

SUICIDE BY POISONING

On Saturday evening, the Deputy-Coroner (E. F. BLAKE, Esq), held an inquest at the Isle of Wight Infirmary, on the body of Joseph GUY, a jobbing gardener, of Monkton-street. After the jury, of which Mr MACKMIN was foreman, had viewed the body, the following evidence was taken:

Harriet GUY deposed that she was the wife of the deceased, who was 65 years of age. They lived at Hyacinth Cottage, Monkton-street. On Tuesday, the 2nd of August, deceased went to bed just before 10 o'clock. He slept upstairs, but witness had removed her bed downstairs, as she was suffering from an attack of sciatica. Just before 8 o'clock on the following morning a little niece, who was with them, came to witness and said "Uncle has taken something." Witness was unable to go upstairs herself, but sent out for Mrs COOK, a neighbour. When Mrs COOK came deceased called for a cup of tea, which was given him, and soon afterwards witness sent for Dr GREENING, who, on coming, ordered deceased to be removed to the Infirmary. From the time of his removal till his death she had not seen him. The bottle produced had contained liniment which she had used for her sciatica. The deceased had been a teetotaller for seven years up to the 26th of July, but since then had been drinking, though not she thought excessively.

Mr GREENING, surgeon, practising in Ryde, deposed that deceased had acted as his gardener, and he had known him three or four years. He was sent for on the 1st of August, and found deceased in the back kitchen. He was very nervous and suffering from the effects of drink. On Tuesday night he went again and found him lying on the bed, and very shaky. On searching witness found three bottles, one of which contained whiskey. he took then away. He sat down and talked to him, and deceased promised not to drink any more, and before going away witness saw him safe in bed. Shortly after 10 o'clock, in the following morning, he was sent for again, and found deceased still in bed, but complaining of pains in his head and stomach. He said he had taken some of his wife's liniment, and also some pinches of salts of lemon. Finding deceased had been sick, he did not give him an emetic, but some salad oil and chalk. He had him removed to the Infirmary about 11.30. For a few days he seemed to be getting better, but he died suddenly on Friday night last. Death was caused by the poison taken.

By a jurymen.- Deceased told him his wife had accused him of being unfaithful, and that had caused him to drink.

Mr K. W. INGLEBY MACKENZIE, house surgeon at the Infirmary, deposed that after deceased came to the Infirmary he gave him an emetic, and deceased seemed to improve up till Wednesday. On Friday, however, he complained of pains in his stomach. The nurse came and called him to the deceased on the evening of that day, but before he got to him he was dead. Deceased told him he had been drinking from July 28th to August 1st. He admitted he had drank about a pint of spirit each day, and said he felt half crazy on Tuesday night, and got up at about 5 and took the salts of lemon and drank the liniment. He saw there was a poison label on the bottle, and thought there was sufficient to finish him off. He also said he had had a few words with his wife, but had made it up.

The Coroner, in summing up, pointed out that drinking so much spirit was more likely to turn the brain of a man who had been a teetotaller, than if he had been accustomed to take stimulants.

The jury returned a verdict of "Temporary insanity."
