

CHAPTER 17

The Three Youngest of William McWilliam

Without fear of contradiction it can be said that the fifth surviving child of William and Rosina McWilliam was the most notable of all their children. Indeed, it could be argued that Neville Gilbert McWilliam achieved the greatest fame of all the descendants of John and Rebecca McWilliam. As scholar, author, barrister and judicial executive he was outstanding and, moreover, he was born virtually blind. His daughter, Joan Payne, says that he had a little sight in early childhood and 'he told me that he remembered the difference between light and darkness.'

Christchurch, New Zealand, was his birthplace and the year was 1883. He came with his parents and family to Sydney at the age of six. He attended the St Leonard's Superior School, known as 'Greenwood's', so called for the reason already described that the Principal of it was for years a man by that name. The school is still there in Blue Street, North Sydney, opposite to the entrance to the North Sydney Railway Station. Neville's elder brother, Horace, also started his schooling in Australia at it. When Neville presented himself on the first day at this School the Principal sent him home because he could not see. The incident showed his mother at her best, for there was nothing Rosina would not do to further the education of her children. She immediately called on the Head and impressed and persuaded him to such an extent that he agreed to take Neville 'on trial'. That Neville succeeded is a gross understatement. Never was the result of a trial more convincing. He was DUX of the whole school for his final THREE years at it. Gratitude must be recorded to the Principal not only for enrolling Neville in the first place but also for taking him at recess and lunchtime, in those first uncertain days, for extra help in settling to classroom procedures and routine. Such schools as St Leonard's Superior Public School in those days had secondary 'tops' and prepared students for the public examinations, then called Junior and Senior. Neville matriculated for the University of Sydney. He passed the Senior so well that he gained a bursary and entered the Faculty of Arts at the beginning of the year 1900. He went through the three years of the course without a failure or 'post', as second-shot examinations were called, and indeed he secured honours in Philosophy. Then with the degree to BA to his name he entered the Faculty of Law to attempt a Law degree, its duration in those days being three years. Had he planned his Arts course with the Law course in mind it would have been possible to have chosen the Arts subjects in such a way as to shorten the Law degree course by one year; just as by proper subject selection it is possible today to complete the degrees of Arts/Law in a year less than the combined total of the two courses. Neville welcomed the extra study and challenge. Any intellectual pursuit was a joy to him. In those days at the University of Sydney a wide selection of subject matter was compulsory. A student had to include in his course a science subject and mathematics, as well as the more conventional topics of the Humanities. Neville needed an amanuensis to write his examination answer papers for him, of course, and therefore the University authorities required him to take a viva voce ('Viva'), ie an oral quiz, in order to ensure that he knew his subject and had not received any help from his writer. This suited Neville admirably, for he shone in such dialectical situations. On one occasion when it came to Trigonometry calculations one of the oral questioners said to him: 'Mr McWilliam, you probably don't need me to look up the Trigonometrical Tables for you; you seem to know them all by heart !'

One of Neville's special areas of expertise was, naturally enough, in reading



Neville McWilliam
(1883 – 1960)

His two children, Joan Payne and
(Neville) David, c. 1939.





Above: (Left) Emily Cunningham (nee McWilliam) c. 1849–1923 and her second youngest daughter, Edith Harkness (b. 1885), (right).



Left: Edith's son, Ian McWilliam ('Mack') Harkness (1913–1985) with his wife, Marjory, and (right) his second cousin, Fran Morrisby, 1984.

and writing Braille. Not only did he master this system of raised dots from an early age, but he invented a braille shorthand of his own. He could read these embossed pages of a braille book with amazing speed and write it with stylus and plate with facility. This helped him greatly in taking notes during lectures and of course later in his work at the Bar and on the Arbitration Bench. Early on he learnt to use a typewriter also. It should be said that he attributed a good deal of his success to his sisters, because it was Daisy, Elvira and Ruby who read his academic text and set books to him. Over the full period of the six years of his university study they must have spent a great deal of time in assisting him in this way, for very few, if any, of these books would have been transcribed into braille. It is said that the girls learnt much Law and other erudite subject matter in the process of reading to their brother. At about this time Neville's cousin, Reg. Cunningham, was over on a visit from New Zealand and while staying with him briefly was amazed by the fact that he would come upon Neville at night studying in his room with the light out. Reg. knew, of course, that there is no need of a light to read braille, but it seemed so bizarre for a man to be reading in the dark that he remembered the occasion all his life.

