

Obituary.

Mr. William Fletcher.

Mr. William Fletcher, father of Mrs. J. T. Bycroft, Taree, passed away in the Gulgong hospital last Sunday, after a long and painful illness, at the advanced age of 87 years. Mr. Fletcher was born at Leaton, in the County of Cumberland, England in 1834, and served an apprenticeship in the ship "Helle Marina" of Liverpool. He joined the barque "Oceanica," bound for Melbourne, as second officer, being only 18 years of age at the time, and arrived in Melbourne in 1857, when the gold fever was at its height. After working on many goldfields in Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales he found himself in the year 1876 at Gulgong, where he had resided ever since, and was called the Grand Old Man, being held in the highest esteem by all with whom he came in contact. He joined the Happy Valley M.U., and served his lodge for over 40 years in some capacity or other without a break. He was a trustee then resigned to take up the position of secretary which he occupied for over 16 years and retired in 1913 on account of age and its consequences. At the time of his death he was a P.D.G.M.; and was for 35 years a member of the Gulgong District Hospital committee, and a life member. His death was caused through an accident met with while attending the annual exhibition in connection with the Gulgong Agricultural Society. A widow, two sons and four daughters are left to receive the loss of a devoted father, viz., Mr. William Fletcher, a clerk in the Federal Land Tax Office, W.A., a returned soldier; Mr. J. R. Fletcher, Rylstone; Mrs. H. Suters, Wauchope; Mrs. J. T. Bycroft, Taree; Mrs. E. Cusworth, Western Australia; and Miss A. M. Fletcher, B.A. of the High School, Orange.

Residents of Taree and the Manning, who claimed Mr. William Robert Parker as their friend were profoundly shocked to learn that he had passed away in the Sydney hospital at about 9 a.m. on Friday morning last, the immediate cause of death being typhoid fever. Deceased, who was only 41 years of

age, latterly resided at Pymble, and was the youngest son of Mr. James Parker, of Purfleet. About eight years ago the late Mr. Parker was in the employ of Parker & Co., now Parker, Connell & Co., of Taree. He was a conspicuous figure about town and an excellent citizen, being especially popular with his fellow employees. He married Miss Winnie George, daughter of Mr. Jas. George, of Bobnock, who, with a daughter, about three years of age, survive him. Mr. Murdoch Parker, Taree; Mr. James Parker, Nambour, Queensland, and Mrs. J. G. Love, Gordon, are his brothers and sister respectively. His mother died when he was very young. The remains of the deceased gentleman were interred in the Waverley cemetery on Saturday afternoon. His aged father, widow and relatives have the heartfelt sympathy of a host of sorrowing friends.