

AN INQUEST

.....was held on Tuesday morning at the Gem Inn, Hill-street, before Mr. E. F. BLAKE, deputy-coroner, and a jury of which Mr. John LEWIS was foreman, on the body of Miss **Jane HARBOUR**, a young woman in the employ of Mr. Jabez HUGHES, photographer, who died suddenly on Saturday morning last.

– Several witnesses were examined at great length, Mr. James ETHERINGTON, artist, employed by Mr. Jabez HUGHES, deposing that the deceased lodged with him and wife, living as one of the family. She was in delicate health. On Friday night she went to bed as usual, and came down the following morning before eight o'clock. She went to the front room where witness was, and sat down leaning against the piano. She then burst out crying, and said she was dying. Witness called his wife to his assistance, and they laid deceased on the sofa, and administered water, vinegar and brandy, but to no purpose. A Miss HACKETT was sent for who quickly came, and afterwards Dr. LOWDER. When the doctor came, deceased was quite dead. She lived on the best of terms with witness and his wife, and there had never been any quarrel between them. The mark on deceased's eye, was caused, she told him, by her having struck it against a door.

– Mrs. ETHERINGTON corroborated the foregoing evidence, adding she went into deceased's room on Saturday morning, when deceased told her she had passed a very bad night, and should not go to work. Witness took her up a cup of tea, and she got better, came downstairs, and intended to go to business as usual. Deceased had been suffering from consumption, and had been to several medical men for treatment.

– Miss Maria HACKETT, a young lady also working at Mr. Jabez HUGHES', and living opposite Mr. ETHERINGTON'S, said deceased had never complained to her of being uncomfortable in her lodgings. Deceased at times appeared to be low-spirited, but never gave any reason for being so.

– Dr LOWDER said he was sent for on Saturday morning and went at once to Mr. ETHERINGTON'S where he saw deceased lying on a sofa, quite dead. She had been dead for about three quarters of an hour. He had attended deceased for consumption several times, and thought it a hopeless case. He had told deceased there was no hope for her recovery, and this might account for her being low-spirited at times. He thought deceased had had a fit before she died. She rallied from the fit, and fainted, from which she did not rally. She might have rallied from the faint, had brandy been administered copiously, or had deceased's body been laid down perfectly flat. Faints were dangerous, and the body should be laid down as flat as possible. He had examined the body of deceased, and found no marks upon it, except a slight discoloration of one of the eyes, but that had nothing whatever to do with death.

– Mr. W. J. COOMBES, an upholsterer of Monkton-street, deposed that he was engaged to be married to deceased, who was in delicate health. On Friday night he went for a walk with deceased, who appeared to be in her usual health and spirits. On Sunday week, witness was to have gone to Ventnor with deceased, but she sent to tell him she could not go, being too unwell. He went alone, and on his return met deceased at the railway station. She told him she was prevented from going to Ventnor, through having a black eye. She appeared to have been crying, and after being pressed for some time, said the injury to her eye was caused by Mr. ETHERINGTON'S hand.

– Mr. ETHERINGTON re-called said that on the Sunday mentioned he was going out, and deceased and his wife hid his hat. Deceased ran away with the hat and hid it. He went after her and caught hold of her, himself, wife and deceased having a romp together. If he had hit deceased's eye, it was a pure accident, and not done intentionally. –

After a brief summing up, the jury returned a verdict of "Death from Natural Causes."