On 22 March 1906 it was formally announced that Neville Gilbert McWilliam had passed his final Law examination and so added LL B to his BA degree. In May of that year he was admitted before the Full Court of NSW to practise as a Barrister. In a letter dated 24 May 1986, his daughter, Joan Payne wrote of her father:-

At the Sydney University he was a member of the Debating Society and the Dramatic Club, and was interested in all sports. He swam and rowed well and also played chess and cribbage and whist. He told me that when he was a young bachelor his mother used to always insist on him playing a game of cribbage with her before he went out in the evenings. He played the piano and was a baritone in the choir at Christ Church, North Sydney (Lavender Bay) for 8 years... He was very fond of Church Music, Comic Opera and Gilbert and Sullivan and in the late 1920's and early thirties was President of the Lindfield Musical Society.

For nine years he was Chairman of Wages Boards...and a 'Practitioner' before the Arbitration Court... He became in the early 1930's Chairman of the NSW Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

For many years my father wrote articles for the Amalgamated Engineering monthly journal entitled "Memories and Reflections", under the nom-de-plume of 'The Guardian', all of which he typed himself. He was a keen gardener, loved to dig and mow the lawn, trim the edges and spent many happy hours in the garden and even chopped the firewood.

Happy and cheerful, he always was. With such an attractive disposition it was no wonder he was such good company, full of wit and wisdom, happiness and humour. His erudition was natural and innate, but manifested itself when the conversation turned to serious and important matters. He was indeed homo mirabilis. Neville's mother had inspired him to strive and go forward in spite of difficulties and several of his sisters had aided him to achieve wonders and great success in his studies, but it was Agnes (his precious 'Nessa') who made it possible for him to sail so triumphantly through the demanding and challenging tides of his profession. To Agnes must go the highest credit for her dedication, patience and readiness to assist this brilliant but handicapped husband of hers. Her succour lasted not for the years of school and university but for a lifetime. Her daughter writes of her:-

All through their married life his 'Nessa' was untiring in her help and devotion to him. For instance she often stayed up till the early hours of the morning reading to him while he took notes, before he had to appear in

Court. Theirs was truly a 'love match'. An old friend recently said of my mother, 'She was the most loved and respected woman in the district.'

In 1933 Neville's first major work was published. Its title page reads: 'NSW Arbitration Law, Being the Industrial Arbitration Acts of 1912, 1926, 1930 and 1933 as amended together with Rules, Regulations and Forms with Notes of Cases, by Neville G. McWilliam, B.A., LL.B., Barrister-at-Law. Australia: The Law Book Co. of Australia Ltd.' Three other books followed, all on the same general topic of Industrial Law and written in collaboration with Richard H. Boyt, Solicitor, in the case of the first two and with Barrie A. Thompson, BA, LL B, Solicitor, for the third. These appeared in the years 1946, 1948 and 1953. They were met with wide acclaim within the circles of the Law and immediately became authoritative reference books.

While in hospital before the time of the first World War Neville met and became friendly with a nursing sister by the name of Agnes ('Nessa') Watt. Agnes and Neville were married in August 1914 at St Mark's, Darling Point, Sydney. They settled on the North Shore Line (Lindfield) and had two children. The first child of the couple was (Neville) David, born on 'Empire Day' (24 May) 1915. He showed an enterprising and venturesome spirit from early days. More than once he found himself in the public spot-light for courageous but unconventional deeds that usually involved the protection of the weak. One time he passed a greengrocer belting his horse unmercifully on his delivery rounds. David snatched the whip and applied it to the tormentor. The Press heard about the incident and wrote it up accordingly. David's bravery and readiness to assist those in need culminated in his receiving the award of the Bronze Medal by the Royal Humane Society. The scroll officially citing the award reads, inter alia:-

At a General Court of Directors holden at the Offices of the Society, Melbourne on the Sixth day of May 1940 It was resolved that the Courage and Humanity displayed by Neville David McWilliam Sydney (NSW) Lieut. HMAS Canberra, aged 24 years, in rescuing Phyllis Anderson, aged 19 years from drowning in Sydney Harbour, on Feb. 20 1940 Call for the admiration of this Court and justly entitle him to the Bronze Medal of this Society which is hereby awarded.

