

GENERAL NOTES.

SCUTTling SHIPS.—In the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh, before Lord Kyllachy, on August 8, David Hobbs, shipbroker in Dundee, and Joseph Severn, ship-captain, were indicted for scuttling four ships off the Scotch coast, and with setting fire to a fifth in Inverkeithing Harbour—in each case with intent to defraud insurers. Hobbs pleaded guilty as to two vessels and Severn as to one. Severn appears to have been employed by Hobbs as his tool in effecting his frauds on underwriters, and in consideration of his subordinate position only received five years' penal servitude, whereas Hobbs was sentenced to seven years. No serious danger to life seems to have been involved by their operations, or the punishments would be inadequate. The *modus operandi* seems to have been the old-fashioned plan of boring holes in the ship's side, plugging them, and drawing the plugs when out at sea.

MISTAKEN IDENTIFICATION.—A very curious case has come under the notice of the Coroner for Bombay, Allan F. Turner. On Sunday week a police ramossee doing duty at the Greaves Cotton Mills at De Lisle Roads, while going his rounds discovered the body of a young Hindoo lying face downwards in a pool of water and mud by the roadside. The police caused a battaki to be beaten in the usual way, and among others the family of a man who had been missing for some days came forward. A woman at once identified the body as that of her son Sakhia Mulhari, a mill hand, about twenty years of age, and two other sons also identified it. An inquest was held in due course, and evidence was tendered to the effect that the lad was a mill hand, but had been very sick for the past two or three months. He was discharged from the Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Hospital about a fortnight before, and was then very feeble, and only able to walk with difficulty. On Saturday he was seen limping along in the direction of Curroy Road, and on the following day came the discovery made by the ramossee.—A verdict was returned in accordance with the testimony to the effect that Sakhia had come to his death by falling face downwards in a pool of mud while in a feeble state of health, and the body was then taken away to the burning ghats. Before the funeral party reached the ghat, however, a younger member of the family stopped it with the cry, 'Sakhia's come home!' And so it proved. The dead man, despite his identification by Sakhia's relatives, was not Sakhia at all; and after a second inquest had been held, he was finally disposed of as unknown.