

FATAL ACCIDENT TO AN OLD MAN
AT RYDE.

An inquest was held at the County Hospital by the Acting Deputy-Coroner (J. ELDRIDGE Esq.) on Monday afternoon on the body of **William HAYLES**, a pensioner, aged 72, of St. John's-road, Ryde, who died in that Institution on Saturday afternoon. Mr. G.H. MORRIS was the foreman of the jury.

Albert Edward TUTTON, School-street, Oakfield, deposed that he was coachman to Dr. PRIDMORE. He was driving down High-street on Friday the 23rd of June between 10 and 11 o'clock, he drew in on the near-side, there being two vans outside Mr. BUTLER'S shop. Deceased was walking in the road. As witness got to him he stepped on the pavement, just as the horse got by, he stepped off the pavement, the lamp catching him and knocking him down in the gutter. Witness was only just going a little over a walking pace at the time. He and the Doctor picked up deceased, put him in the trap, and took him to the Infirmary. Witness was obliged to go near the pavement to pass the vans. They were both going the same way and he did not think deceased noticed him. Witness pulled up within a horse's length.

Mr. John Walter PRIDMORE, surgeon, said he happened to be looking at the deceased when the accident happened. He was walking in the gutter and after stepping on the pavement stepped off again immediately. The lamp caught him in the small of the back and threw him forward. there was no opportunity to pull up. Deceased would have heard the trap had he not been deaf. It was a most regrettable incident and witness was very sorry for it, but it was a thing that could not have been prevented. Deceased did not seem to fall with any force ; he was a heavy man.

Cyril LINDEN, photographer, deposed that he witnessed the accident from the steps of his shop. He saw Dr. PRIDMORE'S trap coming down the street. deceased was on the pavement when witness first saw him. As the trap passed him he deliberately stepped off and the lamp of the vehicle caught him in the back. He fell on his face, but not very heavily. Someone caught hold of the horse's head and it commenced to back. Deceased called out and witness thought the animal might of kicked him ; but he was not certain about it.

By a juror, (Mr. H. MORRIS): When someone got hold of the horse's head it appeared to be frightened.

By the Coroner : He considered that the trap was going at a moderate pace.

Dr. PRIDMORE recalled, said he did not think the horse touched the deceased Mr. Duncan M. JOHNSTON, surgeon at the County Hospital, said he saw the deceased for the first time on the 6th of July. He was suffering from large wounds on both knees and bed sores on the back. He was demented nearly all the time he was in the Institution. Death took place on Saturday afternoon, from exhaustion due to injuries. They would probably have not caused death to a younger or healthy man.

By the juror (Mr. H. MORRIS) : There was no injury to the head. As far as he knew, deceased was not kicked by a horse.

By the Coroner : All injuries were of a superficial character. He should regard the deceased as a feeble man and mentally deficient. The Coroner said no doubt the deceased inadvertently stepped in front of the Doctor's carriage : his unfortunate deafness contributing to the accident.

Mr. H. MORRIS said it seemed to him that this was the first of what might be a series of accidents in the narrow part of High-street, where the traffic had greatly increased.

The jury returned the verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, acquitting Dr. PRIDMORE of all blame in the matter.