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*March 1937*

BEN MORE (MULL) FROM MULLACH NAN COIREAN (looking 239°)

*P. J. H. Unna*

# THE SCOTTISH Mountaineering Club Journal.

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## SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING AND ITS RELATION TO MOUNTAINEERING ABROAD.

### V.—SCENERY AND PHOTOGRAPHY.

By H. GARDNER.

“WHEN you say ‘hill,’ ” the Queen interrupted, “I could show you hills, in comparison with which you’d call that a valley.”

Like most of Lewis Carroll’s “nonsense,” this remark of the Red Queen’s contains a considerable germ of truth. When I was first about to visit the Alps as a boy, in the first year of the present century, having never seen a higher peak than Ben Nevis or trodden a higher summit than Ben Lomond, one of the things that impressed me most was being told that the village of Saas Fee, our destined headquarters, stood nearly 6,000 feet above the sea, and that we should find woods and pastures up to nearly double the height of our highest British mountains. It is fortunate for the mountaineer that this is so: otherwise his labours would be on an almost Himalayan scale.

The chief effect, however, of living high is not so much the saving of labour, or even the bracing stimulus of the purer and fresher air, as the brilliant sparkle which that clear air brings into every aspect of the landscape in fine weather. At first sight this clear atmosphere may seem to reduce the apparent size of the mountains, and its effect on those unused to it may be the exact converse of the impressions of the Swiss guide who viewed Scafell from Wasdale Head and proceeded to lay plans for the two days which he thought the ascent would

require. But, as soon as one is accustomed to the visibility, it becomes one of the most beautiful, as well as one of the most characteristic features of an Alpine view. It increases greatly with height and diminishes as we go lower; or rather it would be more accurate to say that it is present on a very much larger proportion of days at a high place than at a low one. I was fortunate enough a couple of summers ago to spend a night in the highest building in the Alps, the combined hut and observatory on the top of the Signalkuppe of Monte Rosa, at a height of 14,948 feet (by the new survey). The visibility from there towards the east just before sunrise had to be seen to be believed. As I write I have before me a photograph showing the first streaks of dawn across an immense level sea of cloud some 5,000 feet below the camera. Across this sea and in front of the dawn are silhouetted the peaks of the Bernina Range,\* a little over 100 miles away. To the right is the Adamello range, nearly 30 miles farther, and to the left is the sharp cone of the Weisskugel, just 150 miles away. The Wildspitze, farther away still, may be among the black jags which also appear.

I have written at this length about visibility because it is of a type which I have never seen in Scotland, although, when the north wind blows, it is not uncommon to see the Outer Isles from anything up to a hundred miles off.† But in Scotland extreme distance is blue and softened, more like the Isles of Greece. These distant Alps were hard and sharply cut. They needed no infra-red plates to record their appearance. The changing atmosphere is at once the beauty and the bane of Highland views. In the Alps set fair weather is almost always beautiful above the level of low-lying haze, but in Scotland the haze during a heat wave often extends above

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\* Reproduced as "Alpine Sunrise." To the left centre, close together, are the Piz Bernina (right), what I think is Piz Roseg (middle), and Piz Morteratsch (left). To the right centre is Monte Disgrazia.

† The sea of cloud can be met in Scotland, though not very often. A very happy picture of this effect (by Mr B. H. Humble) appeared in the *Journal* for April 1937, opposite p. 197.

the highest peaks, and not only obliterates the distances but robs even the nearer landscape of its sparkle and colour. For this there is ample compensation in the pageantry of Highland skies and hills when the weather is less settled. Those who only visit them in the late summer with its alternations of continuous rain and hazy sunshine are fortunate if they can snatch a few days which are reminiscent of the glories of spring.

In drawing comparisons between the Highlands and the Alps, it seems to me fairest to think of the Highlands in spring and the Alps in summer. Except for the season of winter sports, when the beauties are of quite a different order and when most visitors are in quite a different mood, these are the times when the two countries are in their most characteristic conditions. The mountaineer will first think of Scotland at the time when its summits have their most Alpine appearance. I have tried to suggest an April mountain scene in the photograph of the ridge of Sgùrr nan Ceathreamhnan. This mountain deserves to be better known. The ridge connecting the two peaks (both over 3,750 feet high) was in places fairly heavily corniced, and at one spot entailed quite a reasonable amount of step-cutting to "by-pass" an untrustworthy piece of cornice. But the weather was pure Highland—brilliant sunshine with blue expanses of sea and islands, punctuated by sudden snow-squalls which might delay progress for a few moments at the time, but only added to the dramatic effect of the clearances. In the Alps they would have been fiercer and more dangerous, and not many people would choose such a day for the ascent of a major peak.

As a contrast to this Highland snow-peak, Dr Bell has kindly allowed me to make use of one of his photographs from the Caucasus. "Mountaineering Abroad" is certainly not limited to the Alps, and here we have truly Alpine characteristics illustrated on a slightly larger scale. Ailama, the peak shown in the picture, reaches a height of 14,854 feet, and it is seen from a ridge which leads up to Shkara, the third giant of the whole range (17,038 feet). The sweeping cloud might



well be seen in Scotland, but entirely Alpine are the festoons of hanging snow and glacier.

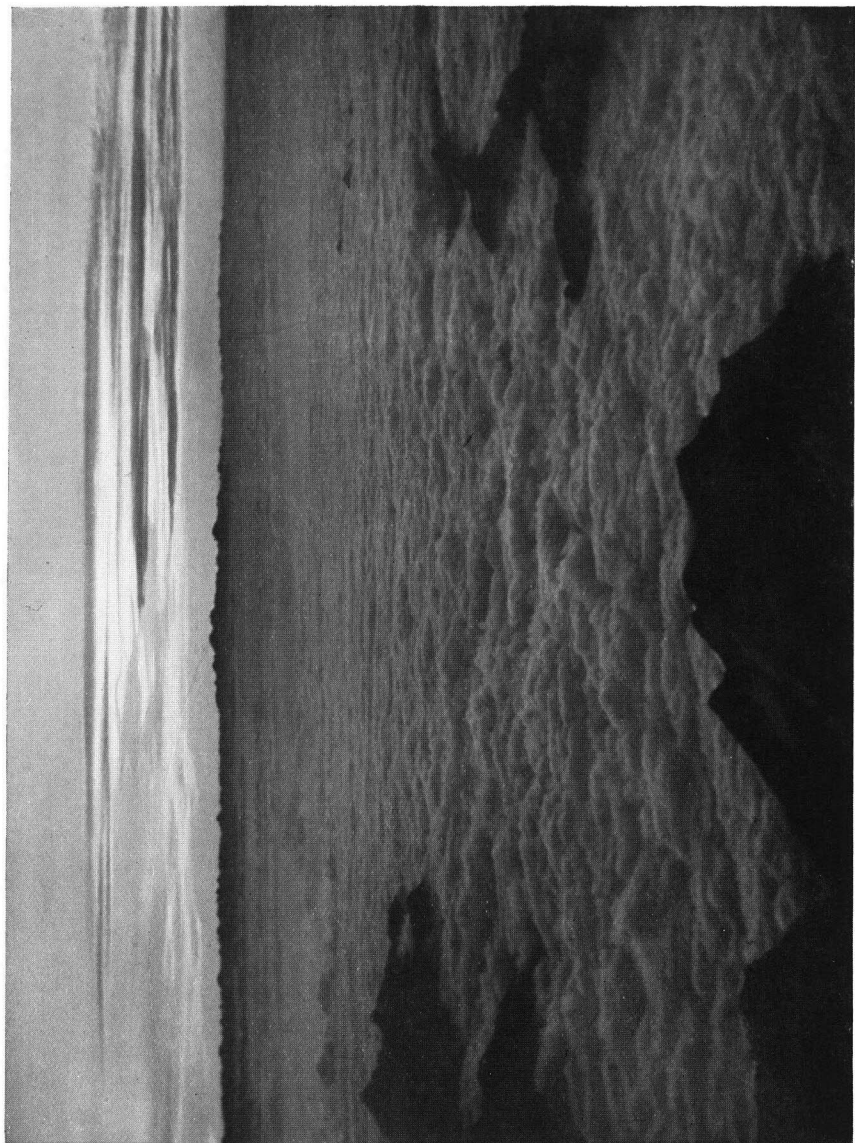
I have placed together another pair of contrasted mountain views, in which I have tried to show again a contrast of snow, of scale, and of weather conditions. There is nothing finer in the Alps than the great east face of Monte Rosa. Here it is seen in profile, sloping down into Italy on the left.\* To anyone unfamiliar with scenery on the Alpine scale, the clear air and sharp outlines may not at once suggest the true sizes and distances. If the sea were to rise 12,000 feet so as to cover both the Weissthor passes on the left of the picture, Monte Rosa would still be a "Munro." A little experience soon trains the eye to appreciate these things.

Beside this is a view of Sail Mhòr of Beinn Eighe seen from the ridge of Liathach. This was taken at the Easter Meet of 1935. A bare 2,000 feet of mountain is seen, but it might be much more. There is none of the stupendous mantle of snow and ice that distinguish Monte Rosa and Lyskamm, but what snow there is adds enormously to the beauty and dignity of the peak. The little hollow near the top would almost escape detection but for the sun on the snow. The cloud concealing the ridge leading to the right adds considerably to the apparent height. The sunshine is a promise of more to come—for this is April—while the approaching hail-shower foretells such minor excitements as hissing axes on the way down. The Alpine view, on the other hand, foretells more days to come of brilliant sun and clear skies. Actually, the view I have shown from the Signalkuppe was taken three days later.

Perhaps I am dwelling too much on the unsettled days in Scotland, because they usually produce the best photographs. But I have not forgotten the joys of the really

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\* The four highest peaks of Monte Rosa are shown. On the left the Signalkuppe, from which the sunrise photograph was taken: next, the Zumsteinspitze, which the latest survey has just deprived of its status as a 15,000-foot peak. The white tent-like peak is the Nordend, while behind it is the Dufourspitze, the actual summit. The great white mountain on the right, festooned with hanging glaciers, is Lyskamm.



*August 1936*

ALPINE SUNRISE

*H. Gardner*

fine days on the tops. I have been as much sunburnt by certain days in Scotland as by any I can recall in the Alps, and if the blue of the sky is variegated by just the right amount of white cloud, as it is in the view from Mullach nan Coirean, taken by the President at the last Easter Meet,\* there can be no more enjoyable conditions possible on any peaks.

This was a spring day when the sunshine had beaten the cloud and allowed sparkling views across Loch Linnhe to Ben More in Mull. Similar conditions a little later in the year—1st May to be exact—are seen in the view northward from Cruachan. This was not a spell of fine weather, but a brilliant day following snow showers—witness the snow-feathers on the rocks—and one which brought rain by the evening. This view up the higher reaches of the sea-water Loch Etive, with the white peaks of the Ben Nevis group beyond, is Scottish to the core. The Alps can show nothing in the least like it. For somewhat similar views, but looking towards the open sea instead of away from it, I can very strongly recommend the views of Loch Leven from Na Gruagaichean, and of Loch Hourn from Sgùrr a' Mhaoraich. This last can look exceedingly fine under good conditions.

In the days before the ice-age had finished its retreat our hills must have been very much like a smaller version of the Alps, even if geologists tell us that they are merely a dissected plateau. In Coire a' Ghrunnda, in Skye, the gabbro, bare of soil, shows just where a miniature glacier came down and where its little ice-falls must have been. The small ice-streams must have lasted long after the great sheets had gone, but even they belong to the past, and it is the presence or absence of glaciers which really accounts for the chief difference of landscape between the high Alps and the peaks of Scotland. In the Alps nearly all the snow and ice scenery is either glacier or *névé* destined to form glacier. In Scotland—I am still thinking of spring conditions—the snow often leaves the impression that it would not take much to turn it into glacier, but that never quite happens. If we take the four

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\* The Frontispiece of this number of the *Journal*.

illustrations of the last Easter Meet which appeared in the *Journal* for November last, the frontispiece at once recalls snow conditions often seen in pictures of the Himalayas. Signor Sella's classic view of the crest of Siniolchun will occur to some. The view across Mamore (opposite p. 244) beckons one to go and look over the edge to see whether or no there is a great glacier below. In Coire Leis (opposite p. 282) we seem to have found such a glacier, until the site of the Hut dispels the illusion. When we turn to the Carn Dearg cornice (opposite p. 281) the distinction between glacier and Scottish snow is lost completely, and we might perfectly well be on an Alpine peak: even the sun has lent his aid to the deception.

So far I have treated only of the peaks. I have taken them first because we are a mountaineering club. But the most ardent patriot would hardly deny that we value the scenery of our mountain tops chiefly because they supply us in a more compact form with what the Alps can provide on a grander scale.\* But when we come to the valleys and coast it is another story. "There is one kind of scenery," wrote Mr Baddeley in the preface to his guide book, "in which Scotland probably equals, if it does not surpass, any other tourist district in Europe, namely, glen scenery; while in another class, coast scenery, it yields to Norway alone." He might perhaps have added "river scenery." The glens of Scotland have long been celebrated, but even now it seems to be very imperfectly realised in some quarters wherein their peculiar charm consists. We use the word "glen" to denote almost any kind of Highland valley, including the bleak and bare type, such as Glen Sligachan or Glen Sannox. But "glen scenery" usually denotes a perfectly blended type of scenery wherein mountain, river, rocks, and native woods all play their part. The supreme

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\* I am not belittling either the fine outlines of such hills as Sgùrr nan Gillean or the Etive Shepherds, nor yet the pleasure to be obtained from ascending them. Ridge-walking, as we know it in the Highlands, is in itself a joy entirely different to the more strenuous days to be spent in Switzerland, but no less attractive; and rock-climbers will certainly maintain that their climbs on the home peaks reach as high a standard as any in the world.



examples are, perhaps, to be found in the famous northern trio—Affric, Cannich, and Strathfarrar, though the gorge of Glen Nevis is as beautiful as any of them over a short stretch. This glen scenery is supreme for several reasons, one of which is the pure brown or grey water of the streams, unpolluted by glacier debris. Another source of beauty is to be found in the undulating slopes on either side, so different from the straight trench-like sides of many of the Alpine valleys or from parts of Glenmore in Scotland itself. But the beauty depends more than anything on the fact that the vegetation is the natural virgin growth of native trees, free from foreign importations. This, coupled with the comparatively small scale of Highland scenery, makes these glens particularly vulnerable. Quarrying is not such a destroying force in Scotland as in Wales: but water-power schemes are at present a source of terrible anxiety to those who love the Highlands, and forestry on modern commercial lines is scarcely less so. Scotland's own trees are well seen in a very fine picture by our former President, the Rev. A. E. Robertson, reprinted here from an earlier *Journal*. I know no finer piece of glen scenery anywhere than this part of Glen Affric. Scots pines and silver birches are the predominating trees, though no doubt a few rowans and alders will be found among them. But the natural spacing with freedom from overcrowding is all-important. The trees in the Alps often grow much too thickly for beauty. When they begin to thin out, as the 7,000-foot level is approached, they become much more beautiful, but even so they do not rival the Scots pine in its glory. It is strange what a deadening effect the importation of foreign conifers has upon Highland scenery. No doubt it is necessary to have large reserves of timber in the British Isles, but, with all due respect to those in authority, I consider there was shown a deplorable lack of discretion when afforestation was allowed in such places as Glen Nevis and beside Loch Maree and Loch Hourne. I tried to give some idea of the wooded gorge in Glen Nevis, opposite p. 79 of Vol. 20 of the *Journal*. The photograph was not taken with the most modern material, and I

would advise photographers to arm themselves with panchromatic plates or films and to go and improve upon it. I was, however, lucky in finding such good snow conditions for the background.

The Alps have their lakes, and very beautiful some of these are, especially the smaller ones, but, again, they lack some of the finest features of the Highland lochs. The rocky cliffs and beaches with their scattered trees, which are such a feature of the lochs, are seldom rivalled by Alpine shores.\* The Highland loch is seen at its best not in the more civilised district of Dumbarton, Perth, or Glenmore but in the valleys beyond that great fault, in Loch Quoich, in Loch Arkaig, in the parts of Loch Maree where the ancient forest remains, and in some of those farther north. Loch Quoich, which at the time of writing is threatened with complete desolation, is perhaps the gem of all, though for barren grandeur Loch Coruisk—given the appropriate weather—is unsurpassable.

The Scot fresh to the Alps will look in vain for the familiar square miles of moor and peat-bog, and he will find a poor apology for the blaze of heather which lights up Scotland in late summer; but he will discover a new delight in the Alps, the upland pastures for cattle from which the great range took its name. I show as an example the Alpe de Louvie with the Grand Combin range † behind. The pastures, on which numerous cattle can be seen, lie at 7,200 feet, or some 2,300 feet above the Val de Bagnes, which runs between us and the great Corbassière glacier opposite.

I have left coast scenery till the last, because it is, if not peculiar to Scotland, entirely unknown in the Alps. The West Highlands, it must be remembered, were once far from the sea. When the land sank in level the sea flooded the valleys of the streams which flowed westwards, and gave us the wonderful series of sea lochs which, except for a few spots in Ireland, occur nowhere else in the

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\* I must make an exception of some of the higher lakes, notably the Lake of Sils in the Engadine.

