

BOAT CAPSIZED

An alarming situation was caused through the capsizing of a boat load of people on Saturday last. The crew of the Messrs. PICKFORD's motor-barge "Wasp" with their wives and families had spent a day in the Island, and when it came to re-embarking it was found that the tide was too low to allow the "Wasp" to be brought alongside the quay, and it was decided to take off the party in a smaller boat from the Pier. Among the last of the ladies to embark bore in her arms a child, and through slipping in getting into the boat, she fell on to the gunwale. The boat capsized, and all its occupants were thrown into the water. Fortunately help was speedily forthcoming, and the people were all got out of the water. After being attended to and dry clothes provided, they undertook the return journey safely. The occupants of the boat at the time of the overturning were three women and one child, and the four persons were precipitated without a moment's warning into the water. Their condition was precarious until a masculine member of the party jumped in and seized one of the women who was particularly in danger. Meanwhile their screams, which could be heard on the shore and the adjoining pier, attracted Mr. G. WOODMAN, the bathing attendant, who was on the opposite of the Pier and had not witnessed the accident. Mr. WOODMAN, who was an old Navy man, instantly plunged into the water and seized another of the women, who still clutched her baby girl, while the fourth member of the party released her insecure hold on the upturned boat and clutched the already overburdened rescuer. In this position the lives of all six were endangered, but assistance was forthcoming from one of the firm's employees, who ran to the landing steps and hauled all three of the exhausted women out, Mr. WOODMAN, himself in a somewhat distressed condition after his exertions, was then assisted out of the water. One of the party who was more seriously affected than the rest, was insensible when landed, but restorative methods at the skilled hands of Miss Kitty GRAY quickly brought her to a state of consciousness. The party, as soon as they had partially recovered from the shock, again boarded the boat, which this time they reached in safety. Mrs. MILLS received some cuts in the face while in the water. No praise can be too high for the coolness and courage displayed by Mr. WOODMAN, to whom three of the party undeniably owe their lives; he was the recipient of overwhelming gratitude and thanks from the rescued and their relatives who visited him during the week. Miss GRAY is also entitled to praise for her effective treatment of the rescued persons.
