

Arthur Chaffey

Isle of Wight County Press - 5 January 1935

Inquest at Whitcroft

On Saturday the Deputy Coroner (F. A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquest at the County Mental Hospital on the death of Arthur Chaffey, aged 76, a patient, who died on December 26th. Mr. F. W. College was elected foreman of the jury and the police were represented by P.S. Turnbull and P.C. Lock. The only witness was Dr. C. W. S. Davies Jones, medical superintendent who gave evidence of identification and stated that the deceased had been a patient since June 21st, 1905, when he was received from Tonbridge, Kent. He was allowed considerable freedom. His general health was good considering his age. On November 21st witness was informed that the deceased was walking along a ground floor corridor when he slipped and fell on the cement floor. Another patient was the only witness of this incident, but witness could say that there was no question of deceased having been hustled or pushed. Deceased was removed to the infirmary ward and examined by Dr. Fergus Patterson, who diagnosed a broken neck of the left thigh bone. Witness, who was in London at the time, saw deceased on the following day and confirmed this diagnosis. While lying in bed deceased developed congestion of the lungs, and death took place as stated. During his illness the deceased had been visited by his brother, Dr. Weyland Chaffey. Witness ascribed death to congestion of the lungs superinduced by lying in bed consequent upon a fractured femur caused by an accidental fall. - Asked by the Coroner if deceased's brother was satisfied with the treatment he received, Dr. Davies Jones quoted passages from two letters received from Dr. Chaffey expressing his gratitude to witness and the hospital staff for their attention to his brother, and stating that the writer knew he was receiving every possible care. -The Coroner said that the deceased's brother, who was his only relative, was unable to be present, and that his letters were not prima facie evidence. A coroner's court was fortunately allowed wider latitude in that respect than a court of law. Dr. Davies Jones had made a very clear statement and he would add that the cause of death was a very usual one with old people who were confined to bed in that way. -The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

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