

## MASONIC "FATHER OF ORPHANS" PASSES ON

Mr. Rupert Sidney Cropley, honorary superintendent of the Baulkham Hills Masonic School, died in the Masonic Hospital, Ashfield, on Saturday, at the age of 68.

When Mr. Cropley relinquished his interest in a thriving business in 1922, to become Superintendent, there were three children at the School.

Mrs. Cropley became Matron.

Together, they toured the world in 1935, visiting Masonic Schools and various other institutions.

Mr. Cropley, who devoted his life to his work, was like a father to thousands of orphans.

Overseas visitors praised the efficient way in which the School was run.

Passionately fond of bowls, Mr. Cropley devoted much of his spare time, and energy, to the Hills District Bowling Club, of which he was President for three consecutive years.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to Freemasonry, the Grand Masonic Lodge of N.S.W. in 1938 conferred upon Mr. Cropley the degree of Past Grand Master.

He entered Lodge Manoah No. 41 in 1909, was Worshipful Master in 1916-17, and had conferred upon him Past Grand

ferred upon him Past Grand rank on various occasions.

He was also a member of the Masonic Benevolent Board from 1925 to 1927, and had been president of the William Thompson Masonic Welfare Committee, which looks after children after they have left Masonic Homes, for 10 years.

Mr. J. A. Rose, of Baulkham Hills, said yesterday that Mr. Cropley's death would be a severe loss to the community.

He said Mr. Cropley had been a very prominent and popular member of the Hills Bowling Club, and bowlers had sustained a great loss.

"The death of Rotarian 'Bert' Cropley came as a great shock," a spokesman for Parramatta Rotary Club said.

"His loss will be genuinely mourned by all members, and our sympathy goes out to his bereaved ones."

Mr. Cropley became a member of Parramatta Rotary Club in 1934, and from the outset was a keen and enthusiastic worker for the cause.

He was elected president for Rotary year 1946-1947 and during his term of office imbued all with his unbounded energy for the movement and all it stood for.

After a service in St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, the cortege

moved to Rookwood Crematorium.

Mr. Cropley is survived by his widow, and brother, Mr. A. O. Cropley.