

Coroner's Inquest Report



Inquest of Alfred Holton, 1890

Mr. Sylvester held an inquest at the Magnet on Tuesday on the body of Mr. Alfred Holton, of George Street, who suddenly died on Sunday. The deceased, who was 55 years of age, and has been in business as a tailor for many years, was at work as usual on Saturday. On the following morning, however, he complained of illness and a doctor was sent for, but deceased expired before medical aid arrived.

Mr. Hinton, who had made a post mortem examination, said deceased had evidently suffered from a form of Bright's disease. He found both kidneys extensively diseased; in the left there were two stones the size of peas and several smaller ones, and the right contained a large cyst with three or four ounces of fluid in it. A great portion of this kidney had been destroyed by the cyst, and the tissues were badly diseased, the disease having doubtless been in existence for a long time. The tissues of the heart, too, were almost wholly destroyed and broke under the touch of the finger. It was also very much enlarged, and the lungs were gorged with blood. The wonder was that the deceased had lived so long.

Deceased's wife said that although in delicate health he had had no medical attendance for 20 years, but had been in the habit of doctoring himself with herbs and patent medicines.

The jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes."

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