

Ann Witham

Hampshire Advertiser - 15 November 1924

FELL FROM A BEDROOM WINDOW.

A Widow's Death.

FATAL CURIOSITY.

On Saturday afternoon an inquiry was held by the Acting Coroner for the Island respecting the death the previous afternoon of Ann Witham, a widow, 76 years of age who fell from a bedroom window.

Elizabeth Witham, daughter, of Pyle House, Pyle-street, Newport, said her mother was the widow of James Witham, of Pyle House, a Newport barge owner. Deceased, who had been ill since April, but had been improving, was in the habit of getting up in the afternoon during the past three weeks, and coming downstairs. Her mother, who was under the care of Dr. Underhill, maintained the improvement up to Friday, and showed no signs of relapse.

LYING ON THE PAVEMENT.

At 12.30 witness left her mother's bedroom. Deceased, who was then in bed, talked about a man who was downstairs hammering and making a noise. She wondered what it was about. Mr. Nobbs, who was working at the house, dashed into the kitchen, and said : "Someone has fallen out of the window." She went outside, and found her mother lying on the pavement. The ledge of the window was two and a half feet from the floor. When witness left the room the window was open at the top but closed at the bottom. However, it was open at the bottom when she returned. Witness was of opinion that her mother, in putting her head out of the window to see what was going on, overbalanced and fell into the street 15 feet below.

Albert Nobbs, 4, New Cottage, Robin Hood-street, Barton's Village, a cabinet maker said on Friday he was engaged in putting in new sash cords in the window of a room at Pyle House, when he heard a noise. On looking out he saw deceased lying on the pavement in her nightdress.

FRACTURED SKULL.

Dr. Underhill said deceased had had a long and trying illness, and had become very frail. She was not depressed at all. He saw her on the previous Tuesday. She had been looking forward to going away. There was no indication then or at any other time of suicidal tendency. He found a scalp wound, and there was a fracture of the skull, which was the cause of death. Witness thought deceased must have put her head out to see what was going on. He wondered that she had the strength to open the window.

The Coroner remarked that the old lady must have yielded to her curiosity to see what was going on, and put her head out of the window, when she overbalanced and fell out.

A verdict of "Accidentally killed by a fall from a window resulting in a fractured skull" was returned.

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