

Sarah Ann Downer

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CARISBROOKE

Octogenarian's Death After Fall.---The death occurred at St. Mary's Hospital on Tuesday, at the age of 83, of Mrs. Sarah Ann Downer, wife of Mr. George Downer, of Old Cottage, Castle-street. On Sunday, July 4th, Mrs. Downer fell from a chair at her home and fractured her thigh. In view of this occurrence the Deputy Coroner (R. E. A. Webster, Esq.) held an inquest at Forest House on Wednesday. Dr. C. K. Sylvester (medical officer at St. Mary's Hospital) stated that Mrs. Downer was in a weak state when admitted to the hospital the day after the accident and her condition gradually became worse. Death was due to senile decay, accelerated by the shock of the accident, and the Deputy Coroner returned a verdict accordingly. Mr. Downer, who is 89, explained that after dinner on Sunday July 4th his wife sat down on a chair in the kitchen to read a book and he dropped off to sleep in an armchair. He was awakened by a noise and saw his wife lying on the floor at his feet. He and Mrs. Prince, a neighbour, made her comfortable on a sofa. She complained of a pain in the right leg and when Dr. A. H. Bruce saw her next day he ordered her removal to hospital. Mrs. Mary E. Prince, living opposite, said Mrs. Downer told her that she must have dozed in the chair and the cushions slipped and she fell. She was using an ordinary kitchen chair. The Coroner expressed sympathy with the aged husband and daughter (Mrs. Hunter, of Cliff House, Bonchurch). Mr. and Mrs. Downer, a highly esteemed old couple, have resided here for about 25 years, and they received Royal congratulations on celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary in November, 1938. Mr. Downer was for 10 years a member of the Brighstone lifeboat crew and was formerly a gardener at Brighstone and St. Lawrence.

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