

£1 5s. per month.) Some of the hotels rent a stretch of fishing on the Dee, and trout-fishing may be had on the *Feugh*, which enters the Dee at Banchory.

The south Deeside road from Aberdeen crosses, a mile short of Banchory, the narrow *Bridge of Feugh*, one of the sights of the neighbourhood.

The *Hill of Fare* (1,545 feet), 5 miles to the north, is a fine viewpoint.

An interesting road runs southward through *Strachan*, *Glen Dye* and over *Cairn o' Mounth* to *Fettercairn* (19 miles), *Edzell* (24 miles), and *Brechin* (30 miles). (*See p. 351.*)

Westward from Banchory the road follows more or less the windings of the Dee. North of *Kincardine O'Neil* a few miles is *Lumphanan*, where a cairn is said to mark the *Grave of Macbeth*, who, according to *Wyntoun*, the chronicler, fled hither after his defeat at *Dunsinane*, and was killed here, and not at *Dunsinane* as *Shakespeare* has taught us to believe.

So past the *Loch of Aboyne to Aboyne*, 32½ miles from Aberdeen, an attractive village built around a large green between the road and the river, here crossed by a suspension bridge. The neighbourhood is thickly wooded. Aboyne is about 400 feet above sea-level. The climate is bracing, and there is a good 18-hole golf course. (Visitors: 2s. per day (Sundays, 2s. 6d); 7s. 6d. per week; 12s. 6d. per fortnight; £1 5s. per month.) The host of the *Huntly Arms Hotel* has several miles of fishings on both banks of the Dee, divided into beats, which he lets to guests. The *Aboyne Highland Games*, held in the first week of September, are the great event of the holiday season. *Aboyne Castle*, long the family seat of the *Marquises of Huntly*, stands close to the village. Within the policies are the remains of a *Druidical circle*, a sculptured stone, and what is known to archaeologists, as the *Aboyne Ogham Stone*.

There are many delightful walks in the neighbourhood, particularly one through the glen known as the *Fungle*, skirting the *Ault-dinnie Burn*. From the resting-place at the head a magnificent view is obtained. Another pleasant walk is on the *Hill of Mortlich*, formerly crowned by a monument to the tenth *Marquis of Huntly*. Other pedestrian excursions recommended are: to *Glen Tanner*, a highly picturesque glen running towards the south-west from the vicinity of *Aboyne Suspension Bridge*; to *Mount Keen* (3,077 feet), at the head of

DEESIDE.

Aberdeen to Ballater and Braemar.

Five important routes go westward and northward from Aberdeen:—
The Deeside road (*see below*).

The direct road north-westward to *Fochabers* and *Elgin*—the principal route for *Inverness*, *Strathspey* and the far North (*see p. 376*).

The *Strathdon* road (*see p. 401*) which joins the foregoing route at *Huntly*.

The coast route *vid Cruden Bay to Peterhead* (*see p. 392*) and

The shorter road driving straight north to the coast at *Banff* (*see p. 396*).

As a touring centre Aberdeen is chiefly renowned for its proximity to the grand road through *Deeside*, past *Balmoral* to *Braemar*, and although the improvement of the *Glenshee* route from *Blairgowrie* has led to a greater use of this route as a means of reaching Aberdeen, *Deeside* scenery at its best is revealed only to those travelling westward, towards the high mountains instead of away from them. The railway serves as far as *Ballater* (43½ miles), whence motor-buses make several journeys each way daily. Except for several miles beyond *Banchory*, road and rail keep close company all the way from Aberdeen to *Ballater*. As far as *Banchory* motorists have a choice of routes, roads following either side of the Dee.

