

Married Woman Sad End

The Deputy Coroner for the Island (Mr. F.A. JOYCE), attended at the I,W, County Hospital on Tuesday last for the purpose of conducting an enquiry into the death of **Caroline BARTON**, a married woman, of Arthur Street, Ryde, who had been lying at the institution for the three weeks preceding her death on Saturday. Mr. W. GRIMSDICK was chosen foreman of the jury.

The evidence of the husband, Ernest BARTON, was to the effect that on Saturday, February 17th, on his return home from work, he found his entrance blocked. He pushed the door open and got in with difficulty, and found his wife lying on her right side just inside the door. Witness dragged her into the room and laid her on the sofa. Whilst he was having tea deceased fell off the sofa. She did not recover and he remained with her until eight o'clock. He then went and returned at 10 o'clock. Deceased was still the same. He did not go for a doctor because deceased was addicted to drink and he thought she was suffering from one of her usual attacks. He thought she would sleep it off and come round. He slept with deceased until about two o'clock, when he found there was no change in deceased's condition. She was breathing heavily, and he had not seen her so bad before, he laid down until about a quarter to six. As her condition did not alter he went for Dr. PRIDMORE between seven and eight. The doctor came a little later and also between twelve and one o'clock, when deceased was removed to the hospital. She died on Saturday morning. Witness saw no signs on the staircase to indicate that deceased had met with a fall. Deceased had had several falls in the course of the last few years, having fallen down the cellar at the "Elephant and Castle" some years ago. Witness found several things smashed on the floor near the spot where he found deceased. The next door people said they heard deceased fall shortly after the smash occurred. As it was no heavier than usual, they took no notice. Deceased had apparently been wiping up cups and saucers and plates.

Charles WHITNEY, 13, Wray Street, Swanmore, coal merchant, said that deceased was his sister. He last saw deceased alive on February 13th between eleven and twelve o'clock at her house. Deceased told him that she had pains in her head. She was perfectly sober at the time. Witness's sister-in-law was with her and witness was informed that she left at about two o'clock.

Emily Elizabeth COX, manager at the "Brewer's Arms," High Street, Ryde, said that deceased came to the house between two and three on the afternoon of Saturday, February 13th. Witness thought she was under the influence of drink, and deceased asked to be served with brandy and witness refused to serve her. She also refused to serve deceased with beer. Deceased remained in the house about twenty minutes. Deceased had been in the house between eleven and twelve and had a half-pint of beer. She was then sober and was going shopping.

Dr. J.W. PRIDMORE stated that he attended the deceased on Sunday, February 17th. He found her on the sofa in the front room and examined her there. He found no wounds; but thought it was possible she had sustained slight concussion, and ordered her to be put to bed, if she had had a drink it would of made her more comatose. He called again after mid-day and, seeing no improvement, ordered deceased's removal to the Hospital.

Dr. J.R. MITCHELL, house surgeon at the County Hospital said that deceased was brought to the institution on Sunday, the 14th inst. He examined her on arrival when she was still unconscious. Next morning a bruise had appeared on the left side of her head at the front. The left eye was puffy and blackened slightly. Deceased afterwards developed paralysis on the right side, indicating a brain injury. Deceased did not recover sufficiently to be able to speak, although she attempted to do so more than one occasion. He made a post-mortem examination and found on the surface of the brain just underlying the scalp, a very large blood clot, at about the spot where the bruise had been. It might have been produced by apoplexy, but he thought it did not in this case, because it exactly corresponded in position with the bruise. The brain surface was lacerated. Otherwise the blood vessels of the brain were fairly healthy.

The Deputy Coroner said that had it come to the knowledge of the police that the neighbours had heard the deceased fall one of them would have been called. He did not think however that that evidence could have carried them any further and he did not intend to call them. The Deputy Coroner went on to express the opinion that the doctor had rightly deduced that the deceased had suffered a brain injury,

although it is quite possible that she had an apoplectic seizure. There seemed to be some doubt as to whether the injury was sustained by deceased falling downstairs, or whether she had met with the injury in another part of the house and had struggled to the spot she was found to have fallen, the point however, was not material, as it was evident from the fact that there was no one else in the house at the time that the fall must have been an accident. He did not think the case required a comment,

The jury brought a verdict that death resulted from injuries sustained accidentally.

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