

Death Notice:-

SMITH: On September 29th, at 3, St. Thomas' Square, suddenly from heart failure, **Tennison Norman**, eldest son of the late Tennison SMITH, aged 41

CHEMIST'S TRAGIC DEATH

INQUEST AND VERDICT

We regret to record the death of Mr. **Tennison Norman SMITH**, chemist and druggist, 3, St. Thomas' Square, which occurred with suddenness soon after closing his shop on Monday evening. His assistant found him lying on the floor behind the counter breathing heavily and unconscious, and he passed away within a few minutes. The deceased was a single man, 42 years of age, and his mother who resided with him left for London on a short visit on Friday evening, so not in the house when the sad event occurred. It was deemed advisable to conduct a post mortem examination of the body as the deceased had complained of insomnia and was known occasionally to take sleeping draughts. There were also found certain tubes of morphine sulphate in Mr. SMITH'S pocket but at the inquest on Tuesday evening it was shown that these had nothing to do with the death, which was attributable to heart disease. The inquiry was conducted by the Acting Coroner (Mr. W.H.P.F. THIRKELL), who sat at the Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, High-Street without a jury.

William George SKOULDING, of 125 Newmarket-Road, Norwich, said he was a qualified chemist acting as locum at the deceased's in place of an assistant on holiday. He had known deceased for 3 ½ years and had been on and off with him several times during that period, living in the house: He identified the body as that of Mr. Tennison Norman SMITH, who had lived with his mother for a considerable time. The latter left on Friday for London and had been unable to return owing to the railway strike. Witness saw deceased on Monday evening about 8.15 when he appeared in his usual state of health. He knew he was a bad sleeper and had told witness that he occasionally took sleeping draughts but he had never seen him take one nor made one up for him. Any peculiarities he noticed in him he put down to his indulging in too much drink. Witness saw him serve a customer and when witness returned in a quarter of an hour he did not see his employer but going behind the counter he discovered him lying on the floor with a bottle of medicine wrapped up, with prescription beside him. Deceased must have fallen just after he sealed it. He breathed heavily several times but was quite unconscious, witness procured a pillow and deceased expired within a few minutes. He telephoned for Dr. DAVIES who arrived promptly.

Frederick HATCHER, labourer, Osborne Cottage, Pellhurst-Road, said that on Monday evening at about 8.30., he went into deceased's shop for a bottle of medicine. Deceased complained of him being late and seemed very nervous and cross, his hands trembling. He was waiting some minutes for the bottle during which he conversed and the last words he said were "Good night."

Police-Sergt. REES stated he was called to the shop and found the body of deceased behind the counter, life being extinct. Dr. DAVIES was present. With assistance he removed the body to a bedroom on the first floor. On examining his clothes he found several tubes of morphine sulphate, six full, one half full, and two empty, for a hyperdermic application in his waistcoat pocket and a

packet of seven tubes in the left side pocket. There were letters from his mother but nothing in the deceased's own handwriting.

The witness SKOULDING, recalled said he could not account for the tabloids being found on the body except that on Sunday deceased was removing a quantity of these goods from cases and probably placed a few in his pocket as samples. He did not know that he was in the habit of carrying them about with him.

Dr. DAVIES said he was well acquainted with deceased and for years past had attended him but not recently. He knew him to be a man in indifferent health. About two or three years ago witness suggested he took a drug which deceased denied. Witness had conducted a post mortem in conjunction with Dr. HORSBURG and found deceased was suffering from an enlarged and dilated heart and muscular degeneration. The stomach was practically empty but healthy and he attached no importance to the tabloids found upon him. If the deceased had died from morphia it would not had been a sudden death like this and he attributed death to natural causes and diseased condition of his heart - a flabby heart. There was no mark of a syringe or indication of morphia by hyperdermic application.

The verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned

(Also in the IW Observer Sat 11th October 1919 page 2 - no further information)

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 9th October 1919 page 2

THE LATE MR. T.N. SMITH

The funeral of the late Mr. **Tennison Norman SMITH**, chemist, St. Thomas' Square, took place on Friday afternoon. The first part of the service was held at All Saints' Parish Church, the Rev. H. D. CAESAR officiating there and at the graveside. The mourners included Miss SMITH (sister), Mrs. Conway SMITH (sister-in-law), and Mr. W.G. SKOULDING. Among those at the Church and cemetery were Dr. J.D. DAVIES, Messrs. W. DORE, J.G. DUFFETT, F.B. HOLT, A. LOWE, BARFORD, J. TRENT (representing the Conservative Club), Miss PERKINS, Miss Dora ADAMS, Miss TUFNELL and others. There were many beautiful floral tributes, including one from the Conservative Club.

Researched & typed by

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