

ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 27th August 1921

The Coroner (F.A. JOYCE, Esq) held an inquest on the body at the Primitive Methodist Schoolroom on Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs Helen BUTLER, the widow, identified the body of her husband who was 47 last birthday. Between 12 and one o'clock he left home on his bicycle accompanied by his eldest son, 17 years of age. He was accustomed to cycling. Her husband had complained of his head ever since his mother died 15 years ago and he had been subject to a kind of fit and he had had several attacks lately. He would know who was in the room but could not speak.

Edgar LANGRIDGE, 1, Quayside, Wootton Bridge, stated the accident happened about 200 yards from "Brook-lyn," at 2.40 p.m. on Sunday. He saw deceased first at Kite Hill walking by himself and he remarked "I don't know what is the matter with me but if I get on my bike I shall be alright." He was going in the direction of Ryde. Witness at his request, helped him on his machine and deceased then proceeded about 150 yards towards the holly bush, when his foot collided with the mudguard and he fell face downwards on his left side. He was 150 yards behind him, and two others were in the rear. He called to them and went to his help. Deceased was placed in the adjoining field and witness went for the police. He noticed the man was seriously injured about the left temple, his eyes, and nose.

Was no doctor sent for? - There was not one within four miles each way.

He gave no reason when asking you to help him on his bicycle? - No.

The bicycle, an ordinary roadster was produced, and witness said deceased only travelled at about 5 miles an hour.

P.C. LUCKETT, stationed at Wootton, deposed that on Sunday afternoon about 2.50 he was near Kite-hill, and was informed by the last witness that deceased had fallen off his bicycle. He proceeded to the place and found BUTLER lying in a field near the hedge, unable to speak and bleeding very slowly from the nose and mouth. Witness obtained a cart, and he was taken to the County Hospital where he was attended by the House Surgeon.

The Coroner observed that they were without medical evidence as the doctor had left the Hospital and he had a note from him apologising for his absence as he had to resume work at some other place. He however had his statement which he proceeded to read.

This was to the effect that deceased was admitted at 4 p.m. on Sunday and was unconscious when admitted and never regained consciousness. There was a fracture on the right of the skull also of the left temple. The cause of death in his opinion was cerebral hemorrhage and shock.

Ivy HILL, night sister at the County Hospital, stated the deceased's wounds were dressed by the House Surgeon and he was placed in her charge. He was badly bruised and there was a small wound above the left eye and was bleeding through his ears.

The police stated with regard to deceased's son who accompanied him from home that the latter left his father at Wootton Bridge at 1.30 and rode home.

The Coroner considered the case was abundantly cleared and he recorded a verdict that deceased died from his injuries caused by accidentally falling from his bicycle.
