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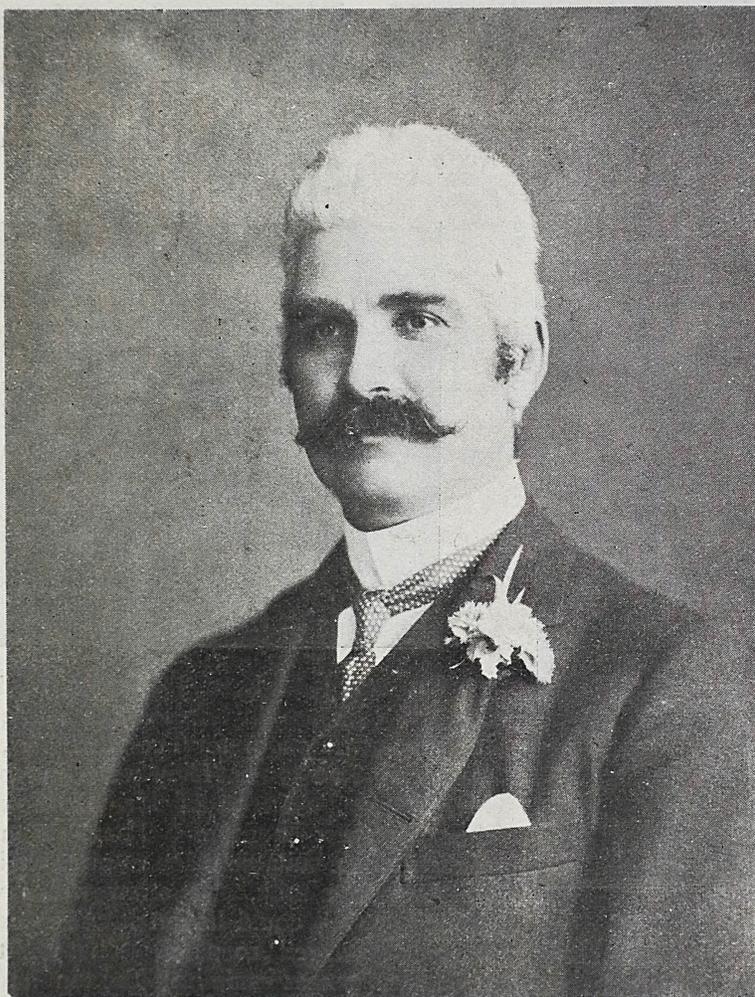
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PROMINENT DEAF-MUTES AND WORKERS OF AUSTRALIA.

BY "MATTLEK."

No. 3.— JOHN EDWARD MUIR.



ONE of the best known, if not the most widely known of the deaf mutes of Melbourne is John Edward Muir. To get an idea of how widely he is known let us follow him going down one of the streets of the city accompanied by a chum, and we will see Mr. Muir exchange nods with perhaps a dozen or more people, while the poor unknown chum does not exchange a

solitary one, and besides, he will more than once be left standing musing on the kerbstone until Mr. Muir returns to him, after having exchanged a few words with a friend.

In the street Mr. Muir is glanced at and nodded to in a "I know you" fashion by persons whom he does not know. Now and then a passer by who catches a glimpse of him will

turn to his chum or his best girl and whisper, "See that chap over there with the white hair." "Yes!" "That is John Muir." But why all this glancing at, nodding to and whispering, John Edward Muir was once a well known footballer, therefore it can be taken for granted that he is somebody in the Sporting Community, and how many are there who constitute the Sporting Community.

But Mr. Muir is also a worthy citizen of Melbourne, in the street his figure is quite picturesque and unique. The first impression one unacquainted with him would gain is that he is a gentleman who has the appearance of having been able to coax nature into giving him a long lease of life, for though he is young yet, and wears a becoming moustache of a dark hue, his hair is quite white - as white as the snow with not the slightest sign of a dark spot. Some strangers have been misled by appearances, and pointing to Mr. Muir, have asked if that gentleman is 70 years old. The white hair is the prominent feature about him and is a phenomenon of nature, the peculiarity is a trait that runs

in his family for he has three brothers and they are also developing crops of white hair, but in a less pronounced degree than himself. One would naturally be curious to know what sort of whiskers Mr. Muir would grow only he will not let anyone into the secret.

