gaelic Studies. Vol. I., Part I. April 1926.

New Zealand Alpine Journal. Vol. III. December 1925.
No. 14.

Canadian Alpine Journal. Vol. XV., 1925.

Rucksack Club Journal. Vol. V., No. 20.

Fell and Rock Climbing Club. Vol. VII., No. 1.

Zeitschrift des Deutschen and Österreichischen Alpenvereins,
1926.

British Ski Year Book. Vol. III., 1926, No. 7.

Mazama. December 1926.

The following Memoirs of the Geological Survey, Scotland :—

The Pre-Tertiary Geology of Mull, &c.

The Tertiary and Post-Tertiary Geology of Mull, &c.

The Mesozoic Rocks of Applecross, Raasay, &c.

Explanations of 1-inch Sheets 43, 54, 84 and 94, 86 and 96,
102, X. 103.

Maps (Geological) 1-inch Sheets 84, 86, 96—colour printed.

Bulletin of the Climbers' Club. Vol. II., No. 1.

Ski Club of Great Britain Handbook. 1926-27.

Bulletin of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Vol. XX.,
No. 4.

SLIDE COLLECTION.

The Club is indebted to Messrs L. St C. Bartholomew, A. L. Brown (J.M.C.S.), P. Donald, G. T. Glover, D. Haldane (J.M.C.S.), W. A. Morrison, H. Priestman, and the Rev. A. E. Robertson for the addition of thirty-four slides to the collection. These include views of the Cuillin, Ben Hope, Sgòrr Ruadh, Ben Cruachan, and the Salisbury Crags.

Thanks also are due to Mr J. S. M. Jack for two negatives, and to the many friends and members who have so liberally responded to the request for prints for the Club Photograph Albums.

The indexing of new Scottish slides is now completed, about 250 new titles and 150 duplicates having been added

to the catalogue during the past two years. There still remains, however, a small residue of untitled slides.

It is hoped to start work on the foreign collection this year. This involves indexing about 200 new slides, half of which have no titles. The assistance of any members with foreign experience in "placing" these slides would be greatly welcomed.

REVIEWS.

The History of the Celtic Place-Names of Scotland. By William J. Watson, M.A., LL.D. Published under the auspices of the Royal Celtic Society.

Professor Watson is to be congratulated on the publication of this monumental work. It is a masterpiece, and easily the most adequate and scholarly treatise that has yet appeared on that most difficult yet fascinating subject—the Celtic place-names of Scotland.

To be able to deal with the meaning of Celtic place-names one must be a very versatile and learned man. One must be a fluent Gaelic speaker to begin with, so as to be able to converse with the local inhabitants of a district, for the correct local pronunciation of a place-name is the first thing to ascertain before anything else can be done in investigating its meaning. He must have also a scholarly knowledge of Old Irish, Norse, Icelandic, Latin, Greek, and even Sanscrit, and be familiar also with early Scottish history and antiquities.

Professor Watson is one of the few who are thus equipped, and he has given us a book that will be the standard treatise on Highland place-names for many years to come.

It is not exactly an easy book to read, and Professor Watson's style is by no means too clear at times. Some of his renderings also are tantalisingly inconclusive, but for reference and consultation it will be indispensable to anyone who wants to know the root meaning of our Highland place-names.

It is a most valuable addition to our Library, and our Librarian is to be commended for his courage in acquiring such a learned and expensive book.

A. E. R.

Alpine Journal, Vol. XXXVIII., No. 233.

This number marks the conclusion of the joint Editorship of Mr Yeld and Captain Farrar, who have been Editors for respectively thirty and eighteen years. We must congratulate them on the uniform excellence of the *Journal*, and we look with confidence to Colonel Strutt to continue the high standard which has been set in the past, Colonel Strutt has a wide knowledge of climbing in the Alps and, in addition, took part in the Mount Everest Expedition of 1922.

The article headed "Stray Memories," by W. T. Kirkpatrick, will be of special interest to members of the S.M.C., as it deals with guideless climbing and its attendant successes and failings.

There are also two articles on the Fiescherhorn, the first by W. H. Amstutz, describing a new and difficult route on the Fiescherwand, and the second on the north-east face of the Klein Fiescherhorn, by F. S. Smythe, well known to the members of this Club.

Amongst the other articles are notes on the equipment and food

of the Mount Logan Expedition, with supplementary notes made by Captain MacCarthy.

