

**LADY'S FATAL FALL
THE INQUEST**

The circumstances relating to the sad death of Miss **Anna Maria SHAW**, 94 years of age, who succumbed to injuries she sustained by a fall at her residence, Hanover House, George Street, were inquired into by the Acting Coroner (F. J. JOYCE Esq) yesterday (Friday) in the schoolroom of the house which is also conducted as a boarding establishment.

Miss Kate SHAW, a niece, said that deceased had resided with her for a number of years and was of no occupation. She had been in very good general health and able to walk about the house though she did not go out by herself. Her eyesight had been failing for the last two years, she was very deaf and almost blind. Deceased was attended by Dr. TURNER in October but only for indisposition. On Monday evening, February 3rd they had been sitting together in the kitchen and witness was called upstairs to one of the bedrooms leaving deceased alone, and telling her she would not be many minutes. Within five minutes she heard the sound of a fall and a scream and rushing downstairs she found deceased lying on her back at the foot of the stairs. She was just able to say "pull me up." Witness noticed she was bleeding from the mouth and she had injured her nose and fractured her left wrist. She was semi-conscious afterwards and witness did not know if her sister had fallen from the top of the stairs.

The Coroner remarked that he had looked at the staircase which was quite an ordinary one, the steps being in good order, but he thought to have inflicted such injuries she must have fallen almost from the top.

Witness: I don't think so myself. Her stick was found on the third step from the bottom. I think she was going upstairs and did not place her stick firmly on the stair so slipped, but she was not able to explain. There was no obstruction or any loose carpet on the stairs. Witness added that Dr. TURNER was called in who attended deceased up to the time of her death on Wednesday, and she was well looked after.

Dr. TURNER, Sudbury, George Street, said he had attended deceased off and on for many years. n Monday night February 3rd he was called to the house and saw deceased who had been placed in a chair at the foot of the stairs where she had fallen. She was suffering from a compound fracture of her nose, her upper lip was cut in two and had two or three smaller cuts, as well as a fracture of the left wrist, and a large cut on the back of the right hand which was all very serious having regard to her great age. After three or four days she partially regained consciousness but she failed almost suddenly on the 11th and died within 24 hours. She was a robust old lady.

The Coroner: - But the shock of the fall would naturally inflict great mischief to her health?
- That is so.

The Coroner found that no blame was attributable to anybody and returned a verdict to the effect that deceased's death was due to senile decay accelerated by an accidental fall on February 3rd. He added that he was sorry he was obliged to hold an inquest, and expressed his sympathy with the relatives.
