

Catherine Jane Leal

Isle of Wight County Press – 20 October 1923

NEWPORT

HUSBAND'S SAD HOME-COMING DISCOVERY. – On Tuesday the Deputy Coroner (F. A. Joyce, Esq.), held an inquest at the Town-hall concerning the sudden death of Mrs. Catherine Jane Leal, 61, wife of Mr. James Kybert Leal, mason, employed by the Corporation, of 16 Clarendon-street. Inspector W. Evans was present. Deceased's husband said he left home at 7 a.m. on Saturday, and did not return until 1 p.m. Deceased was in her usual health when he left, and his youngest son was at home until after breakfast. When witness returned he found deceased in a sitting position on the scullery floor between the fireplace and the sink, having apparently collapsed whilst at work. Her arms were still warm, but she was apparently dead. He ran for help, and deceased's sister came and shortly after Dr. Raymond and Dr. Dowdall arrived and pronounced life extinct. Deceased had been poorly, but latterly seemed much better. She had not been medically attended for some time. John Cheek, baker, living next door, said, deceased came into his shop at about 11 o'clock that morning, and half an hour later he delivered bread at her house. She answered the door, and seemed all right then. Just before 1 p.m. he was outside when he heard a noise in the deceased's home, something like a slight scream. Had he known that Mr. Leal was not at home, he should have gone in to ascertain the cause. Mr. Leal came home just afterwards. Dr. Stanley Foster said he had made a post-mortem examination, in company with Dr. Dowdall. He found the pericardium full of fluid, which accounted for the inflammatory condition known as pericarditis. The mitral valve of the heart was diseased, and the circulation was imperfect, which would have accounted for the anaemic condition from which deceased had suffered for some years. He attributed death to syncope, arising from disease of the mitral valve, and pericarditis. The Coroner, in returning a verdict in accordance with the evidence, said he was quite satisfied as to the cause of death. He would gladly have dispensed with an inquest, but without a post-mortem examination there was no conclusive evidence of the cause of death, as deceased had not been medically attended for a long time. He regretted the necessity for the inquiry on the body of the wife of a respected townsman, with whom he much sympathised in the trouble that had come upon him. The funeral took place on Thursday, the interment being at Carisbrooke Cemetery, following a service at St. John's Church, the Rev. W. E. Mackinnon officiating. In addition to the relatives many neighbours and other friends attended to show their sympathy, and the wreaths included one from "Neighbours at New Village." Mr. J. K. Leal and his sons wish to return sincere thanks for the numerous expressions of sympathy received in their sudden bereavement, and for the beautiful floral tributes.