Obituary Notices include an Appreciation of the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, whose name is a household word to all lovers of the Alps.

On High Hills, Geoffrey Winthrop Young, author of "Mountain Craft," "April and Rain," &c. 18s. net. Methuen.

All true lovers of mountaineering literature will have to find a place on their shelves for this sizeable volume with its twenty-four excellent illustrations. Every chapter is a gem in its own separate setting, and to be thoroughly enjoyed the book should be read like a Bible, one chapter a night. Although to indulge in this delight just before retiring to bed may in some instances tend to unrest, for the vivid descriptions are capable of causing perspiring palms.

We find retold here in "A Memory of the Mischabel" the enthralling tale of the ascent of the Täschhorn face previously published, if I remember rightly, in the *Cornhill Magazine*, than which there is no more sensational description of a climb in existence.

With Young one has not only the actual climber of the mountains but also the poet who has power to describe the ascents in particularly powerful language. We find such expressions as "gleening slabs," "ice-boltered," "precipitation of bartisan and gabion," and "frash of new snow on the corbels of a chimney," as well as all the accepted jargon of our craft. One wonders a bit perhaps what the layman will make of it all. He will read it all the same for the interest and excitement if for nothing else!

We find also descriptions of climbs with our own member, A. M. Mackay, undertaken many years ago, but told with admirable freshness. These include their famous ascent of the Viereselgrat when the cornice gave way.

All through the book one feels keenly that it is written from the reluctant armchair in memory of active days, and Young's own words come vividly to mind:—

"I have not lost the magic of long days :
 I live them, dream them still.
 Still am I master of the starry ways,
 And freeman of the hill.
 Shattered my glass, ere half the sands had run,
 I hold the heights, I hold the heights I won."

G. S.

FELL AND ROCK CLIMBING CLUB: CLIMBING GUIDES.

Doe Craggs and the Coniston District. By G. S. Bower. Price 2s. 3d., post free.

The Pillar Rock and Neighbouring Climbs. By H. M. Kelly.
Price 2s. 6d., post free.

Scawfell Group. By C. F. Holland. Price 2s. 6d., post free.

Great Gable and Borrowdale. By H. S. Cross and A. R. Thompson. Price 2s. 6d., post free.

The above may be obtained from the Hon. Assistant Editor, Fell and Rock Climbing Club, Graham Wilson, 171 Park Avenue, Hull, who will also receive advance orders for the final Guide of the series dealing with the Langdale and Buttermere Districts and outlying climbs.

Climbs on Great Gable and Rock Climbing in Borrowdale.
Published by the Fell and Rock Climbing Club of the English Lake District.

This publication forms another of the Series of Local Guides which are being issued by the Fell and Rock Climbing Club, and which will be found invaluable to climbers visiting these parts, whether they are doing so for the first time or are renewing their acquaintance with the district. The Guide can easily be carried in the pocket.

The descriptions are concise and lucid. The climbs are classified as easy, moderate, difficult, very difficult, severe, and very severe, and it may be noted that those marked easy and moderate are comparatively few.

In most cases a note is made of the length of rope required by the leader, and this will be found extremely useful to parties attempting a climb for the first time.

The book also contains a list of first ascents, and it is interesting to note how many of these were made by Mr W. P. Haskett-Smith.

The only adverse criticism which one is tempted to make is that the quality of the illustrations is not up to that of the letterpress.

THE JUNIOR MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF
SCOTLAND.

STRATHYRE MEET—NOVEMBER 1926.

THE Edinburgh Section held a Meet at Strathyre on the 13th and 14th of November. On Saturday evening six out of the party decided to climb a hill. Why they should have wished to do so in the dark is a mystery ; possibly they thought their morals might suffer less corruption in the pure air of the mountain side than by remaining in the hotel to watch the others wrangling over a game of bridge, the features of which were barefaced revokes and a general disregard of the rules.

The sextet set out across the railway and, full of noble purpose, ascended the hill opposite, which, I think, rejoices in the name of Beinn-an-t-Sithein. A peculiar incident occurred on the downward journey. Bartholomew, who was second from the front, addressed Campbell, who was leading, with the remark : "Look here, Campbell." There can be no doubt he intended to follow this up with some further statement, probably one of supreme interest, if not of international importance. But what it was will never be known. Campbell courteously looked as requested, but instead of the genial outline of the Hon. President, he saw nothing but inky blackness. He heard, however, the rattle of stones and the sound of a falling body. After a short silence the voice of Bartholomew once more broke the stillness of the night ; it came from some distance lower down. What he said, illuminating though it was, cannot be taken as a continuation of his opening remark ; the theme, so to speak, was different.

