

A BRILLIANT LAWYER.

Death of Dr. Donald Kerr.

Dr. Donald Kerr died at Adelaide Hospital on Monday morning of injuries he received on Saturday. He was found lying unconscious and wounded in the bathroom at his home, Ward street, North Adelaide. A funeral will be held.

Soldier and Lawyer.

The deceased was one of the brilliant young men in the South Australian legal profession. He was born at Adelaide 35 years ago, and began his education at Pulteney Grammar School, his father, the late Rev. Donald Kerr, being head master, and subsequently at St. Peter's College. He achieved great success and won many prizes, including the McCulloch history scholarship.

He graduated at law at Adelaide University in 1914, and won the Stow prize. Enlisting in 1915 with the 50th Battalion as a stretcher bearer, he first saw service in Egypt. He was later in operations at Armentieres, the Somme, and Pozieres. For bravery in the face of the enemy, Kerr was awarded the military medal, and received written congratulations from Major-Gen. Cox, commanding officer of the 4th Division. Having been wounded, he eventually arrived back in Adelaide, and resumed his law practice, obtaining the degree of Doctor of Law in 1919. He was probably the youngest in the Commonwealth to achieve that honour. After that he made distinct additions to legal libraries by his work, "The Law of the Australian Constitution," for which he received many congratulations from legal luminaries the world over. His second work, "The Australian Lands Titles—Torrens System," was placed in the hands of the Law Book Company.

Dr. Kerr served a term of office as Federal Vice-President of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Imperial League, and assisted in laying the foundations of the Federal body of the league. He was recognised as an authority on abstruse legal problems. Intensely interested in the furtherance of private enterprise, he was associated with the efforts of the Adelaide and Suburban Bus Owners' Association in the protection of private rights. His brilliant work in that direction has been well recognised. At the last State elections Dr. Kerr was a candidate for the Adelaide District in the House of Assembly, but was not successful. He has left a widow and four young children.

The loss of Dr. Kerr, as a citizen, will be deplored throughout the State. He had arranged to give evidence before the Commonwealth Constitution Commission on Saturday, and his knowledge of constitutional matters and the finer points of involved legal questions was outstanding.