

THE WORONORA CEMETERY.

The new cemetery which has been opened at Woronora, close to the Sutherland station, on the Illawarra line, is probably the most systematically-planned burial ground in the colonies, and when the usual improvements and cultivation have been effected the cemetery's picturesqueness, aided by the natural surroundings of the National Park, will bear a very impressive completeness. For many years the residents of the southern suburbs agitated zealously for a grant of land for cemetery purposes, and as the once sparse population began to rapidly swell the small provision which had been made by some of the Churches was not only inadequate, but the burials became objectionable to the community for sanitary and other reasons. Eventually the Lands Department decided to grant a portion of the National Park for the purpose advocated, and in the beginning of last April dedicated 112½ acres as a general cemetery under section 104 of Crown Lands Act of 1881. The allotment to the various denominations was made as follows:— Church of England, 25a. 2r. 31p.; Roman Catholic, 19a. 0r. 8p.; Wesleyan Methodist, 10a. 1r. 20p.; Presbyterian, 7a. 3r. 28p.; Congregational, 3a. 0r. 28p.; Primitive Methodist, 2a. 3r. 7p.; unsectarian portion, 2a. 3r. 7p.; Baptist, 2a. 0r. 7p.; Jews, 1a. 0r. 32p.; Lutheran, 1a. 0r. 25p. An area of 32a. 0r. 33p. is set apart for a custodian's residence, plantations, roadway, and a mortuary station, and 2r. 39p. is reserved as a site for a lodge. The space per grave is fixed at 3ft. by 8ft., and as it is estimated that about 1000 can be provided for per acre the burial accommodation of the cemetery, after allowing for the reservations for border plantations, roadways, &c., will approximate 70,000 graves. Each denomination is represented by one trustee, and there are two trustees for the unsectarian portion, making a total of 11 persons, who act as a combined trust for the whole area. This system of trusteeship is a departure from that hitherto adopted. For the Necropolis and most other cemeteries each denomination has separate trustees, but it is anticipated that the new system will prove both a more satisfactory and economical one, as the trustees will co-operate with a view to effecting general and uniform improvements. The trustees for the several denominations are:— Messrs. T. S. Schofield (C.E.), John Kelly, (R.C.), J. Sproule (Presbyterian), H. M'Pherson (Congregationalist), Hon. J. H. Carruthers and Mr. F. S. E. Holt (General and Unsectarian), Hon. H. E. Cohen (Jews), Messrs. Peter Herrman (Wesleyan), G. Farr (Primitive Methodist), C. Howard (Baptist), C. W. Berghefer (Lutheran). The cemetery will serve the population of Kogarah, Arcliffe, Penhurst, Hurstville, and other southern suburbs, where, except in cases of churchyard burial, the residents have hitherto had to bring their dead into the Redfern station, and then have the bodies conveyed to Rookwood or Waverley for interment. The Government granted a sum of £1000 for expenditure on improvements to the new cemetery, and that amount has been expended on having the burial ground fenced in and cleared, the main road or drive made, trees planted near the fences, and the different sections laid out and pegged. The only difficulty in the way of the trustees now is the requirement of a railway siding into the cemetery. A survey for this purpose was made by the Railway Department, but as no money was voted for the work nothing further has been done. The cemetery has now been opened about three months, and between 20 and 30 burials have taken place.