

RYDE BURNING FATALITY.

On Friday afternoon the Acting Coroner for the Island (Mr. F. A. JOYCE) held an inquest at the Ryde Town Hall touching the death of Miss Maria Flower DONISTHORPE, aged 74, the victim of a burning accident.

Mr. Howard WORDSWORTH, dental surgeon Denbigh House, George Street, stated that the deceased was his aunt, and resided with him. For the last three months she had been confined to her bedroom through ill health, but was able to attend to herself. On Tuesday evening, shortly after 8 o'clock, he discovered a cloud of smoke coming downstairs, and he rushed up to his aunt's bedroom where he saw her sitting on the edge of the bed. All her clothing was gone and it would appear that she had torn it off. The fireguard was on. Deceased had been in the habit of attending to the fire although warned not to do so. She had evidently been wearing a flannelette jacket over a light dress of the same material. He had repeatedly cautioned her against wearing flannelette. They could not get from the deceased how the accident happened beyond that she had been near the fire.

Mrs. ALLEN, housekeeper to the last witness said she took some water to the deceased about 20 minutes to 8 so that she could wash previous to having her evening meal. The witness was unable to tell that Acting Coroner anything about the quality of the flannelette the deceased was wearing.-

A Juror (Mr. G. HALSTED) the better the flannelette the less inflammable it was. If the material was rinsed in a solution of alum it would lessen if not entirely obviate the danger. The Acting Coroner said the suggestion seemed to be a valuable one.

Dr. F. J. WADHAM said the deceased was severely burnt all over the surface of the body especially on the hands, arms, face and head.

The jury returned a verdict of death from shock arising from accidental burning and expressed sympathy with Mr. WORDSWORTH.
