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OUR FOURTH PAGE.—A number of letters from correspondents will be found on our fourth page.

PROPOSED FREE DISPENSARY.—The sub-committee appointed to consider the practicability of adding a Free Dispensary to "The Home" of the Footscray Ladies' Benevolent Society met on Thursday evening at the Town Hall. After discussion it was decided that at the present time it was difficult for the ladies of the society to obtain sufficient funds to carry on present operations, and, therefore, there was no reasonable probability of an extended scheme being successful. Mr S. J. Jones occupied the chair, and, in addition to some of the ladies of the society, Drs Box, McCarthy and Webb were present.

ANOTHER DROWNING CASE.—The body of the man taken from the Saltwater River at Maribyrnong, on Thursday afternoon was yesterday identified at the City Morgue by William Seaborne, as that of his uncle, Joseph Coombes, 73 years of age, widower. Deceased was formerly an employe of the Railway department, but had been living on his means for the last seven years. He was in comfortable circumstances, and there was apparently no reason why he should have endeavored to put an end to his existence. Mr. Seaborne last saw deceased at his house in Station street, Ascot Vale, and he (deceased) was then calm and rational, there being nothing in his demeanor to show that anything was wrong with him. An inquest will be held in due course.

TOO MUCH TONGUE.—As Mr Percy Blackston, the well known night patrol, was walking along Droop street at about 3 o'clock yesterday morning, he met Charles Davis, a better known than respected resident of Braybrook, with a parcel under his coat. Being of a suspicious nature, Blackston asked him what he had, and Davis, not being able to give a satisfactory reply, was handed over to the custody of Constable Fitzgerald. On examination it was found to contain five ox tongues, which were subsequently identified as being the property of Messrs Nelson Brothers, of Braybrook. Davis was charged with the theft, and brought before Messrs W. Mitchell and E. R. Warns, J.P., yesterday morning. The police applied for a remand until Monday next, which was granted.

OUR MEMBER AND THE "ZOO."—The annual visit of members of both Houses of Parliament to the Zoological Gardens took place on Wednesday, and as the visit has become an institution, so has the jocoseness of the *Argus*, at the expense of Footscray's elect. The journal named thus discourses:—"A gigantic turtle gazed pensively at Mr Hancock, fearing, perhaps, that the hon. member might take it into his head to emulate De Rougemont, and ride astride upon its back, directing its movements by sticking his toes into its eyes. Fortunately for the turtle Mr Hancock exhibited a preference for the elephant as a more suitable weight-carrier, and the noble beast, which shone like a newly-blackened boot all over, giving

and the noble beast, which shone like a newly-blackened boot all over, giving colour to the assertion which was freely made that it had been blackleaded for the occasion, proved capable once more of conveying the hon. member for Footscray once round the prescribed path."

SIGNS OF RETURNING PROSPERITY.—It is encouraging to learn that the activity in the real estate in Footscray referred to a few weeks ago, continues on a satisfactory scale, and fair sales are still reported by local agents at prices which, if not always remunerative to the vendors, are at least much above the rates ruling six or twelve months back. The movement is perhaps more noticeable in the northern portion of the district, where a number of vacant allotments that have recently changed hands are now being built upon. The facts disclosed, added to the continued demand for tenements in desirable situations, are straws which indicate that the tide is drifting in the direction of a return to prosperity. It is, however, to be regretted that many desirable families have been debarred from becoming residents owing to the lack of buildings of the villa description, the demand for which is not nearly equalled by the supply.

THE CHURCH ARMY.—A lantern lecture entitled "Work Among the Outcast and Despairing," showing the methods used by the Church Army for the reclamation of outcasts, will be given by Captain N. S. Robinson, of the Church Army staff, assisted by Nurse Hodges and other officers in St. John's Lecture Hall, on Wednesday evening next at eight o'clock. The Rev. Canon Watson will preside, and the proceeds will be in aid of the Army's lantern fund. A special lantern service for children will also be given, commencing at 7 o'clock, admission being one penny.

DROWNED IN THE YARRA.—Daniel Carr, ferryman, was putting off in his boat to row across the river at Spencer street on Wednesday evening last, a few minutes before 8 o'clock, when he noticed a man sitting on the ferry steps, on the opposite side. Suddenly the man, without uttering a sound, fell into the river. Carr rowed rapidly across, but was too late to save the man, who sank before he could reach him. The water police were at once informed, and after dragging for about an hour, they secured the body. Subsequently it was recognised by a Mr Richardson, of King street, as that of James O'Brien, bootmaker, of John and Buckley streets, Footscray. Mr Richardson states that he was with deceased previous to the fatality, and they had several drinks together. He left deceased at half-past seven, and O'Brien then said that he was going home to Footscray. Deceased was a widower, and has not left any family. An inquest was held at the City Morgue yesterday, when

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held at the City Morgue yesterday, when a verdict of "found drowned" was returned.

