

SUDDEN DEATH OF CAPT. T. HARVEY

For some time past Captain T. HARVEY has been staying at Young's Restaurant in Union Street. He retired to rest on Saturday night about 10 o'clock, giving his valet directions to call him at 8 o'clock the following morning. On Sunday morning, when his orders were complied with, Captain HARVEY made no reply. In consequence, his room was entered through the window, and the deceased found lying dead on the bed. The room was exceedingly close, and it was found that the deceased (who suffered from asthma) had been using a specific for asthma called "Poudre Fumigatoires," the fumes of which are inhaled. It was at first suspected whether deceased had not used too much of this preparative, but the medical evidence at the Inquest negative the supposition. The deceased gentleman was a very old member of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, and took great interest in yachting matters. He was owner of the well-known yacht Amethyst, and it was his intention to have started on Monday to join his yacht at Marseilles. The deceased gentleman held the office of vice-commodore of the R.V.Y.C. for some years, and only retired from the position owing to deafness. He will be greatly missed in yachting circles.

THE INQUEST.

An inquest was held on Monday afternoon, at Young's Restaurant, by the Coroner (E. F. BLACKE, Esq). Mr. James LOWE was foreman of the jury, which was composed of Messrs. JAPE, DEBENHAM, WHITE, JENNINGS, JACKSON, BEVIS, MULLINS, H. OSBORNE, MOORE, A. MARLOW, BISHOP, R. COLENUTT, jun.

Albert MURSELL deposed that he had been valet in Captain's service about four months. Witness's home was at 29, Pier Street. Deceased had been staying a Young's Restaurant, off and on, for six months. Ever since witness had been with him his general health had not been very good, but he had not called in a medical man. He suffered from asthma. He went out on Saturday for a walk, but appeared to be very weak, although he did not complain. He dined at the restaurant about 8 o'clock. Witness left deceased about 10 o'clock in his bed room, and he did not complain then. Ever since witness had been with him deceased had been in the habit of using a powder for the relief of his asthma. He seldom lit it for deceased, but did so on Saturday night. Deceased did not give him any reason for using it. Witness lighted the same quantity as usual, tipping out on the plate about two table-spoonsful. Then he left deceased. It was his usual custom to call deceased at 8 o'clock, and on Sunday morning at 8 o'clock witness went as usual, but received no answer. Deceased always locked his door. He endeavoured to rouse his master, but could get no answer. He then called the proprietor, Mr. YOUNG, and they afterwards got into the bed room through the window. They then found deceased lying on the bed quite dead. His head was on the pillow, and he was lying on his back, as if he were asleep. The powder was not alight then,. Had never known deceased to have a fit.

James David DAVIS, surgeon, practising at Ryde, deposed that he knew the deceased, and attended him two years ago. He had seen him since and had spoken to him, but had not attended him professionally. Was not aware that he suffered from asthma. Yesterday morning, shortly after half-past 8 o'clock, he was sent for, and went at once. He found deceased quite dead. He had been dead some hours. There were no external signs which would enable him to say what was the cause of death. Noticed this Abyssinian powder in the room. It was used for asthma. He had to-day, by direction of the Coroner, made *post mortem* examination. Found extensive disease of the lung of long standing, with some congestion, which was evidently recent. There was evidence of disease of the aorta – blood vessels leading from the heart – and also of the heart itself. He died from syncope, the result of the asthma.

The Coroner. – If a person had a weak heart, would that have a prejudicial effect.

Witness. – Decidedly prejudicial. The difficulty of breathing produced by the asthma caused his heart to do extra work, which it was not able to do and it failed.

Do you consider the use of the powder, with the heart in such a state, would accelerate death. – I don't think the powder had any effect on his heart. This powder is used for pure asthma. He had a difficulty

of breathing, which is often called asthma, but which this powder would not relieved. He really died from a weak heart, which ultimately terminated in syncope.

The Foreman – Would two spoonsful of powder be an overdose calculated to cause suffocation –

It is not a pharmarcopean preparation, and he had used a great deal more than two spoonsful, but I don't think it had anything to do with it.

Mr. HASTIE, solicitor, from Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, watched the case for the family, and said he was ready to answer any questions the jury might like to put.

The Coroner said that after the evidence of the valet, as to the state of health the deceased had been in for some time, coupled with the evidence of the medical gentleman, he thought the jury would have no difficulty in coming to the conclusion that the deceased gentleman died from a weak heart, which ultimately terminated in syncope. As the deceased had not been medically attended, and this powder being found in his room, it was necessary to ascertain whether death arose from natural causes, or whether it had been accelerated by the powder he used. After the evidence he thought they would have no difficulty in coming to the conclusion that the deceased died from natural causes, and that there was no blame to be imputed to anyone.

The jury unanimously concurred in the Coroner's suggestion.

THE FUNERAL

The funeral service took place at the Ryde Parish Church on Thursday morning, when the Rev CARPENTER TURNER officiated. Amongst those present were – Dr and Mrs FRYER, Major BOYCE, Misses NUNN (two nieces of the deceased), Surg.-General ROSS Col HOWARD-BROOKE, Captain MENZIES, R.N., and Percy THELLUSSEN, Esq. A large number of choice wreaths and crosses were sent. The remains were afterwards taken to Woking, by 10.10 boat, for cremation.

The arrangements were carried out by Messrs. COOMBES, undertakers, of Cross Street, Ryde.

Researched & typed by
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