Beyond *Cults*, 5 miles from Aberdeen, there is an extensive panorama of pleasant scenery, and on the left, almost hidden from view, is *Blairs Roman Catholic College*. Ten miles from Aberdeen, on the right, is *Drum Castle*, the seat of the ancient family of *Irvine*. It is a large Tudor edifice, built in 1619, with a keep said to have been erected by *William the Lion* at the end of the twelfth or beginning of the thirteenth century. Another 5 miles and there appears on the right *Crathes Castle*, one of the finest of the ancient castellated buildings in the country.

Banchory, 17 miles from Aberdeen, nestles in one of the prettiest spots on *Deeside* (Hotels: *Banchory*, *Torna-Coille* (32 rooms; *R. and b.*, 11s.), *Burnett Arms*, etc.) There are bowls, tennis and golf. (Visitors: 2s. per day; Sundays, 2s. 6d.; 7s. 6d. per week; 12s. 6d. per fortnight;

the deer forest of Glen Tanner; to the Forest of Birse, and to Lochs Kinord and Davan. Further particulars will be found in the Ward, Lock *Guide to Aberdeen and Deeside*.

From Aboyne the road runs through woods and across Dinnet Moor to **Dinnet** (*hotel*), a picturesque hamlet, near which is a pretty lake. A short way up the stream running into the west side of Loch Kinord, beside Dinnet, is a singular granite chasm which has given to the stream the name of "The Burn of the Vat." Westward of Dinnet is **Cambus o' May** (*hotel*), where the pink granite is quarried in huge blocks. On the other side of the Dee, 3 miles west from Dinnet Bridge, is **Ballaterich**, where Byron spent some of his youthful days, and on this side of the river, but 2 miles farther west, is **Pannanich Wells** (*hotel*), where are chalybeate springs.

Ballater.

Angling.—Salmon and trout in the *Dee*; fishings rented during the season, so that local inquiry is desirable.

Distances.—Aberdeen, 42 m.; Aboyne, 11½ m.; Banchory, 24 m.; Braemar, 16½ m.

Early Closing.—Thursday.

Golf.—The course has a setting of some of the wildest and grandest scenery in the Highlands. Visitors: 2s. per day; 8s. per week; 25s. per month; £2 5s. per season.

Hotels.—*Invercauld Arms* (45 rooms; R. & b., fr. 10s. 6d.), *Loirston* (*temp.*) (35 rooms; R. & b., fr. 8s.), *Alexandra*, *Balmoral* (*temp.*) (12 rooms; R. & b., fr. 8s.).

Population.—1,196.

Ballater is a modern, well-built village, 660 feet above sea-level. It stands like a sentinel at the entrance to the upper and, for many, most characteristic portion of Deeside—the lovely valley between wooded hills which winds past Crathie and Balmoral to Braemar. Ballater is also "railhead" for Upper Deeside, and although the motor has usurped some of its importance the station is often very busy indeed. In addition to golf, fishing, tennis, etc., indoor entertainments are organized during the season, and the village is an admirable centre for walkers.

Rising between the present main road and the Pass of Ballater is the hill of **Craigendarroch**, 1,250 feet above sea-level, but only 600 feet above Ballater, a good viewpoint.

About midway between Ballater and Cambus o' May, on the south side of the Dee, is **Pannanich Wells** (*see above*).

Southward from Ballater **Glen Muick** winds in among the flanks of **Lochnagar**. Six miles up the glen is the **Linn of Muick**; at 10 miles is **Loch Muick**. The path along the south-

east side of the loch climbs to cross into the valley of the stream leading into **Glen Clova**, which can be followed to **Clova** (19 miles) and **Kirriemuir** (*see p. 348*). The more direct path, the **Capel Mounth**, leaves the road to the Loch about half a mile beyond the **Spittal of Glen Muick** (*see p. 349*).

From **Glen Muick House**, about 2 miles from **Ballater Bridge**, a track climbs eastward, passing just north of **Cairn Leuchan** (2,293 feet) and into **Glen Tanner**, at the foot of which is **Aboyne** (p. 365). In the other direction the path leads out of the head of **Glen Tanner** and by the **Mounth Road** crosses the west shoulder of **Mount Keen** at a height of 2,504 feet to the **Queen's Well** in **Glen Mark**, and so to **Tarfside** (16 miles). **Edzell** (28 miles), **Brechin** (36 miles from **Ballater**) (*see p. 350*).

