

Coroner's Inquest.

[Before T. N. Yule, Esq., J.P., Coroner.]

An Inquest was held on Monday last, at the Colonial Hospital, Perth, to inquire into the cause of the death of George Bates, a pensioner, who was found dead with his throat cut, on the morning of that day.

The Jury having been sworn, and viewed the remains of the deceased, the first witness called was—

John Thompson—Is Medical Dispenser at the Colonial Hospital. Knew the deceased, he was hospital orderly or servant, and had been so for the last two months. His conduct was very regular for the first six weeks, but after that he became intemperate, in consequence of which he was warned to leave the hospital at the end of the present month. On Sunday he appeared to witness to be in a very low desponding state, and seemed to be very careless in performing his duties. On Friday he spoke of poisoning himself, and on Saturday he was out and had evidently been drinking, though he denied it. Saw him for the last time alive at 9 p.m. As he did not get up this morning at his usual hour, witness went and knocked and called out to him, but as he received no reply, he went and looked in his window, and saw spots of blood on the clothes. The door was locked inside; the key was knocked out, and the door opened by another key, when they found the deceased in the position and state in which the Jury had seen him. It was not possible for any one to have got in the room by the window.

George Moore, Hospital Messenger, deposed that he had seen the deceased tipsy, but not very often. The last time he saw him tipsy was on Wednesday last. He remembered the deceased asking him on Friday morning to give him some strychnine, as he wanted to kill the mice. He saw him for the last time at 7 p.m. on Sunday. There was nothing particularly noticeable in his manner, he was talking to the patients in the wards. He was not out yesterday, and he had nothing to drink.

Rachel Lennex—Is Cook at the hospital. Saw the deceased yesterday, he appeared to be in very low spirits. He did not appear as if he was tipsy yesterday. She had seen him tipsy on several occasions, but the last time she saw him so was on Thursday last.

John Bates - Is a patient in the hospital. Saw the deceased several times yesterday, he seemed very low spirited. He took a case of razors from the ward about 12 o'clock. He saw him for the last time between 7 and 8 p.m. He said he would not live long, but did not make any allusion to his destroying himself.

John Ferguson—Is Colonial Surgeon. Had not examined the body so minutely as he could wish, but had done so sufficiently to speak as to the cause of death. There was a deep gash on the

wish, but had done so sufficiently to speak as to the cause of death. There was a deep gash on the throat, and the wind-pipe was completely severed, but the large vein did not appear to have been cut. The blood from the smaller veins was, however, sufficient to cause death, even by suffocation alone, from the position in which the body was lying, viz., on the breast and face. He had no doubt that the wound was the cause of death. He had often seen deceased drunk and stupid from the effects of liquor, and had warned him to leave the hospital at the end of the current month in consequence of his intemperance.

The Jury, after some deliberation, returned the following verdict—"That the deceased G. Bates, came to his death by his own hand, by cutting his throat, while laboring under a temporary aberration of mind."