

The Late Percy Pearson

WE cannot do better than reproduce the following tribute from the columns of the "S.M. Herald":—"The death of Mr. P. W. Pearson on Saturday, after a long illness borne with the fortitude one would expect of him, breaks one of the remaining links with the early days of Kosciusko, and the beginnings of skiing in Australia. Having taken up the sport at Kiandra before the Hotel Kosciusko was opened, Mr. Pearson, on the first evening of occupation of the new Hotel, went around ringing a gong to collect the guests together, and then and there formed the Kosciusko Alpine Club.

"In 1932 he celebrated his twenty-fifth year as honorary secretary of the club, and during that quarter of a century its history centred largely around him. When his illness prevented active work, the club acknowledged its debt of gratitude by making him president.

"For all those years he never missed his annual visit to the mountains, and he acquired a knowledge of them shared by few. Several times club ski-ing champion, he also held at one time the summit record, for the 35-mile journey to the top of Kosciusko and back. While these were splendid individual feats, and while his years of association with the snow were recognised in his election to the British Ski Veterans' Club, it was for his association with the Kosciusko Alpine Club that he was chiefly famous. He nursed it through the lean years of the last war, and through the internal dissension that threatened it soon after the war, so that the enthusiasm for ski-ing which came to Australia in the last 10 years or so found a live and ready organisation to implement it.

"For many of us a few years ago, Mr. Pearson himself simply 'was' ski-ing in this State, and skiers of all clubs formed the habit of dropping in to talk snow 'shop' with him. His kindness and consideration were all-embracing, and his enthusiasm enveloped the beginner as deeply as those veterans who had pioneered the way with him in earlier years. For his death many of us are the poorer; the mountains have lost a firm friend."