

RYDE MAN'S SUDDEN DEATH

John Charles JAMES, a marine-store dealer, who lived at Bedworth-Place, died suddenly in the street on Monday. He was well known to many people in the town, and especially to those who attend auction sales, where his humorous encounters with the auctioneer often enlivened the proceedings.

The inquest was held at the Primitive Methodist Schoolroom on Tuesday, before Mr. F.A. JOYCE, The Deputy Coroner, Mr. William WOOD being chosen foreman of the jury.

Harriett JAMES, the widow, said when deceased left home on the previous morning at nine o'clock he seemed his usual good health and spirits. For some time past he had been suffering from biliousness, especially so on the previous Thursday. On the Friday he felt much better, and got up and went out. When he was so bad he also complained of headache. He was rather depressed through bad trade. She had not called in a doctor to see him because he had always suffered from biliousness.

Alfred NEW, Clair-View, Upton-Road, labourer, said he saw deceased pushing a barrow up Dover-Street on Monday afternoon, just after one o'clock. He spoke to the deceased, but received no answer. Within two seconds of his speaking deceased fell back on the ground. Witness ran to him and asked him if he could get up, but received no answer. A Mr. COOPER came along, and with him witness decided to send for a doctor. In a few minutes Dr. BANKS came and examined the deceased. As the deceased was coming up the street he seemed to be in just his usual good spirits. The barrow was empty.

Dr. Spencer CHURCHILL, Melville-Street, deposed that he was called between one and two o'clock the previous day to see the deceased, whom he found lying in the road in Dover-Street. Dr. BANKS had then already arrived. Witness examined deceased's heart and eyes, and found life extinct. He had since made a post mortem examination of the body. On examining the brain he found there was meningitis present. There was an enlargement and hardening of the liver, such as one would find in the case of excessive drinking. The heart showed nothing that could explain the sudden death of the deceased. Meningitis might be caused by many things, particularly by tuberculosis, but witness found no evidence of that present; also he did not think death was caused through that because deceased could do his work. He should imagine that meningitis had existed for some days. It was a little difficult in this case to say why death was caused by meningitis. There was, of course, a kind of heat stroke, called asphyxial form of heat apoplexy, which caused sudden death.

A juror remarked that at the time of the deceased's death it was very hot and close. Witness, continuing, said he should say death was caused from natural causes, probably meningitis.

Summing up, the Coroner said he thought they might adopt the evidence of the doctor. The jury brought their verdict that death was caused from natural causes, probably meningitis.
