

Death of an Old Colonist.—By the death of Mr. George Bell, of Bicton, Churchill-avenue, Subiaco, on Sunday last, the rapidly narrowing circle of old colonists has lost one of its oldest members. Some 70 years ago Mr. Bell, then a young man of 20, arrived in Western Australia from England, of which he was a native. For something like a quarter of a century he was engaged in various contract works in Perth, Fremantle, and elsewhere, after which he entered the Public Works Department, and until his retirement on a pension, rather more than 20 years ago, he supervised the erection of a large number of public works and buildings. Among the buildings with the erection of which he was associated was the Perth Town Hall and the old Military Barracks at the west end of St. George's-terrace. After retiring from

the public service, Mr. Bell was connected with the designing and erection of several of the most ornamental villas in the city during the latter part of last century. For some years past he lived a quiet, retired life on his pension, augmented by the rents from his properties. He lived to the ripe old age of 90 years, thoroughly respected and esteemed by a large circle of friends. His death took place on Sunday last. His widow and most of his large family of sons and daughters survive him. The funeral took place on Monday afternoon, when the body of the deceased, enclosed in a massive jarrah coffin, was interred in the Methodist portion of the East Perth Cemetery. The Rev. A. J. Barclay officiated at the funeral, which was largely attended. The chief mourners were Messrs. H. T.

and G. W. Bell (sons), Messrs Aubrey, Bert, Edgar, Clarence, and Arthur Bell (grandsons), Messrs. Lawrence Lapsley and Ronald Lapsley (grandsons), Mr. George Donegan (grandson), Mr. Jas. McF. Lapsley (son-in-law), Messrs. Edwin and William Duffield (nephews), and Mr. Raglan Jarvis (nephew). The pall-bearers were Mr. G. Randell, M.L.C., Major T. Sherwood, Messrs. Henry Arnold, F. Spencer, Geo. F. Glyde, and Samuel Hope. A large number of wreaths and floral tributes were sent by friends. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. Donald J. Chipper, of Perth and Fremantle.