

SOME ASPECTS OF 1927.

Another year has run its course, and in its own particular way the Club has left "its footprints on the sands of time"; the record has many aspects, and the energy expended has poured down many channels. One ingenious and statistically-minded member has calculated the aggregate number of foot-pounds lifted by the walkers of the Club in their peregrinations throughout the year, and to other intellects equally brilliant, some similar exposition may occur; into the account that follows, let each interpolate for himself any particular aspect that pleases his fancy.

The year has been one, unmarked by any particularly striking occurrence, but with a healthy spirit of vigorous life running through it, the interest of the Club having been well maintained with good turnouts upon the majority of walks, and fully 75% of the members taking part, this percentage including practically all those able to do so. For the mileage individual and aggregate, reference must be made to the comprehensive statement of the Hon. Walks Convener as shewn on page 14, a veritable *multum in parvo*, and representing continuous and exhaustive labour on the part of Hitchon.

The Easter Walk had its centre at Goathland, near Whitby, where, under the genial and competent leadership of Heywood, with whom Doyle was associated, a most happy week-end was spent, the wide sweep of the Moors, the bracing breezes of the North Sea, the quaint fishing and inland villages, with the many memorials of bygone days all contributing to make a memorable outing. An account of the Walk from the pen of Harcourt Willson appeared in the "City News," to the satisfaction of the participants, and to that of many other readers.

The Whit-Week Walk was in the nature of a compromise. The suggested Danish Walk being considered inadvisable on account of expense, and the Irish Walk impossible from lack of suitable hotel accommodation, our President (Sorensen), at short notice, outlined and arranged a Walk in the Cotswolds, with headquarters at Stroud. This proved an unqualified success, the country traversed being entirely new to the Club, and of a very fine nature. For the less strenuous members of the party, many places of historic interest lay within easy reach, the hotel accommodation was extremely good, and thus all interests were satisfied. In the words of a member well qualified to judge, and in fitting speech to describe "The weather and walks were perfect, the hotel splendid, the harmony pre-eminent," Witte acted as chronicler of the outing, writing an article in his usual happy vein, which appeared in the "City News."

The Lakes Walk, with headquarters at Buttermere under the direction of Coomber and Hitchon, completed the trilogy of successful outings of the year. The weather assisted the leaders, in the provision of delightful days of sunshine and clear atmosphere, while at night, the glorious fullness of the Hunter's Moon wrapped the hills in a magic mantle of glamour and mystery. So warm indeed was the sun that it induced one hopeful member to appear with a minimum of apparel upon his nether limbs, stirring to disapproval another member, one whose name is rooted in the historic past, and to whose views it was suggested, something of the same antiquity clung. Whether the occurrence is to be considered as a portent of the clash between new and old, or merely as an isolated incident due to special circumstances of time and place, I express no opinion.

For the rest, the Club has traversed much of its usual terrain in the surrounding counties of Cheshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire, not forgetting our own Lancashire, and if many of the walks must of necessity have been repetitions of those of previous years, so also has been the pleasure of their undertaking. In golf, the devotee will tell you that each game has something special to itself, and is never an exact replica of any one before, so too is a walk, even over familiar ground.

Of interest to the members, both as walkers and as lovers of Nature, was our support of the Fund for the Preservation of the Glencoin Woods on the shore of Lake Ullswater; many will recall the place from our visits to Patterdale and will re-visit it with an added appreciation.

The Club has owed much to the President (Sorensen), who has given freely of heart and service to its welfare, and to the maintenance of the high standard of his predecessors in office. It is the privilege of the Secretary to have special opportunity of studying the President, and of appreciating his qualities and characteristics, and of Sorensen, not the least of these is a certain impetuosity of spirit that oft makes action seemingly run before thought. Not for him the cautious ascent, the reconnaissance of what may lie beyond the wall, but the vigorous climb, the rapid scaling of the obstacle, and then, the consideration. Each succeeding President adds his quota to the sum of our Club tradition, so while more slow moving minds may question the speed of the action, we honour the personality, recognizing its wholehearted devotion and long service to the Club. A particular feature of the year was the President's selected team of "Cup Lifters" who, had they all been able to stay the course,

would have presented a very interesting situation at the end of the year. From one cause or another, most of them fell away, leaving to the untiring energy and persistence of Coomber the well-deserved distinction of winning the Cup for the third time in immediate succession, his unbeatable record of 100% and a total mileage of 758 miles placing him well ahead of all competitors, Witte, the runner-up, having 683 miles to his credit. As a memento of Coomber's activities, in addition to the holding of the Cup for the year and the receipt of a Spoon, a presentation was made to him of an umbrella, which it is hoped he will never lose and seldom need. As some explanation of the seemingly unpedestrian nature of the presentation, it should be said that his stick-rack is overflowing with trophies previously acquired.

We are happy in not having lost any members during the year by death. Two members, Clarke and Heath, have resigned, and four additional members have joined, McAdam coming back after an absence of a year, and Airne, Sutherland and Ward as fresh recruits to our ranks, the membership at the end of the year being 55. Pond was unfortunately laid up for a time owing to illness, but we record with satisfaction his return to his usual standard of prowess and persiflage.

And so to end. We can look back, therefore, at the close of the year with a deep sense of satisfaction for a season of vigorous walking, of many happy memories and of increased membership, and with a united endeavour to maintain and if possible, to improve, this happy situation, we can look forward with confidence to 1928.

ROBERT SMALLEY,
Hon. Secretary.