

**SUDDEN DEATH OF  
MR. R. COURTNEY DERRY  
AT RYDE.**

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. Richard Courtney DERRY, which occurred with painful suddenness at his residence, Eden Lodge, St. John's-park, Ryde, on Sunday morning. Mr. DERRY had apparently just got out of his bath when he fell and died. He was missed by the household, and later the sad discovery was made. Mr. DERRY was 76 years of age, and although he was not born in the Island, he had lived in Ryde for considerably over 30 years. It was his custom to travel to and from Ventnor, where he practised as a solicitor. He also had an office at Sandown. He was very well known in professional circles in the Island, and was much esteemed in Ryde, where so many of his old friends lived. The news of his death was learned with a shock of surprise by all. His public appointments included that of secretary of the I.W. Waterworks Company, Sandown. He leaves a widow and daughters, his only son, who left tea planting in Ceylon to enlist, having been killed in Gallipoli.

Our Ventnor correspondent writes : 'The death of Mr. DERRY recalls his many associations with the history of Ventnor, when it was in the height of prosperity. With the late Mr. W. Mew JUDD, Mr. DERRY was one of the secretaries of the old Ventnor regatta, and both were active workers in these popular events of 40 years ago. Mr. DERRY was also associated with Mr. JUDD in founding the County and Castle Club, of which he was the oldest member at the time of his death. They were the secretaries of the race meeting organised during the visit of the late EMPRESS of AUSTRIA, which took place on Rew Down, and Mr. DERRY, who ran a horse in one of the races, was introduced to Her Imperial Highness. The news of Mr. DERRY's death was received with profound sorrow in the town, where he was at business only on the previous day. The loss of his son a few months ago was naturally a great blow to one advancing in years. Lieut. DERRY gave up a lucrative post in Ceylon and came to England to enlist. Mr. DERRY will be greatly missed at the Castle Club. On Thursday, the day of the funeral, the flag at the Club flew at half-mast.

The Deputy Coroner (Francis A. JOYCE, Esq.) held an inquest at the house on Wednesday morning. Mr. H. WAITE was foreman of the jury. – The Coroner said he was very sorry they had occasion to be called together to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the death of an old and very respected solicitor like the deceased. The late Mr. DERRY appeared to have been in his usual health on the 13<sup>th</sup>. He went to have his bath in the morning and was later found dead in the bath-room.

Dr. J. D. DAVIES, who saw the body shortly afterwards, had formed his conclusion as to the cause of death, and he would give evidence as to what that conclusion was. If the jury were satisfied with it they would be able to give their verdict at once, and a post-mortem examination would not be necessary. Having regard to deceased's age, they would possibly consider that an expression of opinion from Dr. DAVIES would be sufficient to enable them to come to a conclusion.

Ada YEATES, a domestic in the employ of the deceased, said she last saw Mr. DERRY alive at about 8.45 on Sunday morning; he was then going into the bath-room. It was his custom to have a warm bath. She was with Miss DERRY when she found him lying on his side in the bath-room at about 10 o'clock. He had had his bath and had begun to dress. In reply to the Coroner, witness said Mr. DERRY was out on Saturday.

Miss Mabel Henrietta Powell DERRY, deceased's daughter, gave evidence of identification, and said her father had his bath as usual on Sunday morning. He did not call

for his breakfast, and witness went to the bath-room. Deceased was lying on the floor dead. He had enjoyed quite good health.

Dr. J. D. DAVIES said the last time he attended deceased professionally was about three or four years ago. He was sent for on Sunday morning and went to the house directly. The deceased was lying in the bath-room quite dead. There was a gash on the left side of the forehead and a cut on the nose – such injuries as a man would get from a sudden fall. He came to the conclusion that the deceased died suddenly from heart failure. He must have dropped down dead, and the cuts on the face were caused after the heart had stopped beating. He was very plethoric, and witness knew that his heart was affected. About a fortnight ago he complained to him of shortness of breath.

The Coroner observed that that might be due to increasing age and heart failure. He informed the jury that it was within their right to ask for a post-mortem examination, but in the case of aged persons he did not think such a course necessary. Having regard to all the circumstances, he thought one could fairly diagnose what the person died from. He was content to accept the opinion of Dr. DAVIES that death was due to disease of the heart. – The jury returned a verdict that death was due to fatty degeneration of the heart. – The foreman expressed the jury's sympathy with the family, and the Coroner concurred.

The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon, the first part of the service being held at St. John's Church, the Vicar (the Rev. Wilson PEARCE) officiating. The mourners were Miss DERRY and Mrs. FREEMAN (daughters), Col. POWELL, Miss DERRY (sister), and Sergt. FREEMAN, K.R.R. (son-in-law). The coffin was of light polished oak, panelled and moulded, and the inscription on the plate was : "Richard Courtney DERRY, died Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1916, aged 76 years." Among those present at the church were Col. W. T. ARNELL, J.P (chairman of the I.W. Waterworks Co.), Mr. A. W. DREW, Newport (representing the I.W. Law Society), Mr. J. MARSH (Sandown), Mr. J. BAILEY (Shanklin), Mr. H. J. OSBORNE, Mr. W. C. PEARCE, and Capt. BAILEY. The choice floral tributes included the following : Bartholomew, Gidley, Derry, and family; mother, Mabel, Ruth. Heather, and Jim; Col. Leslie POWELL; Mrs. FREEMAN and family; Mrs. Beverley HAWKING; Miss M. B. HAWKING; the directors and staff of the I.W. Waterworks Co.; members of the County and Castle Club; Mr. and Mrs. F. Grove POWELL; Ruth; and Ada.

Messrs PURNELL and PURNELL carried out the funeral arrangements.

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