Lochnagar (3,786 feet) (so called from the lochan beneath its northern precipice—*Loch-na-gar*, the "goat's loch") is a finely shaped mountain, and its ascent is both pleasant and remunerative.

The ascent is usually made from **Braemar**, but it can also be conveniently made from **Ballater** (allow 4 to 5 hours).

The summit is about 13 miles from **Ballater** by the route here described. From **Ballater** a public road on the east side of the **Muick** leads to the **Spittal of Glen Muick** (9 miles), whence a footpath crosses the glen to **Allt-naguibhsaich**, where the **Lochnagar** path commences. The road on the west side of the glen is in much better condition but it is private for the greater part of its length. It is usually open except during the shooting season, but enquiries should be made at **Ballater** before starting. The lower part of **Glen Muick** is very beautiful but the upper part, beyond the **Linn**, is rather bare. The path up **Lochnagar** is very well defined and perfectly easy although rather steep at one place known as "The Ladder." From the top of the **Ladder** the path passes close to the edge of the magnificent northern precipice, passes to the right of the first summit (3,768 feet), and ¼ mile farther on reaches the highest summit, on which there is an excellent **View Indicator**. The ascent from **Allt-naguibhsaich** should take from 2½ to 3½ hours.

The foreground shows but little variety, the only break in the general barrenness being supplied by the **Dee** valley, a strip of which is visible near **Balmoral**. The distant prospect, however, is enhanced by the contrast between the rich lowlands of **Aberdeenshire**, reaching away to the **North Sea**, and the wild assemblage of billowy mountain-heights, which stretch as far as the eye can travel in every other direction. To the north-west, the giant family of **Ben Macdhui** closes the view. Northwards there is no material object, except atmosphere, to obstruct the view over **Ben Rinnes** and the **Moray Firth** to the headlands of **Caithness**. In the north-east the prominent hill is **Morven**, a featureless height beyond and a little to the left of **Ballater**. **Mount Keen** is conspicuous in the east. Beyond it the hills dwindle down to the plain of **Forfar** and the **Ochils**, between which and **Ben Macdhui**, **Ben Lawers**, **Schiehallion**, with its graceful peak, and **Ben-y-Gloe** rise above their fellows.

Northward from **Ballater** a wild road climbs **Glen Gairn** and **Glen Finzie** to **Strathdon** near **Cock Bridge** (p. 403). The

accomplishment of long-discussed improvements of this road and the continuing *Lecht Road* to Tomintoul has opened a very fine route from Deeside to Speyside for motorists.

Ballater to Braemar.

As the road rounds the shoulder of Craigendarroch there are fine views up Glen Muick, and on clearing the trees the Cairngorms loom finely ahead. Six miles from Ballater, across the river, is **Abergeldie Castle** (cf. p. 306). A mile farther on the right above the road is **Crathie Church**, the foundation-stone of which was laid in 1893 by Queen Victoria. The church has taken the place of old Crathie Church, now an ivy-clad ruin in the old churchyard near the river. This is the church attended by the Royal Family when staying at Balmoral, and it contains a number of beautiful memorials. In the graveyard is a monument erected by Queen Victoria over the grave of her "devoted and faithful personal attendant," John Brown (died 1883).

Across the river from Crathie hamlet is—

Balmoral Castle.

(From May 1 to July 31, the grounds are open to the public, in the absence of the Court, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Small fee, devoted to charities.)

It stands on a plateau nearly a thousand feet above the level of the sea, but the thick belt of trees almost completely screens it from the road, and for the best view (especially on such days as the grounds are not open) turn up the narrow lane on the right a short way beyond Crathie post office; in about half a mile turn back to left, and then the Castle is suddenly revealed among the trees below, "dark Lochnagar" grandly terminating the view.

