

**Obituary.**

**DR. WILLIAM MURRAY.**

*Note.—Owing to the demand for extra copies of last issue of the "Chronicle" containing a notice of the late Dr. Murray, and the disappointment felt by the Doctor's numerous friends on finding they were not able to procure copies, we reprint the article in the present issue.*

In our last issue we gave particulars of the very serious condition of Dr. Murray, who was then lying ill at Herbert Park, the victim of a severe stroke of paralysis. The best medical opinion and advice the colony affords were sought on behalf of the good doctor, who was universally esteemed both by his professional brethren and by the public generally, and if his valuable life could have been saved by any available human skill, that skill would have been readily exercised on his behalf. But after consultation the wisest men of the profession in Sydney decided that nothing could be done to delay or prevent the inevitable collapse which the doctor himself and all his professional brethren were convinced was very close at hand. On Friday evening Dr. Murray's condition somewhat improved; he was able to take a little milk, and it was hoped he might pass a good night. But this hope was not realised and the medical report to Dr. Wigan next morning from Dr. Samuison was that he had not slept well, and his condition was more critical; and there was no improvement during the day. On Sunday morning Dr. Wigan, accompanied by Mr. H. Weaver, arrived at Herbert Park early and found no grounds for hoping for any recovery. About 9 o'clock on Sunday morning Dr. Murray was conscious, for he showed recognition of his old colleague, Dr. Wigan, and of Mr. Weaver, but he seems to have become unconscious shortly after, and dropping into a comatose state he remained so till the great change came at a quarter to four o'clock, when nature gave up the struggle, and the heart of a brave, clever, humane and excellent man ceased to beat—Dr. Murray was dead. Dr. Murray, the head and front of so many movements, and the ever lean and trusty friend of Armidale and of all that made for its advancement and prosperity, had gone to his long home. His was one of those strong, masterful yet kindly natures which though not devoid of rugged aspects, only gather dignity and strength and attractiveness from occasional asperities, slight flaws that make them resemble the rugged outlines of the majestic oak whose greatness and beauty and dignity are in no way discounted thereby. Such are natures on which

thereby. Such are natures on which men lean and to which they look for guidance and leadership, and in very truth it can be said that in many directions Armidale, by the death of Dr. Murray, has lost a most trusted and capable leader. For pure unostentatious acts of benevolence and philanthropy the departed citizen has had no equal in Armidale, and many a humble cottager will have cause to mourn the removal of one who so often proved the friend—the unsolicited friend—in need. In municipal and political matters Dr. Murray was a force to be reckoned with when he chose to enter the arena, and when he did there was never any lack of followers, and trusty lieutenants to fight under his captaincy. As a private friend he was all that was true and upright and loyal; as a private gentleman he has left a record of untarnished honor and purity of life; as a physician he stood so high in the estimation of his colleagues and the public that it is felt a severe loss has been sustained by the profession; and to sum him up in a word, from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet, in every aspect in which he may be viewed, he was a MAN. Cut off in the prime of life and usefulness, it was fitting that all Armidale should combine to do honor to the memory of a lost friend, and to pay the last tributes of respect to the remains of one who was so worthy to be loved. His name will not be forgotten by the present generation, who may be expected to do something to preserve green when those who knew him have passed away, the memory of one of the worthiest citizens yet inscribed on Armidale's death roll. Dr. Murray was the son of Archibald Murray, and was born at Portland, Limerick, on 16th September, 1848. He held the diploma of M.B. of Dublin University and M.R.C.S., England. His education was gained chiefly in Scotland and finished in Dublin University. While there he was known as an athlete and a champion over hurdles. He was one of his University eight in a rowing match at Henley against one of the great English University crews. He practised for some little time at Pembroke in the county of that name, and came to Armidale nearly twelve years ago, after taking duty for a while as *locum tenens* for Dr. John Harris of Newcastle. During his residence in Armidale Dr. Murray held the following positions:—Surgeon Captain of I Company 4th Regiment, President of the Armidale Freestrate Association, member of Honorary Medical Staff Armidale and New England Hospital, Director and Hon. Secretary Armidale School, President New England Rugby Football Union, Trustee Armidale Mutual Help Benefit Building Society, Presi-

dent of Citizens' Band Committee, Vice-President of N. E. Jockey Club, and Doctor to M.U.L.O.O.F., A.C.F., and G.U.O.O.F. lodges for a number of years. The worthy doctor's practice was a large one and made great demands on his powers of endurance. Of late he had been feeling the strain

very much, and was heard to say at different times that he must get away for a rest; but still the strain of over-much work and self-sacrificing devotion to the needs of the sick and suffering was continued, and eventually the breakdown came when human aid was powerless to repair the mischief which ended in the ruin of a brilliant and noble life. Well might the Masons say as they deposited their sprigs of acacia in the grave of the honored dead: "Alas! my brother!"