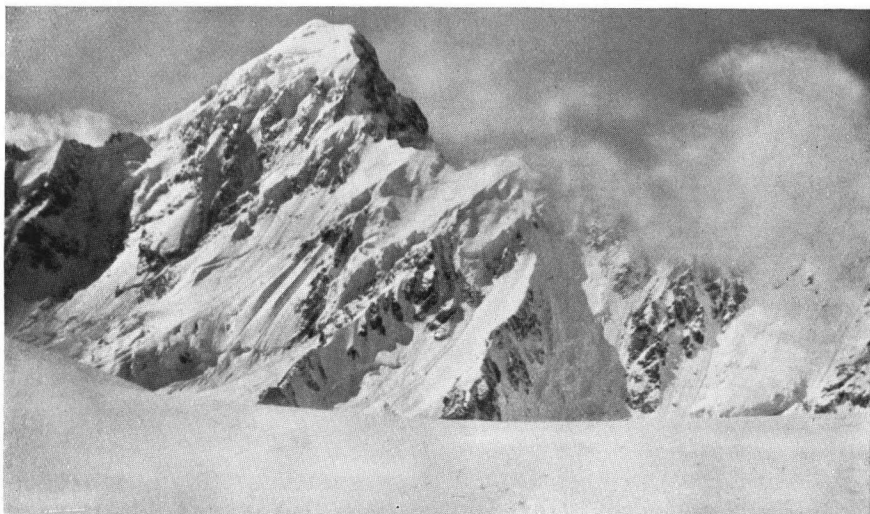
† Left to right, Grand Combin, Combin de Corbassière, Petit Combin.



*April 1936*

*H. Gardner*

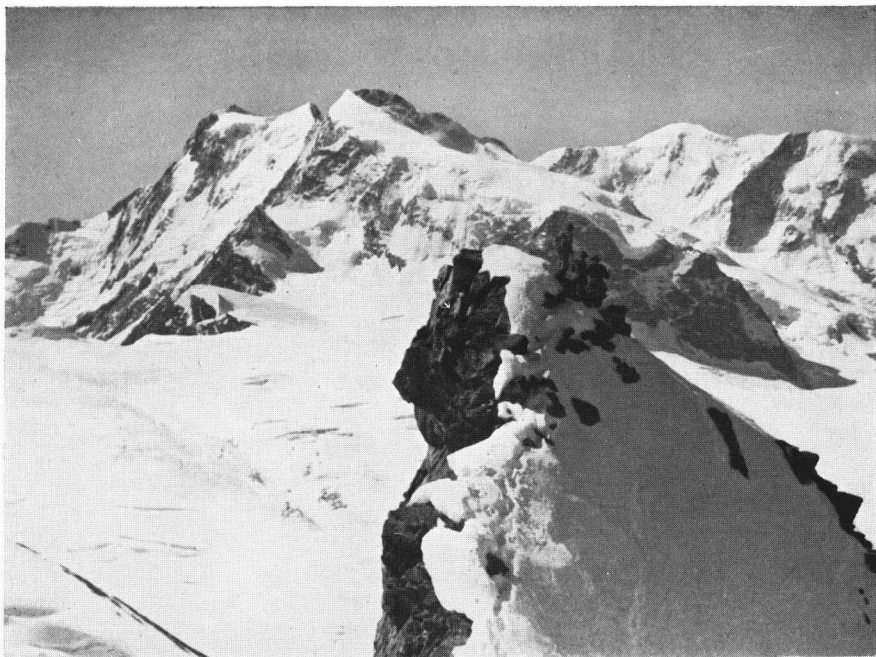
ON SGÙRR NAN CEATHREAMHNAN



*July 1932*

*J. H. B. Bell*

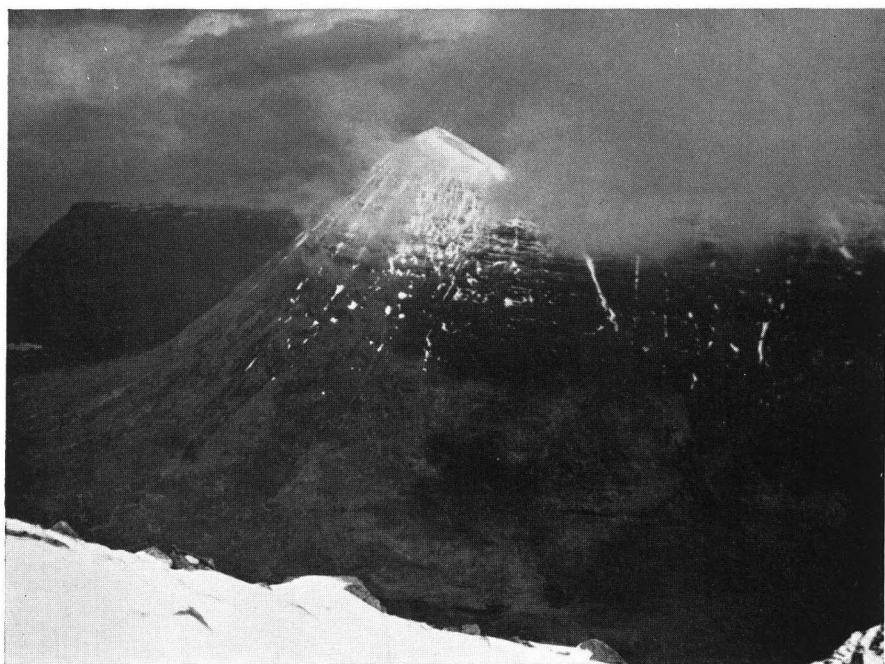
AILAMA



*August 1936*

MONTE ROSA FROM THE RIMPFISCHHORN

*H. Gardner*



*April 1935*

SAIL MHOR (BEINN EIGHE) FROM LIATHACH

*H. Gardner*



British Isles. At their finest these are even more beautiful than the fresh-water lochs. Perhaps Loch Hourn \* and Loch Scavaig may be said to vie for the supremacy. The colour of these sea lochs is one of their special characteristics. The blue may be rivalled in the Mediterranean—Alpine lakes have a blue of their own when they are fed by glacier streams—but the combination of sea and mountain is completely non-Alpine. Dr Bell's picture of Loch Etive at the beginning of the *Journal* for April 1936 gives a good example of the sea loch.

I have tried to treat of scenery in a way which will suggest what are the scenes in each type of country most worthy of the photographer's attention. Perhaps a few words are now due about the actual photography. The governing principles are the same in both sorts of view, except that, on the average, photography is easier in the Alps. The clearer air is one aid, and the greater quantity of snow and ice is another. On a glacier, provided that there is a shapely peak in the background and a well-broken glacier surface in front, without too large an expanse of level or insufficiently sloping ground between them, the photographer can hardly fail to make an attractive picture. He must remember not to over-expose in the glare of the snow, but it is equally important to remember that he must expose for the shadows where such are at all deep. Light filters are not quite so much in favour with the most modern materials as they were some years ago, but they have their uses, especially with distant views. One of their purposes is to cut out

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\* I illustrate Loch Hourn seen from the north-west. When I first visited that spot not many years ago it could be said that Loch Hourn, almost alone of the greater sea lochs, was absolutely untouched by unfortunate "improvements." I marked down the view from the birch-woods beside the road from Glenelg as a supreme example of Scotland's best. I visited them several times to try and procure an adequate photograph, but a heat-wave prevailed and visibility was poor. When at last I went back in 1936, the thrill I had expected on reaching this lovely spot was a thrill of quite a different order. The exquisite woods stood bare and gaunt, the trees ringed and killed by experts. I have tried to recall the departed glory with the help of a little fringe of trees nearer the water; a fragment which survives.

ultra-violet light, which, though invisible to human eyes, may spoil the clarity of the picture. Those who are afraid of over-correction can obtain a filter which cuts out these rays only, without affecting even the speed of the exposure. I usually carry a very thin yellow filter and a thin red one, which is useful for fetching up the distance when using panchromatic material. It does not suit pictures containing green trees and fields, and it imparts too deep a shade to water, but it can be very useful with a distant horizon. A sky-filter may be useful, but Nature's gradations do not always follow horizontal lines, and it is often less risky to leave this correction till the printing stage.

A camera which gives good results in Scotland should give at least equally good ones in the Alps. Although the scale of the scenery is larger, the angles to be covered are not usually much wider, and a camera which can bring in a foreground for the N.E. Buttress of Ben Nevis from the Carn Mòr Dearg Arête as well as Mr Humble's picture\* has succeeded in doing will bring in any reasonable Alpine view. I usually carry a  $5\frac{3}{4}$ -inch lens on a quarter-plate camera, but like to have a  $4\frac{3}{4}$ -inch lens in reserve, though I use the latter only, as a rule, when fairly close under a mountain. Those who attempt portraiture will be familiar with the distortion produced by using a lens of too wide an angle.

In the Alps distances are long and weights must be kept down. Many will prefer a smaller camera, say the  $3\frac{1}{4}$ -inch by  $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch Etui or Sibyl. I sometimes depend on the latter. Three of the photographs used for this article † were taken on  $3\frac{1}{4}$ -inch by  $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch roll-film; but I find that the purchase of the smaller camera has resulted in my often taking out two, as I am loth to leave my old friend, the quarter-plate, behind. Most mountain photographers sooner or later wish to make lantern slides, and a quarter-plate fills the lantern plate better than the smaller size. Enlarging on to a lantern plate is a tricky business, and one seldom wants to put in the whole

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\* Frontispiece of the *Journal* for November last.

† Sgùrr nan Ceathreamhnan, the Rimpfischhorn view, and Sail Mhòr.

area of the negative. Those who want more technical information will find it admirably set out by Mr P. Donald in the "General Guide Book." I do not quite agree about view-finders. I always use the waist-level position for the camera if I can. There is less risk of shaking, and the protection of the lens from the sun's rays is much easier. One hand can be used for this while the other presses the camera firmly against the body. Unless the conditions of the climb or the weather prevent it, the camera should be slung, and not packed away in the rucksack. It can be brought into action much more quickly. As regards exposure, I strongly recommend making a standard of the slowest that is safe from shaking, and then varying the stop according to light or subject. My own habit is to keep my shutter set at  $\frac{1}{25}$  second (or in the case of an old shutter which has lost speed  $\frac{1}{30}$ ). I seldom alter this unless there is some quickly moving object in the view, or unless a gale is blowing, or when I am photographing among dark trees or buildings, or on the rare occasions when I am using a long focus lens combination which requires a small stop. The lens aperture must depend to some extent on the speed of material in use. *Special Sensitive* or *Hypersensitive* plates or films are decidedly faster than *Special Rapid*; that is to say, a smaller stop can be used for the same exposure. With *Special Rapid* a rough guide will be f/16 or f/18 on brilliantly lighted snowfields; f/12 in valley scenes without dark trees; f/8 or even larger when there are deep shadows in the foreground. Of course, an increase in aperture must be made when a screen is used: opening from f/16 to f/8 is equivalent to multiplying the exposure by *four*. Panchromatic material requires less increase for morning and evening lights than less colour-sensitive plates or films do.\*

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\* *Note for those going abroad for the first time.*—Coin-in-the-slot machines abound in the better-known tourist resorts, and it is a good plan to have a camera which will take the commoner sizes. Panchromatic films and film-packs of various makes—Kodak and Agfa, especially—are stocked by dealers in places like Zermatt: but the visitor must take his own supplies to places off the beaten track.

I have been asked to add a few sentences about exposure meters. I am afraid I must admit that I have never used one. I say this with less hesitation, as no less a climber than Mr F. S. Smythe has made the same confession. This does not mean that I do not respect the ability of those instruments to measure the light accurately. In many types of photography, especially in and among buildings, they should be invaluable; but on mountains the photographer may only have a second or two to seize his opportunity. He may even be unwilling to doff his gloves for longer than that. Again, the meter measures accurately the light which is directed on it, but in a landscape the exposure must be a compromise, and the meter can only advise for one component in the view at a time. So the human element will have the last word on exposure after all. A meter is also an extra package to carry, and the space it takes may be better devoted to a spare lens. For the same reason I should not advocate carrying a stand, except sometimes in the valleys. A stand can often be improvised with rocks and stones, but it is only wanted for exceptional views, and in any case it is a drag on the mobility of the party. Until a few years ago I hardly used anything but glass plates. My experience of films had been discouraging. But the production of panchromatic films has changed all that. There is now little to choose between plates and films, except that plates are much heavier and films rather more costly.

The question of "miniature" cameras is sure to be raised. I have never used one, but I know some of their merits, and these are not merely connected with size and weight. Depth of focus, by which a near foreground and a distant peak can both be equally sharp, can only be effected with larger cameras by using a small stop. By the laws of optics a much greater latitude can be obtained by a small lens. This makes it possible to take moving figures, portraits, or details in shadow "close up" without sacrificing the background in the distance. These cameras should be ideal for rock-climbing pictures, but for general landscape the high degree of enlargement required before an exhibition or wall picture can be





*H. Gardner*

LOCH ETIVE AND BEN NEVIS FROM THE TAYNUILT PEAK

*May 1920*



*August 1934*

AN ALP—TYPICAL OF SWITZERLAND

*H. Gardner*



*April 1936*

A SEA LOCH—TYPICAL OF SCOTLAND

*H. Gardner*

obtained may lead to disappointments, and lantern slides obviously cannot be made by contact printing.

I have already hinted that photography is rather more difficult in Scotland than in the Alps. This is mainly because the brilliant contrasts which give the best results are commoner in the Alps. Hazy weather occasionally produces effective photographs if there is interest in the clouds at the time. I have attempted one such in the frontispiece to the "Northern Highlands Guide Book." But the cloudless hazy day is usually only an invitation to waste good material. It should be resisted. British mountains, again, yield fewer good pictures in the snowless season. If I have had more failures in Scotland than in the Alps, I have also taken a larger proportion of second-rate photographs in August than in April, as far as the Highlands are concerned.

I began this article with an Alpine sunrise. Perhaps it will be appropriate if I finish by referring to sunsets. These may be taken as one of the glories of the west coast of Scotland, and they lend themselves to photography better there than anywhere I know. While colour photography is still in its infancy, we cannot hope to do justice to the wonderful hues of the sunset sky and sea—shades more delicate than even those of the finest Alpine afterglow. But cloud forms and sun trails lend themselves splendidly to photography. Sunsets cry out for a water foreground, and nothing is better than the sparkling sea of the western lochs and sounds. Occasionally a broad sweep of glacier will do instead. Sunset behind the Matterhorn seen from, say, the Bétemps Hut, can be very fine indeed, but the finest of all will generally be found on the coast opposite to such an outline as that of Rhum, Skye, or Jura. These are among the most wonderful sights that Scotland has to give. The Alps, too, have much to give that is peculiar to themselves. Let us not fail to appreciate either, because it cannot give us everything at once.

## THE FRIENDLY ROAD.

By T. RATCLIFFE BARNETT.

HE who has been a life-long wanderer on the roads, the hills, and the islands of Scotland has naturally laid up a storehouse of memories about the men and women he has met. To have an inveterate curiosity about the ins and outs of humanity, and an incurable love for human nature in the raw, is to carry a perpetual introduction to any passer-by. To be approachable is to gain an easy entrance to the finest club in the world.

An Oxford scholar, who was setting out rather fearfully on a solitary tramp, once expressed his surprise to the storekeeper at Bridge of Orchy that I should have shared some delicious trout (tickled and toasted) with a tramp at Ba Bridge. But why not? To share and share alike—whether it be tobacco, matches, bread and cheese, or experience—is the best introduction in the world. Then the stranger will become your friend. Moreover, he has stores of knowledge about things of which you may be woefully ignorant, so you gain a knowledge which you can never pick up in your own narrow circle. After fifty years of wandering up and down the length and breadth of Scotland I have nothing but the happiest recollections of those independent travellers whom we call the Gentlemen of the Road. I at least have found it a very friendly road.

## CLOTHES AND COLLARS.

I have, however, great faith in Carlyle's philosophy of clothes. Clothes can be an intolerable barrier between you and your fellow-men. So many people judge us by our clothes, whether we be kings or cadgers. Even a collar can separate you from the wayfaring man, especially if it buttons at the back of your neck as many of mine do. You have only to wear one of these and the wily tramp will immediately accost you for help on the pure assumption that you belong to one of the soft brotherhood. But

turn the same collar round, button it in front, add an old tie, and you may with safety approach the King of the Gypsies himself.

I used to carry in my rucksack a box of old bagpipe reeds—both drone and chanter—for that will admit you to almost any tinker's camp in the Highlands. Good reeds are not easily picked up by wandering pipers in out-of-the-way places, but a travelling tinker very soon gets to know if a fellow-piper is in the neighbourhood. Once the bagpipe is heard, one listener will tell another as he passes on the road, and many a ragged piper has knocked at my door and asked for bagpipe reeds.

#### TINKERS' TENTS.

A tinker's tent looks very comfortless from without, but when there is a real stove with a fire in it, the chimney going through the canvas roof of the tent, fine fresh bracken on the floor, tobacco smoke, and a hearty welcome, it is anything but cold inside. Yonder it stands by a burn side or on the edge of a wood—the burn for trout, and the wood for other ploys—with its canvas tightly stretched across the bent hazel poles, and the blue reek rising in the still air. I have more than once spent a happy hour in such a tent, in perfect comfort, enjoying the best of company and a good colloque, while the rain fell in sheets outside. After a strong cup of black tea, with bread and butter, I have left with regret and the remark, "I only wish I could get my baker at home to wrap the loaf bread in cellophane paper as cleanly as you have it in Skye here."

The secret of the Friendly Road is to take every man as you find him, lay aside all convention and rank, look for the best in people and not the worst, and get over the false idea that every tramp is a rogue. Then you will find that these wandering men belong to a very human brotherhood.

I remember so many of them!

The tall, blind old gangrel with the two dogs, the second sight, the many coats, and the fiddle-case slung



over his shoulder, who once played before Queen Victoria.

The poor old woman with the rat-bitten face who slept in barns, and sold needles and thread, tapes, and all sorts of cheap gee-gaws to the girls at farm towns, carrying everything in the big basket, which she was glad to be relieved of for a mile.

The dusky Indian who was selling lace and cheap linen on one of the Outer Isles, shivering through the wet and blustery gales which blew in from the wild Atlantic.