The Castle was erected by the Prince Consort in 1854, the Prince himself designing the principal features. It is of light-coloured granite, in the Scottish Baronial style of architecture, and comprises two blocks with connecting wings, bartizan turrets, and a projecting tower, a hundred feet high, in which is a clock.

Among other objects of interest are a row of trees, each of which was planted by a member of the Royal Family; a massive granite fountain erected to the memory of King Edward VII by his tenants and servants, and statues of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort.

Ascent of Lochnagar.—Lochnagar may be ascended from Balmoral, but the road is only open at certain times, and then

only to those who have obtained permission. When royalty is resident at the Castle, or shooting is taking place, the road is closed. From Balmoral there is a road up Glen Gelder to the Gelder Shiel, from which a path leads to the saddle between Conachraig and Lochnagar, where the path from Allnaguibhsaich is joined. Thence to the summit by the Ladder (*see* p. 367). From the summit of Lochnagar the path, which is well defined, continues over the White Mounth to the west end of Loch Callater, from which there is a road to Braemar.

Westward of Balmoral Castle the Braemar road passes **Carn-na-Cuimhne** (the Cairn of Remembrance), on the south side of the road, just beyond the 51st milestone. Its Gaelic name is the slogan of the Farquharsons, and the spot is said to have been the rendezvous of the clan when summoned to battle. According to an old story, when they were assembled each man contributed a stone to the cairn, and on their return each bore one away. The number left represented the slain.

Hereabouts there have been great clearances of timber in recent years. Those who look eastward during this part of the journey will catch a glimpse of Balmoral Castle along the river.

On the left, south of the river, is the magnificent pine **Forest of Ballochbuie**. It is said that Farquharson of Invercauld became possessed of it in exchange for a tartan plaid. In allusion to this tradition, Queen Victoria, when she became the owner, erected a stone inscribed: "Queen Victoria entered into possession of Ballochbuie on the 15th day of May, 1878. The bonniest plaid in Scotland."

Nearly a mile farther, the Dee is crossed by **Invercauld Bridge**, a short distance west from the picturesque old bridge, and another mile brings us abreast of **Invercauld House**, away to the right—the ancestral home of the Farquharsons of Invercauld. From it the Earl of Mar issued his summons to the clans in 1715, before raising "the standard on the Braes o' Mar."

On the right, between road and river where they turn south to Braemar, is **Braemar Castle**, the old castellated mansion of the Earls of Mar, and afterwards of the Earls of Fife. Mar Lodge, long the residence of the Duchess-Dowager of Fife, and now belonging to her daughter, H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught, is higher up the glen—some 3 miles beyond Braemar.

Braemar.

Angling.—The *Fife Arms* has several miles of salmon-fishing on the *Dee*.
Golf.—An 18-hole course. Visitors: day, 2s.; week, 8s.; fortnight, 14s.; month, 20s.; year, 30s. There is also a private course on the *Mar Lodge Estate*.

Hotels.—*Invercauld Arms, Fife Arms* (100 rooms; R. & b., fr. 10s. 6d.).
 Furnished houses and apartments.

Population.—758.

Braemar, or, to give its full title, *Castleton of Braemar*, is 1,100 feet above sea-level, and is surrounded by well-wooded, lofty hills, which effectually shield it from winter winds. It is a particularly attractive place with first-class hotels; the climate is dry, the air remarkably pure and bracing. As the village is situated in the midst of fine scenery, and is the best centre from which to make excursions in the Eastern Grampians, it is a very popular resort. Its "Gathering" or Highland Games held in September brings a great concourse from far and near.

In recent years Braemar has also attracted attention as a Winter Sports centre, and certainly here the snow-fall is less fickle than elsewhere in Britain. At *The Cottage* R. L. Stevenson spent the summer of 1881, and wrote *Treasure Island*, his first great work.

