

PAINFULLY SUDDEN DEATH IN THE STREET

On Wednesday last a very painful incident occurred in Barfield. Mr. Thomas Gilbert ELSTON, the landlord of the Victoria Tavern, Monkton-street, was walking along Barfield, when he suddenly dropped down dead. He was taken into the side entrance of one of the houses and medical assistance was sent for, and he was conveyed to his home in a cab. An inquest was held on Thursday at the Victoria Tavern, before E. F. BLAKE, Esq., the Deputy-Coroner. The jury, of which Mr. Geo. MUNDELL was foreman, having viewed the body the following evidence was taken:

Catherine ELSTON deposed that she was the widow of the deceased, who was 54 years of age. he was really a grocer by trade. Last saw the deceased alive on the previous day about noon. He said he should go to Player-street, to see a Mr. PAIN. He seemed in very good spirits. He had not had his dinner, and said he would run up and see PAIN before he had it. He had done nothing to excite himself, but had only been in the bar. He was going to see a workman about some repairs at Croydon. About 20 minutes to 1 the deceased was brought back. He was dead. About last August he suffered a little from rheumatics, but was only in bed one day. Had never known him have any other illness before since she had known him. Had never heard him complain. She had known him eight years, but they had only been married one year. Had always looked upon him as a healthy strong man.

May NEWNHAM, aged 12, of 10 Nelson-place deposed that on the previous day, about half-past 12, she was coming home from school, through Barfield, when she saw a man walking towards her. She looked back and saw him on the ground. Did not see him fall. He was lying quiet. Went over to him, and then heard a noise in his throat. A man came up and pulled him to the side of the road; and a lady who was with him rung the bell of a house and he was taken there.

Alpheus Thomas BUCK, M.B., practising at Ryde, deposed that deceased was a stranger to him. About 1 o'clock on the previous day he was summoned from a patient's house to see deceased. Found him in the side entrance to a house in Barfield. He was quite dead, and his face was congested and blue. Should think he had been dead about 10 minutes. Could not state what he died of. The fact of the little girl hearing him make a noise did not help him. Could not say whether the deceased died from poison. There was nothing in his appearance inconsistent with death from natural causes.

The Coroner, in summing up, pointed out that it was not absolutely necessary that the jury should know what the deceased had died from so long as they were satisfied it was from natural causes. If they thought there were any suspicious circumstances it would be his duty to order a *post mortem* examination, but if they were satisfied death was from natural causes there was no necessity for that.

The Foreman asked Superintendent HINKS if he knew the deceased.

Superintendent HINKS replied he had been here about a year, and had always seemed an exceedingly steady and sober man.

Mr. James TAYLOR (one of the jury) said he had known the deceased very intimately, and was quite sure he never took any drink to hurt him. He was a most steady cheerful and respectable man - not at all the man to commit suicide.

The Jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes.!"