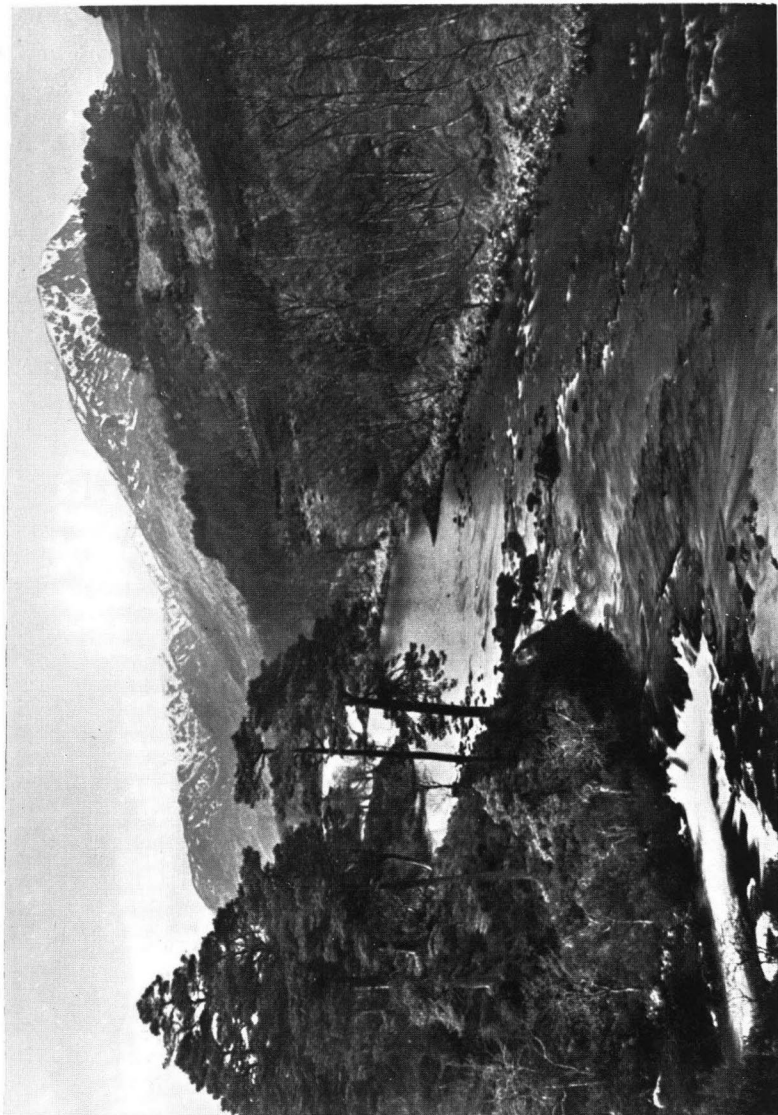
But I shall only describe one of them, and then reprint a remarkable letter which I afterwards received about him from a master in a well-known public school. This letter gave me the clue to the identity of the brainy tramp. As both master and tramp are now dead, I am in no danger of offending the sensibility of either.

#### THE MATHEMATICAL TRAMP.

I always remember him as the Mathematical Tramp. I can see him at this moment sitting by the side of the heathery path on the south side of Loch Rannoch. It was a very hot day, and I was swinging along the narrow track when I saw the tramp sitting with his very shabby boots sticking out across the path. He was terribly down and out, but he was working on a bit of paper with the stub of a pencil held in his dirty hands. In the ordinary course I would have stopped and spoken, sat down, offered him a smoke, and enjoyed a talk. But he never looked up, and I had the instinctive feeling that here was a man who did not wish to be spoken to. That was the sad thing about him—he was that most pathetic of all objects on the road, a gentleman gone astray. However, I glanced down at the paper as I passed and saw that he was working out a mathematical problem, which was illustrated by the figure of a double triangle. I can draw the figure still.

So I passed on in silence, respecting his sensibilities.

Sgùrr na Lèapaich



April 1932

THE EAST END OF LOCH AFFRIC

A. E. Robertson

He never looked up. When after a time I looked back, he was still absorbed in his problem.

But the sequel was interesting. I must have made some slight reference to the Mathematical Tramp in a *Scotsman* article, for I received the following letter from the master in the public school, who was himself a mathematician:—

12th January 1924.

Dear Sir,—The man you mention in to-day's "*Scotsman*" as engaged on a mathematical problem was probably S—W—. My old colleague Dr J. S. M— told me of him, but I never met W—. He was, I believe, the last of the Diarists, that is, the people who used to solve mathematical problems published yearly in "*The Ladies and Gentleman's Diary*." I gave a copy of these with J. G. Wagstaffe's notes to St John's College, Cambridge.

S—W— was, I believe, headmaster of a school in the North of England. He was improved out of it in 1870 or so. He used to wander up and down the country solving problems for parish schoolmasters who had pupils a little too clever for them. He was in Edinburgh as a tramp in 1892 to my knowledge. His passport papers were some notes on trigonometry. I hope you will be able to unearth more about the old man and then give us it in the "*Scotsman*."—Yours sincerely,  
A. J. P.

Alas, after repeated inquiries, I came across only one lady who had met the Mathematical Tramp. She used to give him food, but what she told me of him was enough to identify him. I am glad now that I did not make any assault on his privacy by forcing him to talk. Every man must be at liberty to keep his own secrets. Poor S—W—! He has solved the greatest of all problems long ago.

#### THE MAN OF THE MIST.

Ben Lawers is one of the highest mountains in Scotland. Indeed, in the old days, when the cairn was intact, as the Government sappers built it, the topmost stone touched the 4,000-foot level. Climbers are fortunate

when they get a fine visibility from Ben Lawers, for then they will enjoy one of the widest views in Scotland.

A climber has to know his hills in all weathers. On this occasion at the end of August there was a gale blowing, and the driving rain was mixed with hail that stung the cheeks like a whip. Only climbers know what the strength of the wind can be like on a mountain top. When we were walking up the well-known ridge, the corrie of Lochan na Chat, on the right hand, was like a boiling cauldron with mist. When we reached the top the mist was dense. The wind had increased to a gale, and we found it impossible to stand without some risk of being blown down. So we took to our hands and knees for a bit, like cautious Scots, and reached the lee-side of the cairn.

But while crawling through the mist on the top we came upon another man. He also was down on his knees, and his back was turned to us. I pointed out his dim figure to the friend who was with me, and for a while we paused in the storm to see what this ghost was doing in the mist. He was grubbing among the small stones, picking up one occasionally and wrapping it in a little bit of newspaper, which he then put in his pocket. He never saw us. So absorbed in his collecting was he that it might have been a calm summer day instead of one of terrible storm. He could not possibly have heard us, for the wind was shrieking like a fiend. So we left the cairn and the man of the mist, still on his knees, and quite oblivious to the fact that he must have been soaked to the skin.

Our only conclusion was that he must have been a scientist collecting some kind of specimens. Sometimes now I lie abed wondering if after all he was a ghost of the hills, and I could almost wish to climb the Ben again in a storm to see if the Man of the Mist is still there.

#### THE THERMOS FLASK.

I recollect another scene on a mountain top—this time on Schiehallion. Those were the days when the

first thermos flasks were just coming into the market. A lady friend came to stay with us near Glenlyon, and on her arrival she said to me, "Have you got a thermos flask?" "Yes," I replied, "I've got a very nice one," and I produced a lemonade bottle with a screw top. The lady was greatly relieved, for she produced a beautiful, oval-shaped, leather-covered flask with a sling, the whole thing costing at that time a couple of pounds.

My first climb with this flask next day was to the top of Schiehallion. As all mountaineers know, the top of Schiehallion is not exactly a billiard-table, but one mass of huge rocks and stones. I sat down to have my lunch behind a boulder, for it was bitterly cold.

Just then I saw two typical English tourists coming on to the top from Kinloch Rannoch. They had no coats of any kind. The man was miserable with cold. The lady was in worse plight, for her shoes, which were little more than slippers, were all to pieces and soaking wet. They crouched behind another boulder and did not seem to have any lunch. They had simply set out for a walk, and here they were. So I strolled across to them rather timidly and said, "Madam, can I offer you a piping hot cup of coffee, for you seem a bit cold?" She stared at me as if I had insulted her, and replied, "As if any such thing was possible here!" "Well, here you are."

The metal cups in those days had no handles to isolate them from the heat. So with a twinkle in my eye, which she did not see, I handed to her the first cup of coffee. She took the cup, burned her fingers, cried out, and nearly dropped it. But the situation was saved, and she drank nearly all the coffee.

#### THE ANGEL OF CORRIEYAIRACK.

I only once met an angel on the hills. It was a glorious September day on Corrieyairack. I came over alone, from the Laggan side, and was making my way down to Fort Augustus. It was very hot, and at four o'clock the thought of tea was overpowering. So I debated whether I should stop, boil the billy, and make a cup.



But I wished to be at Fort Augustus at a particular time, so I determined to swallow my thirst and carry on. When crossing the stream called Allt Lagan a'Bhainne, where the broken bridge is, I was thinking a great deal about the Ghost of Corrieyairack. A suspension bridge now spans that dangerous stream, thanks to the Scottish Rights of Way Society. At this very spot, when the mist is down, it is not always easy to find the crossing place, and just then a stately Highlander appears, with two great dogs, and directs the traveller with these words: "That way lies your road!" I know a lady who, with her husband, actually encountered this apparition. But as the Highlander only appears in misty weather, there was no chance of meeting him on such a glorious September day. I plugged down the path after that, and wished with all my heart that an angel would appear and give me a cup of tea.

With that remark I rounded a rocky bluff and was struck dumb with astonishment. There she was. An angel, sitting by the path, and looking up at me with a smile on her face. A kettle on the boil. Two cups set out, with the daintiest of teas all ready to be eaten. How she must have wondered who this hot and grubby man was with the tousled hair, and all the grime of the day's exertion upon him. She asked no question; but only said: "Won't you sit down and have a cup of tea?" I sat down and was refreshed, not only with the tea but with a delicious conversation. Then she seemed to fade away, and I reached Fort Augustus an hour late. But the angel had no wings!

## THE GALLOWAY HILLS.

By JOHN DOW.

MATHESON used to tell the story of a London acquaintance who had made the classical Grand Tour of the Highlands via Oban and the Caledonian Canal. This gentleman had not been much impressed. "Nothing to see," he grumbled, "only rocks, and swamps, and streams, and weeds; just a bloody mess!"

The description was perhaps unduly disparaging; but had the itinerary of the Sassenach critic been confined to the high lands of Galloway one might be forced, however unwillingly, to concede to his unkind words a certain modicum of truth. The Galloway Hills do not cater for those whose object is the maximum of scenery with the minimum of exertion. The easy walk from the Bruce Monument at Buchan to the summit of Merrick via Culsharg and Benyellary is an exception; usually the going is very bad, demanding either a temperament of the utmost equanimity or the fluency of expression and command of vocabulary of a Murray Lawson; paths, even where marked on maps, are generally non-existent, or if alleged to exist are difficult to follow; the Galloway midge is larger, fiercer, and more active than its colleagues in other parts of Scotland; and when winter conditions in the Highlands, and even in the Moffat Hills are good, with crisp, hard snow, the mild climate of the extreme south-west covers our area with acres of slush of the most virulent and boot-penetrating type.

There is, however, one peculiarly attractive feature of these hills—the nomenclature. Gaelic, or a dialect of Gaelic closely related to Erse, was still spoken in Galloway as late as the sixteenth century, and the names of the natural features of the area, mainly derived from Gaelic roots, are generally sonorous and euphonious—and strikingly so if compared with the often cacophonous and sometimes grotesque appellations of the lovelier and more civilised Cumbrian Mountains on the other side

of the Solway. The lines in Andrew Lang's famous sonnet—

“ And through the music of the languid hours  
They hear like ocean on a western beach  
The surge and thunder of the Odyssey ”

—are no doubt a true description of the mouth-filling syllables of the ancient Greek; but equally majestic are such names as The Lochans of Auchniebut, The Rig of the Jarkness, The Long Loch of the Dungeon, The Slock of the Starr, The Fang of the Merrick, Eglin Lane, Shalloch on Minnoch, The Tauchers of Mullwharchar, Benyellary, The Clints of Clenrie, Lamachan—and the list could be continued almost indefinitely. What a contrast to Base Brown and Robinson—the omission of Jones is presumably due to jealousy of the higher mountains of Wales! (In passing, why was poor Brown labelled Base?—did he steal the Catbells or misbehave himself upon High Street?)

The derivations of the place names are an interesting study. The ground has been covered by Sir Herbert Maxwell in “The Place Names of Galloway,” though the fact that he was not a Gaelic scholar detracts somewhat from the authority of his book. A few examples follow:—

Place Name.	Gaelic.	Erse.	English.
Benyellary .	Beinn na h-iolaire	Beann an iolair	Hill of the eagle.
Craigencallie .	Creag na cailliche	Carraig na caillighe	The old woman's rock.
Cornarroch .	Corr nathrach	Corr nathraigh	Conical hill of the serpent.
Loch Neldricken	Coran carrach	Corran corraigh	Marshy hillock.
	Loch n-eileirgin	(Not known)	Loch of the little deer-trap.
Mullwharchar .	Maol adhairce	Maol adhairce	Bare hill of the horn.
	Maoil charcair	Maol carcair	Bare hill of the narrow pass.
Millyea . .	Meall liath	Meall liath	Grey hill.
Cairnsgarroch .	Carn sgeireach	Carn gearraigh	Rocky cairn.
Clenrie . . .	Claon ruighe	Claon righe	Slope at base of hill.
	Claon airigh	Claon airghe	Slope of shieling-ground.
Dungeon .	Daingean	Daingean	Fastness.
	Domhainn	Domhainn	Deep.



*September 1932*

THE MURDER HOLE OF LOCH NELDRICKEN FROM THE NORTH

*John Dow*



*February 1935*

*John Dow*

MULLWHARCHAR AND MERRICK RANGES FROM NORTH-EAST



*August 1931*

*John Dow*

LOCH DOON FROM THE SOUTH



The name of one of the hills, Craigmashenie, has been interpreted as "the foxes' crag," but the writer (no Gaelic scholar) suggests, with all deference and humility, "The hill or rock of the Hebrew or Jew."

Here it might be noted that the £3,000,000 undertaking of the Galloway Water Power Company, although it has a peak-load capacity of 103,000 K.W., has in no way prejudiced the beauty or the interest of the area included in the Scheme, but rather the reverse. It is true that the concrete embankments of the three reservoirs (Loch Doon, Clatteringshaws Loch, and Loch Ken) and the four head-ponds (Kendoon, Carsfad, Earlstoun, and Tongland) are, and will remain, somewhat unsightly constructions—the Clatteringshaws embankment is 1,500 feet long and 75 feet high over the old river-bed—but the five new sheets of water themselves are each one a real improvement to the landscape, and in any case all of them, except Clatteringshaws and Loch Doon, lie outside of the real hill area. Clatteringshaws, which is the largest apart from Loch Doon, forming a loch almost large enough to be impressive for its size alone, covers 1,000 acres of what was previously bare and dreary moor.

But I am afraid I have been forgetting that what the Editor—whose craving for neatly arranged statistical facts occasionally reminds me of Percy Donald—asked me to submit to him was a "Guide Book article," and consequently I must now try to get in some useful information. The first requirement of anyone desirous of visiting the Galloway Hills must obviously be to get as "far ben" as he can before having to walk; so I now set out a statement of the side roads leading inwards, and in doing so I might perhaps explain that, as the "Galloway Hills" is not an exact geographical term, I have for this purpose taken the area lying within the roads: on west, Creetown—Newton Stewart—Bargrennan—Tairlaw—Straiton (hereafter referred to as West Road); on north, Straiton—Dalmellington; on east, Dalmellington—Carsphairn—New Galloway (East Road); and on south the New Galloway-Creetown railway line. Only one driving road crosses this area, the "Old

Edinburgh road" from New Galloway to junction with West Road one mile south (or more exactly, east) of Newton Stewart (referred to as Cross Road).

These roads are all very good except that the West Road is narrow, and in its northern section occasionally rough. The Cross Road was bad until recently, but has now been reconstructed and is reasonably fast, though the curves are occasionally sharp. The whole area is covered by the Ordnance Maps Sheets 83 and 87, One-Inch Popular Edition.

Proceeding round—clockwise, not widdershins—from Dalmellington via the Cross Road, the side roads are:—

*Off East Road.*

1. Mossdale to head of Loch Doon—county road; thence to Loch Rieacawr, very good private road (locked gate at entrance); permission for car may be obtained from Ayr Burgh Water Department.

2. Drumjohn to Loch Doon. This is a driving road recently constructed by the Galloway Water Power Company. It is quite good all the way, though the gradient between the summit and Loch Doon is rather steep.

3. Lamloch. Both side roads from Drumjohn (north) and Brockloch (south) are good county roads to the junction. From gate at west side of bridge over Carsphairn Lane the road is good to house entrance, then grass-grown and not now maintained by county, but cars might be taken a short distance beyond the old Free Church ruin.

4. Old Lead Mines, Woodhead. This is a county road to Garryhorn Bridge. West of Garryhorn Farm the road is in bad repair and is getting worse, but it is still quite practicable for cars, and there is ample space for parking among the old mining "dumps."

5. Carsphairn Bridge to Shiel of Castlemaddy. Private road to Carnavel practicable for cars, thereafter footpath only to Shiel of Castlemaddy with a fork to Castlemaddy.

6. Bardennoch—Castlemaddy. This is hardly even a footpath—impracticable for cars.

7. Polharrow Bridge—Bush (known locally as the Fore Bush). This is a county road to the Forrest Lodge fork; thereafter it is a private road to Bush and kept in reasonably good repair.

8. Glenlee—Clenrie. This is a county road to Drumbuie road-end. The remaining part to Clenrie is private and rather rough in parts, though quite practicable for cars; there is parking space at the east side of the bridge over the Black Burn, half a mile short of Clenrie.

*Off Cross Road.*

9. Clatteringshaws—Fore Garrary (local name; marked on one-inch map as Mid Garrary). This leaves Cross Road east of new reservoir (not shown on one-inch map, but water-level follows approximately the 575-foot contour above the concrete embankment beside the Old Bridge of Dee). This is a county road to the march of Garrary Farm, and is quite good all the way.