EXCURSIONS FROM BRAEMAR.

Strangers must bear in mind that, where excursions into the surrounding countryside are concerned, their movements are liable to considerable restriction, especially during the stalking season (from August onwards).

1. **Morrone Hill**, 2,819 feet above the sea, but only about 1,700 above Braemar. It lies to the south-west of the village. The simplest route of ascent is by the Chapel Brae to Tomintoul, a few crofts on the shoulder of the hill, and thence by a well-marked path to the summit. Time up and down about three hours. The Tomintoul crofts may be also reached by paths from near the golf course. The prospect includes a most charming view of the valleys of the *Dee* and the *Quoich* and a magnificent panorama of the Cairngorms.

2. **Linn of Quoich.**—The *Quoich* is a stream entering the *Dee* a short distance west of Braemar. The only access for motors is by a rough road on the north side of the *Dee*, from the Linn of *Dee*, which passes the back of *Mar Lodge*. Pedestrians may go eastward to *Invercauld Bridge* and thence by a right-of-way track that runs across the low ground between *Invercauld House* and the river. The Linn is about a mile above the confluence. The falling water has formed cavities or "pot

holes" in the rock; "Quoich" is the Gaelic for "cup." The falls are only 3 miles from the village in a direct line.

3. **Linn of Corriemulzie and Linn of Dee.**—Follow the high-road westward along the south side of the *Dee*. A little short of the Linn of *Corriemulzie* (3 miles) a path leads to it from the main road. The Linn of *Dee* is a few yards past the sixth milestone. The river runs through a very narrow gorge. The best view of the chasm is obtained from the bridge. Both spots are extremely beautiful.

4. **Ascent of Lochnagar** (3,786 feet; time, 4-5 hours. Ponies and guides may be hired).—The route from Braemar is more interesting and more used than either of the others (from *Balmoral* and *Ballater*), but the road is much rougher. A motor can be taken 5 miles. The great features of "dark Lochnagar" are the precipices and corries on the north side, where snow generally lies all the year round.

Follow the *Blairgowrie* high-road for 2 miles to where it crosses the *Callater Burn*; then turn off to the left and follow the burn to the foot of *Loch Callater*, from which the summit of *Lochnagar* is distant about 7 miles. At the *Loch shooting lodge* the road ceases, and the track slants up the slope to the north-east of the loch and in 1½ miles reaches a pass west of *Cairn Taggart* (Carn an t-Sagairt Mor on the maps). The path is somewhat indistinct here, but by climbing directly east up the side of *Cairn Taggart* the path will be found running round the south slope of that hill. In due course there comes into view on the right a desolate glen containing the stream which flows into the *Dubh Loch*, i.e. the *Black Loch*. After crossing this stream the track, which is well marked, runs in a fairly direct line north-eastwards to the summit of *Lochnagar*. The only spot at which there is any probability of the track being missed is where the turn to the right must be made to round *Cairn Taggart*.

To **Blairgowrie** (35 miles), one of the finest drives in Scotland.—This, the highest trunk road in Britain, and the road *viâ Ballater* are the only through motor routes to and from Braemar. Public motors run daily (except Sundays) during the summer.

Leaving Braemar, the road runs along the eastern side of the *Clunie Water* and in a couple of miles crosses the *Callater Burn* and then continues along *Glen Clunie*. Ten miles from Braemar the highest point on the route is reached—*Cairnwell* (3,059 feet) on the right and *Glas Maol* (3,502 feet) on the left—at an altitude of 2,199 feet.

