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KYNDWR CLUB NOTES.

ELDEN HOLE. As already noted, a visit was paid in August to this mysterious chasm, and Bagley descended about 80 ft., without, however, ascertaining much about the nature of the Hole, except that it is a very dirty place, as his clothes will permanently testify. It was then resolved to attempt a descent to the bottom with no more elaborate apparatus than an A.C. rope, and early in September this project was carried out by Mr. J. W. Puttrel, of Sheffield, the originator of a scheme for exploring this and various other limestone cavities in Derbyshire, at the head of a party including Messrs. A. L. Bagley, E. A. Baker, H. Bond, J. Croft, R. McCrum, and F. Wightman ; two villagers from Peak Forest lent valuable assistance. No other exploration has been made without the aid of a windlass and other mechanical appliances, the last recorded descent being that of Rooke Pennington in 1873. There was not only more interest in using rock-climbing methods so far as possible, but as it turned out the affair was attended by some thrilling incident. It is not worth while in these notes, however, to give more than a rough account of the descent.

Bagley climbed down the wet and slimy rocks, which are inclined at an angle approaching the vertical, until he reached the brink of an overhanging cliff, where he was quickly joined by Baker, while three others took up a position a few yards higher. Some 400 ft. of rope was used to connect the men and keep a good length in reserve, the depth of the Hole being 180 feet. It was manifest at once that further climbing was impossible ; Bagley fell off the ledges at the side, where he was examining the lower reaches ; there was a tremendous strain on the rope, and Bond and Baker had to let him down

gently to a small niche, 70 feet below them, where the latter was sent to join him as soon as the others could find a suitable anchorage. Baker then let him down the last 30 feet single-handed. There was now an excited discussion among the party upstairs as to what should be done, for they found the job stiffer than had been anticipated. They decided to pull Bagley up at once so as to test their hauling powers, while Baker stayed in the niche to prevent any accident to the rope.

The trial of strength was so severe, the difficulties being aggravated by the sloping and treacherous nature of the spot where the hauling party had attempted to wedge themselves, that it was determined only one more member, and he the lightest of the party, could safely be let down. Baker was thereupon allowed to finish the descent, then Wightman was sent down, and a few minutes afterwards a Gladstone bag, containing camera, fireworks, electric lamps and batteries, string, and provisions, was carefully despatched to the bottom.

To summarise the remaining incidents of a memorable day, these two men explored the inner cave, took a number of flashlight photographs, which unfortunately were not very successful, and, after a good deal of delay, due to the lack of assistance, came up again about 5 p.m. to the foot of the Hole and shouted to be hauled up. The other party, being engaged in climbing on the edge of the cavity, did not immediately attend to the summons, and dusk was deepening rapidly into total darkness when they reached their former lodgment 80 feet down. Wightman was restored to his friends soon after 7 p.m., but, through the entangling of the rope, and, worse still, through an accident to the baggage, the other man was not got out till an hour later, having spent altogether nine hours in the Hole; and, as may be imagined, the return journey, with all the luggage tied round his body, was a difficult and painful one, both for those who were hauling and the man hauled.

A fresh descent will shortly be made, with suitable apparatus, so as to secure some good photographs of the

interior ; and, apropos of this subject, it may be mentioned that the Club has been given the opportunity of a special visit to the wellknown Speedwell Mine, near Castleton, for purposes of exploration.

ANNUAL DINNER, &c. The Annual Dinner, at Derby, gathered together most of the members on October 16th. On Nov. 5th and 6th, Mr. E. A. Baker gave lantern-lectures on Mountaineering in Scotland, and exhibited a large number of slides illustrative of the climbs on Buchaille Etive, Bidean-nam-Bian, and the Cuchullins, which were highly appreciated.