10. Bridge of Dee—Craigencallie. This leaves Cross Road west of new reservoir. It is a county road, recently reconstructed in parts. The surface is good all the way, but there are six gates.

11. Minnigaff or Cross Road to Glenhoise, thence to Auchinleck. This is a good county road.

*Off Main West Road.*

12. Glen Trool Road. County road to Buchan, very good as far as Lodge entrance, thence quite practicable to Bruce Monument where there is some parking space usually very congested at summer week-ends. The descent to Buchan is very steep with a hairpin bend, and past the house the road is rough with two small water-splashes. The private road continuing to Glenhead is in reasonably good condition.

The branch road crossing the Water of Trool to Caldons is also quite good.

13. Palgowan Farm. Private road in reasonable condition.

14. Suie to Kirriereoch. County road in fair condition. There is some parking space where road bends to north near Kirriereoch Loch.

15. Tarfessock. Rough road to Water of Minnoch, crossed by footbridge only. The ford over the Water of Minnoch is ferocious and is definitely not recommended for cars.

16. Laglanny—Shalloch on Minnoch. Private farm road, practicable for cars as far as Laglanny, though the descent is steep. The continuation to Shalloch on Minnoch is very soft and not suitable even for light vehicles as there is no bridge over the Water of Minnoch.

17. Stinchar Bridge—Balloch Lodge, with fork to Loch Bradan. County road to fork, from which both roads are private. The south fork to Balloch Lodge, which is occupied by the Balloch Fishing Club, is quite good, but there is little parking space at the Lodge, and cars should not be taken there during the fishing season from May to September inclusive. The north fork to Loch Bradan is firm, but grass-grown and deeply rutted; Loch Bradan has been artificially enlarged and now forms part of the Ayr County Water Undertaking.

18. Tairlaw—Knockdon. County road. From Knockdon Farm to Loch Bradan is private, but quite practicable for cars unless in very wet weather (the surface is soft).

In the area south of the Cross Road two side roads may be noted leading off the main Carlisle-Stranraer Road:—

19. Muirfad via Bargaly to Cross Road. County road. The road leading off this road to Cairnsmore is private.

20. Gatehouse of Fleet Station to Meikle Cullendoch. County road to entrance to Dromore Farm, thereafter private.

Having regard to the area already specified, the Galloway Hills might be roughly divided into five groups:—

I. The Western Range, from Shiel Hill (1,665) over Craigmasheenie (1,769), Shalloch on Minnoch (2,528), Tarfessock (2,282), Kirriereoch Hill (2,575), Merrick (2,764) and Benyellary (2,360) to the Fell of Eschoncan (1,142).

II. The Central Range, from Craigmawhannal (1,170) via Hooden's Hill (1,790), Mullwharchar (2,270), Dungeon Hill (2,020) and Craignaw (2,115) to Craiglee (1,741).

III. The Eastern Range, from Cullendoch Hill (1,113) via Craigencolon (1,125), Black Craig (1,730), Coran of Portmark (2,042), Bow (2,002), Meaul (2,280), Carlin's Cairn (2,650), Corserine (2,668), Millfire (2,350), Mill-down (2,410), Meikle Millyea (2,455) and Little Millyea (1,898) to Darrou (1,550). From Corserine southward this range forms "The Rhinns of Kells."

IV. The Southern Range, comprising from west to east Larg Hill (2,216), Lamachan (2,350), Curleywee (2,212), Millfore (2,151), Cairnsgarroch (1,829) and Darnaw (1,550).

V. The Cairnsmore of Fleet Group, comprising besides the main summit (2,331), to the south Knee of Cairnsmore (2,154), and to the north Meikle Mulltaggart (2,000) and Craignelder (1,971); while there might also be noted to the east Craigwhinnie (1,867), Cairnsmore of Dee (1,600) and Cairn Edward (1,066).

Descriptions \* of the hills themselves have been so

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\* Reference might be made to a very useful little book recently published by Dinwiddie of Dumfries—"Walks and Climbs in Dumfries and Galloway," by H. Truckell. This costs one shilling only, and contains a section on the Galloway Hills with some good sketch maps.

numerous and so detailed, commencing with the charming article by Colin B. Phillip in Volume 1 of the *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal* (at p. 161), that I do not propose to deal systematically with the area in this aspect—in any case, space and the hard-hearted Editor do not permit. Here follow, however, a few notes as to possible excursions based on the roads as numbered on pp. 331-333.

1. The head of Loch Doon is the best jumping-off place for II. as far south as Mullwharchar, and via Loch Riecawr is the most interesting route to I. as far south as Tarfessock. As a result of the institution of the Galloway Water Power Scheme Loch Doon is now liable to change of level to the extent of 40 feet, as compared with the former 20 feet when it was used only to equalise the flow of the River Doon, and the old island castle has consequently been removed and re-erected out of harm's way on the roadside close to Craigmulloch. There is a branch road to Starr and Portmark (definitely not advised for cars) forking off the Loch Riecawr private road. The path marked on the one-inch map to Tunskeen might be identified by an experienced Scout Leader; Tunskeen is normally occupied, but Slaethornrigg is now a ruin. The best of all the views of Merrick is obtained looking up Eglin Lane just above the point where this stream joins with Whitespout Lane to form Carrick Lane. The Gala Lane Valley is nowhere impassable, but the going is execrable and there is no path beside the stream.

2. This is the nearest point of access to the extreme northern end of III.

3. An alternative to (2). The old road continues—really only a footpath now—to the disused lead mines at terminus of (4).

4. The terminus of this road is the best point from which to explore the northern part of III., as far, at any rate, as Carlin's Cairn. The walk along the high ground is pleasant and easy.

5 and 6. Not recommended, unless a long and somewhat uninteresting walk to the high ground is desired for purposes of self-discipline. The corrie at the head



of the Polmaddy Burn is, however, one of the finest in the whole area.

7. The best route for III. generally, and also for Dungeon Hill in II. From Bush the whole range of II. can be visited in a reasonably easy day, the northern end from Corserine being traversed in both directions. The path to the Back Bush (where unpretentious food and accommodation can normally be obtained) is not easy to follow. (After passing through gate in dyke at Bush the slope should be ascended to left, keeping dyke on left.) The most interesting route to the ridge is via Garinner Strand (referred to later).

8. This route is perhaps hardly so convenient generally as (7) or (9), but it is the best access to Meikle Millyea. The lower part of the glen is rather fine scenically.

9. For Meikle Millyea this route is an alternative to (7) or (8), and for the south end of the Dungeon of Buchan an alternative to (10). The path to Back Garrary is difficult to follow; it starts from the sheepfold beside the Garrary Burn and crosses the low col between Little Millyea and Darrou.

10. Craigencallie is the best point of access for Loch Dee and the south end of the Dungeon of Buchan, and for the eastern end of IV. as far as Millfore, while for the hills of II. south of Mullwharchar it is an alternative to (12). There is a rough path from Craigencallie to the Laggans (both Black Laggan and White Laggan are now ruinous).

11. The best route to the western end of IV. as far as Curleywee. There is a rough cart road (not practicable for cars) from Auchinleck to the Laggans; the path thence to Glenhead is not easy to follow, but the route is plain.

12. This is the most picturesque and popular of all the access routes. It is the easiest and best way to I. as far north as Merrick, and the finest route to II. as far north as Mullwharchar; it is also (via Glenhead or Caldons) a pleasant alternative way of access to the western end of IV., and to the fine corrie facing north between Lamachan and Curleywee. The paths to Culsharg



and to Loch Valley are good, particularly the latter, which is deservedly the most frequented of the Galloway hill paths.

13. An alternative but less interesting route to Merrick.

14. The easiest route to Kirriereoch Hill, and also, via the footpath to Kirriemore, the best route to Merrick from the north-west. The corrie between Kirriereoch Hill and Merrick is the finest on the west side of the range.

15. For Tarfessock an alternative to (16).

16. The best route from the north-west to Tarfessock and Shalloch on Minnoch, but not so interesting as (1).

17. For the northern end of I. this route forms an alternative to (1), and it is also very attractive scenically. There is a rough path from Balloch Lodge to Loch Riecawr.

18. This is not a convenient route to any high ground, but either Knockdon or the north-east end of Loch Bradan is a good point from which to visit the many charming lochs lying on the moors west of Loch Doon.

19. The easiest way to the summit of Cairnsmore of Fleet is from Cairnsmore, whence there is a path of sorts all the way to the top, but more interesting routes are from Gatehouse of Fleet Station via Door of Cairnsmore and Knee of Cairnsmore, or from Talnotry or Murray's Monument on the Cross Road via Craignelder and Meikle Mulltaggart.

20. For the Clints of Dromore. There is a rough road (private) to Loch Grennoch (not suitable for cars).

There is no rock in the whole district worth visiting for that alone. There are many steep slopes, such as the Tauchers of Mullwharchar, the east faces of Dungeon Hill and Craignaw, and the east faces of Millfire and Milldown, but all are much broken. The outcrops, such as those on Shiel Hill, are mainly of granite. They are low and, where steep, unclimbable. Possibly the best scramble is provided by the gully of the Garinner Strand leading from Loch Dungeon to the ridge of the Rhinns of Kells at the Lochans of Auchniebut. This gully lies immediately to the south-east of the obvious easy route of ascent from the west end of Loch Dungeon, but is only worthy of attention in weather sufficiently

dry to allow the course of the burn to be closely adhered to. There is one pitch about half-way up where a steep slab on the true right bank of the stream has to be surmounted, and at the top a rock-face on true left of the waterfall gives 25 feet or so of good climbing at an angle of 80 degrees, the holds being small but sound (C. M. Allan).

Another interesting route to the same ridge is by the rough shoulder of Millfire which projects north-east into the Hawse Glen. This gives an occasional rock scramble, and affords fine views south-east over Loch Dungeon and north to Corserine and the head of the glen.

The archæological interest of the hill area is quite considerable. This is not an occasion for detail, but it may be remarked that on a 6-mile walk from Drannadow (on east bank of Cree 4 miles north of Newton Stewart) to Larg Hill one may examine no less than nine separate "howes of the silent vanished races" of sufficient importance to be noticed in the Report for Kirkcudbright of the Historical Monuments Commission (Nos. 355 to 360 and 366 to 368). The well-known and huge pile of stones on the top of Carlin's Cairn is the subject of a local legend the genuineness of which is, however, doubtful.

As regards bibliography there are many compilations of the guide-book plus folklore type which touch upon the area to a greater or less extent, but none of outstanding merit. Possibly the best is "The Merrick and Neighbouring Hills," by James M'Bain of Ayr, which—although the sophisticated mountaineer may find the illustrations of poor quality and the narrative in some respects rather ingenuous and naïve—has the supreme merit of displaying throughout the spirit of the true and honest lover of the wild hill country. It might be noted also that Mr M'Bain is in himself a good testimony to the health-giving effect of the disciplined energy required of the Galloway hill-rambler; he is still fit and well though over ninety years old, and ascended Merrick for the *n*th time at the age of eighty-four.

For list of landowners of this area, see note on p. 356.

## FOURTEEN HOURS ON THE OBSERVATORY RIDGE.

By W. M. MACKENZIE.

WHEN we arrange to spend a week-end on Nevis the resolution that we arrive at the Hut at a reasonable hour, so that we may be spared the ordeal of scrambling over boulders, is invariably approved. However, Murray, MacAlpine, and myself, as usual, lingered at the flesh-pots, and it was 8.30 P.M. on 19th February when we left the Distillery. After crossing the Allt a' Mhuillin we lost the path. In our wanderings we found ourselves first of all half-way up the slopes of Carn Mor Dearg, and then almost up into Castle Corrie. At length we arrived at the Hut to find it empty.

The following morning was a perfect one; a little morning mist, but the sun soon chased it away. We examined the Observatory Ridge and pronounced it feasible—not too much snow on the lower rocks, and the snow above looked quite reassuring. We were on our way by 9.30 A.M., promising ourselves to be at the Hut at 4 P.M., if we were lucky, although personally I thought it would be nearer 7 o'clock.

We got on to the lower rocks from the Zero Gully side, and I must say I did not like the condition of the snow. It was covered with a layer 2 inches thick of wind-slab, and the stuff underneath was like sifted sugar. The second and third men had to hold on to the rope. Every slope of snow after that was the same. The rocks weren't bad and we made good progress, but we were hindered every now and again wherever we struck snow. MacAlpine's head stopped a large chunk of slab, which must have been more than a foot square, and fell about 30 feet. The steep section of the ridge (about a third of it) took us more than four hours, contrasting with about an hour in summer conditions. We now had a snow ridge, broken here and there by outcrops of rock. The snow was a bitter disappointment, as it was in its worst condition. It was still some distance below where we could join Zero Gully, and although we somehow or other got up

another 300 feet we found things very dangerous. Where the ridge narrowed down the crest was impossible, and we were forced on to the steep slopes above Observatory Gully. The best way was for me to belay securely and to chance the slopes holding until at least one got to a safe position. We cut up an icy slope; the snow wasn't bad at this point. The narrowest part of the ridge was gained after swarming up steep, snow-covered rocks on all fours; it was the only method that could be adopted. We took the opportunity at this stage of admiring a very beautiful sunset—everything was rose-pink.

Zero Gully was now in front, and we had visions of kicking steps all the way up. What we found was 3 or 4 inches of "sifted sugar" overlying iron-hard snow, which in many places gave place to pure ice. It was now quite dark, no moon but brilliant stars. After cutting up for over 100 feet the slope steepened from 50° to over 70° and became pure ice. Murray burrowed into my sack and fished out my head lamp, an invaluable possession if one gets into the habit of cutting up ice slopes in the dark. After 60 feet the slope eased off to 50°, and we went ahead cutting all the way and only moving one at a time. Another icy section followed, steeper than the first, where Murray and I both entered into the fray. This section took some time. The top of the gully didn't seem to be getting any nearer, it was still in the dim distance, but we were now level with the base of the Tower and prospects were rosy for the future, as we didn't relish the thought of a bivouac. We went on cutting up and over another icy section. There was no respite, but the top was now in sight.

At length we were out on the plateau. We hurried over to the Observatory, scrambled through the only visible window and found a sheltered corner within. The final shock was that Murray had forgotten to lace up my sack—but it still harboured a precious flask of tea, whilst MacAlpine had the rum. Fourteen hours had elapsed since we left the Hut, and it was 11.30 P.M.

[*Note.*—Measured snow gradients in the upper Zero Gully are recorded on p. 201 of this volume of the *Journal.*—Ed.]

## OLD NUMBERS OF THE JOURNAL.

By ROBT. M. GALL INGLIS.

VOLUME 16 will be of use in planning mountaineering holidays. T. H. Somervell's "Three Weeks in the Highlands" and E. Luscher's "Summer Holiday in Scotland" cover an immense amount of ground, as does "A Pedestrian Expedition in the Highlands, 1856" (continued in the next two volumes), being a striking account of the difficulties with which climbers of eighty years ago had to contend. Accounts of several climbs in Skye are also minutely described, and expeditions are outlined in "A Day on Braeriach," "The Carn Maig Range," and "The Chasm, Buachaille Etive."

Volume 17. The story of "Five Nights in the Half-way Hut on Ben Nevis" makes interesting comparison with life as it is enjoyed to-day at the C.I.C. Hut. Rock climbs are described in "Skye Ridges, Cracks and Staircases," "The North Wall Variation of the Crowberry Ridge," and "The West Buttress of Coire Bhrochain." W. W. Naismith tells of "Early Winter Climbing," P. Donald describes a camping tour "Through Lorne and Benderloch," while freak expeditions are carried out in "The Scottish Four Thousands in Twenty-four Hours."

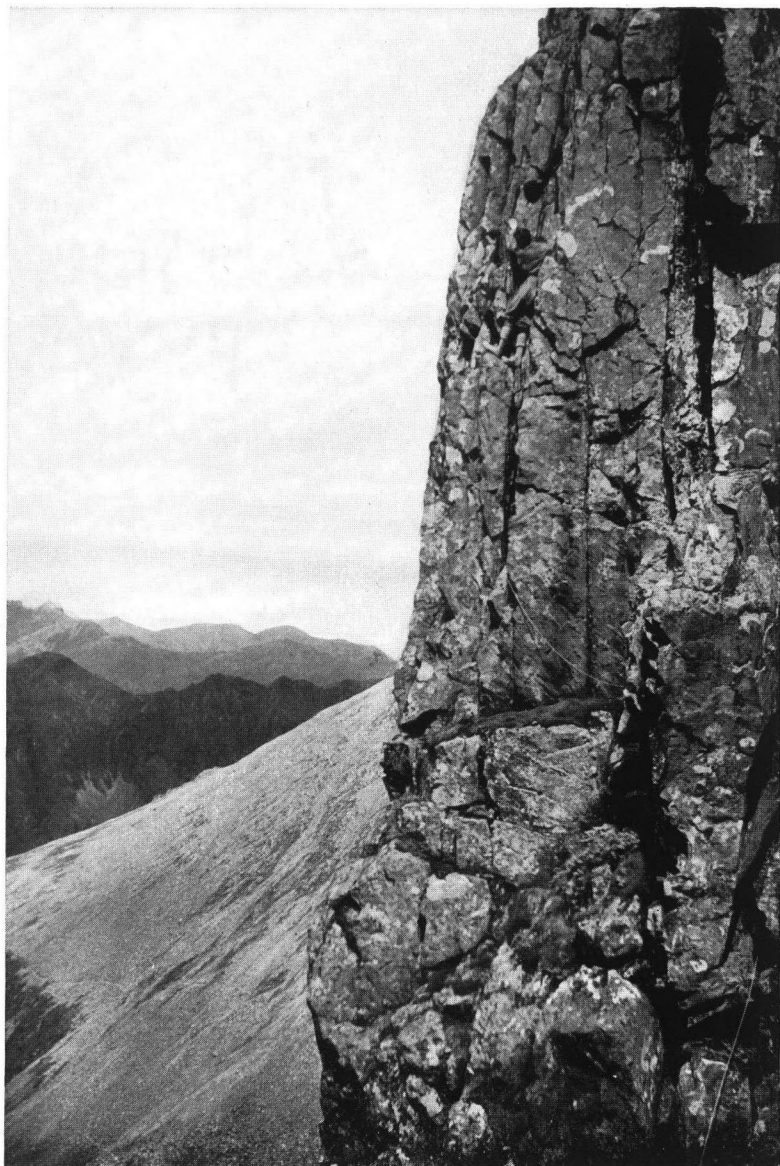
Volume 18 contains Dr W. Inglis Clark's memories of Ben Nevis, and description and photographs of the Charles Inglis Clark Memorial Hut. "The Erecting of the Mountain Indicator on Ben Nevis" is described by J. A. Parker, the completion of whose ascent of all the Munros in the United Kingdom is unexpectedly increased by J. G. Inglis and J. R. Corbett finding "A New Munro" near Kinlochewe. A. Harrison describes rock climbs on Carn Dearg of Nevis and Buachaille Etive, and in Skye, G. Thomson recalls "Early Informal Meets," and outlines of holidays are given in "A Fortnight in Wester Ross" and "Early Summer in the Highlands."