From the top of the pass there is a steep descent through *Glen Beg* to the *Spital of Glenshee Hotel*, the shoulder of the *Cairnwell* being crossed by a zigzag road that falls 200 feet in half a mile, and is known as the *Devil's Elbow* (gradient 1 in 9). The hotel is at the junction of *Glen Beg* with *Glens Tatnich* and *Lochsie*, 15 miles from Braemar. Opposite is a tumulus known as *Diarmid's Tomb*. Thence the road is along *Glen-*

shee. In about 9 miles it passes on the left Mount Blair (2,441 feet), and 5½ miles below is the Bridge of Cally, which affords a fine view of the *Ardle*, that here unites with the Shee, the stream so formed being called the *Ericht*. Four miles from the bridge the *Ericht* flows through a rocky ravine, along one side of which is the road, while on the other stands *Craighall*, which Lockhart tells us was the original of Tullyveolan of *Waverley*, "the habitation of the Barons of Bradwardine." Two miles farther is *Blairgowrie* (p. 358).

To *Loch Builg* (13 miles) and *Tomintoul* (24 miles), and *Ballindalloch*, on the Speyside line of the London and North Eastern Railway (40 miles) or *Grantown* (38 miles).—There is a poor road all the way, with the exception of 4 miles between *Loch Builg* and *Inchroy Lodge*. (For the through road route, *via* *Cock Bridge*, see p. 367.) Follow the *Ballater Road* to a point a little beyond *Invercauld Bridge* and there take a road on the left. Keep to the right at the fork a few hundred yards on, and at the fork 2 miles farther on go to the left. (The right-hand branch leads to the *Inver Hotel*.)

The road crosses the *Feardar Burn*, climbs steeply up to the north, and when a height of about 2,200 feet has been reached strikes away in a north-westerly direction across the east slopes of *Cullar doch* (2,953 feet) and drops down to the *River Gairn*, which is crossed about half a mile short of *Loch Builg*. The *Loch*, about a mile in length, is on the borders of *Aberdeen* and *Banff*. A shooting bothy is the only house on its uninteresting shores, the nearest habitation being *Corndavon Lodge*, 3 miles down the *Glen Gairn* by a fair road.

At *Loch Builg* the road ceases and a track runs along the eastern side of the loch and continues in a northerly direction until it strikes the *Builg Burn* (about half a mile from the loch), which it then follows to the road in the vicinity of *Inchroy Lodge*. Thence a good road follows the course of the *Avon* to *Tomintoul* (p. 345). The scenery is particularly fine at the gorge of the *Ailnack*, 1½ miles short of *Tomintoul*.

For route between *Tomintoul* and *Ballindalloch* (15 miles), see p. 344; *Dufftown*, see p. 345; *Grantown*, see p. 342.

Braemar to *Blair Atholl* *via* *Glen Tilt* (30 miles; see p. 316). The road passes the *Linn of Dee* and one can drive to within a mile of *Bynaek Sheiling*, 12 miles. If telegraphed for to *Blair Atholl* a conveyance will be waiting at *Forest Lodge*, 8 miles from *Blair Atholl*, thus reducing the walking distance to 8 miles. There is no house of entertainment between *Blair Atholl* and *Braemar*, though accommodation can usually be obtained in some of the private houses in the village of *Inverey*, some 5 miles west of *Braemar*.

The bridge at the *Linn of Dee* is crossed, and the road to the left is followed. Three miles from the *Linn of Dee* is again crossed at the *White Bridge*, and the route thence lies along the western side of the *Geldie Burn* for 1½ miles, crosses it and then strikes due south, passing *Bynaek Lodge* on the right, and crossing the watershed at a height of

about 1,500 feet and 2 miles south from the *Lodge*. The descent is through *Glen Tilt*, the track following closely the course of the river on its right bank, with *Ben-y-Gloe* (*Beinn-a-Ghloe*) (3,671 feet) towering on the other side.

Rough as is this route in its central portion, it is, as a whole, easier and less rough, as well as shorter by a couple of miles, than the *Larig Ghru* route described below, between *Braemar* and *Aviemore*.

