

DEATH FROM A MONKEY'S BITE AT RYDE.

The Deputy Coroner (F.A. JOYCE, Esq.) held an inquest at the Royal I.W. County Hospital on Monday evening on the body of **Mary Ann ALLEN**, aged 62, who died in that institution on Saturday, as a result of a bite received from a monkey on February 12th, --Mr. George CRABB, jun., was elected foreman of the jury.

Beatrice Mary ALLEN. 13 Albert--street, Ryde , deposed that deceased was her mother and lived at the same house. On the 12th of February a monkey bit her. Deceased was playing with it . It belonged to witness's brother, who had had it since last August. It only bit her in a little place on the right arm, leaving a small mark. Deceased paid no attention to this at the time. After about three days the arm began to swell. She complained of her arm aching once or twice before that. The monkey had bitten people two or three times, but only in play. It had not been destroyed. Witness was there when the doctor was called in.

Mrs. Mary Minnie SHALES, of 10, Albert street, Ryde, said she went to see Dr. PRIDMORE with the deceased on the 17th of February. Deceased told her she had been bitten by a monkey. Next day she could not get up.

Mr. John Walter PRIDMORE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., said he was called to see the deceased on the 17th of February. He had previously attended her for an attack of influenza in January. She had recovered from that excepting for a little weakness. On the 11th she had a bite on the back of the right arm with a certain amount of swelling. The bite was about the size of a half a half-a-crown. On the following day the arm began to swell and showed symptoms of erysipelas, which he notified to the medical officer of health. Witness advised deceased to come to the Hospital. She was rather against it, but on Sunday he got her to go there. The erysipelas gradually got deeper. Erysipelas was a kind of blood poisoning. By the foreman: There were several teeth marks. He did not think it was going to be as grave as it was; most bites from animals got well.

Mr. John Gilbert COOPER, house surgeon at the Infirmary, said deceased was received there on the 23rd. Her arm was inflamed and swollen nearly up to the shoulder. On the Monday afternoon she was operated on. They had an idea of the seriousness of the case as soon as she arrived. He attributed death to blood poisoning.

The Coroner said he felt it was a case in which he was almost obliged to hold an inquiry. Probably, if the deceased had been in perfect health at the time, the effect of the bite might of passed off. He presumed that, the verdict of the jury would be that the deceased died from blood poisoning, after the bite from a monkey, in accordance with the medical evidence. Perhaps they might suggest that the monkey should be destroyed, as it seemed to have bitten other people.

The jury agreed with both the suggestions of the Coroner.
