

DEATH OF MR. JAS. M'MURTRIE

The death is announced of Mr. James M'Murtrie at his residence, Woollahra Point. He passed away after a brief illness yesterday afternoon. The cause of death was failure of the heart's action, consequent upon an attack of pneumonia and pleurisy. He leaves a widow and five children, two sons and three daughters. Born in Glasgow in 1849, he came to Sydney at an early age, and joined Alderson and Sons' boot factory. From there he went into business with his brothers, Messrs. John and George M'Murtrie. The latter died some ten years ago, and the business was floated into a company under the name of Messrs. M'Murtrie and Co., Limited, of which the deceased was a director. He married a daughter of Mr. Brewster, who was armourer at the Belmore Police Barracks. For many years past Mr. M'Murtrie had taken an active interest in aquatics, and was recognised as one of the oldest yachting men of Sydney. His first boats were Big Berry, a 24-footer, and St. Crispin, a 22-footer, the latter winning seven out of ten races, in charge of Mr. George Holmes, sen. His principal successes commenced from the time the Ellie was launched, which was a great winner. Next came the 24-footer Ida, built by Mr. Joe Donnelly, who also floated the Ellie and many others, with which Mr. M'Murtrie beat all-comers of the class. The next effort was against the 22-footers, and the Ellie, from the hands of the same builder, was most successful, both here and in Brisbane. Last season the Janet was floated, a 30-footer, which, however, was not so successful as the smaller boats. Mr. M'Murtrie was president of the Johnstone's Bay Sailing Club, and vice-president of several other clubs in addition. He will be greatly missed, especially in aquatic circles.