In Volume 19 G. G. MacPhee tells of climbs done during "Twelve Days at the Hut." J. H. B. Bell makes the first ascent of the Diamond Buttress of Bidean nam Bian and explores "The Northern Cliffs of Stob Coire an Lochain," while A. Harrison deals with "The Buttresses of Stob Coire Nam Beith" and tells of further climbs on Buachaille Etive and Coire an Lochain, Cairngorms. In "Day Trips by Rail" J. Dow shows the numerous Munros that can be scaled "between trains" on trips from Edinburgh and Glasgow. Two practical articles are on "The Middleman Loop" and "Aneroids and Munros," while three little-known groups of hills round about Lochs Monar and Broom are described, and J. A. Parker tells of "The Mountains of Lewis and Harris."

Volume 20 contains descriptions of many new climbs, the chief being "The Mitre Ridge of Beinn a' Bhuidr," others being on Ben Nevis and Narnain, and in Glencoe and Skye. J. A. Parker explores "The Mountains of South Uist," and in "Curvature and Visibility" solves problems regarding heights and the visibility of one point from another. A. Harrison, reviewing "Scottish Mountaineering Accidents," sets out sound advice for mountaineers and hill-walkers. "The Two Thousand Foot Tops of the Scottish Lowlands" are ascended and tabulated by P. Donald, and conditions in the Highlands fifty years ago are described by J. G. Inglis in "Days that are Past." Other articles of descriptive interest deal with the "Island of Rum," "The Corrieairack Pass," and "An Arran Ridge Walk."

*Note.*—Old numbers of the *Journal* may be had from the Librarian. Copies of almost every number since the beginning of Volume 11 are available at prices ranging from 2s. 6d. to 5s. according to the rarity of the number. Details of numbers prior to Volume 11 can be had from the Librarian. There are no numbers in stock prior to Number 21. Copies of the Index to Volumes 1 to 10 can be had, price 3s. 6d. each.





*July 1937*

*W. G. Marskell*

CHURCH DOOR BUTTRESS—WESTERN EDGE

Leader on pitch two

## NEW CLIMBS.

## THE CHURCH DOOR BUTTRESS.

*New Route on West Face.*

By W. H. MURRAY.

*Date of Ascent.*—11th July 1937.*Party.*—W. H. Murray, J. K. W. Dunn, and W. G. Marskell (all J.M.C.S.).

The start of this route is found by climbing up the scree-slopes to the right of Central Gully until one reaches a well-marked bay (very clearly seen in Young's photograph in "The Central Highlands Guide") formed by the angle of junction between the west face and the wide projecting spur of the buttress. There is now a cairn here.

At the outer edge of the left wall of the bay a perpendicular face rises in 40 feet to a bulging boss that overhangs the scree below. From the top of this impossible bulge a shallow cleft springs vertically upwards. Its walls are acute-angled and smooth, and are unpromising when examined from below. This cleft, however, is the vital link connecting the bay to the crest of the buttress.

The day was sunny and the rocks dry. We started from the innermost part of the bay and climbed up and through a narrow crack between the wall of the buttress and a detached pinnacle to a good stance behind the latter. A horizontal rock-ledge now ran leftward to the steep edge of the buttress, above the bulge and below the cleft. Three feet up a small, sloping slab provided footing for the take-off. The walls of the cleft (much wider than appears in the photograph) were too acute to favour jamming tactics. The first half was climbed on the left wall by small holds, until these became insufficient. It was then necessary to turn round and face the right wall. The move was an awkward one and allowed time for sensational glimpses to the scree below. The remainder of the cleft was climbed on its right-hand edge, and finished on a wide, moss-covered ledge inclining outwards. The leader ran out 100 feet of line before

reaching the only belay on this ledge, which was found low down at its northern end.

The cleft provides steep and exhilarating climbing. Its difficulties are considerably greater than those of the final chimney above the Arch. On a first ascent under good conditions it proved severe in rubbers, and might be severe in boots on a second one.

A long vertical wall, 15 feet high, was now all that barred us from the crest of the buttress. The wall was barely difficult at its weakest point, and a further 100 feet of moderate rock, vegetatious in character, brought us to the standard route immediately below the Arch. We have no record of the time spent in reaching this point, but one hour should be an adequate allowance.

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## ISLE OF SKYE.

### *The South-West Buttress of Sgurr na h-Uamha.*

By W. H. MURRAY.

*First Ascent.*—26th June 1937.

*Party.*—W. H. Murray and J. K. W. Dunn (both J.M.C.S.).

The south-west buttress of Sgurr na h-Uamha springs steeply from the upper part of Harta Corrie. The height from corrie to cairn is probably 1,000 feet. This appeared to be the last big unclimbed buttress in the Cuillin; that it had never before been explored promised some exceptional technical difficulties, and we moved up to the buttress with no little curiosity. The first few hundred feet were scree-covered, and we reached the foot of the rocks at a height of approximately 1,800 feet. The day was dry and windy.

The lower section of the rock-buttress took the shape of a 350-foot hump, and we built a cairn at the centre of its base line, where one could see into Lota Corrie on the left and Harta Corrie on the right. The hump bristled with vertical and overhanging walls, arranged in tiers that were divided one from another by narrow horizontal trap-ledges. The rock was gabbro and good. Six hundred feet of climbing took us to the summit.

The buttress, like almost all others, is indefinite, but the route selection is therefore of great interest to the leader. The overhangs were turned by traversing narrow trap- ledges until a face, corner, or crack promised a route to the next tier. The climbing on the hump was steep and often exposed, but with adequate holds, and gave five pitches, totalling 320 feet (longest run-out for the leader, 80 feet). The angle of the buttress then eased off for 150 feet before steepening again in further overhangs. An attempt to force these direct was repulsed by a south- westerly gale, and they were subsequently turned by a steep slab on the right, difficult under the conditions. One hundred feet of scrambling on superb gabbro slabs led to the cairn. Our time from the upper part of Harta Corrie was two and a half hours. The route was not more than difficult.

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BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR—LADY'S  
GULLY, SOUTH WALL.

By C. R. STEVEN.

A visit to one or other of the Crowberry climbs is the usual continuation to a day begun on Central or D Gully Buttress. There is, however, much of novelty and interest to be found in a traverse southwards towards the Chasm. Many sound rock faces are to be found, but they are mostly short and make up a complicated section of Buachaille Etive, which has received little attention in "The Central Highlands Guide." An attempt on 22nd August 1937 to locate Four Days' Ridge—mentioned by G. D. Abraham in "British Mountain Climbs," but not referred to in the "Guide Book," although it has been suggested that it is the same as the Chasm North Wall—resulted in an interesting climb of about 260 feet by I. G. Jack and C. R. Steven.

From the cairn at the top of Central and D Gully Buttresses a descent of 100 feet by heather terraces was made, so as to pass below a terrific slab. A re-ascent of 50 feet led to a platform overlooking the first well-defined

gully, presumed to be Lady's Gully, which here opens out beneath a face of whitish rock. Directly opposite the platform the slopes beyond the gully steepen and culminate in a lofty, round-topped tower, cleft in turn by a subsidiary, shallow gully. This gully, which high up becomes a thin, curving crack, provided the line of assault.

Starting from the bed of Lady's Gully, we traversed upwards to the left to a notch behind a large rock flake, some 20 feet high, leaving a small cairn on the way.

A run-out of 100 feet was necessary before the next satisfactory belay was found, the groove which we followed being of sound, if somewhat greasy rock.

The angle of the next section steepened and a stance 30 feet higher in a small, uncomfortable cave was abandoned in favour of a short traverse to the right. This avoided a steep and slimy wall and allowed progress to a crowberry-covered ledge with a belay, the run-out being 70 feet.

Straight up from this ledge a route of 60 feet was followed, first up a crowberry-draped crack and then on an airy and rather crazy arête. This pitch, very steep and uncomfortably loose in places, led to a grassy platform (cairned) level with the top of Lady's Gully.

The correct finish to the climb would have been to continue up the gully from the crowberry ledge and reach the summit of the tower by the curving crack mentioned above. This would considerably increase the length of the route, but would eliminate the final pleasant pitch via the arête.

The standard is probably very difficult, the last two pitches being exposed and still untrustworthy, if lacking in real technical difficulties.

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## BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR—SOME NEW CLIMBS.

By A. C. D. SMALL.

### CROWBERRY RIDGE.

Lying left and parallel to the direct route there is a conspicuous fault connecting a pinnacle near the foot of the Crowberry's steep section to a nose at the top. The fault is the basis of the climb.

The pinnacle is a more moderate version of its counterpart on the direct route. Above it rises the wall seen so effectively by performers on Abraham's Traverse. Just to the right of the pinnacle there is a corner with flakes and grooves, but the true route goes directly up the face by two cracks in V formation. They flatter, then deceive. In 40 feet the crack—now in the singular—merges into the fault with its characteristic slabby rock leaves. The continuation passing the nose on the right, as a fairly deep crack, can be followed easily. The alternative way to the left maintains interest better.

#### FRACTURE ROUTE.

*Start.*—Half-way along the ledge above the introductory pitch from Easy Gully to the Direct Route. Cairn.

1. 45 *Feet.*—By a rock rib, square-cut rocks and grass to the top of a pillar.

2. 100 *Feet.*—Step off from the top of the pillar into the left of the V cracks. With some aid from the right crack, the first 15 feet are straightforward, but the next 25 feet require very strenuous movement. Thereafter the main fault is reached and the climbing eases considerably, although it is 60 feet to the first belay; a thread round a jammed stone in a crack.

Confirmed variationists may make something of the flakes on the corner to the right.

3. 80 *Feet.*—From the belay the continuation of the fault, on the right of the nose, to the crest of the ridge is without difficulty. The belaying point on this route can be easily joined from the Upper Ledge and the pitch used as a mild alternative to the ordinary route.

A more meritorious course can be made by traversing left from the belay, round a corner, and so gaining access to the crack on the left of the nose. This gives good climbing and rejoins the main fault on the crown of the ridge. Cairn against the wall.

This point of junction completes the route, as it then joins the final slabby pitch leading to the scrambling section of the Strawberry Ridge.

Fracture Route was explored and climbed, except the hard 25 feet, on 15th August, by A. C. D. Small and J. R. Wood.

On 29th August, a day of mist and showers, the route



was climbed throughout by A. C. D. Small and J. F. Hamilton. However, the safeguard of a rope from above was taken on the difficult section—hence the fracture.

#### HIGH-LEVEL TRAVERSE.

J. F. Hamilton, on 30th May, traversed the Crowberry Ridge from the Upper Ledge to Agag's Groove.

A slightly ascending route is taken from the Upper Ledge to the easy section of the Fracture Route, which is climbed to the thread belay. A horizontal course across slabby rock leads to a ledge on the nose of the Crowberry Ridge, reached by a high step. Continuing this line, delicate movement brings one to a triangular corner, also gained by a rising movement. From this haven it is possible to descend a slanting fault into Agag's Groove. According to mood, one then ascends or descends.

#### HELICAL ROUTE.

This route effects a union between the High-level Traverse and Agag's Groove at a much higher level, and although it is original only in its middle section, the combination makes a distinctive excursion across very fine sections of the Crowberry Ridge and the Crowberry Wall.

It is an earnest and energetic route with open, varied climbing and splendid situations. The central section incorporates exposure with little protection for the leader.

The route uses most of the High-level Traverse and the last pitch of Agag's Groove.

*Start.*—At the thread belay on the Fracture Route.

1. *60 Feet.*—Traverse horizontally round the nose of the Crowberry Ridge, across and into the haven. Belays are rather casual, but a fine rock pulley over a small projecting corner makes the second man's transit less problematical. The pulley is situated 10 feet up on the right wall.

2. *110 Feet.*—Up the steep crack above the haven for 25 feet, then break out left to a ledge with a loose block, which makes an indifferent belay, but is hard to improve upon.

An oblique narrow groove rising to the left is followed. This ends in a vertical wall opposite a projecting undercut block, actually the far side of the block or nose that constitutes the crux of Agag's.

Crossing the wall until lodgement can be made on the block is the difficult move on the route. From this block to a larger one 15 feet above presents little trouble. This has a belay that justifies the route.

3. 60 Feet.—The last 15 feet (of the previous section) are on Agag's Groove, and the next pitch is the final one taken direct to the usual finish.

Climbed by A. C. D. Small and J. R. Wood on 19th September.

#### HYPHEN RIB.

Between the Shelf Route and Naismith's Route a tapering intermediate rib comes down, more marked in character at top and bottom than in the middle. It forms quite a distinct line. There are no great difficulties and the route is not at all pretentious, being often escapable, but worth following for its interesting moments.

*Start.*—Practically identical with that of the Shelf Route, on the right side of a little bay.

1. 70 Feet.—Straight up a sharp rock edge. This broadens and there is a somewhat awkward part about 20 feet up on overhanging ledges. Thereafter movement eases and there are stances and belays. Next follows a scrambling section ending level with Greig's Ledge.

2. 110 Feet.—A succession of vertical walls, roughly parallel to, and an extension of, Naismith's Route. Originality and interest are maintained by keeping to the right corner overlooking the gully of the Shelf Route. It is steep going, with little call to stop for over a 100 feet. Then the rib broadens and stances and belays are at hand.

The median nature of the route is now obvious. Scramble once more up to a steep wall.

3. 50 Feet.—Directly up the front of this most satisfactorily constructed wall and then by easier ground, faithfully following the rib.

Continue to a slab under the shoulder of the main ridge and emerge opposite the finish of the Rannoch Wall climb. Or diverge to the right and tackle a small pinnacle.

Climbed by A. C. D. Small and J. R. Wood on 19th September.

## RAVEN'S GULLY—BUACHAILLE ETIVE.

By JOHN B. NIMLIN.

*Pitch 1, 50 Feet.*—The waterslide, which is the true pitch, was avoided by climbing the rib which bounds it on the right—a featureless and fairly easy section. The actual gully is now entered: screes at moderate angle and steep walls.

*Pitch 2, 15 Feet.*—A cave crowned with bulging rocks. Route on right wall. Holds small and slimy. Strenuous.

*Pitch 3, 15 Feet.*—Similar problem to No. 2. Climbed on right wall. Also strenuous.

*Pitch 4, 15 Feet.*—Similar to Nos. 2 and 3, but climbed on left wall. An overhung cave with belays at back. The wall is almost holdless and somewhat exposed. Leader is advised (or compelled) to requisition aid from below. Adhesion gained by jamming shoulder in narrow slot between wall and overhang. Key to climb is good hold in bed of continuing groove (not visible). Extra strenuous and severe. Loose scree above pitch requires great care. The gully is now scree-filled and moderately inclined. An exit could probably be made to the lowest rocks of Cuneiform Buttress.

*Pitch 5, 90-100 Feet (Intermediate Stances).*—Enter deep-cut gully over large blocks. Damp and mossy section. Back and knee up strenuous chimney with smooth walls and work outwards to flat-topped jammed block, from which a ledge curves to cave (60 feet). Route now follows a very steep groove left of cave. A delicate step is made round steep rib into groove, which offers small holds. Climb to point level with top of rib, where a fine hold is found in bed of groove. Last few feet easier. Alternative to lower groove may be found by employing a long threaded loop for right hand (a sort of portable handhold) and climbing rib direct to good hold already mentioned. Strenuous and very damp in lower reaches. Much loose scree on lip above groove. A scree-floored recess is now entered, barred by overhung cave.

*Pitch 6, 60-70 Feet.*—Route on steep left wall a few feet inwards from lip of Pitch 5. A shoulder is very useful as the lower wall is holdless. Small holds are found about 8 feet up and followed for 30 feet, bearing right to a promising projection which only gives a balance hold. Last 30 feet at easier angle. A very steep climb involving great finger strain. The screes above are very unstable, and the party is advised to shelter in cave until the leader is safely placed. Route now follows over large boulders until a recess is reached in the actual watercourse.

*Pitch 7, 60 Feet.*—Traverse left under a bulge and circle back into gully to a cave. Fairly easy.

*Pitch 8, 25 Feet.*—A groove is now taken on left of cave. Steep and fairly difficult.

The gully is now bounded by the overhanging wall of Cuneiform Buttress, but a splendid view is open to the left. The apparently vertical walls of North Buttress plunge impressively into the lower gully, and two great jambed blocks form an archway some yards up the rift. A few feet up, a steep rib again walls in this side. The gully was climbed for some distance above this point until a close-up view of the final overhung sections discouraged an advance. An abortive attempt was now made on the left wall, but rain and badly inclined holds made a retreat advisable. The party now descended to screes above pitch 8, and a sensational traverse was made around already mentioned rib to a shallow, parallel gully.

