

## Obituaries.

---

THE REV. OSCAR BLUNDELL.—The death occurred, very early in the morning of November 11, of the Rev. Oscar Blundell, while he was tramping on Mount Egmont and the ranges near it for two days with a companion, Mr. H. C. Morgan. The two left New Plymouth at 8 a.m. on Monday, November 9, travelling on a motor-lorry to the Koru Mill as a starting point, and their objective for the second day was the North Egmont hostelry. But in the afternoon of Tuesday, while still several miles away, Mr. Blundell showed signs of fatigue, and then collapsed; and as his condition appeared to be serious, his companion made him as comfortable as possible in a sleeping bag, and set out to obtain assistance from North Egmont. A party was organised to carry Mr. Blundell back to the hostelry, but he died during the progress of the journey.

Mr. Blundell, who was 52 years of age, was a man of wide interests, and apart from his work in his church, had shared in many of the secular activities of the town. He was a keen astronomer and it was chiefly owing to his initiative that the Astronomical Society and Observatory were established. He also undertook the duties of probation officer and did excellent work in endeavouring to keep youthful offenders on the right path. He was an active member of the Victoria League and was a keen golfer when time permitted. In his early manhood he was connected with the Salvation Army. Later he passed through Knox College and, after ordination as a Presbyterian Minister, held pastoral appointments near Whangarei and, later, at Te Aroha, whence he came to New Plymouth. He was inducted at St. Andrew's Church in August, 1917, and under his

charge the church made great progress. He became a Member of the British Astronomical Association on November 30, 1904.