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lanes. For the same purpose pine trees are planted across gullies and dangerous slopes. These forests are protected by law, and to fell a tree is a serious offence.

The only narrow gauge line owned and operated by the Swiss Federal Railways runs from Lucerne over the Brunig to Interlaken via Meiringen and Brienz. As its culminating point lies at an altitude of 3314 feet, it can for our purpose be classified as a mountain railway. I mention this line to show that in this case the configuration of the terrain it serves, and not the altitude alone, is responsible for avalanche disasters. The whole of the mountain trace—roughly between Sarnen and Meiringen—is fairly free from this danger. The vulnerable area lies between Brienz and Interlaken at the level of Lake Brienz (1873ft), where the lateral valleys and gullies from the steep Breinzer-Grat collect masses of drift snow. Avalanches are not uncommon in this region, and in March, 1945, the line was cut and covered with snow and debris to the depth of five metres or about 15 feet.

(To be continued.)

## DEATH OF WORLD-FAMOUS DESIGNER

It is not quite two years since the announcement was made that Robert Piguet was closing down his fashion house at the Rond-Point in the Champs-Elysees and was leaving Paris to return to his native land. He did not have long, however, to enjoy his retirement, for he recently died at the age of 55 years in Lausanne, where he was undergoing treatment. A native of Switzerland, born and brought up there, Piguet, who learnt his profession from those two great figures of haute couture, Paul Poiret and Lucien Lelong, did not only make a name for himself in the capital of elegance but also won world-wide fame. It has been said of his models that they were essentially Parisian because of their very feminine, discrete and distinctive elegance; and of himself it has even been said that he was the most Parisian of couturiers. And yet he remained faithful to Switzerland. To him we owe the idea of the Fashion Salon at the Swiss National Exhibition in Zurich in 1939. He always favoured the products of the Swiss textile industries. As he was the first Swiss to achieve world-wide fame in haute couture, all of his compatriots who are either remotely or closely connected with the fields of fashion and textiles will always have a warm memory of this sensitive and extremely gifted artist who did not let himself be spoiled by his great success and who never for a moment forget his origins.

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