

LESLIE DARBY

Death Ends Suffering

BOY'S TERRIBLE AFFLICTION

As the result of a shooting accident, some weeks ago, death claimed a popular young resident of Fairfield, on Monday, in the person of Leslie Fuller Darby, aged 15 years, the adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Darby, of Walseley-street. Though the untimely end of this young sportsman comes as a sad blow to his foster parents and many friends, the sadness is tempered by the knowledge that, had he lived, he would have suffered the terrible affliction of total blindness.

In company with another lad, Leslie Darby set out for Cecil Park on a rabbiting expedition, on March 13, and, following the accidental discharge of one of the guns, he received a full charge of shot in his face.

On arrival at the Sydney Hospital, it was found that total blindness would result. The lad, however, showed signs of regaining his general health, and had improved to such an extent that he was removed to one of the ward verandahs, and his departure for home was looked forward to.

On Friday, it was found necessary to perform another operation, and death followed on Monday afternoon from meningitis.

The funeral, which was largely attended, left deceased's late home in Fairfield on Wednesday afternoon, for the C. of E. portion of the old Liverpool cemetery, and, before the interment, a short service was conducted in St. Luke's Church, Liverpool, by Rev. Williams, of Ingleburn, who also read the burial service at the graveside.

A touching address, on deceased's manly bearing and exemplary life, was delivered at the close of the graveside ceremony, by Rev. A. Morris, Methodist minister of Fairfield, who was closely acquainted with young Darby, and who had been a constant visitor at his bedside in hospital. Rev. Morris said that deceased's young life had been one of purpose and high resolve, and he appealed to the youthful friends of deceased present at the graveside to take example from their dead comrades bearing and clean life.

Many beautiful wreaths were placed on the grave, including those from every local Association, numerous individual citizens, and the boy's employers, Messrs. John Sands, Ltd.

Deceased was a promising cyclist, and only a few days prior to his accident had won an important race in competition with senior riders.

Great sympathy is extended to his foster-parents, who bestowed all the love and care upon their charge that was possible. Mr. Darby is associated with various Fairfield organizations, and is well known throughout the district.

Following the accident, a local fund was organized to provide for the future welfare of young Darby. The trustees, Messrs. Moore and Porter, with Mr. Don. Campbell as treasurer, have decided to meet the lad's funeral expenses from the amount already in hand, and the balance will be utilized at the discretion of the subscribers, who will probably suggest the erection of a monument over the lad's grave.