

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 14th February 1959

HOSPITAL FALL SEQUEL
ACCIDENTAL DEATH VERDICT ON RYDE NONAGENARIAN

The Coroner (Mr. J.V. BULLIN) recorded a verdict of accidental death at the inquest at the Town Hall, Ryde, On Monday, on Mr. **John William BARTLETT**, a 91-year-old widower, who died at Whitecroft Hospital on February 6th. Until entering hospital several years ago, Mr. BARTLETT, lived at 3 Bellevue Road, Ryde, and had served in the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy.

Donald Henry PATERSON, of 27 Daniel Street, Ryde, said he was quite happy about the way his step-father had been looked after at Whitecroft Hospital.

Ernest Raymond PECK, of 48 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, said he was a staff nurse and in charge of the ward in which Mr. BARTLETT was a patient. Mr. BARTLETT had been there for a number of years, and, considering his age, he was in reasonably good health, being allowed to walk about during the daytime. At about midnight on the night of January 31st-February 1st witness was on duty in the ward, when he heard a noise and saw Mr. BARTLETT getting out of bed. He appeared to be unsteady and, as witness went towards him to assist him, he fell. He seemed to be in pain and witness obtained assistance and helped him back into his bed and notified the medical officer. Witness suspected a fracture of the femur, and that was subsequently confirmed.

Terence OWERS, of 42 St. John's Road, Newport, a student nurse at the hospital, said he was in the ward on February 6th, when Mr. BARTLETT was deteriorating rapidly. He died at 11.50 a.m. that day.

Dr. J. PRENDERGAST (acting senior hospital medical officer at Whitecroft) said he saw Mr. BARTLETT at 12.15 a.m. on February 1st. An X-ray examination confirmed his diagnosis of a fractured femur.

Dr. P.D. SWINSTEAD (Pathologist) said he carried out a post-mortem examination on Saturday. The only injury was a fracture of the right femur. The cause of death was broncho-pneumonia, and the fractured femur was a contributory factor.

The Coroner said he knew how difficult it was to prevent those things happening despite the greatest care, and Mr. BARTLETT had received every attention. It appeared that the fall was a contributory cause and accelerated death, and he would record a verdict of accidental death.
