

RYDE LADY'S ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

Having recovered sufficiently from her self-inflicted wounds, Mrs Anna Leopoldine BOCQUET, widow, aged 66, of 61, Union Street, Ryde, was brought before the Bench on Monday, charged with, on the 24th of April, attempting to commit suicide by cutting her throat with a knife.

Prisoner's son – Mr. Charles Emile BOCQUET, of Bedford Street, Leamington Spa, said on the 25th of April he received the following letter, in the handwriting of his mother, by post:-

61 Union Street,
April 24th, 1914.

Dear Charlie,

When this reaches you I will be no more. You will find my body in the bathroom. The best way to get in is by asking the lady at 61a to let you get over the fence. By pushing the latch of the kitchen window you will have no difficulty. Have me buried as quick and as economically as possible. No flowers. Nothing. If you cannot come please send this letter to Messrs. Letts, Bros. Sorry to give you all this trouble, but I can't bear this trouble, worry any longer.

Your distracted mother – BOCQUET

In consequence of the letter he at once journeyed to Ryde. He went to 61, Union Street, where he failed to gain admission. He then went to the police.

P.S. REES stated that on Saturday, April 25th, about 5 p.m., in consequence of the letter produced being handed to him at the Police Station he went to 61, Union Street, accompanied by the last witness. Being unable to get in at the front or side he went through 61A, climbed over the fence and entered the premises by the scullery door. He searched the premises and found the accused lying in a bath in the bathroom on the second floor, with her throat cut. He said to her "Are you alive?" She replied "Yes, I want to die. I made two attempts last night. I have no money or food." He at once telephoned to Dr. TURNER, who arrived shortly afterwards. On prisoner being medically examined other injuries were found – a very severe cut on the inside of the left thigh and a cut across the left wrist. Dr. TURNER bound up her injuries and ordered her removal to the hospital. Witness conveyed her there, where she was seen by the House Surgeon and detained.

The knife produced witness found on a chair by the side of the bath; also the poker (produced) on the floor. The knife was blood-stained. This morning he brought her from the hospital to the Police Station. On being charged she made no reply.

Mrs Clara Jessie HARBOUR, wife of James HARBOUR, of Brunswick Street, Ryde, said she had been employed by the police in watching the prisoner at the Royal I.W. County Hospital since April 27th. A few days after her admission to the hospital prisoner made a voluntary statement, and told witness that she did not wish to live; that she had made four attempts to cut her throat, twice to drown herself, and then she beat her head with a poker.

Peter WARD, the House Surgeon at the Royal I.W. County Hospital, said he received the prisoner at the hospital on the 25th of April. He found her suffering from three cuts across the throat, a large wound on the left thigh, and a small cut across the left wrist. She had lost a good deal of blood, and at the time was very weak. The wounds could have been inflicted by the knife produced (table knife). She made a few statements that she wished to die. She hardly felt any pain at the time. He could not say that she was of sound mind. She was very melancholy and depressed, and very anxious to die. He could not say she was responsible for

her actions. She felt much better during the past few days, being more cheerful. He did not think she was capable of looking after herself. At present she was all right, but she suffered from fits of melancholls, and might have them again.

Chief Constable O. GREENSTREET said the prisoner herself wished, if the Bench would allow such a course, to go to Mrs HARBOUR for a few more weeks. She would pay for her board and lodgings, as she had some money. If the Bench thought it desirable she would be willing to come up before them again.

Mrs HARBOUR expressed her willingness to take charge of the prisoner, and look after her day and night.

The Chief Constable pointed out that Mrs HARBOUR lived opposite the Police Station, and was in touch with the police.

On the opinion of Dr. WARD that such a course would be a good one the prisoner was discharged by the Bench.

Researched & typed by
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