

OBITUARY.

OSBORNE RITCHIE

In last Friday's issue we recorded the death of Mr. Osborne Ritchie. Space prevented our furnishing particulars of the deceased which we now propose to supply. Mr. Ritchie has sisters and brothers resident in the district besides numerous relatives in and around Geraldton and Greenough. His father Mr. Matthew Ritchie was an army veteran and served in the Crimean war, accompanied by his wife he left Belfast in the old 'Clyde' and landed in Western Australia on the 1st of June 18 years ago. At the time of their arrival they had only two children, a son (the deceased Osborne Ritchie) and a daughter (Mrs. Ridley). The family settled on the Greenough and here the late Osborne Ritchie spent his early youth. When a lad of about 15 he left Greenough with his parents for Northampton where he worked for some years in the lead mines which were then in full swing. Here he developed into one of the best local cricketers of his day—a destructive bowler and an expert batsman. He joined the Northampton Brass Band, and worked himself up until he became its leader. When about 21, he married a Northampton brass band and worked himself who survives him, and whose sister Nurse Johnson is well known in Geraldton and district. Receiving an appointment to the Police Force he proceeded to the Nor' West and served about 15 years of the best part of his life in that portion of the State. During his stay there he also tried his luck at pearling, but met with misfortune. Returning to Geraldton he took various work and contracts and shortly afterwards succeeded in securing the contracts for the conveyance of various town and country mails. These contracts he held continuously for nine years right up to the time of his death. Deceased was 51 years of age, 48 years of which was spent North of Perth. There is little doubt that the malarial and Nor' West fever ruined his constitution, as his health was never the same since his return. His death was but the culmination of the gradual break up of a remarkable constitution.