

## **Robert Edney**

**Isle of Wight County Press - 30th March 1946**

### **A Newport Tradesman's Suicide.**

The death took place in tragic circumstances on Tuesday of Robert Edney, aged 65, tobacconist, of 10 St. Thomas's-square, Newport. Mr. Edney was due to appear at the Newport Petty Sessions on Monday on five indecency charges, but when the case was called Mr. F. W. H. Cool, his solicitor, applied for an adjournment, and Dr. J. H. Jones stated that he had seen Edney that morning, and that he had taken a bottle of aspirin tablets. The cases were accordingly adjourned for seven days.

An inquest was conducted by the Coroner (Mr. R. E. A. Webster), at the Guildhall, Newport, yesterday (Friday), Mr. F. W. H. Cool representing the relatives, - Miss Heather Christmas, deceased's housekeeper, said Edney had told he was in trouble and had to appear in court on Monday. He suggested that she should arrange to sleep out at her friend's house and she arranged to do this on Sunday, leaving the house about 9.30 p.m. On her return about 10 a.m. on Monday she found a note on the dining-room table telling her not to go upstairs, but to call Dr. Jones from next door. - Dr. J. H. Jones stated that he was called by the last witness and found Edney in bed in a feverish condition, with a weak pulse beating at a high rate. Deceased told him that he had taken a bottle of aspirin tablets, and there was a bottle by the bedside with two tablets left in it. He had apparently taken 490 grains. He gave Edney emergency treatment and he appeared better during the day, but died about 5.30 a.m. on Tuesday. He was of opinion that death was due to an overdose of aspirin, acting on a fatty heart. - Det.-Sergt. Shield stated that he had seen Edney at various times in connection with the charges. He appeared slightly worried as to what would happen to his business. - Inspector A. R. Bird read a passage from a letter addressed to him, found at deceased's bedside, which was as follows: "I am sorry to let you down, but I simply cannot face it, as my brain seems in a whirl today."

The Coroner said he also received a letter which he did not propose to read, which led him, in conjunction with the evidence, to the verdict that Edney took his own life while the balance of his mind was disturbed. - Mr. Cool said he would like it to be known that in his interviews with the deceased he had expressed his gratitude to the police for the consideration he had received and the kindness shown to him, mentioning specially Inspector Bird and Det-Sergt. Shield.

Edney had been in business in Newport for many years. He formerly had a clothier's business in Pyle- street, but removed to St. Thomas's-square some years ago, and latterly had traded as a tobacconist. The funeral took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery yesterday, Friday.