

SUICIDE AT RYDE, YESTERDAY

Arthur HENSBY, about 25, manager of the Strand Hotel, East-street, Ryde, committed suicide yesterday morning between 11 and 12 o'clock. It appears that Mr. SWEETMAN, jun., the owner of the hotel, went there for his monthly stock-taking. Deceased produced his book and Mr. SWEETMAN proceeded to check it with the stock and found certain discrepancies to which he directed HENSBY's attention. When the deceased left the bar and the stock-taking was concluded, Mr. SWEETMAN sent Mr. PERRY for him. He was found upstairs lying insensible on the bed with an empty ounce phial of pure carbolic acid in his hand. Dr. BANKS was sent for and arrived at about 10 minutes past 12, remaining with the poor fellow till his death, about half an hour afterwards. The body was subsequently removed to the mortuary.

The inquest will take place this (Saturday) morning.

SUICIDE OF A RYDE PUBLICAN

The inquest on the body of Arthur Ernest HENSBY, manager of the Strand Hotel, East-street, Ryde, was held at the Gem Inn, Hill-street, on Saturday morning by the Coroner (E. F. BLAKE, Esq.)

Mr. T. J. GRIMSDICK was the foreman of the jury.

Mr. Arthur Owen PERRY, a sailor, who had been living at the Strand Hotel, said deceased was the manager of that house. Witness had been helping him about three months. Deceased was 28 years of age. Witness went out for a walk on the previous morning, arriving home at about 11.30. When he got in deceased asked him to mind the bar as he had business with Mr. SWEETMAN, his landlord, who was there. They went down in the cellar and witness remained in the bar talking to one of the customers. Deceased and Mr. SWEETMAN, after about five minutes, went into the smoking-room, where they were in conversation for about another five minutes. HENSBY then came into the bar and took a jar of Irish whiskey, which he afterwards brought back again. He went out, and subsequently Mr. SWEETMAN asked witness where deceased had gone. Witness told him he did not know but would try and find him. He went upstairs and went into the lavatory and bed-room. In the latter room he found deceased lying on the bed insensible. He ran down to Mr. SWEETMAN and told him he thought deceased had had a fit. On going back the second time witness could smell carbolic acid and told Mr. SWEETMAN, who had come up, that deceased had poisoned himself. Witness ran downstairs and mixed up some hot water, mustard, and salt, which he tried to force into deceased. He fought rather hard against it, pushing it away with his hands. He took a portion of the first dose, and nearly all the second. By that time witness had sent a man named WEEKS for a doctor and Dr. BANKS came. Deceased was alive then. Witness did not think he was conscious. He never spoke. The doctor came first a little after 12 and went away. He came again at 20 or 25 min. past 12 and tried to restore animation, but failed. Deceased died shortly after the doctor came the second time. ---Q.: Had he been worried?---Yes, very much. He was a sober man.---Q.: Had he ever threatened to do anything of this sort?---Yes, about eight months since, owing to a little trouble, he threatened to drown himself. Mr. SWEETMAN found the phial produced on the bed, underneath the deceased's left hand. It was marked as containing "Pure carbolic acid."

Mr. Edward SWEETMAN, jun., landlord of the house, said deceased had been his manager since February. He went to see him yesterday at about 11 o'clock.---Q.: Did he seem worried or excited?---Not at all; brighter than I ever saw him.---Q.: Was any thing said to annoy him?---My duty was to take his stock and money, which I did from his dictation. He returned five quarts and something over of Irish whiskey. There were two quarts short, for which witness censured him. Deceased said witness had not entered the stock according to his dictation and showed him that, in his book, the entry was four quarts. The brandy was also short. Deceased rushed out of the room before witness tried it. Witness found the quantity under that of his entry. He had to collect £19.10s. from him, but had not asked for the money. That would have followed, as deceased understood. Deceased's departure did not arouse his suspicion. After testing the brandy witness asked PERRY to call deceased as he had other business to do. PERRY called "Arthur," but

getting no answer, went upstairs and called witness up, saying deceased was in a fit. Witness went up and found deceased unconscious and holding the empty phial, produced in his hand. Witness fetched the doctor after giving deceased an emetic. He struggled a good deal. Dr. BANKS brought the stomach pump, but deceased's throat was closed and it was of no avail. Witness was present when HENSBY died. Deceased was of an excitable nature, but in all his transactions with witness he was cool. He had not given him the least idea that he was likely to commit suicide. Deceased's wife was formerly a barmaid with witness, and it was on her account that he let them have the house. They quarrelled after about a month, and she left him and had not resided in the house since. HENSBY was a perfect stranger to witness previously to going to the house.---Q.: Had you had occasion to find fault with him before?---Yes. From the first commencement of his management he was in arrear. His accounts were £80 in arrear altogether last time. Deceased's wife was very ill.

Supt. HINKS told the Coroner that £4.19s.6d. was found on the deceased.

Dr. BANKS said he was sent for on the previous morning, at about five minutes past 12, and went at once. He found deceased being supported on the side of the bed, quite unconscious. He went away to get the stomach-pump and antidotes. He could not ascertain the nature of the poison till he got to the house and found the bottle, which would hold half a fluid ounce---four drams. Less than a dram would be a fatal dose. Witness was there when he died. He had all the symptoms of carbolic poisoning.

The Coroner told the jury that he thought the evidence sufficiently strong to warrant them in saying that this man wilfully poisoned himself, and that at the time he committed the act in all probability he was of unsound mind.

The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst of unsound mind."