On Sunday, Osborne, Matheson, T. H. and R. Gibson climbed Ben Vorlich, while Ainslie, Brown, Mackay, Cox, and Campbell went up Stùc a Chròin. High wind and periodic hail showers detracted from the pleasure of

the climbing, but nevertheless a very enjoyable day was spent.

On returning to Strathyre it was discovered that the road by Loch Lubnaig was under water and impassable. Undismayed the party set out in three cars, only to find a mile or so from Strathyre a loch instead of a road. Bartholomew's vehicle, which started life proudly under the title "William the Conqueror," and falling on evil times, was degraded to "William the Conk," put up a splendid performance and proved itself to be a genuine floater. On reaching the far bank it was gratefully rechristened "William the Cork." Cox's submarine tactics with his Morris were less successful, and an Alpine rope had to be employed to get him ashore. Gibson's Rover shied nervously, and complaining of old age and rheumatism retired by the Loch Earn route. Eventually all parties returned safely after an enjoyable if somewhat moist outing.

NEW YEAR MEET, 1927.

The New Year Meet at Tyndrum is one that will be remembered by many of us, for it led to two unpleasant discoveries. One was the treacherous behaviour of the Couloir on Stob Ghabhar, which literally let several members down. The other was the amazing fact that a member of the Junior Mountaineering Club of Scotland actually takes curling-stones to bed with him. Although Rule 7 states that members may introduce guests to a Meet, we cannot help feeling that if the Rules Committee had intended the word "Guest" to include curling-stones they would have said so.

The following attended the Meet:—*Members*—Ainslie, Baxter, Blackie, Brown, Buchanan, Campbell, Dixon, Donaldson, Elder, R. Gibson, T. H. Gibson, Guthrie, Knox, Mackay, Maclay, Matheson, Murray, Mowat, M'Donald, M'Innes, Maclaren, Maclean, M'Lintock, Murdoch, Pattullo, Robertson, T. G. Robinson, H. G. Robinson, J. A. Steven, D. A. Steven, K. Steven, W. G. Scott, W. P. Scott, G. Spiers, Thomson, Taylor, and Wilson. *Guests*—Carslaw and Macphee.

Bartholomew, Harrison, J. A. Scott, and Addenbrooke of the S.M.C. also came to the Meet for the week-end, and were joined on Monday by A. G. Hutchison and R. N. Rutherford.

Thursday, 30th December.—Baxter and Macphee left the train at Ardlui and climbed Beinn Chabhair and An Caisteal.

Friday, 31st December.—Baxter, Buchanan, Matheson, and Macphee climbed Ben Lui from Beinn a' Chliebhb and finished up via Oss and Dubhchraig. The Steven brothers, Murray, Maclay, and Carslaw, displaying an energy sufficiently unusual to excite comment, went over Chaluum and Creag Mhòr. The majority of members arrived in the evening, and the sitting accommodation, especially round the fire, was severely taxed. A few unfortunates were compelled to spend the evening in the hall, admiring the various fish enshrined there in glass cases.

Saturday, 1st January.—Every one was aroused at an unearthly hour of the morning by the elephantine movements of Baxter, Brown, Knox, M'Innes, Maclaren, Pattullo, Macphee, Robertson, and Wilson. These worthies—narrowly escaping assassination—succeeded in catching the 8.7 A.M. train, and, what's more, they compelled the officials of the L. & N.E. Railway by threats, graft, or other subterfuge, to stop the train at Gortan, where they alighted. This in itself was no mean feat, for we seem to have heard that on a former occasion even the powerful vocabularies of the S.M.C. were unable to stop the train at this spot. After climbing Creachan the party split up, one group continuing along the ridge to Achallader and thence to Dothaidh, the other climbing Vannoch from Glen Cailliche.

The two Stevens, Carslaw, Murray, and Spiers, although warned for duty at the 8.7 A.M. train, lay slothfully in bed until a late hour. When finally aroused they motored to Achallader Farm and climbed Achallader and Dothaidh; Carslaw, Spiers, and Alan Steven finishing up with Doireann.

