

The Late Mr Willie Hutchison.

DETAILS OF THE DROWNING ACCIDENT.

In our issue of July 30 was reported the sad news of a fatal drowning accident to Mr. Willie Hutchison, the eldest son of Mr. J. R. Hutchison, of Padthaway, which occurred in the interior on July 9, but no details of how the accident happened were then available. Since then Mr. Turner, who was in charge of the party, who were taking a mob of 1,000 cattle from Newcastle Waters through the interior to Clifton Hill in this state, and of which the unfortunate young man was a member, has arrived in Adelaide. The father (Mr. Hutchison) has been to town, and had a personal interview with the leader of the party, and he supplied him with the details of the accident, which have been forwarded on by him to us. It appears that the unfortunate lad was second in charge of the party who were driving a mob of 1,000 head of cattle from Newcastle Waters, near the Gulf, their destination being Clifton Hill, in this state. They had crossed into north-western Queensland, and were close to the South Australian Border when the sad accident happened. After passing Glengyle station, owned by Mr. Sydney Kidman, the party were following the Georgina River with the mob of cattle, and intended to cross the stream seven or eight miles east of the station, where there was a good crossing. The cliffs were too steep to cross the river before reaching the crossing mentioned. When within about a mile of the crossing Willie Hutchison was sent round to steady the head of the mob until the tail came up, so as they could all be got over the river together. When he went round to the head of the mob of cattle he was to wait until the tail came up and then ride his horse across the river and keep the cattle together as they landed. In swimming a horse across a river a drover usually takes his clothes off and carries them on his shoulders or somewhere high up to keep them dry to put on again when he gets to the other side. Evidently when the unfortunate lad took his clothes off ready to ride over the stream and found that the cattle were not there all together to start them into the water, he thought that having the time to wait he would have a swim. Being a hot day he tied his horse up and went in the river for a swim, he having said to Mr. Turner, who was in charge of the party, just as he left the others to ride to the head of the mob of cattle, "If I find a good place at the crossing I'll have a swim." The poor lad must have been seized with cramp while in the water swimming, and as there was no one with him to render assistance he was drowned. Mr. Turner, about an hour after Willie Hutchison had left the party, rode up to the head of the mob of

an hour after Willie Hutchison had left the party, rode up to the head of the mob of cattle to tell him to let them cross, when he saw his horse tied up and his clothes lying on the bank. He at once concluded he had met with disaster in the water and immediately called some others of the party to the scene, but it was found that nothing could be done, the water at the spot being 15 ft. or 20 ft. deep. Mr. Turner without delay sent word to Glengyle Station, and Mr. Edwards, the manager, sent several of the station hands with boats to the place to search the river, and it was six days before the body was recovered. All hands in the party had been going into the river for a swim every evening for months previous, and Willie Hutchison being a powerful swimmer Mr. Turner, the leader of the party, little thought of him meeting with such a disaster. The party had been six months on the trip, and were within a few weeks of finishing when the accident happened, and the unfortunate young fellow was looking forward with pleasure to his return home. The news came as a great shock to the deceased's relatives and friends, and there have been general expressions of deep regret at the sad ending to so young and useful a life.

"The Lure of the Bush."

Saturday, SEPTEMBER 4.

Tex Carter will present a drama so human that it will never be forgotten "What Every Girl Should Know." At the Institute Hall, Saturday night.—Ad. 44980