*Pitch 9, 80 Feet.*—Two parallel grooves, almost chimneys, rise to a long grass and stone-filled gully. The left one was chosen. Good holds lead to a vertical section from which an exit is made with adequate grips. Sitting belay on rock platform. Belay on Pitches 9 and 10 rather poor.

*Pitch 10, 100 Feet.*—Shallow gully filled with loose rock at steep angle. Great caution necessary and short rope lengths. Above gully, the final wall forces party to grass platform on edge of true gully (right). From here a ledge leads upwards and right to short smooth wall.

*Pitch 11, 10 Feet and 10 Feet.*—A narrow groove, extra strenuous and practically holdless, leads to a scree-filled hollow with an excellent sheltering cave. An easy scramble (10 feet) now finishes on the slopes between Cuneiform Buttress and summit.

*Pitch 11 (alternative), 50 Feet.*—Party now safeguarded by leader who gained top by above route. Traverse left over slabs and climb 50 feet chimney and fold. A difficult climb.

The climb took nine and a half hours with an unwieldy party of five. Conditions were favourable after a short drought, but heavy mists had left the rocks in a slimy state. Perfect conditions cannot materially affect the standard of difficulty. A party of not less than three would be necessary, and spare rope might be useful. Pitches 4, 5, and 6 are severe and extra strenuous, and only one pitch is easy. No holds were actually under water. Loose stones are a constant danger, but the actual holds are sound.

On a later visit the party descended pitch 11 by the

short route, and examined the upper part of the true gully. A subterranean route was found, leading through a mass of debris to the left wall of the final cave. Examination was not possible, but a party entering the cave may be assured of a through route if the left wall can be climbed to a point near the roof.

In summing up I find a total of some 600 feet in my estimate, which seems rather much in view of the 350 feet attributed to Cuneiform Buttress. However, I never could apply mathematics to climbing; I am too occupied in seeing other things. The somewhat detailed description may not be necessary, as the very individual holds permit of little variation. The climb itself may draw more bad language than praise, but to me, for one, it brought great pleasure when my aching muscles got back to normal.

*Order of Party.*—John B. Nimlin, Norman Millar, Barclay Braithewaite, John MacFarlane, Garry —.

*Date.*—13th June 1937.

[*Note.*—This climb is referred to in "Central Highlands Guide," p. 49, as having been abandoned unfinished. We congratulate the active party on their perseverance and success in this difficult venture. As the Editor himself has been concerned in two climbs on the Cuneiform Buttress alongside, he is of opinion that the latter is approximately correctly assessed at about 350 feet, and that Raven's Gully, although somewhat longer, is unlikely to exceed 450 feet.—EDITOR.]

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## GREEN GULLY—THE COMB—BEN NEVIS.

By J. H. B. BELL.

This precipitous gully which flanks the Comb on the Carn Dearg side consists of three distinct sections. The lowest pitch of about 100 feet, or a little over, consists of an overhung chimney in summer conditions, flanked on the true right by the vertical cliffs of the Comb below a certain ledge or terrace, which runs round to the left towards a conspicuous corner underneath the vertical nose of the Comb. On the other side, this chimney



merges into a terraced rock face. In summer conditions this is climbable, without much difficulty, in several ways. The writer climbed it alone on 28th November 1937 under conditions of hard frost and frost-crystallised rocks, but the difficulties on that occasion were greater, and necessitated some traversing obliquely upwards and away from the chimney. He does not know what difficulties would be met with under snowy Easter conditions, nor whether the pitch could be directly climbed under such conditions.

Above this lowest pitch Green Gully is easy for a stretch. The writer entered it at this point, along with Mr Ernest Roberts, in August 1935; the party had climbed up the lower tier of Comb rocks to the terrace underneath the nose, and entered the gully by this terrace. On 4th April 1937 the writer's party entered the gully about this point by a traverse across the inclined snowfield, attained fairly easily from the foot of No. 3 Gully. Their objective was not Green Gully but an exploration of other possibilities of direct ascent from this snowfield by one or other of certain chimneys in the rock face above it. The day was, to begin with, misty, and the project of such a direct ascent was only given up after a closer inspection.

It is therefore from this point, above the chimney pitch, that the party consisting of Messrs J. H. B. Bell, J. Henson, R. Morsley, and P. A. Small effected the first ascent of Green Gully on 4th April 1937. There was much snow and ice and a slight thaw when we entered the gully about 1 P.M. The gully soon steepened and became enclosed by precipitous walls on either side. One or two easy pitches led up to a formidable ice pitch about 60 feet high. The pitch started from our right-hand corner, and led obliquely upwards to the left, over a bulge of very hard ice, where hand-holds had to be cut all the way. Beyond this was an outcrop of rock which afforded a useful belay below the steep upper wall of the pitch. Here great care was needed, as the ice was not too sound in parts, and the angle was nearly vertical.



There followed a longish section on hard snow, past a moderate pitch, and so to the foot of the upper obstacle. This, at first, was deemed impracticable, and an abortive attempt was made on the rock wall to our right. Finally, Henson led this pitch straight up the right-hand corner, on a wall at first of rock with a thin coating of ice, and ultimately on ice. This pitch was nearly vertical, exceedingly strenuous, but somewhat shorter than the lower pitch. We consider that both pitches are severe, as the balance is exceedingly restricted.

Above the upper pitch the gully proper disappears. We progressed on hard snow in a shallow, steep scoop, with outcrops of rock to right and left. It would not, under the prevailing conditions, have been possible to seek an exit up the summit rocks of the Comb on our left. It was very late, we were enveloped in mist, and could only proceed carefully up the snow. Soon this became more powdery and deeper. A cornice loomed darkly ahead. We entrenched ourselves securely, while Henson, who continued to lead, worked obliquely up to the right, flogged and consolidated the snow as much as possible, and finally got through to the plateau.

At 6.45 P.M., in gathering darkness, we took off the rope and congratulated each other on our hard-won victory and successful escape from the maw of Green Gully.

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## THE WEST FACE OF OBSERVATORY RIDGE—BEN NEVIS.

By J. H. B. BELL.

On 11th July 1937 Mr Jas. F. Hamilton and the writer succeeded in scaling the western face of the Observatory Ridge by a somewhat intricate and difficult route. Prior to the ascent of the Left Wall of Observatory Buttress in September 1936 the writer examined this face, and in company with J. F. Hamilton made an abortive attempt on it about a month later in bad weather. On

11th July 1937 the first attempt was made on the slabby wall fairly close to the impossible-looking gully in the angle between Observatory Ridge and Observatory Buttress. There was still a good deal of snow about, and the slabs were rather wet in spite of the perfection of the weather. The slabs, in any circumstances, promised to be exceptionally severe, so a retreat was effected very soon indeed, followed by a careful descent of the steep, hard snowdrift for about three-quarters of its length.

We were now at our starting-point of the previous October, and 100 feet of moderate rock took us to the foot of a small chimney. Here it was essential to effect a holdless exposed traverse to the left, in the hope of finding an easier upward passage beyond. The hope proved well founded, as we were able to progress about 50 feet directly upwards to a thread belay. Here a small overhang was negotiated, and a further 50 feet took us to the base of the next tier of vertical cliff. Fortunately we were now able to traverse to the right underneath the wall for about 100 feet, with a degree of exposure more apparent than real, along the upper edge of a smooth, slabby cliff. On the way the upper wall is cleft by two steep chimneys, of which the first looks quite hopeless and the second uninviting but possible. The traverse proceeds further, however, but soon merges into steep and difficult trap rock. Two possibilities remain: (1) a continuation towards the upper part of the fierce gully between ourselves and the Observatory Buttress—in that direction is an open chimney with rather bad smooth slabs above—or (2) the ascent of a steep chimney above on our left, which might get us through the vertical wall above us and so on to easier rock.

We chose the latter alternative and approached the foot of the chimney on very loose rock. The entry into the chimney involved difficult progress up smooth, sloping ledges. From a niche in the chimney it was quite obvious that direct upward progress was hopeless, as the chimney was roofed by steep, holdless slabs. An escape seemed to be possible on the left, but the position was so precarious that the leader was compelled to drive in a

ring-spike and pass the rope through a spring-hook before moving upwards to the left on to a small jutting corner of rock. For the next 4 feet of traverse boots and socks were removed, and a delicate friction glide on a smooth slab led to assured safety. Thirty feet higher was a splendid belay.

The second man now advanced, carefully removed the ring-spike and turned the corner. As he left for the 4-foot traverse he dexterously bestowed a parting push to the friendly but somewhat insecure corner-stone of the climb. With a thunderous roar it crashed down the Observatory Gully, so that no one is likely to repeat the final section of this route. There is still, of course, the possible chimney which we had passed during our lower traverse. Little remains to be said, as we soon found ourselves on easy ground at a height of about 3,800 to 3,900 feet. Half an hour later we were on the top of the Ben. The difficult new part of the climb took us two and a half hours, under good conditions and without any rests.

There must surely be a number of other practicable routes on this great rock face. Some may be more direct than ours, but all will be difficult. We can only claim to have made the opening move of the game.

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## THE GULLIES OF SGURR NAN CEANNAICHEAN.

By RICHARD FRERE.

The two gullies in the western face of Sgurr nan Ceannaichean, called Craig an Ardachaidh (in the S.M.C. "Guide to the Western Highlands"), were climbed on 16th October 1937 by some H.M.C.\* members.

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[\* H.M.C.—Highland Mountaineering Club—a young contemporary of ours founded by the author of this note in Inverness.

It is generally better to use the rope during a climb of this nature.—EDITOR.]

The north gully starts in a deep chasm with a steep waterfall pitch about 200 feet from the start of the gully. The party avoided this and climbed a steep slope outside the main gully on the right until it appeared possible to descend into the gully again by a rather rotten-looking chimney. One member reached the bottom of this chimney, but the sight of the next pitch was disagreeable to him and he returned to the top again. Then the party entered a steep grassy gully to the right of the main gully and climbed this till it was possible to enter the latter by a grass bank. The gully now continued for about 100 feet until it was blocked by a huge chockstone. This overhung for a considerable distance, and we saw no way of passing it until I had climbed up a smaller chockstone under it. The climb up to the top of the small chockstone was awkward, and once on to it I climbed to the back of it up against the top of the large one. The others followed, and I found to my delight that there was a through route out of the gully by the chockstone. This did not go up the chockstone at the back but up a small chimney in the heart of the stone, and then through a small window in the face of it. This window seemed to be made for a climb; once out of it the difficulty was over and rejoining the gully was easy. The remainder of the climb, about 600 feet, was rather uninteresting except for sundry small chockstone pitches and a very steep escape on grass at the top. When we reached the top of the plateau the wind was blowing fiercely and we immediately made for the south gully. This has a wide top and we entered it by its right branch. For some 300 feet easy scree climbing led downwards, after which a small and rather rotten division in the gully was descended on the right. Some distance farther down we reached a very steep pitch over which the water was being blown backwards. After I had climbed down about 10 feet into a small cavity, I found that the rest of the descent was impossible, so I had to be hauled up by the others above. We here escaped the gully by the right bank and joined it lower down, but I do not think we missed any pitches in the meantime. The gully

finally widened under towering walls of rock on the left and ran out in a scree shoot on to the moor above the road.

The standard of the north gully I should call "moderate," and the south one is easy excepting for the middle pitch, which is impossible, I think.

The party were Richard Frere (leading), Kenneth Robertson, and James Wright (all H.M.C.). The rope was not used. The height of the two gullies is between 1,000 and 1,200 feet.

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#### EDITORIAL NOTE.

Owing to pressure of space the concluding instalment of "Recent Climbs in Coire Ardair" and also the proposed article on the Newer Climbs on the Cobbler will be held over until November. As it is desirable to clear off all outstanding material in the November number, which will complete Vol. XXI. of the *Journal*, the Editor will only be able to accept several shorter contributions.

Contributors to the "New Climbs" Section are specially directed to the brief notice appearing on p. 276 (last number). Please keep separate the general description and the detail, as these will appear in large and small type respectively.

New information regarding the area of the "Southern Highlands Guide" may still be sent to the Editor, Mr Jas. C. Thomson (see note, p. 276).

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#### NOTE BY MR J. DOW.

Most of us when making use of the hills are apt to give little thought to the proprietors and tenants to whom we are indebted for permission—or at any rate forbearance. The more important owners in the Galloway hill area are:—

Carsphairn (northern part of III.), Major Cathcart of Drumrange.

Rhinns of Kells (southern part of III.), Hengrave Estates Ltd. of Bury St Edmunds (Sir John Wood, Bart.).

Cairnmore (V.), Major-General Sir John Keith Stewart and the Duke of Bedford (shooting tenant).

Minnigaff (southern part of I. and most of IV.), the Earl of Galloway.

Straiton and Barr (northern parts of I. and II.), Cassillis and Culzean Estates (the Marquess of Ailsa).



### In Memoriam.

DR CLAUDE WILSON, 1860-1937.

By the death of Claude Wilson at the end of 1937, the Club has lost a distinguished member and mountaineer. In the admirable "Epitome of Fifty Years' Climbing," which was printed for private circulation in 1933, he records that he went up his first mountain—Ben Lomond—at the age of eleven, and that he repeated the ascent in winter, twelve years later, and had some fine glissades. He wrote a note of this ascent in the *Alpine Journal*, 1884. He joined our Club in 1897 and was a life-member. In his list he does not include his Scottish and English climbs, but he was always keenly interested in the doings of the Club.

In the Alps he had a wonderful record of ascents, a total of 360 expeditions, of which 238 were made without guides, and many of them were difficult first ascents. The Alpine literature of the last fifty years has been enriched by the accounts of these climbs, and the famous partnerships by whom they were made.

His "Handbook on Mountaineering," published in 1893, is still one of the most practical for the budding mountaineer, and contains much wise advice presented in an attractive form. He joined the Alpine Club in 1880, and in 1929 was elected President.

A charming companion on a mountain, with a dry humour all his own and an unvarying cheerfulness, his sound knowledge of both ice and rocks, and his great skill on both, inspired his companions with confidence, and led to the planning and carrying out of many great expeditions.

He has played his part in the development of the craft, and his death leaves the world poorer by the loss of a kindly, genial man and a great mountaineer—a worthy record.

W. N. LING.



## MALCOLM MATHESON.

IT was with deep regret that his friends in the Club heard of Malcolm Matheson's death at Garmisch on 8th November last, after a very short illness.

Matheson joined the Club in 1927, but years before that his affection for the hills and a fine appreciation of mountain scenery led him to visit Dauphiné and parts of Haute Savoie, as well as the homeland hills. He found great delight in the exploration of quiet and remote mountain districts, for he disliked frequented ways and tourist-beaten tracks. As a companion on the hills he was enlivening, a most excellent raconteur, and gifted with a quick sense of humour. He acted as Librarian from 1932 to 1934, and was a regular attender at Meets, where his cheerful personality and irrepressible wit made him highly popular. Of athletic build, he was a sound climber on both rock and snow, and climbed extensively in Scotland and the Lakes, and also in the Alps, the Pyrenees, and Norway.

Matheson was a Principal in the Department of Health for Scotland, and an authority in his special sphere of housing administration. He was a man of marked ability who would have gained distinction in any walk of life, and his untimely death at the age of forty-four cut short a career of great promise.

DONALD MACKAY.

HUGH FREDERICK BOWER SHARP,  
1897-1937.

THE tragic death of Hugh Sharp in the Castlecary railway disaster has robbed the Club of an outstanding member. His whole life was one of effort and achievement, and in the war he had a brilliant record. Leaving Rugby, he was drafted in 1916 to the R.F.A. in France, and in March of that year became A.D.C. to General Wardrop. He was mentioned three times in dispatches and in French Army Orders, and was awarded the M.C. and Bar, Croix de Guerre, and the Italian Order of

Valour. The first climbing he did was at the Aviemore Meet of 1922, where he had come as a guest with some of his older friends of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, and he was so thrilled by getting to the top of Braeriach in very bad conditions that for the next twelve years he was seldom long away from the hills.

In Scotland he had no great record of climbs, but in the Alps, after joining the Alpine Club, he made many notable ascents. Of recent years he had turned his attention more to ski-ing, and in both Alpine ski-ing and in racing he made his mark, for he was an exceedingly fast runner even by modern standards.

We join in our sympathy for his family and for his fiancée.

C. W. WALKER.

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AS we go to press we regret to record the death of one of the small remaining band of original members of the Club, Mr T. Fraser S. Campbell. An "In Memoriam" notice will appear in the November number.

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MIST.

IT sweeps in swirling eddies up the corrie  
To clutch me with damp fingers as I cling  
On slippery holds; with cunning cruel intent  
It wraps the rocks above in one vast shroud  
Of smothering whiteness, muffling sight and sound.  
I feel its clammy breath upon my brow  
As evilly it closer draws its toils  
—Nothing can be more treacherous than mist.

It floats serenely in the evening glow,  
Caressing with light touch the jagged peaks  
Thrust high against the heavens. From my tent door  
I lie and watch the opal-coloured wisps  
Curl exquisitely round the moon-washed rock  
—Nothing can be more beautiful than mist.

JAMES CUMMINGS.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

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 NEW YEAR MEET, 1938—CRIANLARICH  
AND TYNDRUM.

AN interlude of black frost and clear weather between the snows of early December and the mild, wet weather of January afforded us a splendid and invigorating New Year Meet. The photographers among us no doubt deplored the lack of snow, but the going was good and hard underfoot, and the summit panoramas were wide and clear.

A bewildering extent and variety of mountains were climbed. Some parties went so far afield as the Glencoe mountains, Ben Starav, Cruachan, and the Glen Lochay peaks. With the exception of such sunward faces as the Central Buttress of Buachaille Etive the rocks were generally icy and hoar-crystalled, but it was delightful to enjoy rock climbing in such warm sunshine as prevailed on Friday, 31st December, and on Sunday, 2nd January. Conditions were not wholly wintry until the Tuesday.