If anyone wanted to find Mr. Muir among a vast crowd there would be very little difficulty in locating him, one has only to run his eye along the heads of the crowd and ah! there he is—indicating a white spot. Mr. Muir has a well proportioned figure, is of fine physique, and stands some six feet high. It was therefore with some feeling of trepidation that I braced myself up in obedience to the commission of the Editor of the "S. A. Deaf Monthly News" to interview and extract from him his life's story, but the trepidation was tempered by the knowledge that he is not an "is," but a "has been," and therefore not likely to run rings, in a football sense, round me. He was beaming with good humour, he always does. Many people have the mistaken idea that to be deaf means to be placed in that condition best described as "miserable" and



"Moncrieff," Malvern, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Muir's pretty home. Mr. and Mrs. Muir are seen on the verandah with two friends, one of whom is Mr. E. A. Stürcke.

therefore much to be pitied, but put the question to any deaf mute, : "Are you miserable,?" and he will give a decided reply in the negative. Though the loss of hearing is a drawback and a misfortune, the deaf mutes are on the whole, a

Born in Richmond, Melbourne, Victoria, Mr. Muir had the misfortune to come into the light of the world minus the sense of hearing and speech. He was sent to the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution and turned out from there



Mr. J. E. Muir in a characteristic attitude—"Welcome."

generally happy and contented lot. Mr Muir is no exception to the rule, being of a genial and cheery disposition, he takes an easy view of life, and smiles away worries as if they were the merest trifles. In deaf mute as well as in other circles he is a popular favourite.

fairly well endowed with an education to enable him to make his way in life.

In his younger days he was fond of athletic sports and became one of the best known footballers in Melbourne, he was for several seasons a prominent member and player of the Fitzroy

Football Club—one of the first fliers—and which club was on several occasions the premier club of the season. He was well known in the playing arena, thanks to his white hair, as "Snowy," and under that designation was always a favourite with the clubs' partisans, his movements being followed with enthusiasm. Cries of "Go it Snowy," "Buck in Snowy," and other endearing epithets were frequently heard all over the ground. His comrades frequently conveyed these messages to him and he pleased his partisans by making some good spurts. Mr. Muir says his deafness was a blessing rather than a misfortune in those days as it enabled him to escape a good deal of that embarrassing barracking that was hurled at the players. His colleagues say that he did yeoman service for his club and on several occasions played quite the game of the ground. There were at the same time two other deaf players with the team, Messrs E. Burke, now of Christchurch, New Zealand, and the late Thomas Ward, both of whom were also sterling players of the game.

Mr. Muir was one of the founders, and for many seasons one of the prominent supporters and players of the Melbourne Deaf Mute Cricket Club. He might have done better with some other club, but to his credit he preferred to cast in his lot with his fellow brethren. He was several times elected captain of the team, and when he retired from active playing he was elevated to the presidentship of the club, which position he retained for a good many seasons.

At both football and cricket he won not a few prizes. Manly sport however is not Mr. Muir's only accomplishment, for in the deaf mute world of Melbourne he is an indefatigable worker, always being to the fore in anything that concerns the welfare of his fellow brethren. He has been a member of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria from its inception, and is now a member of the Committee of Management. There is no organisation in which he has not held a prominent position, he has been Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer in turn to the Sub-Committee of the Society, the Deaf Men's Guild, the Cricket Club, etc. He was also several times elected president of the Deaf Men's Guild. He is a prominent member and Hon. Treasurer of the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association. He was for the last four years Hon. Secretary to the Sub-Committee of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society, and has charge over "Our Monthly Letter" staff, and he is manager of the "Gesture" Publishing Company.

He has even now developed greater enthusiasm for voluntary work in connection with the

Adult Deaf and Dumb Society and its various branches, in fact he seems to revel in the work and is generally up to his neck in it. He has lately added to his other accomplishments the role of an amateur "pedagogue," and with two others presides over an evening class which was arranged with the praiseworthy object of imparting more educational knowledge to the rather unadequate supply with which many of his less fortunate fellow brethren are endowed, his subject being Arithmetic, at which he was a bit famous at school and left other fellow pupils far behind in the race for prizes. On several occasions Mr. Muir's fellow brethren have testified their appreciation of his qualities and services by making presentations to him.

Mr. Muir is one of the best reciters and there is hardly an entertainment in which he does not take a prominent part, he has often assisted also at entertainments held by hearing people.

