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## KYNDWR CLUB NOTES.

THE ROACHES.—This North Staffordshire ridge belongs to the Peak of Derbyshire geographically, being composed of millstone grit, and presenting a series of characteristic “edges.” It has been a *terra incognita* hitherto even to local climbers ; but this year several visits have been made to it, and a number of interesting scrambles found. Indeed, the locality may be considered as good a practice ground as any in the Midlands. An excursion to the strange chasm of Ludchurch at the northern end was disappointing so far as climbing was concerned, though the scenery is very fine. All the scrambles are situated at the southern extremity of the Roaches, on the “edges” of Roach End, on Hen Cloud, an imposing little peak, and on the fantastic rocks of Blackshaw Edge. Hen Cloud is faced with a long range of cliffs, rising in places to a height of 150 feet, and it has a number of interesting pinnacles. The main cliff is very steep, and the best looking things on it unfortunately required more time than could easily be spared. However, a few sporting scrambles were successfully tackled, both on Hen Cloud and Roach End, and stiffer problems were marked out for future visits. The place is well worth thorough exploration. Blackshaw Edge was examined only superficially.

The Roaches can easily be got at from Leek, less easily from Buxton ; in the immediate vicinity only cottage accommodation is to be had.

THE BEN NUIS CHIMNEY.—In August, Messrs. Baker, Oppenheimer and Puttrel made the first ascent of the gully or chimney (400 feet long), just to the south of the summit on Ben Nuis, Arran. This exceedingly steep and “boiler-plated” precipice has, so far as can be ascertained, been ascended only twice before, viz., in 1895, by Messrs. Green and Boyd, and in

1899, by Messrs. Raeburn and Inglis Clark. The big chimney or gully has been looked at by several good men, but never ascended previously. This climb is easily recognisable, even from Brodick, by the change in the angle of inclination half-way up; below that point it is, virtually, all pitch, or at least a series of pitches, with hardly a ledge between. Half-way up is a cave that would not go, at all events, on the day after a downpour, and a traverse of a risky and sensational character had to be effected to get round the obstacle. Near the top, the party were arrested again by an overhanging chimney, and found themselves compelled to yield to the suggestions of friends looking on that a rescue party should be sent for. Long before help arrived, however, they extricated themselves by climbing the left wall of the gully—a nearly sheer face, with few holds beyond the tufts of grass growing in the joints of the rock, which would hardly be considered a legitimate climb in any other circumstances. Puttrell led up, except on the two traverses alluded to, where Baker took the lead as the lighter man.

The two last afterwards explored parts of the Cairngorm district, but, as usual there, the weather proved too serious a factor, combined with the great distances, for much rock-work to be attempted. On the advice of Mr. A. I. M'Connochie, that veteran Cairngormer, they tried Creag na Leacainn at the entrance to the Larig Ghais, and were rewarded with one fair climb of 200 feet, after several disappointments. Much of the granite in this region is unsuitable for climbing; the crags of An Garbh-choire seem the best.