

Dorothy Kathleen Dore

Isle of Wight County Press 18 March 1939

Tragic Discovery by Newport Husband.

A verdict of suicide by coal gas poisoning, her mentality being affected by some unknown cause, was returned by the Deputy Coroner (F. A. Joyce, Esq.) at the inquest on Mrs. Dorothy Kathleen Dore, aged 42, wife of Mr. S. B. Dore, of Sunnymede, Staplers-road, Newport, on Thursday. The inquest was held at the house. Mr. Dore found his wife apparently dead when he returned home for lunch on Tuesday, and artificial respiration was carried on for upwards of two hours with no result. Witnesses could suggest no reason for the tragic happening, having regarded Mrs. Dore as a normally happy woman. Inspector T. Willmott acted as Coroner's officer.

The husband said they had been married 16 years. Apart from nervous trouble about 18 years ago, from which she had fully recovered, his wife had been in normal health. Once or twice a week she visited her parents, who were ill at Ryde. She was fairly anxious about them and he thought it worried her. About five weeks ago she fell and hurt her knee, but recovered. On March 13th she said she had not slept during the night, and he got some tablets from Dr. J. Dowdall. That night he gave her two and the following morning (Tuesday) she said she had a better night. They had breakfast together, and he helped her in the house until he left at about 9.15. There was nothing peculiar in her manner when he left. When he entered the house again at about 12.15 he received no reply to his call, and he searched the rooms upstairs and down. When he opened the door of a little lobby opposite the back door he smelt gas. His wife was huddled on the floor, her head covered with a leather coat and a rubber tube connected to the gas, in her mouth. He called his neighbour and the doctor. On the table in the front room was found an envelope in her writing on which was written "I cannot go on."

George William Norris, of Four Oaks, Staplers-road, a neighbour, described how he was called in by the previous witness, and after pulling deceased out of doors applied artificial respiration. Mrs. Dore was a normally happy woman and he knew of nothing likely to have lead to this incident.

Charles James Ryall, of Medina-avenue, a baker's deliveryman employed by Mr. A. E. Harvey, said he called at about 11 a.m., and hearing no reply went through to the front hall shouting "Baker." He smelt no gas and noticed nothing suspicious.- The Coroner said he had seen the door to the lobby in which Mrs. Dore was found. There was only a tiny aperture through which gas could escape, and it was possible that he smelt nothing.

Dr. J. Dowdall, of Newport, deposed that after being called he ordered artificial respiration to be continued and he administered oxygen. Death was due to gas poisoning. Deceased had nerve trouble 18 years ago, but had recovered. She also recovered from her leg injury, which was not serious. He thought that having to lay up with the leg injury had depressed her a little, but no more than would be expected in any normal person. The tablets he prescribed because deceased had not slept well on the Monday were adelin and were not on the poison list. After Mrs. Dore had been found dead the 10 tablets which had remained in the box from the previous night were found missing. No one could say that she

had taken them and they might have been thrown away. The effect of 10 would be to produce very heavy sleep; they would not be fatal. - The Coroner: There is the possibility that she might have thrown them away but the inference seems to be that she took them.

P.S. Thatcher said that by the amount of work which had been done they estimated that Mrs. Dore went to the lobby between 9.30 and 10 a.m.

The Coroner said he felt intensely sorry for the husband. Mrs. Dore had apparently lived a reasonably happy life, and from the evidence there was no reasonable ground why she should gas herself. There was no blame attached to anyone. Those who found her did their utmost to restore her. She was probably dead when found,. It was not easy in those cases to determine the mental attitude of the person concerned. This was a case of a woman in comparatively happy circumstances with no particular burden, yet in the face of that she had committed a determined suicide. He thought the merciful verdict would be not that she was of unsound mind at the time, but that the state of her mind had been disturbed by some unknown cause.

A brother thanked the police, Mr. Norris, and the doctor for all they had done, and Inspector Willmott asked that an expression of his sympathy should be conveyed to Mr. Dore.

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NEWPORT

The late Mrs. S. B. Dore.- The funeral of Mrs. S. B. Dore, of Sunnymeade, Staplers-road, whose tragic death was recorded last week, took place on Saturday, when the Vicar (the Rev. W. M. B. Hogg) officiated at the Parish Church and at Newport cemetery. The robed choir led the singing of the hymns "I heard the Voice of Jesus say" and "The King of Love." The mourners were Mr. S. B. Dore (husband), Messrs. A. L. Dore and G. E. Tomlinson (brothers-in-law), Messrs. I. A. and H. W. Grinham (brothers), Messrs. L. E. and G. W. Dore (cousins), and Mr. G. Norris. Among those in the large congregation were Mrs. A. L., Miss M. E., Mrs. G. W., and Miss D. Dore, and the following representatives of organisations in which the deceased was interested: Mr. A. J. Harman, C.C., and Mrs. M. C. Barton, C.C. (I.W. Society for the Blind), Mesdames Heaton and Prichard (St. Thomas's Mothers' Union), Miss Alderslade (representing Mrs. Gentry), Mrs. Miller and several members (Newport Townswomens' Guild), Mrs. Yelf (Central Habitation of the Primrose League), and Miss Ogilvie (Westwing School, Ryde.) Among other friends attending were the Rev. H. G. Kelsey, the Misses Emily and Ethel Lower, Mrs. H. J., Mr. H. M., and Mrs. and Miss Way, Misses Snow, Mr. and Mrs. F. Dudley, Mrs. F. E. Cheek, Mr. and Mrs. G. Guy, Mr. E. J. White, and Mrs. A. M. B. Fisher. There were numerous beautiful floral tributes. The arrangements were made by Messrs. H. and F. Damp.

*Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,
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