

Henry Thomas Walton

Isle of Wight County Press 23 July 1921

NEWPORT

A BRICKLAYER'S LABOURER'S ACCIDENT.--FATAL SEQUEL.--The Deputy Coroner (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquest at the County Hospital on Tuesday, on the body of Henry Walton, 65, of 27 Melbourne-road, New-village, Newport, who died at that institution early on the previous morning. Deceased, who was a bricklayer's labourer, employed by Messrs. W. B. Mew, Langton, and Co., was working at Cowes on April 25th, when he accidentally broke his leg. Mr. H. R. Palmer represented Messrs. W. B. Mew, Langton, and Co. Wilhelmina Walton, the widow, said her husband had been in the employ of Messrs. Mew, Langton, and Co. for about seven years. On April 25th he was brought home with a broken leg. He remained at home one night, and was then taken to the hospital. He told her he was going down a cellar with a hod of mortar on his shoulder when he slipped on a cork and fell. On Sunday he told her he would be wanting his clothes, as he would shortly be coming home. She had been receiving compensation from deceased's employers for his incapacity. Replying to Mr. Palmer, witness said she took deceased some home-made cake and some butter and eggs on Sunday. All the time she was with him he was complaining of pain in his leg, which he attributed to the hot weather. He said the pain started after breakfast that morning. He had never complained before. Dr. G. R. Falcon, house-surgeon, said he saw the deceased when received at the hospital. He was suffering from a fracture of the left leg. The fracture joined, and he was progressing satisfactorily. He was to have been discharged in a few days. Witness saw him on Sunday, but he made no complaint of pain. At about 3.55 a.m. on Monday Sister Hill reported that he was complaining of abdominal pains, and trying to vomit. Witness went to him, and he died a few moments later. In conjunction with Dr. Edwards, he made a post mortem examination. Asked for details, Dr. Falcon said he had to leave to go to the operating theatre, and he preferred that Dr. Edwards should give them.--The Deputy Coroner: The order was for the house-surgeon to make the examination.--Dr. Falcon: Monday is our operation day, and I could not be in two places at once.--The Coroner: You are quite aware that the direction is for the house-surgeon to make the post mortem, and the responsibility falls on him. When an order, is made by the Coroner it is to be obeyed. I don't fix the time. You could have done it when you liked.— Dr. L. Firman Edwards, hon. pathologist at the hospital, said the deceased's left leg was swollen just above the ankle. On examining the heart he found the right side filled with a greyish-white tough clot, which in his opinion, was the cause of death. The passage of that clot through the abdomen would probably be the cause of the pain complained of. Ivy Hill, night sister at the hospital, said that at about 3.45 a.m. on Monday the nurse reported that deceased was complaining of abdominal pains and flatulence. Witness gave instructions for his treatment, and when the nurse reported no improvement she gave him hot brandy, and went for the house-surgeon. When she returned deceased could hardly speak. He had had two similar attacks of flatulence in three weeks. William Harry Wheeler, of Newport, a bricklayer in the employ of Messrs. W. B. Mew, Langton, and Co., said that on April 25th at about 3.50 p.m. he was working on a ceiling at the brewery buildings, Cowes, and deceased was carrying mortar for him. When coming down the steps to witness deceased slipped on a cork and broke his leg just above the ankle. He struck his head and was forced backwards, causing him to sit on his leg. Alfred Charles Brown, of Fairlee-road, Newport, corroborated. The jury retired, and were of the opinion that death was caused by the clot, originating from the injury, and commented upon the absence of the house-surgeon from the post mortem.--The Deputy Coroner: Personally, I think it would have been better, in view of the order sent to him, if he had attended the post mortem.--Dr. Falcon: According to the rules of the hospital I am not supposed to do post mortems.--The Deputy Coroner: The law of the land is superior to the law of the hospital.--Dr. Falcon replied that the law of the land was that living people

should come first. He explained that after the post mortem commenced he was called to the theatre to administer anæsthetics for two and a half hours, whilst an operation was being performed. The Coroner said he had always admired the admirable administration at the hospital, and he did not wish to fall out with the authorities over a matter of that description. Dr. Edwards said that Dr. Falcon had the primary duty of looking after the living patients. Mr. Palmer, on behalf of Messrs. Mew, Langton, and Co., expressed their sympathy, with the widow. Deceased was a good workman, and the firm very much regretted his death.

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