David attended Shore School and at the age of thirteen successfully applied to enter the Royal Australian Naval College, then at Jervis Bay and later at Flinders in Victoria. On graduating from the College, he was placed on the Naval Reserve and took up the adventurous and challenging work of Patrol Officer in the Australian Mandated Territories of Papua and New Guinea. He was back in uniform promptly at the outbreak of war with the rank of Lieutenant. By 1942 he was serving in HMAS Perth and was tragically killed while showing the utmost disregard for his own safety when that gallant ship together with British, Dutch and USA units engaged a vastly superior naval force of Japanese vessels at the Battle of the Java Sea in the Sunda Straits on 1 March of that year. The small Allied fleet caused heavy casualties to the enemy before being annihilated. 'Tranquil you lie your knightly virtue proved... Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.'

David's younger sibling was Joan Agnes, born in 1917. She attended Abbotsleigh School, Wahroonga, before training as a nursing sister at St Luke's Hospital, Darlinghurst, Sydney. Serving in that capacity during the war in the RAAF she held the rank of Flying Officer. In 1944 she married William ('Bill') Walter Buckeridge Payne in the Chapel of his old School, Shore. He was born in 1915 in South Yarra, Melbourne, and has now retired from working in the Law Library in the University of Western Australia but consults there once a week. Joan and Bill have two daughters. Rosemary Anne

(1946) obtained a BA (Honours) degree from the University of Western Australia and is now a Librarian with the AALA. She married in 1968 at Dalkeith, Perth, Christopher Hugh Hereford Wake (1937) who is a New Zealander with a BA and PhD, lecturing at the University in SE Asian History. Their two children are Geoffrey William (1976) and Clarissa Elizabeth (1978). The other daughter of Joan and Bill Payne is Virginia Margaret Seymour (1949). She, too, holds a BA degree from the University of Western Australia. In 1974 she married a farmer by the name of Eric James Skipworth who was born in WA (Morowa) in 1947. They have two children, Michael James Skipworth (1979) and Lachlan David Skipworth (1982).

Both Neville McWilliam and his wife, Agnes, lived into their late seventies. Agnes died in 1956 and Neville four years later in 1960.

The youngest daughter of the William and Rosina McWilliam family was Ruby. Born in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1887, she grew into a beautiful young woman. Her days were occupied by reading to her blind brother his Law books and teaching the few pupils of the little 'school' she and her sisters conducted in their home in North Sydney. In August 1912 she married in the family church, Christ Church, Lavender Bay, North Sydney, Hallen Bielby Evans, who was born in 1888 at Grenfell, NSW. He was the son of James Hallen Evans and Ada Elizabeth (nee Pedler). James was a Civil Servant, according to a copy of the Marriage Certificate. Rev. JH Maclean was the officiating clergyman for the ceremony. At the time Hallen was working for the Fenwick Shipping Company in Byron Bay, on the far north coast of NSW. Later he was sent by the 'Expropriation Board' to assist in taking over New Guinea from the Germans. It had been in 1914 that the first Australians to be in action attacked the Germans who held New Guinea and drove them out. At that time women and children were not wanted up there. Ruby waited until about May 1920 and then took it upon herself to go by ship to Rabaul to join Hallen. By this time they had a family of three children and they settled in 'a wooden house on Matupi Island', writes Gwen, their elder daughter, 'where all the main volcanoes were.' Having completed the work with the Expropriation Board, Hallen started with trading stations which took him to New Ireland and finally a "P O" plantation in Bougainville. Eventually the family moved to Buka Passage where its members remained until 1934. After that, and following the birth of Ruby's youngest, Keith, all the Hallen Evans family returned to a Plantation just out of Rabaul, 'a much more civilized' location, Gwen reports. The actual location of Buka Passage is at the southern end of the northern most island of the Solomon Island group. The 'Passage' is the strait between Buka Island and the larger island of Bougainville and is situated less than six degrees south of the equator and some 200 nautical miles east of the then capital of New Guinea, Rabaul. Ruby exercised the fruits of her experience of teaching in giving lessons, anyhow the early ones, to all her five children, and it was during these and earlier years that the same children, great favourites with the indigenous population, developed effortless fluency in Pigeon English, the lingua franca of the south west Pacific. The eldest of the children was Hallen William Evans, born in 1913. He was later to apply his knowledge of the Pigeon language to good effect, for he became the chief interpreter for the Supreme Court of New Guinea at Rabaul. Hallen came to Sydney for part of his education from time to time. At one stage, just before Ruby and the children moved north, (February 1920) young Hallen and his sister were staying with their grandmother (Rosina) who then lived at 133 Alexander Street, Crows Nest, North Sydney. She writes on 20.2.1920: 'Hallen and Gwen do not go to school, their mother teaches them at home.' (Ada) Gwen, always known as Gwen, was born at North Sydney in 1914. She accompanied her brother, Hallen, to a private school, a true private school, the kind of school that was run for private profit and abounded in those days. This one was conducted by a very successful individual, a Mr Yarnold. His family was well known to the William McWilliam family, for his father,

