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EXCURSION OF SCOTTISH ALPINE BOTANICAL CLUB, 1912.

By ALEXANDER COWAN.

The members of the Club met at the Killin Hotel, Killin, on Monday, 22nd July, for their Annual Excursion.

As the weather appeared fairly settled, it was arranged to visit Ben Lawers on the earliest possible day; and as the morning of 23rd July was fine, the members made an early start by motor to the foot of the mountain, commencing the ascent up the burn side leading to the Corrie. The weather was very warm during the earlier part of the day, but when the top was reached in the afternoon, it became much colder, and a rising breeze brought a considerable quantity of mist with it. Though these conditions made it unpleasant to remain long on the top, and no view could be had of the surrounding mountains, owing to the mist, the opportunity was nevertheless gratefully seized to cordially pledge (according to the custom of the Club) the health of its President. One of the features of the Corrie was the great show, on almost all the inaccessible ledges of the rocks, of *Myosotis alpestris*, Schmidt, which was seen in great abundance and in beautiful flower—while a plant with pure pink flowers was found by one of the party; and as the sun was shining brightly in the earlier part of the day, the members had no difficulty in finding large quantities of *Gentiana nivalis*, Linn., though they had failed to find it on their visit some years previously; but the absence of sunshine, to open the flowers on that occasion, probably accounted for their want of luck in finding the plant. *Saxifraga cernua*, Linn., was found very sparingly at the usual station near the top of the mountain; the following plants were also found:—

Thalictrum alpinum, Linn.; *Draba rupestris*, Br.; *Viola amoena* (T. F. Forst.), (in flower); *Silene acaulis*, Linn.; *Cerastium alpinum*, Linn.; *Arenaria verna*, Linn.; *A. sedoides*, Froel.; *Hypericum humifusum*, Linn.; *Rubus Chamaemorus*, Linn.; *Geum rivale*, Linn.; *Alchemilla alpina*, Linn.; *Saxifraga aizoides*, Linn.; *S. oppositifolia*, Linn.; *S. hypnoides*, Linn.; *S. cernua*, Linn.; *S. nivalis*, Linn.; *S. stellaris*, Linn.; *Sedum villosum*, Linn.; *S. roseum*, Scop.; *Epilobium alpinum*, Linn.; *Solidago*

Virgaurea, Linn.; *Saussurea alpina*, DC.; *Crepis mollis*, Aschers.; *Gentiana nivalis*, Linn.; *G. campestris*, Linn.; *Myosotis alpestris*, Schmidt; *Veronica scutellata*, Linn.; *V. saxatilis*, Linn.; *Salix herbacea*, Linn.; *S. reticulata*, Linn.; *Habenaria conopsea*, Benth., var. *alba* (2 plants); *H. viridis*, Br.; *H. bifolia*, Br.; *Tofieldia palustris*, Huds.; *Juncus triglumis*, Linn.; *Luzula spicata*, DC.; *Carex saxatilis*, Linn.; *C. flava*, Linn.; *C. echinata*, Murr.; *C. pulicaris*, Linn.; *Cryptogramma crispa*, Br.; *Blechnum Spicant*, With. (with all fronds forked); *Asplenium viride*, Huds.; *Polystichum aculeatum*, Roth; *P. Lonchitis*, Roth; *Polypodium alpestre*, Hoppe; *Botrychium Lunaria*, Sw.; *Lycopodium alpinum*, Linn.; *L. annotinum*, Linn.; *L. clavatum*, Linn.; *L. Selago*, Linn.

On the morning of Wednesday, 24th July, the members started to motor up Glen Lochay in order to botanise on Beinn Hescarnich, but after going about half a mile they found a notice-board closing the road to motors. There was nothing for it but to return, and it was at once decided to visit Creag-na-Callich and proceed thence to Cam Chreag, from which point the members proposed to descend to meet the motor on the road near Lochan-na-Lairige. Unfortunately, before any rocks were reached the party found themselves enveloped in a thick fog, so that it was quite impossible to ascend further. The wisest thing would have been to have retraced their steps by the way they came, but owing to the motor having been sent round by road to Lochan-na-Lairige, the party started by aid of map and compass to make their way as best they could in the thick fog in that direction. They found themselves in difficulties and in dangerous proximity to steep rocks more than once, but they eventually found their way to a point in the valley below the level of the fog, from which they could see the motor waiting for them about a mile away.

Though there was no actual rain, the fog was so laden with moisture that it gave one's clothing the appearance of being frosted all over, and in the circumstances practically nothing could be done in the way of botanising, though the following interesting plants were found on the lower ground visited:—

Thalictrum alpinum, Linn.; *Trollius europaeus*, Linn.;

Silene acaulis, Linn.; *Geum rivale*, Linn.; *Saxifraga aizoides*, Linn.; *S. oppositifolia*, Linn.; *S. hypnoides*, Linn.; *S. nivalis*, Linn.; *S. stellaris*, Linn.; *Sedum roseum*, Scop.; *Epilobium alpinum*, Linn.; *Solidago Virgaurea*, Linn.; *Veronica saxatilis*, Linn.; *Juncus triglumis*, Linn.; *Carex saxatilis*, Linn.; *C. capillaris*, Linn.; *C. binervis*, Sm.; *C. flava*, Linn.; *C. Oederi*, Retz.; *C. atrata*, Linn.; *C. pulicaris*, Linn.; *C. dioica*, Linn.; *Asplenium viride*, Huds.; *Polystichum aculeatum*, Roth; *P. Lonchitis*, Roth; *Polypodium alpestre*, Hoppe; *Botrychium Lunaria*, Sw.; *Lycopodium alpinum*, Linn.; *L. annotinum*, Linn.; *L. clavatum*, Linn.; *L. Selago*, Linn.

While the members were at breakfast on Thursday, 25th July, a thunderstorm came on, accompanied by torrential rain, and as the hills were covered with mist, botanising on them was out of the question. As the weather cleared somewhat by 11 o'clock, the members drove down Glen Ogle in order to examine the large beds of *Lastrea montana*, T. Moore, and other ferns growing in the neighbourhood, and especially on the slopes below the railway, where *Asplenium viride*, Huds.; *A. trichomanes*, Linn.; *Cystopteris fragilis*, Bernh.; *Carex canescens*, Linn.; *C. pulicaris*, Linn., and *Saxifraga aizoides*, Linn., were found. Several plants of crispate, brevilobe, and forked forms of *Lastrea montana*, T. Moore, were found. The remainder of the day was luckily fine.

On the morning of 26th July, the members botanised on the road leading to Lochearnhead, and in the afternoon on the road on the east side of Loch Tay, where *Hypericum hirsutum*, Linn.; *Circaea alpina*, Linn.; *Galium boreale*, Linn.; *Lysimachia nemorum*, Linn.; *Lastrea spinulosa*, Presl; *Cystopteris fragilis*, Bernh., var. *furcans*, and a pink-flowered *Prunella vulgaris*, Linn., were found. Though the morning was dull and threatening, with some mist on the hills, the afternoon turned out fine and warm.

The members returned home on 27th July.

Owing to the bad weather, only one complete day's botanising was possible, viz. the day spent on Ben Lawers, and although some good plants were there found, it was a great disappointment to the members to be unable to visit other mountains during their visit.