To *Kingussie* (30 miles).—Follow the *Blair Atholl* route to the crossing, 1½ miles beyond the *White Bridge*. From this point a rough road, passable for horse vehicles, leads along the north side of the *Geldie Burn* for three miles to opposite *Geldie Lodge*. The road should be left near where it dips down to the stream and a poorly marked path followed westward across the moor, keeping well up, for three miles to the *River Eidart*. There is usually a footbridge across the latter stream; but there may be trouble in crossing should the river be in high flood and the bridge absent. Beyond the *Eidart* there is a good path along the north side of the *Feshie* to the bridge near *Glenfeshie Lodge*, where a motor from *Kingussie* may be waiting.

To *Clova* (19 miles), thence to *Kirriemuir* (34 miles) or to *Brechin* (42 miles).—The route at first is along *Glen Clunie* and then by the side of the *Callater Burn* past *Loch Callater*. It has been described as far as the loch on p. 371. The track keeps along the north bank of the lake, a dark-looking sheet of water nearly a mile long, and thence is fairly plain on the north side of the burn to the ridge of the *Tolmount* (3,143 feet), 9 miles from *Braemar*. The descent is made by "Jock's Road" to the left of the *White Water*, down *Glen Doll*. Although there is a right of way, there is not, in all parts, a well-defined track, but by keeping the *White Water* in view on the right, the head of *Glen Doll* will be reached and the road in *Glen Clova* will be struck 3 miles short of *Milton* of *Clova* (*hotel*). For *Clova* and the route to *Kirriemuir*, see pp. 348-9.

Brechin may be reached from *Clova* by a rough walk of 10 miles in an east-north-east direction to *Loch Lee*, where connection is made with the route from *Ballater* (see p. 367); or by crossing the *South Esk* at *Cortachy*, some 3 miles short of *Kirriemuir*, and following the road which runs thence to *Brechin*.

To *Kirkton of Glenisla* (25 miles) and *Alyth* (31 miles).—Follow the *Blairgowrie* road for about 8 miles. A few yards short of a bridge over the main stream take a track that goes off to the left and ascends to a height of nearly 3,250 feet between *Cairn na Glasha* on the left and *Glas Maol* on the right. This point is about 2 miles from the spot where the *Blairgowrie* road was left. From it the track proceeds to *Monega Hill* (2,917 feet) and from the ridge of that follows a small stream (the *Glas Burn*) to the *Isla*. The course is then along the latter, and in a mile is the shooting lodge of *Tulchan*, while a couple of miles farther down the glen are some picturesque falls near the confluence of the *Glencally Burn* with the *Isla*. Three miles lower are

the ruins of Forter Castle, a stronghold of the Earl of Airlie (perhaps the "Bonnie Hoose o' Airlie" destroyed by Argyll in 1640). Thence the route is along the left-hand side of the stream, and at the end of 4 miles it reaches Kirkton of Glenisla (*hotel; mail motor between Glenisla and Alyth*).

For Alyth, see p. 346.

By the Larig Ghru to Aviemore.—The central portion of the walk (30 miles) is extremely rough. At various points finger-posts have been erected by the Right of Way Society, but the roads in the Rothiemurchus Forest, at the latter end of the route, are very bewildering. (*See also p. 332.*)

From Braemar the route is to the Linn of Dee and across the bridge there. Pedestrians may go direct by a good path, through the trees, to the Bridge of Lui, about a mile up the stream, but vehicles must go a quarter of a mile down by the Dee and then up by the side of the Lui Water. There is a locked gate across the road leading up Glen Lui; the key may be obtained at the Lodge opposite Victoria Bridge, leading to Mar Lodge. The Bridge of Lui is crossed and the road is followed up the stream to Derry Lodge (10 miles), the farthest point to which vehicles can be taken.

The route thence is across the *Derry Burn* and along the north side of the *Lui Beg Burn*. Just beyond the bridge that spans the Derry Burn a track (the Larig Pass or *Larig an Laoigh*) runs off on the right to Nethy Bridge, while on the south side of the Lui Beg Burn is the keeper's cottage, at which simple refreshment can be obtained. The traveller will not see another house for 16 miles.