Rev. Alfred Yarnold, had been the Rector of Christ Church, Lavender Bay and the celebrant at the wedding of Ruby's elder sister, Elvira, to Alfred Levick. His son, always known as 'Tibby', had had a distinguished record at Shore School, being Senior Prefect and winner of many prizes. Tibby Yarnold and his sister started this school, the boys in the Parish Hall of St Clement's, Mosman, (or at any rate moved to that location very soon afterwards). Hallen went there and Gwen attended the Girls School part of it. For a couple of years these two actually boarded with the Yarnolds, Gwen at Miss Yarnold's in Bradley's Head Road ('St Hilda's'). The house is in existence today and is used as a Psychiatric home.

Hallen William grew, like his father, Hallen Bielby Evans, into a tall personable young man with the attractive voice of his immediate forebears. He was a natural raconteur; in fact he was invited to address the boys of Geelong Grammar School by the Headmaster and gave a lively and memorable talk on expatriot life in New Guinea. In his early twenties Hallen came to Sydney and spent some time of the year 1937 successfully studying an accountancy course. He later settled into his business career. In 1939 he married at Dunedin, New Zealand, Linda Mabel Henry who was born in 1913 in that southern city. Hallen William Evans lived a full life but died at the relatively early age of 62 in 1976. His widow, Linda, lives at the Sydney suburb of Turramurra. They have three children. The eldest is Patricia (1940) who married in 1963 Warren Milsom (1938) (now divorced). Patricia also lives at Turramurra and has two offspring: Anne Elizabeth (1965) and Catherine Jane (1970). The second child of Hallen and Linda Evans is (Jennifer) Lynne (1943) who is married to Lewis Berian James, a Welshman. They have one child, John James who was born in 1983. The youngest child of Hallen and Linda is Hallen Ernest Evans (1950). He is a veterinary surgeon and he married Sheridan ('Sherry') Clelland (1957). They live at Bangalow, northern NSW. They have two sons, Christopher Hallen Evans (1980) and David Anthony Evans (1981).

Some details of Hallen William Evans's younger sister have already been given. Of her early life and the first trip north of Ruby, young Hallen and herself and baby George, Gwen writes:-

We left in the Burns Philp ship "Melausia" and...actually had my sixth birthday on the ship. We went up through the British Solomons and finally arrived in Rabaul some three weeks later... Hallen, myself and George were among the first half dozen Australian children to go to Rabaul. On Matupi Island we had to cross a causeway each morning when we were taken by the natives to school... We, Hallen and I, returned to boarding school for a year or two, and then we moved to Buka Passage.

Gwen explains how her mother came South for the birth of her fourth child, Betty Elvira, and lived at McLaren Street, North Sydney, and how Ruby's brother, Horace, christened the baby at St Thomas' Church, North Sydney. Gwen goes on:-

Incidentally during the August holidays I stayed with Uncle Fred and Auntie Maudie at Kogarah. Nell was around my age and Molly, I remember, was 18 years old and very involved with ice skating and of course out-standing at horse riding.

