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KYNDWR CLUB NOTES.

DURING the past twelve months or so, the Kyndwr Club and the Rucksack Club have, independently of each other, discovered a series of good climbs just north of Crowden, on the Great Central Railway, between Penistone and Manchester. They are situated on Laddow Rocks and Rakes Rocks, two edges of the wild moors that lie on the borderland of Derbyshire, Cheshire, Yorkshire and Lancashire (see page 30 of the present vol.), which rocks are composed of that highly satisfactory material, the fourth, or Kinderscout grit. Both edges are greatly disintegrated, and unpleasantly encumbered at present with loose flakes and sand, the superabundance of felspar in the gritstone accounting for this defect, which will, however, be redressed somewhat by the cleansing action of frequent scrambling. It will be convenient in enumerating the climbs now recognised to begin at the top of the map and work downwards.

At the north end of Laddow Rocks, the Rucksack men found an excellent chimney, about fourteen feet from the natural gîte. It is divided into two parts by a number of jammed stones, an easy scramble leading up to the lower portion; whilst the rest is severe work, at all events during the present cycle of heavy rains and greasy rocks. An account by Mr. G. T. Ewen says:—"It is narrow, and the holds all slope the wrong way. The leader climbed it with his left leg in the crack, whilst the second on the rope came up in exactly the opposite way, and took considerably longer to ascend the twenty-five feet. The whole length of the climb is about 120 ft., and the rock is good and firm throughout."

A few yards away are the Twin Chimneys, first climbed by Messrs. Baker and Benson. Two fissures separate at the top of a moderate scramble, both offering a difficult climb for some thirty feet vertical. The right is usually taken. It leads over a cluster of jammed plates, with almost complete absence of holds, to a good-sized ledge, where direct progress ends. A shuffling traverse on one-inch ledges takes one into the other chimney, which leads by a strait and difficult way to an exposed cleft at the top of the face. South of this are several fissures running from top to bottom of the cliff, which may attract those climbers who like a maximum of difficulty with a minimum of safety.

Then comes a very tolerable gully with a bottom pitch that has now been put into good repair, and two branches at the top consisting of an open and a closed chimney, the latter an excellent place for "jamming up." The total length is about 60 feet, and the Rucksack men christened it the "Green Gully." The latter had a very easy climb on the left side of the largest gully, down which a good deal of water was coming. This appears to be the one, near the middle of the crags, that was descended by the Kyndwr men, who complained violently of its tumble-down condition. "The obstacles are three in number," says Mr. Ewen, "the first being a neat little pitch formed by a large slab, the second a jumble of fair sized stones, and the third a short chimney, which offers no particular difficulty." On another occasion, his party tried "the chimney, which almost divides the second buttress in two"; but after climbing 40 feet, they were compelled to give up, the difficulty being to turn some slightly overhanging rocks, which choked the chimney, without any hold for the hands. A very tall man might be able to overcome it, but it would be a nasty pull up to a treacherous grass slope above. It was climbed, for the first time, early in November, by another party from the Rucksack Club, and christened the "Long Chimney." All loose earth and other debris was first cleared away, but even then it was found to be difficult.

Nearer the south end of Laddow Rocks is the Pinnacle.

I say the Pinnacle, for if this proper adjunct to any well-equipped set of scrambles were not provided by nature, it would, of course, have been necessary to make one. Laddow Pinnacle has a pronounced physiognomy of its own, but is not essentially different from many another rock-tower or pinnacle, rising near the cliff top, from which it is severed by a narrow gap. Its chief singularity is that its outside climb will not go, or, at all events, will go only in sections, forcing the would-be climber into one or other of the adjoining gullies. The short ascent also has its peculiarities, for at present no one has succeeded in climbing down. Let not this alarm any humane member of the Climbers' Club; all the aspiring cragsmen who have succeeded in sitting on the top are, fortunately, quite safe at present. But the man who scaled it originally, found himself reduced to the alternative of jumping the gap, or residing at the top of the Pinnacle for an indefinite period. The jump is rather a thrilling one if taken without the precautionary rope. Both the Pinnacle gullies afford climbs of moderate difficulty, but, like many others here, would be far more pleasant in winter, if the stones and grit were sealed up by frost. South of the Pinnacle there is a capital climb, the commencement of which is awkward, for the edge of a huge leaf of rock on the right affords the only hold for the first ten feet. The next pitch is a 20 foot chimney, which affords endless possibilities in the art of wriggling, and leads on to a broad ledge from which rough scrambling over treacherous grass-covered rocks leads to the top. It was first noticed by Messrs. Entwistle and Ewen, whose early attempts proved futile, but it was eventually overcome by the latter under more favourable conditions. A most interesting crack climb has been discovered on a detached buttress of rock to the north of the main cliff, called the "Pulpit," which, although only about 40 feet, is practically all one pitch, and severe throughout. Several other good scrambles have been found, but not properly explored as yet.

The Rakes Rocks, close by, have also received attention from the Rucksack Club. They consist of two distinct edges

of rock set at a very steep angle, and varying from 30 to 60 feet in height. The most prominent feature of the lower edge is a deep cleft called the "Black Chimney." The floor slopes upwards, and converges at the far end, from whence one or two ledges on the right wall run towards the entrance. "Backing up" for some 25 feet, a small platform is reached, an easy traverse, and one small pitch giving access to the top. It is possible, though very difficult, to continue in the chimney past the platform for another 20 feet, a pull up over a large chockstone finishing the climb. To the left of this chimney is a cracklet, some 40 feet long and about four inches wide, containing several small jammed stones. The lower leaf of rock is smooth and rounded, and defied all attempts to get beyond the first 20 feet. Several very easy climbs may be had on the upper edge, but the appalling quantity of loose rock renders them far from enjoyable.

