William Ward

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NEWPORT

Ex-Prison Officer and Entertainer - His many friends were sorry to hear of the death in St Mary's Hospital on Thursday, at the age of 65, of Mr. William Ward, of 22 Union Street, a popular ex-member of the Parkhurst and Camp Hill prison staffs, an "Old Contemptible," and a former well-known footballer and amateur entertainer. Mr. Ward was a Birmingham man, who first came to the Island when serving in the Worcestershire Regiment at Parkhurst Barracks. He went with his regiment to Egypt and later fought with them with the rank of sergeant in the 1914-18 war in France and at Salonika, taking part in the retreat from Mons. Leaving the Army in 1919, he joined the Parkhurst Prison staff and remained in the prison service there and at Camp Hill until his retirement on pension in 1951. He had played football for his regiment, and in his early years at Parkhurst Prison he was the skilful centre-half of the Rookwood F.C. In 1921 he married Olive, second daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. O.C. Hamilton, of Chapel Street, who survives him with their two sons. Mr. Ward will be remembered as an enthusiastic supporter of Miss Nesta Meech in her successful pantomimes for charity. With his friend and fellow "Old Contemptible" Ted Fairweather, he contributed tap dancing and bones solos to a popular comedy act in which the pair appeared for some years. After leaving the prison service Mr. Ward was employed as a storeman at Messrs. J.S. White's and Co.'s shipyard at Cowes until October last, when his health failed. He became seriously ill on Boxing Day and a week later was removed to St. Mary's Hospital. After undergoing an operation at the Atkinson Morley Hospital Wimbledon, which unfortunately could not save his life, he was returned to St Mary's Hospital five days before his death. The funeral will be on Monday; service at St. John's Church at 3 p.m.