

## EASTER MEET, 1936.—FORT WILLIAM.

By AILSA M. JAQUES.

The second M.A.M. meet in Scotland was held at Easter, 1936, and it brought to the Highland Hotel at Fort William a small but enthusiastic company consisting of: Mr. and Mrs. Brettell, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Henn; the Misses Birch, Davies, Jaques and Showell; Messrs. Forbes Boyd, Clutterbuck, Gibson, Lister and Wadsworth.

Four of the party arrived on Thursday evening, and were at the station betimes the next morning to welcome the Birmingham contingent, who were due at about 9.30 a.m. To their dismay they saw no familiar faces emerging from the train, and after anxious enquiries it was learned that the party was stranded, breakfastless, at Crianlarich, with small prospect of arriving before late afternoon. Threats or beguilement, however, had their effect on the L.N.E.R. officials, and about 11 a.m. eight hungry members of the M.A.M. stepped on to the platform at Fort William, apparently from a local goods train.

After a little unpacking and a hearty meal, we all set off for Ben Nevis, to test the state of the snow and to study the prospects for next day. At the Lochan we divided into small groups—one for the summit, led by Mr. Graham, one for Carn Dearg and glissading under Mr. Gibson, whilst another followed Mr. Brettell to survey the rock face and gullies, and found that there was considerably less snow than in 1934, but again it was in good condition.

On Saturday, April 11th, Mr. Graham's party went up Carn Mòr Dearg, by Carn Beag Dearg and Carn Dearg Meadhonach, and the beautiful photographs taken by Mr. Forbes Boyd from these peaks are evidence of the fine weather and perfect views. Mr. and Mrs. Duncan, newly arrived from Glasgow, climbed Ben Nevis, and were on the summit to greet a small party led by Mr. Brettell up the Tower Ridge—a most attractive climb of varied and almost Alpine character. The day was so fine that an extended walk was taken along the ridge above Coire Leis to Carn Mòr Dearg, whence the descent was made by means of a glissade intended to be a sitting one, but achieved in a prone position by one member, fortunately without breaking any bones!

Easter Sunday was another glorious day, and the whole meet of seventeen members started from the Highland Hotel in three cars. A romantically inclined party of two, carrying one pair of ski, climbed Ben Nevis, and evidently had a most satisfactory day, whilst the rest went on with the cars up Glen Nevis, fragrant with the scent of bog myrtle, to Polldubh. The majority followed Mr. Graham as far as the summit of Sgurr a'Mhaim, and a few hardy spirits continued to follow him to Stob Coire a'Mhail, Sgòr an Iubhair and Am Bodach, whilst the rest practised glissading and returned to Polldubh by various routes through the wooded Coire a'Mhusgain.

On Easter Monday Mr. Graham visited Inverness and took a party with him by car via Loch Arkaig. The morning was not so fine, but a determination to make the most of the last day impelled the remaining members of the party up to the Charles Inglis Clark Hut, and after a short halt for lunch Messrs. Brettell and Lister led two ropes up the Tower Ridge, in spite of a biting wind and heavy showers of hail and snow, which made it a very different climb to that of two days earlier. The descent from the summit was made rapidly by glissading down the Red Burn.

On Tuesday morning our President and Mrs. Brettell were carried off by Mr. and Mrs. Graham to Dornie. Mr. and Mrs. Henn and Miss Birch started for home, and the rest watched and hindered the departures. Lunch was taken out, but not very far, and a return to the hotel for packing and clearing up was soon made. The return journey was uneventful—there was plenty of room, a good dinner, and we lost no connections.

The thanks of the party are due to the organisers for all the excellent arrangements for our comfort; to Mr. Graham for saving us many weary miles of walking on the high road; to Mr. Lister for his discovery of an excellent brand of cider in the cellars of the Highland Hotel; and to Mr. Brettell for his helpful and encouraging leadership.