A young man by the name of William John Allman ('Bill') came to Rabaul as a Cadet Patrol Officer and did training in Rabaul for a few months and then was sent out to Talasea and that rather primitive area on patrol, being gazetted as a Patrol Officer. Her brother Hallen, introduced Bill to Gwen during his time in Rabaul. Actually they became engaged when Gwen was in Melbourne where her mother had travelled for the specific purpose of having ophthalmic surgery. Gwen and Bill planned to marry in 1936

in Sydney before they returned to New Guinea. Sadly the operation on Ruby's eyes failed and she lost most of what little sight she had. The consequence was that Gwen had to return to Rabaul and look after her mother and postpone her wedding. Bill took a position as cost accountant at Prince Henry's Hospital. It was not until the next year she felt able to leave her mother. This she did and asked her Uncle Horace to perform the marriage ceremony. Gwen and Bill were duly wed at St Clement's, Mosman, in September 1937. Bill was born in Armidale, NSW, in 1912 and was a company director. He joined the firm of Johnson and Johnson Australia Pty Ltd in 1938 and stayed with that firm till he retired at the age of 62 in 1975 as Finance Director. He had volunteered for the AIF in World War II and served in New Guinea and the South West Pacific. After training in Sydney, Adelaide and Geelong he received his commission. Because of his knowledge of the Papua New Guinea area he was transferred to ANGAU. He was there when his son George was born and did not see him till he was eight months old. Bill gave distinguished service in the ANGAU unit, rising to the rank of Captain. He died at the relatively early age of 62 while at Liverpool, England when he and Gwen were visiting their daughter, Catherine, there. Gwen now lives in a delightful home in Turramurra, surrounded by a picturesque garden. Gwen and Bill have four children. The eldest is Catherine Mary who was born in 1939 at the Sydney suburb of Maroubra, and she attended Abbotsleigh Girls School, Wahroonga. She trained as a Kindergartener and married in 1969 Geoffrey Huard, the present Rector of St Saviour's Parish, Redfern, an inner Sydney suburb. This is the same Rectory where Gwen's Aunt Annie McWilliam met Hugh Walker Taylor. Here, too, Annie and her husband lived for some years before moving to Orange. (See page 88). Catherine and Geoff have four children, the last two adopted. They are Benjamin William (1971), Angus (1973), Gabrielle (1973) and Kylie (1976).

Gwen and Bill Allman's second child is Frances Betty (1941) who also attended Abbotsleigh School and then trained as a nursing sister. She is the matron of the Deaf and Blind Children's Centre situated at North Rocks, Sydney. In 1963 she married at St James', Turramurra, Brian Leslie Brownscombe (1935) who is a senior bank official with the ANZ Banking Group Limited. They live at Wahroonga. They have two children, Nigel William (1965) who went to school at Barker College, Hornsby, and Fiona Katherine (1967) whose school was Abbotsleigh. Both children of Frances and Brian were born in Victoria (Rosanna). The only son of Gwen and Bill Allman is George William (1944). He attended North Sydney Boys High School and went on to study Medicine at the University of Sydney where he successfully graduated MB,BS. He then undertook a post-graduate course in Cleveland, Ohio, USA, the large city on the shores of Lake Erie, in cardio-vascular surgery where he has earned a high reputation in this speciality, and where he practises it. He married the well-known harpist, Kate McKittrick, but is now divorced. They have one child, Bridget Allman who was born in 1973. The third daughter of Gwen and Bill Allman is (Gweneth) Dawn, called Dawn. She was born in 1947. She, like her sisters, went to Abbotsleigh School. In 1971 she married Garth Alan Morgan (1941), a New Zealander, with a doctorate (PhD). He also holds a BE (Hons) Engineering degree and a Diploma of Mechanical Engineering. Dawn and Garth live at Gawler, SA, on an almond farm. He is a Research Officer in the Weapons Research Division at the town of Elizabeth. His study has taken him to Antarctica. The Morgans have three children, Matthew Scott (1973), Philippa Michelle (1974) and Penelope Laura (1976), the two girls being born in Washington DC, USA.

The third of the five children of Ruby and Hallen Bielby Evans was George Bielby (1918). He attended boarding school in Brisbane. Actually George won a scholarship to Brisbane Grammar School which is a fine tribute to his mother's home teaching, as well as his own capabilities, in view of the fact that he had never attended school before. He used to visit his relations in Sydney on occasions during the short school

vacations. George joined the ANZ Banking Group and rose to the position of Senior Manager, Administration; he then retired through ill-health in 1976. He volunteered for the RAAF (five years) and was a Flight Lieutenant in No.1 Squadron. He was taken POW by the Japanese and during his 3½ years of captivity went through a great deal in that situation working on the Burma Railway. He was mentioned in the famous book 'Behind Bamboo', by Rohan Rivett. It is an account of the ordeals suffered by many Australian soldiers for some three and a half years. The book is published by Angus and Robertson (1946/7). George married Marjorie Watson in 1941, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Alfred Levick. They settled in Melbourne. Their two boys, Keith Bielby (1947) and Bruce Bielby (1950), attended Ivanhoe Grammar School, in that Melbourne suburb. It was after George moved to Brisbane that signs of his fatal illness appeared. He died in February 1977. The two boys are married and, like their mother, reside in Queensland, Keith in Tarragindi & Bruce at Sunnybank, an outer Brisbane suburb.* Keith has a girl and a boy, Kirstin Desleigh (1975) and Brendon Bielby (1976) and Bruce two girls, Amanda Louise (1972) and Melanie (1975).

