

OBITUARY.

Rev. E. David Pearson.

Manilla and district was shocked when it became known on Saturday morning that Rev. E. David Pearson, Minister in charge of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Manilla, has died during his sleep from heart failure at 5 a.m. on Saturday morning. On Friday evening he attended the practice of the newly formed choral society and was in excellent appearance, in good health and in his usual good spirits. During the evening he complained of tiredness, but otherwise gave no indication of ill health. The shock to his wife and family when the tragic discovery was made may be imagined.

The late Mr. Pearson was a native of Ben Lomond where his parents were old, and highly respected residents. His father died some years ago and his mother died suddenly only a few weeks ago. He received his early education in Glen Innes



and later at St. Andrew's College Theological Hall, Sydney University, and after being ordained at Glen Innes he went to West Australia, and took his first charge at Carnarvon staying there for three years and conducting the Australian Inland Mission. He then accepted a call to Mt. Lawler, W. A., remaining there for four years, during which time he was Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in West Australia. Returning to New South Wales he accepted a call to Manilla in October, 1931. He was a brilliant scholar and preacher, and was popular with all sections of the community, particularly with the younger people with whom he was a general favourite. A keen enthusiast of clean sport he enjoyed a game of cricket and was largely responsible for the organisation of the Saturday cricket competition and played in the final of that competition only a week before his death. He was interested in various public activities and was recently elected president of Manilla P. and C. Association and Manilla Choral Society. During his ministry in Manilla he commenced and maintained regular services at Barraba, Rushes Creek Halls and Borah Vale. He also commenced regular Sunday school at Somerton. During the period between the departure of the Rev. J. Faulkner and the appointment of the Rev. C. F. D. McAlpine to St. Andrews Church, Tamworth, he acted as minister of that church.

The late Mr. Pearson is survived by his wife and three young children, the eldest being 7½ years of age and to them the

years of age and to them the sympathy of the whole community is expressed in their sad bereavement. A brother is the Presbyterian Minister at Murwillumbah, while two other brothers reside at Ben Lomond, one at Bathurst and one in Sydney. There are also three sisters. Three brothers and two sisters visited Manilla on Sunday last.

On Sunday afternoon a funeral service was conducted at St. Andrews, Manilla, by Rev. C. F. D. McAlpine of Tamworth. The church was crowded out, many people being unable to gain admission. After the service the church officers and members and representatives of all sporting bodies preceded the hearse on its way to Tamworth over 60 cars following the cortege. The coffin was taken from Tamworth to Ben Lomond by rail where the funeral took place yesterday at 2 p.m.