

Charles Kerry.

Shortly before this Year Book went to press Charles Kerry, who may fairly be regarded as the father of Australian ski-ing, died suddenly one Saturday afternoon. Though he had reached the ripe age of three score years and ten, he was youthful enough in his heart, and vigorous enough in his habits to induce the impression that he had been cut off in his prime. There is no reason to give here a long story



THE LATE CHARLES H. KERRY.

of Charles Kerry's association with Australian ski-ing, but it would not be fitting for the first issue of this Year Book to appear without some reference to his services. This would have been done in any case. But what would have given me great pleasure now becomes a melancholy duty.

When I stood by his coffin a few days ago I was transported in thought to those wind-swept snow-blown high tops he loved so well, where oft-times we have travelled together dreaming dreams of the future, which future has seemed very close as I have perused in proof and manuscript some of the interesting articles which go to make up this book. How Charles Kerry would have enjoyed helping to make this book, for he dearly loved recording snow-doings at Kosciusko and Kiandra, and giving rein to his imagination in picturing the happenings along the main divide a decade or two hence.

He was many-sided in his sporting activities, and broad and tolerant in his outlook on life. Born on the breezy Monaro uplands, he loved the Snowy Mountains with a passion strong as life, and set himself keenly to the task of helping me when I assumed the work of opening up the Kosciusko field.

There are often disputations in various countries as to the founder of sports or other movements. But there never can be any question that Charles Kerry was the actual founder of ski-running at Kosciusko. He was not the first ski-runner at Kiandra, but he was the first to enthuse and introduce Sydney visitors to the sport there. His was the adventurous mind that devised the scheme of climbing Kosciusko on ski, and he was the leader of the first party who accomplished the climb. It was his achievements that attracted me to the snow and his advice and assistance that helped to outline a feasible plan for the establishment of regular visits of ski-runners to Kiandra under Government auspices. From that starting point we changed the venue to Kosciusko, drove the road from Jindabyne to the Summit, built the Hotel, and so paved the way for the great development that has taken place in ski-running since, which development has been greatly assisted by the unselfish work done by the Club officials and members. But Charles Kerry was the first of them all, and with that splendid vision and dauntless heart that kept him like a boy through all his seventy years, he bridged the gap of the development period and saw far ahead the prospect which is even now only beginning to open up dimly of a chain of winter sport centres along the main divide from Kosciusko's hoary summit to Kiandra and across the broad bosom of this peak studded plateau in every direction.

No one who has journeyed with Charles Kerry on the snow, or across the Australian plains strung after cattle, or in the upper waters of the sub-tropical rivers which he loved so well and knew so intimately can ever forget his quenchless good humor, his tireless industry, his unfailing quest for the comfort of his party, his splendid bush-craft, and his wide knowledge of all Australian subjects. This note is not intended to describe Mr. Kerry's many activities. His snow photo-

graphs are famous and form something of a memorial to him. He was well known in the commercial and business world, and in many countries. But he was chiefly dear to us by reason of his association with our beloved Snowy Mountains, and it is there that we like to think of him.

The Kerry Course will keep his memory green to those who knew him not, but to us who were his comrades in many a hard fought struggle against adverse weather in rough country and primitive conditions when the sport was new, no memorial of this great Australian will be needed.

—Percy Hunter.