

Marjorie Alice Hockett

Isle of Wight County Press - 1 June 1963

NEWPORT WOMAN TOOK HER ON LIFE

HISTORY OF DEPRESSION

A verdict that Mrs. Marjorie Alice Hockett (48), of 37 Staplers Road, Newport, killed herself while the balance of her mind was disturbed was recorded by Mr. J. V. Bullin (coroner) at the resumed Inquest at the County Hall, Newport, on Friday week. Mrs. Hockett died at St. Mary's Hospital on April 9th.

Lawrence Henry Hockett said his wife was taken ill with influenza about five weeks before her death. She had been depressed since January, 1962, due to family illnesses and deaths of relatives over a period of time. On April 8th she retired to bed after feeling unwell. He took her a drink and gave her some sleeping tablets which had been prescribed by her doctor. At 11.30 p.m. he looked into her bedroom; she told him she was all right, but asked him to extinguish the light. Five minutes later he heard a loud scream. His wife appeared to be having convulsions. She was then taken to St. Mary's Hospital, where she died shortly after arrival. Later, when searching her bed, he found under the pillow, a bottle containing pink and white capsules. She must have had these tablets for a long time, as he was not aware that they had been prescribed by her doctor, and they were not in the bed when he made it the previous day.

Dr. Richard Hugh Sandiford, of The Dower House, Pyle Street, Newport, said Mrs. Hockett had been a patient of his for about 10 weeks. She had a history of depression following a series of personal tragedies culminating in the death of her son in December. He prescribed tranquilising drugs and sleeping tablets in small quantities but not the type found in her bed.

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