CHARITY SPORTS.—A meeting of the Yarraville tradesmen has been held in order to organise cycle races and other sports in aid of the Children's Hospital. The affair will be held at the Yarraville cricket ground on the 23rd November. Donations and trophies will be thankfully received by the joint hon. secretaries, Messrs H. W. Williams and W. T. Jones. Several contributions have already been received, viz., Mr P. Chirnside, M.L.A., £3 3s; the Austral Cycle Company, gold medal value £5 5s; Mr W. E. Carey (per Mr W. H. Fielding) pair of Dunlop tyres; also the Co-operative Coupon Co., Psycho Bicycle Co., the Massey-Harris Bicycle Co., Carlton Brewery, Victorian Brewery, the Moonee Valley Aerated Waters Co., Moran and Cato, Mr Boardman, and Mr W. H. Fielding, and the councillors of the City of Footscray have donated trophies for competition. Messrs J. Murray and Jack James, hotel proprietors, are organising a publican's purse. The enthusiastic manner in which the matter is being taken up augurs well for success.

THE STONY CREEK BRIDGE.—The communication from the Footscray Council to the Williamstown Council, asking for the re-formation of the committee to consider the advisability of erecting a foot-bridge at Stony Creek, was discussed by the latter body last week. Cr Schutt moved that a committee be at once formed, and Cr Cullen seconded the motion, remarking that children could then cross safely to school, and the Williamstown and Newport people could get into Footscray easily and buy their goods much cheaper. If the bridge was not made there would be an accident on the railway line sooner or later. Anyone could see that a bridge was necessary. Cr Booker replied that he did not approve of it, and moved that the communication be referred to the Public Works Committee. This was seconded by Cr Challis, and carried on the casting vote of the Mayor. This conveys the idea that some of our neighbouring councillors don't approve of giving better access to our side of the creek for fear that a loss to their business people may ensue. Public safety and convenience demands that the possible loss of business on either side should not be allowed to stand in the way.

The new walk between the Flemington
be opened shortly.

It is said that something like £49 has been netted for the Children's Hospital from the Yarraville concert and local subscriptions.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Footscray Ladies' Benevolent Society was held last Tuesday. The members reported the relief of a number of cases.

Our readers are reminded that the Spring Show of the Footscray Horticultural Society, is to be held at the Royal Hall on Thursday and Friday, 27th and 28th inst.

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The ordinary meeting of the Footscray Branch, A.N.A. was held on Thursday evening, Mr. W. A. Warne, president, occupying the chair. Three new members were proposed and the remainder of the business was routine in character.

Mr Geo. Lashford, a well-known resident of Footscray, was married on Tuesday evening to Miss Parker, of West Melbourne. The event was celebrated in the evening, when some 50 guests were entertained, singing, dancing, etc., being indulged in until a late hour.

George Crighton, third officer of S.S. Glaucus, lying at the Yarraville Sugar Works wharf, has reported to the police the loss of a black waterproof overcoat, which he imagines was stolen from him at Yarraville, whilst he was slightly under the influence of intoxicants.

It will be noted by advertisement that the National Mills, a Beckett street, Melbourne, are now in operation. This is for the purpose of manufacturing household condiments. Mr M. Walsh, a citizen of Footscray, is proprietor and as an active and enterprising gentleman we wish him every success.

Mr. E. D. Crellin of 527 Collins street, Melbourne, has been appointed Government auditor for the conduct, with the local auditor (Mr. J. M. Bair), of the annual municipal examination and audit. Mr. J. Barnacle is also appointed Government auditor for Braybrook. The name suggests that this gentleman should be a decided stickler.

Mr Thomas Warr, warehouseman, of Collins street, Melbourne, and Maribyrnong, has informed the Footscray police that between the 8th and 12th inst., 25 sheets of galvanised iron, second hand, privately marked, were stolen from his premises. The stolen iron is valued at 25s.

Dr. J. R. Webb has purchased the premises at the corner of Napier and Cowper streets, at present occupied by Commissioner J. Stewart. We believe that the doctor proposes to occupy the premises referred to as a residence and surgery, and not as a private hospital as some people suppose.

The banquet given last evening by Mr. J. Cuming, J.P., president of the Footscray Football club, in celebration of the winning of the Victorian Association's Premiership, was a splendid affair. The decorations were superb and nothing was left undone which would contribute to the pleasure of the guests. Our report is held over until next issue.

A tea meeting, sale of gifts and concert is to be held at Dickson's Hall, Deer Park, on Wednesday, 26th October, in aid of the St John's Church of England in that district. It is hoped by this means to pay off the final instalment of the debt of the church, and as the promises of gifts have been pretty numerous, and Mr T. W. Harris has consented to conduct the sale, this should be accomplished.

A horse attached to a vehicle belonging to Messrs Dunn and Co., milk purveyors, took it into its head to do the city on "its own" last Saturday afternoon. It started at the Smelting Works, Had-

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"its own" last Saturday afternoon. It started at the Smelting Works, Hyde street, and after traversing quite a number of streets, was captured in Maribyrnong street, a spring only of the vehicle being broken. A little more training, and that horse will be able to deliver the milk without a driver.

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