Betty Elvira was the fourth child of Ruby and Hallen Evans. She was born at North Sydney in 1925 and baptised by her Uncle Horace at St Thomas's, North Sydney. She went to live with her sister at Maroubra shortly after Gwen and Bill Allman were married and attended St Gabrielle's C of E School as a day girl. In 1949 she married Ian Pike at St Martin's, Killara. Ian is a grandson of a well-known Sydney jurist, Judge Pike. Betty developed a severe heart condition at a young age and died before her 32nd birthday in November 1956. Ian has remarried and lives in Adelaide. The youngest of the children of Ruby and Hallen Evans was Keith Mortimer. As recounted earlier in this history the name of Mortimer derived from the surname of Edmond Mortimer, Earl of March, who married Philippa, the daughter of Elizabeth de Burgh and Lionel, Duke of Clarence in the fourteenth century. (See page 11). Keith was born on the plantation at Buka Passage and the Roman Catholic nurse-midwife, I guess, plus the RC Doctor came to the Plantation to assist at the birth... He duly arrived, a perfect baby!', writes Gwen. This was in 1934, and he attended Cranbrook School, Bellevue Hill, Sydney. He shone like his brother, George, at swimming of which sport he was school captain. Keith attempted a Science course at the University of Sydney for a couple of years and then went into business. He was with the Colonial Sugar Refining Company and was located in Melbourne for some years. He married, and then later divorced, Norma McGee. They have two children, Julie and Anthony.† Julie this year married a man by the name of Gall‡ and lives at Bondi. Anthony who is specially able academically is currently studying at the University of Sydney in preparation for entry to the Baptist Ministry. He lives at East Lindfield, Sydney.

Norman Carrington McWilliam was the youngest of the eleven children of William and Rosina and the only one born in Australia. A few months after the family migrated from New Zealand they moved into a newly completed house in Arthur Street, North Sydney. It was shortly after this, April 1890, that Norman was born. Unfortunately he was blind and, moreover, he suffered early on from a severe attack of encephalitis. The resulting brain damage impaired to some extent his full development and, handicapped by his two afflictions, he was never able to support himself. The calamity of Norman's deficiencies brought out the best in his mother. Rosina cared for her youngest until the end of her life, having him taught a variety of crafts and activities, and, in spite of no more than mild success, persevered with her endeavours to find an occupation suitable for Norman's capacities. He learnt the piano and then did a course in piano tuning. In these he did not fail but the limited nature of his success was discouraging. His mother had him taught to play the flute and he learnt to read and write braille, but he was no musician and no scholar and no reader, but still his mother kept up her attempts to have him learn one skill well, but all to no avail. When his mother died, his father continued to look after him. Five years later, on

* Keith's wife is Denise (nee Clarke)(1951) and Bruce's is Michele (nee Levinge)(1952).

† In 1986 Anthony married Debbie Derry.

‡ William Gall.

William's passing, Norman was on his own. Various of his brothers and sisters rallied to his aid but all had their own families and were fully committed. A series of boarding arrangements were tried and then failed and Norman drifted down the scale of social living, supported by a small Government pension, supplemented, none too willingly it must be admitted, by his siblings. He ended up by living on the fringe, with not much dignity and unmindful of its absence. Some of his relatives, such as Hallen Evans, helped, but it is sad that it was men with dubious records and women of doubtful occupation who mostly befriended him at the end. Yet, what was the family to do? He seemed so hard to interest and occupy. Nevertheless Norman remained cheerful throughout and never ceased to amaze those of the twilight world in which he moved that he spoke in such cultured tones. He died while living at Flemington, a Sydney western suburb, in 1959, just under 70 years of age, an object of pity, but so difficult to succour.