

IN MEMORIAM.

THOMAS COX.

THE death of Mr. Thomas Cox, of Birmingham, removes a very sincere lover of the mountains and an old member of the Alpine Club. Mr. Cox belonged to what may be termed the middle period of mountaineering; his first visit to the Alps was in 1867 and his last in 1899, and his first ascent of a great peak was that of the Aletschhorn in 1870, while the last was that of the Cima di Jazzi in 1899, on both of which ascents I accompanied him. His most active period was between 1870 and 1876, during which time we spent five seasons in the Alps together. In 1872 he made the ascent of the Mönch from the Klein Scheidegg, then, as now, an expedition but seldom undertaken. His ascent of the Matterhorn in 1873 was remarkable for the fact that it was the first accomplished up and down from Zermatt within the limits of the 24 hours, and without sleeping out on the mountain. His passage of the Moming Rothhorn was the first of that mountain, while he participated in all the new expeditions made in Dauphiné in 1873 by Messrs. Pendlebury, Taylor, and myself, as well as the Grande Aiguille, which Mr. Taylor and I did not ascend. Later in the season he crossed the difficult and rarely undertaken *Old Weisssthor* pass from Macugnaga to the Riffelhaus. In 1875 he made an interesting new pass leading direct from Bondo to the Baths of Massino by the Val Forcellizza, and in 1876 the first ascent of the Rossbodenhorn from the village of Simplon. A kindly, genuine friend, a sweet-tempered travelling companion, and an ardent mountaineer, all who knew him will mourn the loss of a climber who formed one of the rapidly disappearing connecting-links between men of the golden age of Alpine exploration and climbers of the present day.

FREDERICK GARDINER.

PRINCIPAL VIRIAMU JONES, F.R.S.

IN June, 1901, took place the death of Principal J. Viriamu Jones, F.R.S., the head of the South Wales University College, and first Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales. He had been a member of our Club since 1887, and though he was too busy a man to be able to attend many of the meetings or dinners, particularly during the last five or six years, yet his name was so widely known to many Alpine Club men who are interested in either science or education, that a brief record of his life seems appropriate.

Viriamu Jones was the son of a remarkable man, the Rev. Thomas Jones, a most eloquent Welsh Nonconformist preacher, who began life as a working collier. His son, J. Viriamu Jones, was born on January 2, 1856, and was named Viriamu in memory of John Williams, the missionary of Erromanga, New Hebrides, whose name was so pronounced by the natives. He was educated

at Reading and University College Schools, and, after matriculating at the London University, went to University College. After a distinguished career there, in which he gained many prizes and scholarships, he went as Brackenbury Scholar to Balliol College, Oxford.

In 1880 he was made Demonstrator of Physics at the Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford, leaving this post to become, at the early age of twenty-five, Principal of Firth College, Sheffield. Into the organisation of this college he threw himself with great energy, and had already proved his success as an administrator when he was elected Principal and Professor of Physics at the Cardiff University College. This position was one thoroughly congenial to Viriamu Jones, who was an ardent Welshman, and connected by many ties with Swansea and the neighbouring parts of South Wales.

From 1883 till his death, he worked incessantly for the cause of education in Wales, and that his work was not unappreciated by his fellow-countrymen was evidenced by the remarkable gathering that took place in the Cardiff Hall at his funeral. Over three thousand persons were present, representative of public bodies throughout Wales, and of every branch of education in the country. It was a wonderful sight, and to those who were privileged to see it, spoke eloquently of the appreciation which his life's work had won.

He was a most skilful and persuasive speaker, and one of the last acts of his life bears testimony to his marvellous gift for influencing those with whom he came into contact. During his absence from England, owing to ill-health, the Cardiff Corporation had been approached by the authorities of the South Wales College with a request that they would grant a site of five acres of land in their possession for the erection of the new College buildings. This they had definitely declined to do. Principal Jones, on his return to England, asked to be received as a belated member of the deputation by the Corporation, and, appearing before them alone, by his persuasive eloquence induced them to rescind their previous resolution and grant the land to the College.

So much had his administrative capacity impressed those with whom he came in contact that it is no secret that had he regained health he would have been invited to become the Principal of the recently reconstituted University of London, as all parties interested in the reorganisation felt such entire confidence in his grasp of the requirements of University teaching, and in his tact and capacity for carrying through the extremely difficult task which must lie before the first Principal of such a complex body as the University of London. But his health during the past two or three years was such that the idea had to be dropped.

Besides the administrative work of the South Wales College, he was for many years engaged in electrical research of no mean order; and had his time been less occupied with other matters, there is no doubt his singularly clear and lucid intellect would have made him an even greater reputation in the world of science than that which he had already, at the time of his death, gained by his work in the measurement of the standards of electrical energy; it

was, indeed, largely on account of this work that he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society at the early age of thirty-eight.

If further evidence of the importance of these researches were needed, it would be afforded by the announcement made a few days ago that the Drapers' Company have confirmed a grant of 700*l.* made to him some two years before his death for this inquiry, but unused owing to his ill-health, and have directed that the instrument he had begun to construct for the measurement of the Ohm by the Lorenz method shall be completed out of the fund and placed in the National Physical Laboratory at Bushey Park, with an inscription showing that it is intended to be a memorial to Principal Viriamu Jones.

He first became a lover of the Alps when he was at Oxford. One of his friends there was J. T. Wills, and Jones went at his invitation to spend some time at the Eagle's Nest, but his restless energy refused to be bounded by the valley of Sixt, and he and Wills wandered into Switzerland through the Diablerets to Grindelwald.

During the early eighties he spent several summer holidays in the Alps—in 1883 in the Chamonix district, being caught in very bad weather near the summit of Mont Blanc; in 1886, first in the Zermatt and later in the Mont Blanc district. And in 1887 he was elected a member of the Club. It was in this year that he went to Mürren with Sir Seymour King, and they together went up the Mönch and Jungfrau in one day, probably the biggest expedition that Jones ever accomplished.

A further result of his visits to the Eagle's Nest was his acquaintance and marriage with Miss Kate Wills, a niece of Mr. Justice Wills.

In all, he spent some seven or eight summers in the Alps and also a few weeks in the wild Maladetta district of the Pyrenees; but about 1893 he began to suffer from the effects of overwork, coupled, no doubt, with the weakness produced by the onset of the disease which proved fatal seven years later. He therefore took his holidays in Egypt, the Riviera, and in bicycling about France, rather than in the mountains. But his love for the mountains was always strong, and even during the last two years of his life, when he was suffering from the severe illness which ultimately proved fatal, he spent much of his time at Geneva and on the borders of the lake in sight of the Alps of Savoy, and died finally in Geneva, after staying at Grand Sacconex in a little house which Mr. Henry Pasteur had lent him, in the hope that he might recover his strength in this beautiful air.

W. A. W.

THE ALPINE CLUB PICTURE EXHIBITION.

THANKS to the labours of the Picture Sub-Committee, and especially Mr. Alfred East, the exhibition this winter was one of unusual interest. It was open from December 5 to December 18, and comprised works by Turner, W. Müller, Ruskin, Elijah Walton,