Blackie, Buchanan, Guthrie, Matheson, M'Donald,

and Mackay went further afield and climbed Clachlet by the West Ridge from Fion Ghleann.

R. Gibson and T. H. Gibson climbed Dubhchraig ; Mowat also reached the top, but was evidently under the impression that he was on the main road from Crianlarich to Tyndrum.

Campbell, Elder, Macphee, M'Lintock, and Thomson made the ascent of Ben Lui by the Central Gully.

Ainslie, Harrison, J. A. Scott, and W. P. Scott went to Stob Ghabhar, intending to examine the Couloir ; finding it occupied by two other parties, they retired politely and reached the top by the ridge.

The aforementioned parties, consisting of Addenbrooke, Bartholomew, Donaldson, Maclean, the two Robinsons, and W. G. Scott, met with an accident whilst on the Couloir. A full report of this event was subsequently issued by the Hon. Vice-President to all the members of the Club. In view of the conflicting accounts which appeared in newspapers, we think it advisable to record here the facts as stated in Harrison's report :—

“ The start was made in good time and the foot of the Couloir reached about 11.30. Weather conditions were not good—some mist and slight rain showers at intervals. The weather was cold. The snow, although not very plentiful, was in good condition.

“ The lower pitch was negotiated without difficulty, but when the second was reached, it was found to be treacherous and difficult.

“ At about 1.30 the leader of the first party had nearly reached the top of the pitch, while the second on the rope was on poor ground below the rocks, where there was no hitch. Number 3 was to the left of Numbers 1 and 2. I do not know if he had any hitch. Number 4 was below the pitch.

“ The second party had gone close up behind the first party on account of the stones and ice which were coming down the Couloir.

“ Number 2 of the first party told Number 1 that he had no hitch, but Number 1 replied that he was quite secure and was proceeding to the top of the pitch. The

next instant he came off and took the rest of his party with him. In their descent the party swept on to Numbers 2 and 3 of the second party. Number 1 of the second party had a hitch round his ice-axe which was well driven into the snow, and Number 3 also had a hitch, but was torn from it. Apparently Number 1 was able to hold his party for a very short time, but his ice-axe broke and he was carried with the rest of his party in the descent, which terminated about 60 feet below the mouth of the Couloir and just above precipitous rocks.

“Every member of the two parties received injuries, more or less severe, and had the lower snow been icy, it is probable that the whole party would have gone over the lower rocks with fatal results.

“A third party was in the vicinity at the time and heard the calls after the accident, but no definite calls for help were heard, and a siren which was used was not heard at all.”

Although hurt, W. G. Scott was able to get back to Tyndrum for assistance, and a party consisting of Harrison, J. A. Scott, Ainslie, Maclay, W. P. Scott, and one or two others, was soon under way with blankets and hot drinks. At Inveroran they found Robinson and Donaldson, who had managed to get off the hill. The rest of the night was spent on Stob Ghabhar getting in the other four, whose injuries included broken wrists and ankles, dislocated thighs, and concussion; but none, we hope, of a permanent nature.

At 6.30 A.M. calm once more reigned over the Tyndrum front. Harrison, brooding deeply over the loss of his usual twelve hours of beauty sleep, lay in bed, and with a growing sensation of alarm, read Rule 4 of the Constitution of the Club, which states clearly that members shall be entitled to obtain assistance from those qualified to render it, and in particular from the Hon. Vice-President. Clearly the only way out of this *impassé* was to issue from time to time such sailing directions to the members as would make them unlikely to require his active assistance, at any rate during the night. This no doubt inspired the masterly memorandum to which we have

already referred. Yes, sirs, there was a sting in its tail ; but think of slogging up and down Stob Ghabhar in the small hours !

Sunday, 2nd January.—A merciful Providence supervising the activities of the Directors of the L. & N.E. Railway has arranged that there shall be no 8.7 A.M. train at Tyndrum on Sundays, the J.M.C.S. therefore lay long abed. The weather conditions were bad, and only the following climbs were reported :—Ben Lui by the Central Gully—Macphee, Mowat, and K. Steven ; Dubhchraig—M'Innes, Pattullo, and Wilson ; Doireann—Buchanan, Guthrie, and M'Donald.

