

IN MEMORIAM



Dr. J. W. S. Laidley



During the year we were shocked to hear of the untimely death of John Laidley at the age of fifty-five. Although he had not returned to active ski-ing after the war years, his name is well known to all skiers, for he had maintained a keen interest in the sport in the administration of which he had earlier played so large a part and for which he had done so much.

How large that part was will not be forgotten by those of us who remember the early days of the Ski Council and A.N.S.F. We soon found that the high standard which marked all Laidley's activities made him the best of organisers, and it is enough in this regard to recall that he was elected to be the first secretary of the A.N.S.F.

It was also largely due to his efforts that in 1930 the Australian Championships were originated, and not a little due to his presence as an official, then and in later years, that they took and held the leading place in competitive ski-ing events in Australia.

In the touring sphere Laidley had

already made his name in 1927 by being a member of the first party to make the traverse on ski from Kiandra to Kosciusko. "Laidley, our navigator," wrote the leader of the party, Sir Herbert Schlink, "cheerful and possessing an intelligent knowledge of the terrain under all difficulties, a true son of his ancestors."

In 1930 Laidley visited Switzerland, where he learnt to jump under the guidance of Alec Keiller of the British Ski Jumping Club, and on his return gave a great stimulus to that branch of the sport in this country, including the formation of the Australian Ski Jumping Club.

Nor must mention be omitted of his services as the untiring secretary for many years of the Ski Club of Australia.

The above few dry facts speak for Laidley as an active and unselfish worker for the sport of ski-ing. Of the quality and the character of the man himself, nothing can speak better than the many lasting friendships which he formed among those fortunate enough to associate with him on and off the snowfields.