Having served his time as a lithographic artist with Messrs C. Troedel & Co., one of the best printing firms in Melbourne, he remained with them for several years, after which he bettered his position by obtaining employment as a draughtsman in the Victorian Railway Department, there he was looked upon as one of the best hands, he remained in the department for some years and then became a member of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Work's staff in a similar capacity, this position he now retains. Yet this is the sort of deaf mute that those who through lack of knowledge and enlightenment as to their true condition and capabilities, have made laws to restrict their free passage from state to state or country to country.

"What do you think of these restrictions, Mr. Muir?" I asked. Words failed him in expressing his feelings, his fingers spluttered out stupid! stupid!! He clenched his fist, and flourishing it would have brought it down with a bang if there had happened to be something handy—for choice the head of one of those wiseacres responsible for the passing of the absurd restrictions. That bore eloquent testimony to his feelings, and far better than words could convey.

Mr. Muir is married to a charming lady who is, like himself, deaf. She is quite as popular and talented as her husband, is a prominent member of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society and of the Ladies' Committee. She has done much to assist in the general work of the Society, and holds a painting class for young women, she being herself an artist of no mean ability.

Mr. and Mrs. Muir's pretty home at Malvern is frequently thrown open to their fellow mem-

bers, parties of whom journey out there, where they are always received with smiles of welcome, and pass a very pleasant time with their host and hostess. Mr. Muir and his wife are both lovers of nature and take an interest in the cultivation of flowers and plants. Animals and birds also claim a share of their attention and interest. They believe in a well bred dog being a useful part of the household of a deaf mute couple, "Ben," their fine Irish terrier showed



"Ben" in a favourite pose.

evidence of careful training and kindness on their part. He would do many things at the bidding of his mistress, in his own clever way he conveyed to her notice when someone was at the door, and when the kettle was boiling, received letters from the postman and brought them to her, he also acted as "Waker up" to his master in the morning. Regularly at the right time he jumped upon the couch and roused the sleeper up with his paws. An alarm clock is not needed in a household rejoicing in the possession of such an intelligent dog. Mr. Muir had the misfortune to lose this dog lately through an illness, but he has obtained another one and means to succeed in training him to

such a state as to become a worthy successor to the lamented "Ben," and there is no doubt he will succeed, for unlike many others who try a little of this or that and then become indifferent he is a "sticker" and a believer in perseverance overcoming difficulties. This has been the quality that accompanied his taking up such a multitude of responsible positions that would have appalled a weaker man.

No more fitting tribute could be paid Mr. and Mrs. Muir than to say that they will be spared to continue their life of usefulness for many years to come, is the wish of the members of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria and its supporters.

Cricket.

THE Adelaide Deaf-Mute Cricket Club has for the season played 25 matches, of which

5 were	...	won
6 were	...	lost
14 were	...	drawn

The season ended on April 17th and out of 25 matches played there were 14 drawn games, mostly in favor of the deaf mutes.

SCORES.

March 20th, 1909.

DEAF MUTES v. CHERRY GARDENS.

Cherry Gardens all out for 108.

Deaf Mutes 2 wkts. for 131.

A. Hann, bowled	...	...	11
A. M. Rankine, bowled	...	...	0
H. Parnell, not out	...	...	73
W. Abbott, not out	...	...	42
Sundries	...	...	5

2 wkts. for 131

BOWLING ANALYSIS:—J. Juncken, 2 for 32; H. Parnell, 1 for 8; H. Langley, none for 17; F. Lehmann, 1 for 12; A. Hann, 6 for 18.

DEAF MUTES WON BY 9 WKTS. AND 23 RUNS.

March 27th, 1909.

DEAF MUTES v. QUIDNUNC.

Deaf Mutes, 5 for 154 (declared innings).

Quidnunc, 4 for 95.

A. Hann, bowled	...	...	12
H. Langley, caught	...	...	4
H. Parnell, not out	...	...	74
W. Abbott, bowled	...	...	3
F. Lehmann, bowled	...	...	2
P. G. Simpson, caught	...	...	10
A. M. Rankine, not out	...	...	42
Sundries	...	...	7

5 wkts for 154

BOWLING ANALYSIS:—A. Hann, none for 16; F. Lehmann, none for 10; J. Juncken, none for 7; H. Langley, 4 for 28; H. Parnell, none for 18; A. M. Rankine, none for 3.

DRAWN GAME.