Monday, 3rd January.—Hutchison and Rutherford arrived from Arrochar by the early train and demanded breakfast. Unfortunately, this request was complied with, the discovery not being made until later that they had already had breakfast at Arrochar. Thus fortified they climbed Dubhchraig ; they complained of the wet weather, but had the decency not to complain of hunger. Macphee, Mowat, and K. Steven made the ascent of Clachlet from the south, and reported that they had had some good climbing up a gully which starts about 1,000 feet below the top. Elder, Thomson, and M'Lintock trained to Bridge of Orchy and from there climbed Doireann. Dixon and Robertson had a good day on Ben More.

Tuesday, 4th January.—The majority of members had by now returned to town. The weather had cleared up and Mowat and Steven enjoyed a good day's climbing on Doireann. Macphee and Matheson did Cruachan from the south-east ; on reaching the south top they called to mind that their train was about due and did a belated hustle down the hill.

GLASGOW SECTION.

There have been a number of lectures delivered at the monthly meetings held during the winter months. In October, R. R. Elton gave an account of his experiences in Sutherland, and the following week E. C. Thomson

lectured on Ross-shire. W. W. Naismith's lecture on "Climbing," and his slides of Scotland and the Continent were much appreciated. In January, R. N. Rutherford gave an account of his climbing experiences in Skye, and showed some of his own slides.

At the New Year the Club received a cable from the "Nigerian Section" as follows: "Best wishes for Meet and New Year, from Nigerian Section.—Rusk, Andreae."

The Glasgow Section will hold their Easter Meet at Tyndrum during the week-end 15th to 18th April. Particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, W. B. Spiers, 6 Victoria Terrace, Glasgow, W.2.

EDINBURGH SECTION.

The only event of note has been the resignation and departure of T. E. Thomson, the Hon. Secretary, on a tour round the world. How far he will get and his present whereabouts are matters of earnest discussion wherever members of the Section forgather. The position of Hon. Secretary has been accepted and ably filled by I. M. Campbell. A feature of the communications sent out by the new Secretary is the postscript, which is usually as follows: "Can I have your subscription by return of post?" It pains us to have to reply in the negative.

The Easter Meet of the Edinburgh Section will be held at Killin from 9th to 11th April. Particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, 80 Great King Street, Edinburgh.

Scottish Mountaineering Club.

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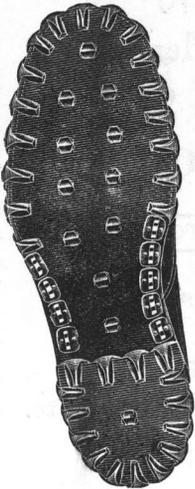
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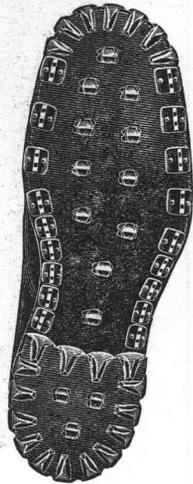
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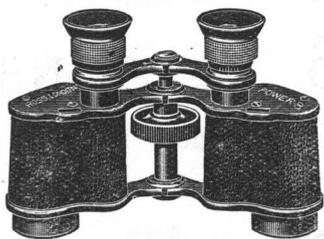


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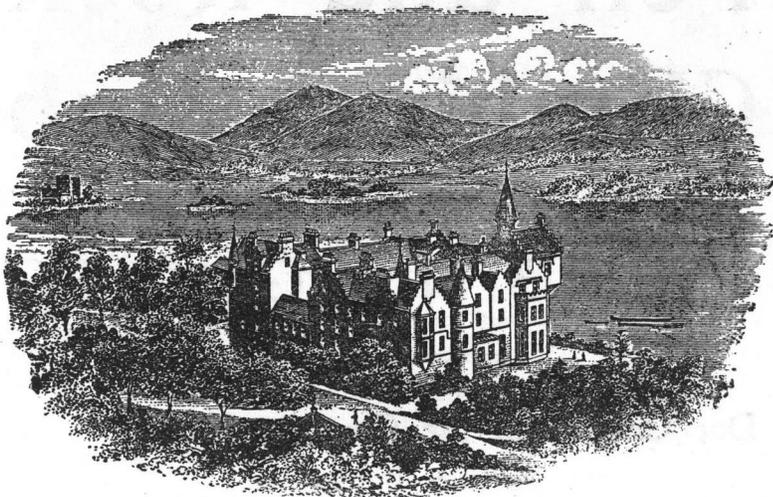
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