

not think that the wheel of the car could have caused the extensive injury inflicted on the deceased.

Private Sharman stated that he assisted to convey the deceased to the Sidney Hall. He heard the sergeant ask the deceased for his name and number, but he did not reply.

#### DISCREDITED EVIDENCE.

Sergt. Geo. Collier, of the R.A.M.C., stationed at the Sidney Hall Military Hospital, deposed to receiving the deceased, who he was told had been injured in a motor accident. On being got inside, the deceased gave witness his name, his Company, and the name of his regiment, but could not give his number. He asked if the man had been run over, and someone present said he had not. Witness told the Sister that he thought the deceased was more under the influence of drink than anything else, because he mumbled as a drunken man would. Later the Sister asked him to take the bandage off the man's head. She bathed the wound with carbolic lotion. Deceased said "There is nothing the matter with me, only I have had some drink." The only thing he complained of beside the wound in his head was a pain in the right knee, but witness could not find any trace of blood on the clothing or detect any fracture. The Sister saw the wound, and she told witness to dress it and send the man home. It was not correct that the Sister ordered the man to be sent to the hospital at the Red Barracks. He did not send for a doctor because he thought the injuries were so slight.

#### DANGEROUS INTERFERENCE OF THE SEMI-TRAINED.

Sister Jean Cuthbert, nurse at the Sidney Hall Military Hospital, accepted the responsibility of being in charge of the building when the deceased was brought in. An orderly told her that a man had been brought in injured in a motor accident, and he added that he thought the man was drunk. Then Sergt. Collier came to her and told her that he had bandaged the head of a man brought into the casualty ward, and that he appeared to be in a drunken condition. She saw the man on a sofa in the casualty ward, and he then complained of pain in his leg. He smelt of drink. She asked Sergt. Collier if the man had been run over, and he said he had asked the men who had brought him in, and they had said "No." She did not ask the patient himself what had happened to him. She asked him if he had any pain, and he pointed to his knee. She felt his knee, but did not make any further examination to ascertain if any bones were broken. Collier might not have heard her tell him to have the man sent to the Red Barracks Hospital because there was a certain amount of noise.

The Coroner: But did you not order the noise to be stopped? Surely you do not allow people to come into a room where a patient has been brought and do as they like. Have you no authority? It seems extraordinary that there should have been a crowd of people in a receiving ward like this.

Witness said she ordered the case for the Red Barracks because she assumed it was a case of intoxication, and thought that was the best place for the man. There had been trouble at the hall with such cases before. She saw the man walking between two orderlies, as she thought, and she assumed that the injury to the forehead was the only hurt that he was suffering from. No doctor remained at the hall all night, but when a case arose requiring his attention one was telephoned for.

Sergeant John Hewett, of the Royal Scots, stated that he was in command of the guard at the Chickerell Camp. An orderly told him that a message had been received from the Sidney Hall stating that a man named Gribbin had met with a motor accident, that he was under the influence of drink, and that he was being sent to the guard-room. Deceased was carried from the car to the guard tent with his feet dragging.

The Coroner: Was any effort made to see if he was injured at all?

Witness: Well, I saw the orderlies moving his legs up and down.

The Coroner: What, do you mean to say that it is an actual fact that they moved his legs up and down? You have heard the doctor say that such a thing must have caused awful pain. Or was the man unconscious at the time?

Witness: Well, he did not say anything. (Sensation.)

Continuing, witness said that throughout the night deceased kept on asking for water. At his request witness took off his boots and putties, and he said he felt a bit more comfortable after that. He said, "Sergeant, if you were in my position and I was in yours I would do the same for you." It was at about 2.30 that he gave the deceased the last drink of water, and at about four o'clock it was found that he was dead.

The Coroner, in summing up the evidence, remarked that there was no resident medical man at the Sidney Hall. It would be presumptuous for him to express an opinion on such a matter, but at the same time he could not help thinking that at a place where there were 120 wounded men, and where casualties were at any moment likely to be brought in, if the medical staff could see their way to have a medical man in attendance all the time it would be a good thing. It did not appear that anything done at the Sidney Hall or at the camp had conduced to death, as the medical opinion was that death would have inevitably resulted.

#### PEOPLE IN CHARGE INEFFICIENT.

The Foreman of the Jury (Mr. Macey), after private consultation, said they found that death had resulted in a way described by the medical men, and that there was no blame to be attached to the driver of the car. They were of opinion that the people in charge of the hospital on the particular night in question were inefficient, and that a qualified medical man ought always to be on the premises. Sergeant Collier's evidence they

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