

**KNOCKED DOWN BY A LORRY.
Driver Not to Blame.
RYDE NEWSVENDOR'S FATAL INJURIES.**

A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned at the inquest at Ryde yesterday on Charles Fredrick WHITNEY (62), newsvendor, of Wray Street. who was knocked down by a lorry belonging to Messrs. PINKER, fruit merchants, Portsmouth, in Well Street on Wednesday, and died the next day in hospital. WHITNEY, who was a familiar figure in Ryde streets, had been a cripple for many years.

The Deputy coroner for the Island (Mr. F. A. JOYCE) had the help of a jury. Mr. H. S. PALMER represented the owners of the lorry and the driver.

Jack QUELCH, of Arthur Street. said that about 7.40 p.m., he was standing at the corner of Hill Street and Swanmore Road with two other lads. The lorry came down Hill Street at about four miles an hour, sounding its horn. QUELCH signalled it to come on, which it did at the same pace. The next thing that he saw was a man lying on the ground. The lorry pulled up in a couple of yards.

Fredk. SMITH and Albert DAY, the other two lads, corroborated.

John Reginald RUTTER of Upper Brook Street, Manchester, who also saw the lorry coming, said it was going at about five miles an hour. WHITNEY was standing near the gutter. and it looked as if he meant to stop there. The next thing the witness saw was the man in front of the lorry. Apparently, the driver had not seen him.

Percival Alfred WINTER of Alfred Street, Ryde, the driver of the lorry, stated that he was returning from Newport. He blew his horn at the corner, and his speed was no more than a walking pace. Somehow his head lights failed to reveal anyone in the road, and this was something he could not account for. It might be that being on a gradient they did not show to the same advantage as on a level road. Possibly, too, had WHITNEY not been lame he might have been able to get out of the way. He had no idea he had struck him until someone shouted " Stop!"

Dr. Isabella FORSHALL, House-Surgeon of the Isle of Wight County Hospital, stated that death was due to shock and concussion. She did not think the lorry went over him. He died without being able to give an account of the accident.

The Coroner declared that, unlike the evidence at some inquests, in this one it was quite clear. All agreed about the speed of the lorry. It was obvious that there was no blame attaching to the driver. As regards the lighting at this particular spot that was a point for the jury to consider. Of course, if the unfortunate man had been more active he might have got clear of the oncoming lorry.

In returning their verdict. the jury considered that the lighting at this spot might be made more efficient.