

SUICIDE AT HAZELWOOD FROM RELIGIOUS MANIA

On Saturday the Deputy Coroner, (E.F. BLAKE, Esq.), held an inquest at Hazelwood on the body of **Frederick W. AYLING**, Mr. Thomas Alban BUTLER was foreman of the jury.

William JACOBS, secretary and manager at Hazelwood, said that deceased came there first on the 13th of October, and then remained 17 days, as he had been unwell. He seemed much better when he left. On the 7th January, his brother brought him again and said he could not get on in London, he required rest. There were 14 others in the house. They all had their meals together. Witness had had opportunities of seeing deceased many times a day. His general health seemed fairly good, but he seemed mentally depressed. He said he had committed so much sin that he did not think God would ever pardon him. Witness never saw anything strange about him. He used to go to his bed-room once or twice in the day to read his bible instead of joining the others. He lead somewhat of a retired life. Noticed nothing unusual in him the previous day. He would not go out with the other young men. He had permission to be out as long as he liked. On Friday night he did not come down to supper, and enquiry was made as to where he was. Someone said he was in his bed-room. Witness said to him on the previous day, "Well, Fred, is your father coming down tomorrow." he replied, "I hope so." Had seen his father, but was never cautioned about him, or deceased would not have been allowed to remain there. That morning he did not come down for breakfast, and one of the visitors went up, saying he would knock Fred up. He immediately came rushing down stairs and said, "Oh I am afraid Mr. AYLING has hung himself with a leather strap." Witness went upstairs and tried to undo it, but could not; it was buckled so tight. He pulled the strap over the door and found deceased quite dead and cold. He was hung over the door by a peg. Witness sent for a doctor and the police, and telegraphed to deceased's father. Deceased was of a melancholy disposition. The card produced was found on the drawers. It bore the inscription on one side, "My head my head ! My heart My heart ! May God have mercy on me. Fred. W. AYLING." on the other side was "For six long months I have been told to destroy myself. May God have mercy on me. My poor head. Save me O loving Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, Amen."

Mr. A. WOODWARD, M.R.C.S. said he was sent for at about half past eight that morning, and on going at once he found the deceased standing in the corner of the bed-room against the wall. He was quite dead and cold. There was a mark round his neck such as would be produced by strangulation. Witness had seen deceased about three times, and prescribed for him once for general debility. Deceased did not come on purpose to consult but get a certificate for his club. Noticed nothing peculiar in his manner. He said he was feeling weak.

Mr. JACOBS said the deceased was one of the brightest Christians he had ever known. He attended the Salvation Army meetings. He was perfectly temperate. The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst of unsound mind."
