

DEATH FROM EXTREME WEAKNESS.

An inquest was held on Saturday afternoon, by the coroner for the Island (E.F. BLAKE, Esq), at the Royal Sovereign, Castle Street, touching the death of **Matilda Jane LININGTON**, 45 years, wife of Mr W. LININGTON, labourer, of Union road. - Mr W. YOUNG was foreman of the jury.

Ada LININGTON, daughter of the deceased, deposed that her mother had not been properly well for the last six years. She had been much worse since witness's brother was drowned. She didn't feel any worse than usual on Tuesday, and went to an entertainment. On Wednesday she felt worse, and complained of a pain near her heart. She went to bed about 10 o'clock that night. Her father was with her. She did not get up on Thursday, and in the morning she drank a little tea, but refuse all food. She did not speak the rest of the day. She seemed too weak to speak. They had oranges and cakes, but she was unable to touch them. No one came to see her till the afternoon, when a neighbour, Mrs YOUNG, came in. Witness's father was out all day seeking for work. He had been out of work for a long time. When Mrs YOUNG came, she sent for a nurse, Mrs MATTHEWS, who sent for Dr. BRERETON, who brought medicine for deceased. Her cousin offered deceased anything she wished, but she could not eat. Her father came home at 7, and her mother died at 20 minutes past 7. Deceased could have had what she liked, but could not eat.

Dr. George BRERETON, practising at Ryde, said the deceased was a stranger to him. When he saw her on Thursday she was totally unconscious, and seemed to be perfectly bloodless. He was told no one had been with her all day. He immediately went round to the chemist's to get something to rally her, but deceased could not swallow. She was suffering from serous apoplexy, caused by an extremely impoverished state of the system and blood. Her state was quite compatible with a long illness and other causes mentioned by the daughter. The body was thin, but fairly well nourished. There were no signs of starvation, but he thought if she had been better nourished, she might have lived.

The Coroner, in summing up, said owing to the husband of the deceased being out of work perhaps the woman did not get the quantity of nourishment which one in her state of health required. It was for them to consider whether there was any criminal neglect on the part of the husband, or such neglect as was deserving of censure.

After consulting in private, the jury desired that Mrs MATTHEWS should be called.

Louisa MATTHEWS, a widow, residing at 43, Warwick Street, stated that she was a nurse, and had known deceased for several years. She generally suffered from weakness. She had had 17 children. The last time she saw her was on Saturday, the 14th, and she appeared (as she always did) weak and ill, and did not eat anything. Witness did not think she was in a dangerous condition. Had never known Mr LININGTON to ill-treat his wife.

Dr. BRERETON mentioned that there was no food in the house when he arrived.

Witness. - People tell falsehoods, Sir.

The Deputy-Coroner did not think there was any evidence of wilful neglect, but whether the poor woman might not have lived if she had had proper attention was another matter.

The Foreman thought the children did what they could for deceased

A verdict of "Death from natural causes" was returned.
