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AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE CLUB.

BY GEORGE B. BRYANT.

THE aims or objects of the Club are stated elsewhere ; briefly put they are association or union amongst Mountaineers and the encouragement of Mountaineering.

Similar aims have been pursued by the Alpine Club in its own sphere with great success. Climbers in Scotland have been knit together, and their numbers increased by the existence and activity of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, under whose ægis that splendid climbing country is being systematically explored. But, with the exception of the ground covered by the "Yorkshire Ramblers" (whose president is one of our committee), England, Wales, and Ireland are entirely open to the work of a club such as this ; its hundreds of climbers have been without any bond of union, and almost unknown to one another. One or two books have been recently published, either dealing closely with special sections of the country, or touching lightly the main points of a larger area, but even amongst those who climb continually, the knowledge of the districts at their command is by no means complete, and there seems to be ample work for the Club in that direction, and especially in Ireland, which has so far received very little attention from climbers.

The Club possesses, then, an extensive district, and having enrolled its 200 members, has now set itself to the practical work of developing its aims. Time is, of course, necessary, and in the commencement all it does must be of a tentative character, but there are some obvious ways of bringing about the contact of members with each other, which have been already adopted, and from which results will be obtainable in this first year of the Club's existence.

The first was the meeting in London on the 28th April, and the dinner which followed. About two-fifths of the membership of the Club was present, and there was much life in the proceedings. No doubt when the date of this annual meeting is made well known beforehand, the attendance will be much larger, and it will play a considerable part in keeping the Club together. At any rate, it affords the only opportunity of the whole of the members meeting under one roof—so far as they may be permitted by *force majeure*.

The next way, and a very important one, is by meets in the climbing districts. As an experiment this year, the time between the middle of August and the middle of September has been designated by the Committee, and the districts, those around Snowdon, with headquarters at Pen-y-Gwryd; and the Scawfell district, with headquarters at Wastdale; and a notice to this effect was sent to every member in July. No attempt to concentrate the whole of the climbing members at one place was thought advisable, as the available accommodation might easily have been outrun, whilst the arrangement to make use of both districts does not interfere with the individual preference of members for either place.

For equally good reasons it was thought well not to limit the period more closely than has been done, as it would in practice be almost impossible to get together any considerable number of members to begin and end their holidays on identical dates. As it stands, there seems to be every probability that between the dates given a sufficient number of members will be at Pen-y-Gwryd and at Wastdalehead (and in the neighbourhood of those places) to combine and arrange between themselves the carrying out of such climbs as they may choose, in suitable parties. It should be a condition that a journal or log should be carefully kept, recording each day's work as fully as possible, and that at the end of the meet this book should be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary as the property of the Club. This book might also contain, in a separate part, any suggestions and opinions of members upon these meets and their future arrangements. The whole of the matter to be at the disposal of the Editor of the Club Journal, to be used at his discretion.

These records will, no doubt, prove of considerable value, and the meets, even if only moderately attended, can hardly fail to tend to a more systematic and exhaustive dealing with the climbing area than has been hitherto the case, and to give greater opportunities to climbers of all grades.

Besides these summer (or autumn) meets, it will occur to many that a winter meet, or rather a meet under winter conditions, should be arranged later on. There is this special difficulty about it, that whether Christmas or Easter be taken, or any intermediate time, winter conditions cannot be guaranteed. Both on Christmas Day, 1897, and on the first day of 1898, the writer was on Snowdon, sunning himself in the clear air, with hardly a trace of snow to be seen. Easter probably would give the best chance of snow in the gullies; but this question of a winter meet might be left for a

Committee meeting in the late autumn, when suggestions, through the medium of the books before referred to, and through communications sent to the November number of this journal will be available.

Next after these matters comes the question of places and times, when members can be given opportunities of coming together in London. There is no present possibility of the funds of the Club being equal to the provision of rooms of a permanent kind for the sole use of members; nor does there seem to be at the present moment any need of such rooms. But several members have expressed an opinion that an occasional opportunity might be given to meet in an informal way, and that such meetings would be useful and popular. This might be carried out as an experiment, as the winter approaches, at monthly intervals, on dates definitely settled beforehand by the Committee, and notified to members well in advance.

But the Committee would probably prefer to have evidence of a general desire amongst the members for some such arrangement before taking any steps to carry it out.

Very little information has been so far received as to the intentions of the members to go to Pen-y-Gwryd or Wastdale in August—September, but apparently there will be about an equal division between the two places, the larger number of men not going before early September. The new building at Pen-y-Pass will not be ready until next Easter at the earliest.
