IN MEMORIAM.

PERCY W. THOMAS.

Few names have been better known to Alpine men than that of Percy Thomas; few faces have been more universally welcome at the meetings and social gatherings of the Club. The news that he had passed away came very unexpectedly upon his many friends; and all who knew him will feel poorer for the knowledge that his bright smile and genial presence will be seen and felt no more.

Percy Thomas was born in 1854, and was educated at Harrow. The love of his old school was an influence which he carried through his life, and which, as an interest outside his home circle, was second only to his love of mountaineering. This latter was intense and catching, for he possessed the rare power of communicating, to those who had never seen the Alps, some of his own enthusiasm. His lectures, which were illustrated by coloured lantern slides of his own painting, were well received and equally appreciated by audiences of every intellectual grade. As a mountaineer he was keen and energetic, and in 1890 made some interesting expeditions amongst the Rockies, whilst on a business tour in Colorado. In the Alps he effected the first ascent of the Lyskamm by the S. arête; and, amongst other unrecorded work, made a series of attempts upon the then unconquered Aiguille du Géant.

In Percy Thomas the Alpine Club loses a valued member of nearly twenty years' standing, who has rendered good service both on the committee and as a contributor to the 'Alpine Journal': in him the mountaineering fraternity loses an expert and ardent climber, who yet knew well the principles which underlie the craft, and never allowed his enthusiasm to overstep the limits which prudence would dictate: in him the world loses a true, kind, and single-hearted man who, in spite of more trouble than was his share or his due, ever retained a bright face and a bright mind, and whose influence upon his fellow-creatures was for good. C. W.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1894.

The summer of 1894 will fortunately be remembered rather for its nearly continuous bad weather than for the number of fatal accidents in the Alps by which it was marked. Yet eight valuable lives have been thrown away, either on the higher peaks, or on the lower summits which are not the resort of the ordinary tourist. Many of these, it will be seen, were lost through neglect of the most obvious precautions, solitary and ropeless climbing accounting for several, though such practices go dead against one of the fundamental rules of mountaineering. But it is useless to shut our eyes to the facts that both solitary climbing and ropeless climbing are rapidly increasing, and it is certainly desirable that some joint action should be taken by the leading Alpine Clubs to mark their utter disapproval of such practices. This

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