

RYDE WOMAN'S SUICIDE.

A painful discovery was made on the Western foreshore on Wednesday afternoon, when Mr. W. H. GRIFFIN found the dead body of **Harriett Eileen CONWAY**, (wife of Sergt.-major CONWAY, of Newport Street), on the sand. Deceased had apparently been there for only a short time, but Dr. KENNEDY on arrival found life extinct. Deceased was 57 years of age. An inquest was held on Friday morning at the Police Station before Mr. F. A. JOYCE.

William Henry GRIFFIN, George Street, said that on Wednesday he was working at Seaford Lodge, St. Thomas Street. Looking over the sea-wall he saw the deceased lying on the sands on her back. She was about six feet from the sea-wall, opposite Gloucester House. Deceased was fully dressed, with the exception of her hat which was by the side of the body. She appeared to be dead and he communicated with acting Serg. REES. He heard no cries previously.

By the Foreman: There would have been 15 or 20 feet of water at the wall at high tide that afternoon. There was about two feet of water between three and four o'clock. He looked over the wall about that time, and the body was not there.

Ellen Louise CONWAY, nursemaid, a daughter of deceased, said her mother had complained of her head since Christmas. A few weeks ago she was attended by Dr. BANKS for a fall downstairs. Witness had been home every morning since that time. On Wednesday afternoon witness returned to her employment at 2 o'clock, deceased being in the kitchen at the time, cleaning the grate. In April, 1908, deceased was very depressed, and was placed under observation for a short time. Since her fall she had been an out-patient at the I.W. Infirmary. Her father had been blind for some time.

James CONWAY, deceased's husband, an army pensioner, said deceased was at home on Wednesday until about 3 o'clock, and was going to see her daughter's employer. Deceased said she would not be long. She had been depressed for the last four years. Last year she was found wandering with her mind unhinged, and was sent to the Workhouse for fourteen days. Deceased improved a little, but was upset by the imbeciles, which she had on her mind for some time. Deceased's attacks came on very suddenly.

P.C. WARNE said that on April 16th, 1908, he saw deceased in the act of jumping over the sea wall. She said, "My head. I want to die." He said he would have to take her to the police station. She struggled on the promenade, and complained of her head. She was charged with having attempted suicide, and was ordered to be placed under observation for fourteen days.

Dr. KENNEDY said that he saw the body on the shore at 4.50. He came to the conclusion that she had been dead between one and two hours. As far as he could judge death was due to drowning. There were no marks of external injury.

The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide during temporary insanity."
