

## OBITUARY.

### J. A. Thomson.

We regret to announce the death of James Allan Thomson, M.A., D.Sc., F.G.S., F.N.Z.Inst., Director of the Dominion Museum, Wellington, New Zealand. Dr. Thomson was the first Rhodes Scholar of New Zealand University. After completing his training at Oxford under the direction of Professor W. J. Sollas, he did petrological work in Western Australia, and later studied the inclusions in volcanic rocks from the Ross Archipelago in the Antarctic. On his return to the Dominion he was attracted to Palaeontology, and in 1911 was appointed Palaeontologist to the Geological Survey under P. G. Morgan. In 1913 he inaugurated a series of palaeontological bulletins with his "Materials for the Palaeontology of New Zealand". His studies of the stratigraphy and palaeontology of the Waipara and Weka Pass districts placed the New Zealand Upper Cretaceous Tertiary sequence on a firm basis.

After his appointment to the Dominion Museum in 1914 he commenced his studies of Tertiary and Recent brachiopoda, and soon established an international reputation. His final work, *Brachiopod Morphology and Genera (Recent and Tertiary)*, published happily before his death, represents the result of more than ten years study of that group, and is a magnificent monument to his memory.

Dr. Thomson, in spite of his failing health, took a major part in the scientific affairs in the Dominion. He was editor of the *New Zealand Journal of Science and Technology*, secretary to the Board of Science and Art, an original fellow of the New Zealand Institute, and just before his death President of that body. In 1923 he was awarded the Hutton Memorial Medal.

The scope of his activities was wide, and he was able to bring to bear on scientific matters a well-trained, keen intellect, and a high capacity for original research.

His death is a great loss to science, but his work will bear fruit and his example stimulate.

R. S. ALLAN.

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### Percy Gates Morgan, M.A.

BORN 2ND SEPTEMBER, 1867.

DIED 26TH NOVEMBER, 1927.

We regret to announce the death, on 26th November, 1927, after a short illness, of Percy Gates Morgan, Director of the New Zealand Geological Survey. The late Mr. Morgan received his training at Otago University School of Mines, Dunedin, and graduated Master of Arts of New Zealand University in 1891. After a varied experience of practical mining he joined the staff of the