Perfect views were enjoyed on both Sunday and Monday towards distant peaks standing out of billowy seas of low-lying mist. From Ben Lui, Cruachan looked like an island completely surrounded by a sea of cloud. From Bidean the Paps of Jura were luminous in a golden haze of sunshine, while the peaks of Rhum and the Cuillin could be discerned darkly across the sea. Ben Nevis had not a trace of snow on his southern flanks, but the Cairngorms and the Eastern Highlands were whiter. Those of us who lingered long on the tops enjoyed sunsets of a wonderful range of brilliant hues.

It was a well-attended Meet. Perhaps the statistics are not quite accurate as *laissez-faire* principles held sway over the recording, and the Meet's Register has proved somewhat difficult to decipher. The main Meet

at Crianlarich was under the genial guidance of the President. As there was plenty of room at Tyndrum, several members were accompanied by wives and families. On New Year's night there was a united dinner at Crianlarich, which everyone enjoyed very much indeed. This was the high-water mark of the Meet, which commenced on Thursday, 30th December, and only ended on Wednesday, 5th January. Everyone was exceedingly comfortable, and tribute must be paid to the management and staffs of the Crianlarich and Tyndrum Hotels for our good entertainment.

Several members recorded their presence at both hotels, but a careful scrutiny of the records tends to show that the attendance (at one period or another) of members and guests was for Crianlarich, 49 members and 16 guests, and for Tyndrum, 17 members and 6 guests.

J. H. B. B.

#### PRESENT AT THE MEET.

*At Crianlarich.*—The President, Mr P. J. H. Unna, and *Members*: Messrs J. L. Aikman, W. J. C. Ainslie, F. D. Campbell Allen, J. H. B. Bell, I. M. Campbell, J. Rooke Corbett, S. F. M. Cumming, A. Dixon, Percy Donald, D. J. Fraser, T. H. Gibson, C. C. Gorrie, N. L. Hird, Alan Horne, B. H. Humble, K. K. Hunter, A. G. Hutchison, J. Gall Inglis, R. M. Gall Inglis, D. M. Isles, J. S. M. Jack, K. G. Jackson, R. Jeffrey, W. G. P. Lindsay, W. N. Ling, J. Y. Macdonald, W. M. Mackenzie, T. D. Mackinnon, W. Ross McLean, Harry MacRobert, R. W. Martin, R. W. B. Morris, J. J. Murray, D. Myles, I. H. Ogilvie, J. Neill Orr, J. G. Osborne, A. E. Robertson, J. G. Robinson, T. G. Robinson, R. N. Rutherford, W. B. Speirs, C. R. Steven, G. D. Stewart, S. Pointon Taylor, E. C. Thomson, R. N. Traquair, H. W. Turnbull. *Guests* (not all resident): C. M. Allan, H. M. Barkla, B. S. Fraser, C. K. Lewis, A. M. MacAlpine, F. C. MacLeod, G. I. MacLeod, W. H. Murray, J. D. Paterson, W. I. Paterson, S. S. Roger, A. D. Small, D. C. South, C. M. Steven, J. Y. Wilson, J. C. Young.

*At Tyndrum.*—*Members*: C. G. Andrews, J. F. Anton, Allan Arthur, G. Arthur, J. F. A. Burt, A. Geddes, A. Harrison, J. Harrison, J. B. Home, D. W. Howe, G. Murray Lawson, Donald Mackay, G. Graham Macphee, J. A. Scott, W. A. Stewart, T. E. Thomson, W. Waddell. *Guests*: A. H. Crerar, P. A. Fletcher, H. A. Hetherington, A. N. Hunter, R. C. Notman, John Watson.

*Totals.*—Crianlarich, 49 members, 16 guests; Tyndrum, 17 members, 6 guests.

## CLIMBS DONE.

*Thursday, 30th December.*—Bell did Ben Ledi; Ainslie and Small did Cruach Ardrain and Stob Garbh.

*Friday, 31st December.*—Macdonald did Cruach Ardrain by Y Gully; Ainslie, Small, and South did Ben Lui and Ben Oss; E. C. Thomson, T. E. Thomson, and Dixon did An Caisteal and Beinn a Chroin, as also did Unna, Campbell Allen, Taylor, and Ling; Bell, W. I. Paterson, and Turnbull did Central Buttress, Buachaille Etive; Ross M'Lean did Ben Ledi; Rutherford, Aikman, and T. G. Robinson did Achaladair, Dothaidh, and Chreachain; the Stevens, from Balquidder, did Bens a Chroin and Tulaichean and Cruach Ardrain; Humble and Young did Ben Vorlich from Arrochar.

*Saturday, 1st January 1938.*—Martin and Watson, also Morris and G. T. MacLeod, did Chaluum; F. D. C. Allen, Taylor, Ling, and Orr did Ben More, also G. D. Stewart, Wilson, and Lindsay by Pig and Horse Gully, and, as well, the President, Jack, Jeffrey, and MacRobert from Luib, including Stobinian, which latter alone was climbed by E. C. Thomson and Dixon from the south. Many visited Lui: Macdonald, Turnbull, and Paterson by a rock ridge left of Fox's Couloir; Humble and MacKinnon by south ridge, followed by Oss and Dubhchraig; Myles, Bell, and Allan, the first adding Chleibh and the others Oss and Dubhchraig, as also did Hutchison, Jackson, T. G. Robinson, and Rutherford, while M'Lean and Donald did only Oss and Dubhchraig. From Tyndrum the trio of peaks was done by Lawson, Fletcher, and Mackay, whereas Burt bagged only Dubhchraig, W. A. Stewart and Hunter only Lui, and Waddell, Home, and Arthur bagged Oss and Dubhchraig; J. G. and R. M. G. Inglis and Corbett did An Caisteal; Howe and Andrews climbed Y Gully of Cruach Ardrain. The Beinn Dorain group was popular, Macphee and Hetherington pursuing the ridge to Achaladair and Buidhe, whereas Horne and B. S. Fraser did Chreachain and Achaladair, as also did T. E. Thomson, Notman, and Scott, but Ogilvie did only Dothaidh and Arthur and J. Harrison only Dorain; Osborne, Gibson, and Campbell did Ben Bhreac; the Stevens brothers and Aikman were on Clachlet and Meall a Bhuiridh with 13 L.S.C.C. members; A. Harrison, Ainslie, Small, and South did all the Buachaille Mor tops; F. C. MacLeod and J. D. Paterson visited Cruachan; Murray and 4 guests climbed Eunaich and Chochoill; Anton arrived over Ben Chonzie.

*Sunday, 2nd January.*—Cruach Ardrain was climbed by T. E. Thomson, Notman, and Lindsay by the Y Gully, also by Horne and the Frasers, B. S. Fraser adding Tulaichean, whereas Rutherford and Hutchison did An Caisteal and Beinn a Chroin. Ben More was visited by Mackenzie, Macalpine, and Roger, while Humble, Murray, and Lewis did Stobinian as well, and Aikman and Speirs did Stobinian only; Orr did Chaluum, also Hunter and Stewart;



Macphee, the Stevens, and Hetherington, from Glen Lochay, traversed Heasgarnich and Creag Mhor to Auch. The Lui group was again popular: Unna, Allen, Taylor, Corbett, and Ling did it without Lui; Osborne, Gibson, Scott, and Campbell did only Lui, as did the Harrisons, Arthur, and Jeffrey; Jack, Hird, and MacRobert visited only Dubhchraig. Many climbers visited the Dorain range, Mackay and Home doing all except Dorain; Lawson, Ainslie, and South doing the first two peaks, and Fletcher, Burt, and Small the first three from Dorain; Geo. Arthur and Waddell the first two only; R. M. G. Inglis, MacLeod, and J. D. Paterson ascended Dothaidh by a northern gully and proceeded over Achaladair; Ogilvie, Traquair, and Gorrie were on Stob Ghabhar, also McLean, Donald, and E. C. Thomson; Morris, Geddes, and G. MacLeod were on the Clachlet tops; Martin, Watson, and Mackenzie climbed Ben Starav; Anton, Andrews, and Howe traversed the Aonach Eagach (Glencoe); Allan, Bell, Paterson, and Turnbull were on Bidean, ascending Stob Coire nam Beith by iced rocks, usually easy.

*Monday, 3rd January 1938.*—Macphee, Aikman, and Hetherington traversed Cruach Ardrain and Stob Garbh, whereas Tulaichean was also included by the President, Corbett, Hutchison, and Rutherford; Turnbull and Paterson did An Caisteal; Ainslie, Small, and South did Ben More, while Lawson, Fletcher, and Geddes also included Stobinian; J. Harrison and A. Arthur climbed Lui by the north ridge; Isles and Myles did Dubhchraig; the Stevens brothers did Ben Oss; MacRobert, Jack, Allen, Taylor, and Jeffrey did Ben Chaluum; E. C. Thomson and F. C. MacLeod did Meall Ghaordie; Humble, Murray, and Lewis did Chreachain and Achaladair, also Morris, Donald, and Dixon; W. Stewart and Hunter did Dorain; Geo. Arthur was on Ben Mhanach; R. M. G. Inglis, D. Paterson and Barkla were on Stob Ghabhar; Martin, T. E. Thomson, Watson, and Mackenzie were on Clachlet; Traquair and Ogilvie were on Buachaille.

*Tuesday, 4th January.*—Allan Arthur, Taylor, and Allen did all three tops of Clachlet; Ian Paterson did Cruach Ardrain and Tulaichean.

*Wednesday, 5th January.*—Campbell, Allen, and Taylor almost found the top of Ben Chabhair in thick mist.

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## RECEPTION.

THE Annual Reception was held in the Central Hotel, Glasgow, on Friday, 3rd December 1937. About 100 members and friends attended. After tea had been served the President showed a very large number of slides to



the accompaniment of a rapid series of comments. The slides were mostly of the Tyrol, taken during winter ski-ing seasons, and they were of exceptional merit. There were also a number of photos of inn signs in Austria, which the audience enjoyed, also of old buildings.

J. L. A.

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#### ANNUAL MEETING, 1937.

THE Forty-ninth Annual General Meeting was held the same evening at 6.15 P.M., Mr P. J. H. Unna, President, in the chair. A brief summary is alone given, the Chairman and the Officials being duly thanked for their services. The Treasurer reported a surplus of £48 for the year, but a debit balance on Guide Book Account much more than covered by stocks of books in hand. The Secretary reported the deaths of 8 members, the resignation of 1, and the election of 9, leaving the total membership at 306. He made an appeal for further donations to the Stretcher Fund. The Librarian deplored the small use made of the Library and Club-room and the need for improving the furnishings. The Hut Custodian reported a decrease in Hut occupation, and that only 66 out of 197 Hut nights were in respect of members. The General Guide Book Editor reported satisfactory sales. After discussion, the Committee recommendation to proceed with the publication of the "Southern Highlands Guide" and with the reprint of the "Cairngorms Guide" was approved. The Editor reported a reduced cost per issue to £65, and that contributions were not lacking. He proposed that the Jubilee Number of April 1939 should be mainly appropriate and historical, and of a larger size and cost.

New Office-bearers and Committee were elected as follows:—

*Vice-President.*—Mr J. M. Wordie.

*Trustees of Club Funds (additional).*—Messrs W. N. Ling and H. MacRobert.

*Meets Secretary.*—Mr I. M. Campbell.

*Committee.*—Messrs W. B. Speirs, G. G. Elliott, and Dr Myles.

The New Year Meet, 1938-39, was fixed for Loch Awe, and the Easter Meet, 1939, for Tomdown and Cluanie, with alternative at Fort William.

The motion sponsored by the Committee that, consistent with Club purposes, a portion of article space up to one-third might be allotted to *Journal* articles dealing with mountaineering outside Scotland, was amply defeated.

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### ANNUAL DINNER.

THE Forty-ninth Annual Dinner followed the conclusion of the Meeting. There were present 57 members and 19 guests. The President made a most delightful and appropriate speech in his toast of the S.M.C. with his inimitable flair for expressing things in succinct and peculiar phraseology. Ian Campbell proposed the toast of "The Guests" (concentrating on Sir Iain Colquhoun), and was eloquent, if a trifle long and fulsome in his encomia on him. Sir Iain gave us a most delightful reply, explained some of the difficulties that had been caused by the presentation of Dalness to the National Trust (as to how far the deer are to be kept down and who is to do it, rating problems, and a suggestion that the local people there might be remunerated for services in going out on rescue parties, and, in fact, get a retaining fee for their shoe-leather, &c.). This, it has been felt, is not a matter for the S.M.C. to support financially. Jack MacRobert, in his most racy style, proposed the toast of "Kindred Clubs," twitting the number of S.M.C. members who appeared as representatives of others; the tables were kept in a constant state of merriment by him. J. M. Davidson replied. Needless to say, Jack sang the "Club Song."

J. L. A.

## NOTES AND EXCURSIONS.

*The Editor will be glad to receive brief notices of any noteworthy expeditions. These are not meant to supersede longer articles, but many members who may not care to undertake the one will have no difficulty in imparting information in the other form.*



## SCOTTISH SNOW.

The Association for the Study of Snow and Ice has been founded to bring together the many individuals who are interested, whether as mountaineers, geologists, skiers, physicists, or otherwise. The President, Mr Gerald Seligman, is well known both as scientist and skier. In recent months a small committee has embarked on the collection of information, by means of weekly postcards, with regard to the amount, extent, and duration of snowfalls over the uplands of Great Britain. It is hoped that in due course the information with regard to snow-cover will be systematised.

As one of the objects of the Club, defined in the Constitution, is "to collect information regarding extent of snow" over the mountains of Scotland, the Association would greatly welcome communications from members of the Club who are sympathetic, and ready to promulgate the systematic observation of Scottish snow. The Honorary Secretary, Miss P. B. Lapworth, Warren Close, Coombe Hill Road, Kingston Hill, Surrey, will be pleased to give further information and to put enquirers into touch with the activities of the Association, which has already a considerable membership covering a wide variety of interests. Also, a very nominal subscription (5s.).

It has been generally felt that one of the objects of the Association, among others, should be to act as a clearing-house for information, particularly with regard to Ben Nevis and the Cairngorms. The perennial discussion of the degree of persistence of the *semi*-permanent snow-beds, for example, could be better undertaken if regular observations were available. It is therefore suggested that the observations of members of this Club, especially on Ben Nevis, would be very valuable; in particular, if every party at the Club Hut would note down a simple record of the facts with regard to snow at the time of their visit, this would be of great help. The facts should include: (1) The approximate depth of snow by the Observatory, based on the height of the walls, which is about 11 feet; (2) the height of the "snow line" at the time of the visit; (3) general notes, *e.g.*, on the extent to which cornices are present, and whether avalanches or cornice-falls have occurred; (4) towards autumn, the approximate size, location, and condition of remaining

snow-beds. It is possible already to extract a good deal of information from the record of climbs, but one of the objects of the Club can be furthered if members visiting either the Hut or the summit would make brief notes on the above lines. It may be possible to place a small book at the Hut, in which notes may be made with the minimum of trouble.

With regard to other districts, a rough record of conditions on the Cairngorms is already being made. From there and elsewhere, contributions will always be welcome, particularly in regard to the region of maximum accumulation and persistence resulting from noteworthy snowstorms, and the survival of snow-beds through the summer. Far too little is known about many of the remoter parts of Scotland in this respect, and members of the Club have special opportunities for adding to the information already possessed. The Association, therefore, cordially invites their co-operation.

GORDON MANLEY.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM,  
*Executive Committee, A.S.S.I.*

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#### THE "SILVA" COMPASS.

It is desirable that notices calling attention to new items of equipment of outstanding merit should from time to time appear in the *Journal*. Into this category comes the "Silva" compass, of Swedish make, and retailed by Messrs Thos. Black & Sons, Greenock. Specially designed for the mountaineer and hill-walker, it is both lighter and simpler to use than the oil-filled prismatic, the only instrument with which it can be compared. Its price is 12s. 6d.

Briefly, the instrument consists of a circular, liquid-filled compass-box mounted on a stout rectangular piece of celluloid. The compass-box, which contains the needle, has a scale of degrees on its back, and can be rotated on its mount. To set a rough course, all that is required is to lay the compass on the map with the edge of the celluloid pointing along the path to be followed, and to rotate the compass-box till a course-setting line engraved on it points approximately to the magnetic North. Then, when the red end of the needle is kept to a red dot on the box, an arrow on the celluloid points in the required direction. For more accurate work, several lines parallel to the edge of the celluloid and to the course-setting line on the box are provided, and it is easy to get one of the latter to coincide exactly with one of the meridian lines on the map. The compass is then set for true North, and the magnetic correction must be made. This is done by turning the instrument on its back and advancing a pointer the required number of degrees.

The writer has tested the instrument in the Cairngorms, and

has found that the needle is sufficiently steady to enable one to check one's course without stopping; and, in fact, on such easy ground one keeps one's eyes on the compass with only an occasional glance around. Used in this manner, the writer found himself 10, 20, and 60 yards respectively from his destination on three traverses each of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles. The instrument is provided with a string for attaching to a buttonhole, and it can be used with gloved hands.

A scale of centimetres is provided on one edge of the celluloid, which will not be of much use to the British climber. A corresponding scale of inches on the other edge, for a rough estimation of distance on British maps, would be a great improvement. The compass is sold "complete with directions," but as these are in Swedish the purchaser will probably have to figure out the working of the thing for himself. A cheaper model without liquid damping is available, but the writer considers that this feature is well worth the few extra shillings.

J. Y. MACDONALD.

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## REVIEWS.

**Himalayan Campaign.** By Paul Bauer. Translated by Sumner Austin. Published by Basil Blackwell. 8s 6d. 174 pp., 82 illustrations. Maps.

This is a most interesting and stimulating account of the German attempts on Kangchenjunga in 1929 and 1931, written by the famous leader of the expeditions. War and post-war experiences and the characteristics of their race had produced in the members of the party a team-unity and willingness to submerge individuality which enabled them to perform great feats of endurance. Extremely difficult conditions were caused by the heavy falls of snow to a depth of 6 feet in a day. On occasion it was so soft that the track became virtually a deep trench shoulder high.

