

### OLD MAN'S SUDDEN DEATH

Mr. F.A. JOYCE, Deputy Coroner held an inquest at the Police Station on Saturday afternoon, touching the death of **Robert Price LILLEY**, aged about 72 years, which occurred suddenly whilst walking in Hill-street at 4. 30 p.m. the previous day.

The Coroner stated that the deceased's wife was not in a state to attend, but she had previously said that deceased had not been attended by a doctor for many years.

Mrs Kate DALTON, wife of William DALTON, gardener, living at 35, Hill-street, Ryde, said that she had known deceased well by sight for about twelve months. He lived at 34, Swanmore-road, and was about 72 years old. Deceased earned a livelihood by doing rustic work. On Friday afternoon, about 4.30, was at her front gate looking down Hill Street when she saw deceased leaning heavily on his stick in his right hand, and trying to catch the railings with his left. Thinking he was ill she ran to him and should she walk from there, or should she help him to the "Gem" public-house. Deceased said the "Gem" Mr. PERKIS helped her get deceased to the "Gem" which was near at hand, and deceased died as they were putting him into a chair. Deceased said nothing further and gave no indication of any pain. It was about ten minutes after she saw deceased when he died.

James Henry PERKIS, builder, of 13, Hill-street, said that his attention was directed to deceased by the last witness who had just got to him. Deceased was leaning against the wall, and witness went to his assistance. He heard no conversation between deceased and the last witness. They took him to the "Gem" where he immediately expired. Witness had seen deceased about a week before when he appeared to be in his usual health. In answer to the Foreman of the Jury, who asked if the witness knew anything as regards deceased's general health, witness said that he had been informed that deceased was often taken suddenly ill.

Dr. Phillip TURNER said he was called to the "Gem" Hill-street, on Friday afternoon and saw deceased sitting in a chair outside the public house, dead. There was no mark of injury or anything of that kind on the body. The appearance of the body decided witness that deceased died suddenly of a degenerated heart. Having a bad cough, and going up the hill with his heart in such a condition, caused deceased's death.

The jury thought that no post-mortem examination was necessary and returned a verdict of "death from heart failure."

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*NB: We noted the discrepancy with the middle and surname. Although the above newspaper report reads Robert Price LILLEYy, all official records state **Robert Pryce LILLY**.*