

INQUEST
Elderly Lady's Fatal Fall

A verdict of congestion of the lungs, following shock and injuries to her head and back, sustained when she accidentally fell down stairs, was recorded by the Island Coroner (Mr. R. E. A. WEBSTER) at an inquest held on Miss **Emma GRIST** at the County Hospital on Saturday. Miss GRIST, who lived at 33 Swanmore-road, and was 93 years of age, died at the Hospital on Thursday of last week following her admission the previous day.

The Police were represented at the inquest by Sergt. R. BURRIDGE.

Dr. B. B. FAZACKERLEY stated that when Miss GRIST was admitted to hospital on January 25th she was in a shocked and very restless condition, and complained of pain in her back. The back of her head and bridge of her nose were bruised, and later her eyes became black. It was his opinion that her skull was fractured, and he also thought she had fractured ribs. On the following day she contracted congestion of the lungs, and died that evening.

At Foot of Stairs

Mrs. Elsie WEEKS, J.P., of West Street Post Office, Ryde, gave evidence that Miss GRIST, who was the aunt of her husband, Ald. H. W. O. WEEKS, J.P., had lived alone, but there was a communicating door between the two houses. Witness visited Miss GRIST several times a day. On January 25th witness had tea with Miss GRIST, who was then well and active. At 8 p.m. witness went into the house again and found deceased half sitting and half lying against the wall near the foot of the stairs. Her head was bleeding considerably and she seemed in a semi-conscious state. Miss GRIST usually carried a torch as there was no light on the stairs. The light from downstairs would shine about halfway up the staircase. That evening a hot water bottle was found lying at the top of the stairs and an electric torch was halfway up.

Mrs. Florence Elizabeth GRAY, of 32 Swanmore-road, Ryde, said she had been daily help to Miss GRIST for 23 years, and when she left her at 7.15 a.m. on January 25th she seemed well. Miss GRIST was unsteady on her legs and nearly blind.
