

THIRTY-THREE YEARS AT LICENSED HOUSE

Yesterday afternoon the Acting Coroner for the Isle of Wight (Mr. F. A. JOYCE) held an inquest at the Mission Hall, Monkton-street, touching the death of David THOMSON, aged 75 years, the licensee of the "Commercial Inn," St. John's-road, who met with his death through falling downstairs.

Robert WILLIAMS, labourer of Harding-road, Oakfield, deposed that he was in the bar of the "Commercial Inn" about 11.45 on Thursday morning. He heard a heavy fall, and opening the door saw the deceased lying at the bottom of the staircase face downwards. He never moved, and witness noticed a deep gash in his left temple and blood was coming from his mouth and nostrils. With the assistance of another man he picked the deceased up, and they placed him on the couch in the parlour. For an old man deceased was not feeble. Although he had been in the house for half an hour had not seen the deceased before. There was no noise before the fall.

William Henry NEWMAN, jobbing gardener, Weeks, confirmed the previous witness's evidence. He saw the deceased pottering about the garden before going into the house, and he seemed all right.

Rosina CASTLE, a niece, said she was in the parlour with Mrs. THOMSON when she heard a fall. She and her aunt at once went out and saw what had already been described. Deceased was going upstairs to lie down. It was rather dark at the top of the stairs. He had been at the "Commercial Inn" 33 years come next October.

Dr. J. W. PRIDMORE said he was passing the house in his motor-car when he was called in to see the deceased. The gash in the left temple was fairly dry. He should think death was due to a fractured skull. Bleeding from the mouth and nose pointed the fracture being at the base of the skull.

By the Foreman: It was conceivable that deceased might have had a seizure.

A Juror (Mr. DAVIS) said he saw good deal the deceased, and of late noticed that he was very tender on his feet.

The Acting Coroner said it occurred to him that the top the stairs was dangerous. The jury returned a verdict of "Death from accidental fall," and recommended that it be suggested to the owners of the inn that the stairs were rather dangerous and more light was needed on the landing.