The Larig Ghru ("Gloomy Pass") route lies along the north side of the burn for a couple of miles and then crosses it. (The track that continues with the burn goes over Ben Macdhuì.) It keeps its westward direction for a mile or so and then inclines towards the north and leads into Glen Dee opposite the Devil's Point (3,303 feet). It crosses the Dee about half a mile above the inflow of the *Garachory Burn*, an important feeder that comes from the west between Cairn Toul and Braeriach. After crossing the Dee, the traveller must keep close to its western side and will then soon come to the Pools of Dee—four tiny ice-cold tarns. Just beyond them is the summit of the pass (2,733 feet), from which the way for about a mile is over rough boulders on the left side of the stream. The latter is then crossed to the right bank and the path, now good, followed for 2½ miles to its junction with a rough road at which there is a sign-post. Turn sharp to the left along the road and follow it past a ruined cottage, half a mile beyond which the stream, the Allt-na-Beinne-Mhor, is crossed by an iron bridge, which was erected by the Cairngorm Club in 1912. The traveller has now the choice of two routes. He may continue by the side of the burn for a couple of miles to Coylum Bridge, and thence by the high-road to Aviemore, 2 miles distant, or he may take the

road westward to Loch an Eilean (2 miles), and then take either the first or the second road on the right past that, turning to the left when it joins the road which leads to Aviemore. The route *viâ* Coylum Bridge is about half a mile shorter than that *viâ* Loch an Eilean, but is not so beautiful.

Lynwilg (*hotel*) lies about 2 miles to the south of Aviemore station.

Ben Macdhuì (4,296 feet) and Cairn Gorm (4,084 feet).

The ridge walk between these two heights is very well worth doing, but in any case the excursion is long and for strong walkers only.

To Derry Lodge, as above, it is possible to drive.

From the *Lodge* you may proceed by either of the valleys which converge there: (a) The shortest and finest way is by that to the left, by the *Lui Beg Burn*. By this route the summit is little more than 6 miles distant, and the sloppiness of parts of the Glen Derry track is avoided. From Derry Lodge follow the Larig Ghru path to about a furlong short of the footbridge across the Lui Beg Burn. Here a path, marked by a small cairn, strikes up to the right and follows the east side of the Lui Beg Burn for about 1½ miles, to a fork in the stream. Cross the first branch and then strike up the ridge in front, the Sron Riach, skirting the precipices above *Lochan Uaine*, where the ground is for a bit very rough, and then making straight for the summit. On the way the ridge of Cairn a' Mhaim (pronounced *vaim*) and the Devil's Point are striking features in a grand scene.

The *pony-track* from Derry Lodge crosses the Derry Burn just beyond the Lodge and follows Glen Derry for 4 miles, after which it bears to the left up Coire Etchachan to *Loch Etchachan*. For the first 1½ miles from Derry Lodge the path leads through magnificent pine trees, a remnant of the Caledonian Forest, after which the Glen is rather desolate. The last half mile or so up Coire Etchachan is steep, but the path is quite good and is well marked by cairns all the way. On the opposite side of Loch Etchachan the ground rises very steeply, but the track bends away still more to the left and climbs to the plateau of the mountain by the side of the streamlet which feeds the loch. The Lui Beg valley opens on the left, and to the north, 4 miles away, rises Cairn Gorm over a depression, at the bottom of which, unseen, lies Loch Avon. Behind us, eastwards, the lofty table-land of Beinn a' Bhuid rises to a height almost equal to that on which we are standing. The remaining half-mile or more of the ascent is over comparatively level ground, past the ruins of the Sappers' Hut to the big cairn on the summit. Near the cairn there is a useful View Indicator which was erected by the Cairngorm Club in 1925.

For the view from the summit and the walk over to Cairn Gorm, see p. 330.