

Death of ex-Alderman FUTCHER – Mr Joseph FUTCHER, after a long illness, expired at his residence on Friday evening, having attained a very advanced age. Mr FUTCHER came to Ryde over 50 years ago, and opened business as a grocer at the top of Union Street. Perseverance, frugality, and a singularly clear and shrew intellect, soon placed him on the high road to fortune, and he retired from business some 25 years ago. Mr FUTCHER appears to have taken an interest in town affairs very soon after his arrival, and for nearly fifty years was connected with the governing bodies of the place. He was a commissioner for many years, and when Ryde became a borough he retained a seat in the Council, when his long services were recognised by his elevation to the Aldermanic Bench. As a member of the Council Mr FUTCHER was always characterised by a great regard for economy, and wasteful expenditure found no more persevering an opponent. As age came on Alderman FUTCHER took less part in the debates, owing to increasing deafness, and having through his infirmity on one occasion seconded a motion which he intended to have opposed, he said he thought “It was about time he resigned”. Although efforts were made to induce him to remain in the Council, his mind being as clear as ever, he carried out his determination, and left the Council amidst the regret of his confreres. A man of marked individuality, not unmixed with eccentricity, Mr FUTCHER could not fail to be generally known. The extravagance which he denounced in the Council he equally avoided at home. On the other hand, deeds of charity, done in a very unobtrusive manner, have been recorded of Mr FUTCHER.