

MONUMENT UNVEILED.

A POPULAR FOOTBALLER.

At the Sandgate cemetery yesterday afternoon, Mr. F. Flowers, M.L.C., vice-president of the Legislative Council, unveiled a monument erected by the Northern Branch of the Rugby League, to the memory of the late Ernest ("Peano") Jones.

There was a large gathering present, including the parents, and many other relatives of the deceased, and representatives from every football and cricket club in the district. Mr. E. K. Larkin, secretary of the New South Wales Football League, represented that body; Mr. G. Cuthbertson, secretary, and Mr. J. Sharp, treasurer, together with other officers and committee of the Northern Branch, were also at the graveside.

The late Mr. Jones was accidentally killed through a fall during the construction of the new gas works at Hamilton, on the 11th April last, being only 22 years of age. The news of his death was received with great regret right throughout the district, he being widely known and extremely popular. Though a good cricketer, it was on the football field that he shone with most distinction, being one of the district's foremost players. A few months ago a movement, with a view to erecting a monument over the grave of their comrade, was initiated by Mr. Cuthbertson, the local Rugby League's secretary, and enthusiastically taken up by the footballers of the district. A match was played, and a sufficient sum of money raised to erect a beautiful marble monument.

The Rev. Mr. Pettinger, of the Dangar-street Methodist Church, paid a high tribute to the memory of the deceased in a brief address. He said that Ernest Jones was a man who, whilst possessing the principles of a good Christian, was, at the same time, a good sport. He (Mr. Pettinger) believed that these two qualities in a man should not be dissociated. The character of a man was at times moulded in the arena of clean sport, and it was the duty of the churches to endeavour to Christianise manly sport as far as possible.

Mr. Flowers, in unveiling the monument, said that he regretted the necessity for erecting such a beautiful monument had presented itself. He was aware, although not personally acquainted with the deceased, that he had, by his exemplary life as a citizen and manly behaviour on the football field, made a wide circle of friends in Newcastle. To be a successful footballer one had to be brave, resourceful, resolute, and unselfish, and it was also essential to possess these qualities in life's battle, whether it be in a commercial, religious, social, or political sphere. Such were the characteristics of the young man to whose memory this monument had been erected. Although at the time of his demise he was yet a young man, he had, by his splendid life, played a noble part he was destined to fulfil. In expressing his sympathy with the relatives, he said that this last mark of respect shown by the friends of the deceased must be to some extent reassuring, and together with the fact that the departed one had by his own Christian life and high ideals built for himself an even greater monument, would assist them to carry their heavy burden of sorrow.

Mr. W. C. Grahame, M.P., on behalf of the parents and relatives of the late Mr. Jones, thanked those responsible for the erection of the monument and the mark of respect paid to him that day by the presence of his friends in such large

numbers.

The ceremony concluded by the singing of a hymn by the Dangar-street choir, of which the deceased was a member.

"Peano" Jones left a gap in the football and cricket fields not easily filled. Starting with the Northern Suburbs Juniors in 1907, he soon came into prominence. For years the Northern Suburbs, and also a representative Newcastle team had not been complete without a member of the Jones family. Herbert, Thomas, William, and Charles have each in their turn played a great part in making football history in Newcastle, and later "Peano," whose football career up to the time of his demise, was meteoric, and he was well on the way to being pronounced the district's best. He captained the first representative district junior team to play in Sydney under the auspices of the Rugby League. In 1911, as a representative first grade player, he took part in matches against Glebe, South Sydney, Annandale, Maitland, New Zealand, and the metropolis. He also toured Queensland towards the close of the season with a combined Newcastle and Maitland team, and in three undefeated games he was the most successful centre three-quarter back in the combination. It was then that good judges of the game asserted that he was fast working his way into interstate or international football. It was not alone the splendid game of football he played that made him the idol of the spectators, but the manly spirit in which he always played it. As a cricketer, he played with the Sydney Soap and Candle Company's Club, and his abilities with the bat and ball may be judged from the fact that in three years he scored 1238 runs for an average of 22.8 runs per innings, and took 113 wickets at an average of 8.2 runs each. That, though dead, his memory still lives, was shown by the vast assemblage who paid a pilgrimage to his grave on Sunday afternoon.