On the 1929 expedition the party was finally compelled to abandon the attempt owing to the severity of weather conditions encountered; while in 1931, after surmounting "the 6,560 feet perpendicular girdle of ice and rock that encircles the whole of the Kangchenjunga massif," and reaching a height of 24,280 feet, their route was eventually blocked by overhanging masses of avalanche snow.

On the latter expedition the advance party lived in ice caves on the ridge, at a height of over 19,000 feet, for more than a month.

T. E. T.

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**Everest—The Unfinished Adventure.** By Hugh Ruttledge. Hodder & Stoughton. 25s. 289 pp., 63 illustrations.

The official account of the 1936 expedition follows the lines with which former Everest books have acquainted us: joy at again receiving permission from the Tibetan Government, anxious months of preparation, the journey out, recruitment at Darjeeling, renewing acquaintance with the tigers of previous years, the march to the base camp and—alas!—the unsuccessful assault.

The rest of the book—about half—deals with weather, health, oxygen, wireless, and botany. Much of this has been discussed before and might well have been relegated to a brief appendix. The route map is good, while Spender's map of the north face of Everest is the best which has yet been published. The chief fact which emerges is the discovery of a possible route up the west face of the north col. *Symthe's conclusion is that the east face is still the best route in normal seasons, but that, should the monsoon break while climbers are in the higher camps, the west face offers an alternative and probably safer route of descent.*

The present reviewer found most interest in the sixty-three splendid photographs grouped together at the end of the book. Each is accompanied by a complete description. It is an excellent idea. The whole story—for there is little new—might well have been told in this way. The book is expensive, but this is the public's share in big expeditions. Tilman's party is smaller. Let us hope that his book will be cheaper.

B. H. H.

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**Snow on the Equator.** By H. W. Tilman. G. Bell & Sons Ltd. 12s 6d. 265 pp., 24 illustrations, 4 maps.

Although equatorial Africa is not readily associated with mountaineering, actually three widely separated regions offer scope for first-class expeditions—Kilimanjaro (19,710 feet), Kenya Mountain (17,040 feet), and Ruwenzori (16,815 feet), the "Mountains of the Moon." Having drawn a farm in Kenya in a post-War lottery, it was merely a question of time before H. W. Tilman should take his ice-axe and sample their respective attractions. His companion on each occasion was S. (identification is scarcely difficult), with the exception of a remarkable solitary ascent of Kilimanjaro in 1933, a return visit to make sure of the actual summit. A fortnight on Kenya Mountain provided climbing at its best, and the first ascent of the West Ridge, involving twelve hours' continuous and exposed climbing, makes graphic reading. This was only the third successful expedition, as was that to Ruwenzori, which presented less orthodox difficulties—dense jungle-forest, slopes of mud and rotting vegetation, and an almost permanent cloud-blanket. The modest understatement



and pointed humour of "The Ascent of Nanda Devi" characterise both the mountaineering chapters and the remainder of the book, which includes descriptions of farming tribulations, elephant and rhino hunts, gold prospecting, and the author's epic 3,000-mile cycle ride through the Congo forests, from Uganda to the Cameroons.

C. R. S.

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**The Ascent of Nanda Devi.** By H. W. Tilman. Cambridge University Press. 12s 6d. net. 232 pp., 36 illustrations, 2 maps.

The great achievement of the year 1936 in the world of mountaineering was undoubtedly the ascent, by a small private expedition, of Nanda Devi, 25,645 feet, the highest summit yet attained by man. Greater altitudes have been attained repeatedly on Everest, but the achievements of Tilman's joint British-American party have proved that success on a difficult mountain is possible to a small band of experts, even when all the portorage at the higher camps must be done by members of the expedition themselves. The base camp was situate about 18,000 feet, things became difficult about 1,000 feet higher and continued so all the way to the top. The highest proper camp was Camp IV. at 21,800 feet, and the summit was gained by Odell and Tilman from a bivouac at a height of about 24,000 feet. Fortunately the weather held during the last stages, because great difficulty was encountered owing to incoherent snow and poor rock. The final push took nine hours, but the "crowded hour of glorious life" (really forty-five minutes) on the summit was well worth it. Although eight men took part in the expedition, it was not found possible for a second party to try for the top.

The earlier half of the book is chiefly occupied with the approach to the inaccessible Basin which surrounds Nanda Devi. Two journeys are described, and it would probably have been better to have used some of this space by including instead a short account of the experiences of the 1934 expedition to the Basin. But it is the custom of each Himalayan expedition to offer a book to the world. The actual climbing of the mountain is an enthralling narrative, the final success resembling a period of absolute calm after a tempest. Nor did the mountain exact any revenge during the descent. The sporting interest dominates everything; no modern mechanical aids, such as oxygen, snowshoes, or even crampons, were used; we learn that a heavy implement called a glacier drill was carried very high up the mountain, but, except for the survey of the glacier near the base camp by Emmons, nothing more is said about scientific results.

The illustrations are good, but the two maps are rather inadequate and would be better supplemented by a diagrammatic sketch of positions and progress up the south ridge and face of the mountain.

J. H. B. B.

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**Mountain Days in the Highlands and Alps.** By J. Hubert Walker. Arnold. 16s. 320 pp., 64 illustrations, and 2 maps.

While accounts of actual climbs form quite a small part of the narrative, the subject is treated from an unusual angle. In the first section of the book a most interesting account is given of the events connected with the Appin Murder in 1752, and an ascent of the Crowberry Gully and traverse of the Aonach Eagach Ridge are also described in detail.

Adventures in the Stubai Alps and the Oetztal are outlined in the remainder of the book, but much of the interest in the narrative is lost in a mass of historical and topographical detail. Expeditions on the Wildspitz and neighbouring mountains are graphically described, whilst an excellent chapter outlines the lighter side of Tyrolese life. Mention must be made of several excellent photographs by the author, of both Scottish and Alpine scenery.

R. M. G. I.

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**The Night Climbers of Cambridge.** By "Whipplesnaith." Chatto & Windus. 7s. 6d. 183 pp., 73 illustrations.

There have been books before about roof climbing, books which perhaps captured the spontaneous joys of the sport better than this book does, but never before has such an ambitious work appeared. It starts with a general chapter on Night Climbing, then says a few words about Climbing into Colleges, and on technique (with which most rock climbers will disagree), but the main part of the book is taken up with describing actual climbs. Climbs are described on the Old Library, the Fitzwilliam Museum, King's, St John's, and various other places. Two chapters are devoted to King's College Chapel. This seems excessive, as the Chapel is now festooned with spikes, and metal chockstones have been placed in the chimneys. The main feature of the book is the number of illustrations, taken by flashlight in very difficult circumstances. They are excellent. The whole book is full of entertaining anecdotes. Some of them perhaps ought not to be taken too literally, but they are well worth reading.

T. M. W.

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**Wanderings Among the High Alps.** By Sir Alfred Wills. 235 pp., 16 illustrations.

**Italian Alps.** By D. W. Freshfield. 246 pp., 16 illustrations. Blackwell. 5s. each.

These are numbers 3 and 4 of "Blackwell's Mountaineering Library," which is edited by Mr H. E. G. Tyndale. The first of

them contains chapters reminiscent of "Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers," describing as it does climbs and traverses accomplished about the middle of last century. The most exciting climb described is the ascent of the Hasle Jungfrau peak of the Wetterhorn under the impression that it was a first ascent. This was the occasion of a race between Wills' party and two "chamois-hunters" to be first on the summit. A friendly compromise, however, was reached before the final difficulties. Other chapters deal romantically with the Chamonix, Saas Fee, Zermatt, and Kandersteg districts.

"Italian Alps" contains beautifully written and altogether delightful accounts of a part of the Alps still little frequented by British climbers.

Both volumes do credit to the Editor's unobtrusive skill. Some indication of when these books were first published would add to the interest of the modern editions.

E. A. M. W.

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**The Alpine Journal, Vol. 49, No. 255. November 1937.**

158 pages of text; Mr Irvine's 'Relativity,' about the best thing yet written in the mountaineering line; Dr Claude Wilson's last paper; papers on New Guinea, Greenland, Tibet, Egypt, and South Africa; another on Nanga Parbat; full details of 7 other accidents; 7 obituaries; 8 comprehensive reviews; 62 pictures; 2 maps; and goodness knows what else, to say nothing of a request that this review should be condensed to 17 lines, and be informative rather than of literary excellence.

The chief item of information is on a slip accompanying the journal—'On completion of the present forty-ninth volume, Mr H. E. G. Tyndale will assume the editorship'—and the chief criticism is that the number is well up to the standard which Colonel Strutt has maintained throughout the last eleven years, a standard with which he may well be pleased, and which must have well pleased every reader; and which was hoped for by Captain Farrar, who told me, at the time he was handing over, that he had carried on for several years longer than he would otherwise have done until someone competent became available. Everyone must agree that events have proved that his recommendation to the committee that the work should be entrusted to Colonel Strutt could not have been bettered.

P. J. H. UNNA.

**Safety in the Mountains.** A booklet produced by the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand. Price 6d. 30 pp.

This is a handbook primarily intended for trampers and mountaineers in New Zealand, but containing advice and information of general interest and value. Reference is made to equipment, conduct of parties, to the more common hazards and their avoidance and alleviation. Rescue organisation is briefly outlined. A specimen list of food and necessities for expeditions in bush country is given. A useful book. A. HORNE.

**The Moray Mountaineering Club Journal, No. 2, October 1936.**

An excellent number which contains, in addition to highly interesting records of the many activities of the Club, articles on Scottish Hill Mammals, the Tower Ridge of Ben Nevis, An Teallach, etc. The Journal is well illustrated with photographs, of which four are by Mr A. B. Beattie, who also contributes an informative article entitled "With a Camera in the High Hills." J. A. P.

**The British Ski Club Year Book, 1937.**

This Year Book contains a good deal that is of interest to the mountaineer, notably the articles on "The Jotunheimen Range" (A. C. C. Swayne), "The Gregory Glacier, Mt. Kenya" (W. F. Delap), "Mountaineering, Fascist and Democratic" (A. D. Baines), and a couple of articles on New Zealand by C. W. Wyatt and F. Ziegler respectively. There is also an interesting article on "The Prusik Knot," by Victor Kutschera.

The section on Equipment is useful, and there is the usual account of last season's activities. The photographs are excellent. R. J.

**Scottish Ski Club Journal, 1937.**

This number is perhaps chiefly concerned with Club affairs, but Scottish ski mountaineers will be interested in the views of a German student on Scottish Ski-ing, in the possibilities for ski-ing of Cruach Ardran and the Glenshee districts, and in a note on 1937 snow conditions. Perhaps we might profitably keep a similar annual record in our own *Journal*. J. H. B. B.

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NEW YEAR MEET, 1937-38—DALMALLY.

The following members and guests were present at  
one time or other :—

*Glasgow Section Members.*—A. C. Borthwick, D. L. Campbell,  
J. Campbell, W. C. Carmichael, W. W. Cranston, J. N. Ledingham,  
A. I. L. Maitland, W. G. Marskell, W. H. Murray, A. M. MacAlpine,

F. C. MacLeod, I. M. M. Macphail, A. S. Roger, A. M. Smith, J. G. Suggett, D. T. Waddell, R. D. Walton, and J. McC. Young.

*Edinburgh Section Members.*—A. F. Down, R. O. H. Down, E. E. Gardiner, D. Gow, A. Hendry, D. R. Kilgour, F. E. O'Riordan, G. Peat, G. Poole, C. J. Scott-Moncrieff, J. McK. Stewart, T. M. Wedderburn, and F. C. Yeaman.

*S.M.C.*—C. C. Gorrie, I. H. Ogilvie, W. M. Mackenzie, and R. N. Traquair.

*Guests.*—J. B. Borthwick, G. H. Kilgour, M. C. Low, J. D. Paterson, D. L. Todd, G. Robson, R. S. Sullivan, A. W. Stallybrass, and W. W. Stallybrass.

The weather throughout the Meet was excellent for climbing, although disappointing as regards snow conditions, practically every hill climbed being free from snow except for patches here and there.

*Friday, 31st December.*—Cranston, MacAlpine, Mackenzie, Murray, Suggett, and Roger visited Beinn a' Chleibh, the last two carrying on over Ben Lui. A. Hendry and the brothers Stallybrass spent the day on Cruachan.

*Saturday, 1st January.*—After a rather wild Hogmanay it was surprising the number of sporting climbs which were carried out on New Year's Day. Murray, Marskell, Mackenzie, and MacAlpine all climbed the Beaver Buttress of Beinn Eunaich, whilst R. O. H. Down, Wedderburn, Low, Gow, Cranston, and Walton sported themselves on the Black Shoot. Hendry and W. Stallybrass thought the White Shoot would be more interesting, but returned disappointed. Suggett and Maitland spent the day on Beinn Eunaich and Beinn a' Chochuill. Peat, D. R. Kilgour, Scott-Moncrieff, Poole, and a friend motored to Glencoe and climbed Buachaille, the first two by the North Buttress and the others by the Curved Ridge. Yeaman and O'Riordan were the only two to visit Cruachan that day.

The Annual Dinner and Meeting was held in the evening, there being about forty members and guests present at the dinner, which was a great success. The meeting will be remembered as the one at which the formation of a new Inverness Section of the Club took place.



*Sunday, 2nd January.*—A. F. and R. O. H. Down, Scott-Moncrieff, Poole, and a friend completed the horse-shoe of Cruachan, while Smith, Todd, Young, and D. L. Campbell, after a late start, did Sron an Isean. Murray and Cranston had the good fortune to do the only snow climb of the Meet, by an ascent of Cruach Ardrain by the "Y" Gully; Mackenzie, MacAlpine, and Roger visited the same district and did Ben More and Stobinian. Yeaman, O'Riordan, Hendry, and Stallybrass made a quick journey over Ben Lui and Beinn a' Chleibh. Low, Wedderburn, Walton, Marskell, and Gow, starting from the Falls of Cruachan, did the main horseshoe, returning to the falls by way of Stob Garbh. Peat and Stewart visited Buachaille, and under fine conditions climbed the Crowberry Ridge by Speir's Variation, descending by the Curved Ridge. In the evening Macphail arrived with a friend from Arrochar to climb Cruachan next day.

*Monday, 3rd January.*—A few members left for home by the early morning train, whilst the majority of the remainder spent the day on Beinn Eunaich and Beinn a' Chochuill. Marskell and Walton, however, set out for Stob Ghabhar, but reported nothing unusual. The Meet closed with everyone returning home in the evening after an enjoyable holiday.

J. MCK. STEWART.

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#### INVERNESS SECTION.

#### SECTIONAL MEETS.

*Thursday, 27th January.* Climbing on Mealfuarvounie. Winter conditions and perfect weather. Seven present.

*Sunday, 20th February.* Climbing on west face of Craig Ghlas, Glen Meinie. Mild sunny weather. Eight present.

J. D. STURROCK.

[We wish to congratulate the new Inverness Section on getting into its stride.—EDITOR, *S.M.C.J.*]

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#### PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION.

An exhibition of mountain photographs and a competition for both slides and prints was held in the

Burlington House, Glasgow, on 13th December 1937. This is the only exhibition of its kind held in Glasgow, and the work reached a high standard. There were exactly one hundred exhibits, including several water-colours and sketches. R. Anderson showed an impressive oil-painting of Gardyloo Gully, and A. C. D. Small a finely executed water-colour of Laoigh.

The most brilliant photographs were those exhibited by A. D. S. Macpherson, his "Silence of Snow" and "Day for a Dip" being two of the most outstanding exhibits seen in recent years. A notable cloud study by J. K. W. Dunn attracted much attention and was highly commended. There were surprisingly few snow scenes, but those shown were good—in particular, three high-quality prints of the Cairngorms by A. I. L. Maitland. It was instructive to note, in the work of W. G. Marskell, how well sepia toning suits Skye gabbro. The mounting of prints was greatly improved this year, and few faults could be found.

The competition was judged by Mr H. G. Cooper, President of the Scottish Photographic Circle, assisted by B. H. Humble (S.M.C.). In adjudicating the slide competition, for which there were fifty-two entries, Mr Cooper delivered an exceptionally able lecture on photography in general, and his pungent but encouraging criticism proved of great value to members.

The prize winners were :—

*General Interest.*

*First*—"Western Sea Loch," A. D. S. Macpherson.

*Second*—"Kinrara Beeches," A. I. L. Maitland.

*Climbing Interest.*

*First*—"Central Buttress of Buachaille," W. G. Marskell.

*Second*—"Exploration on Buachaille," A. M. Smith.

*Lantern Slides.*

*First*—"Gairloch Sands," A. D. S. Macpherson.

*Second*—"Y Gully, Cruach Ardrain," W. H. Murray.  
W. H. M.

# Scottish Mountaineering Club.

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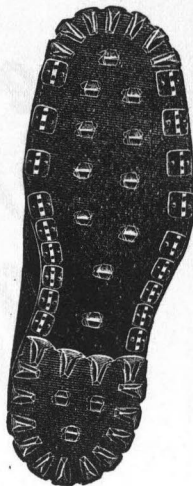
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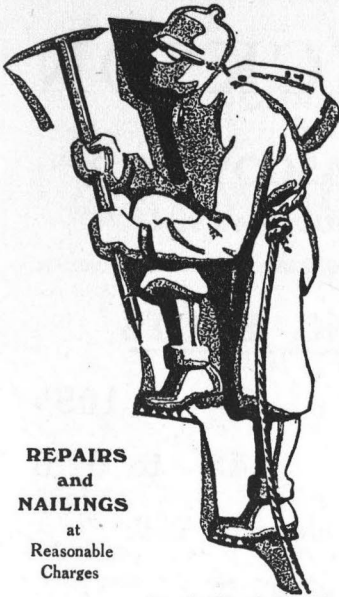
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