

## DEATH OF MARY JANE PHILLIPS.

### DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATE REFUSED.

#### A CORONIAL INQUIRY.

A woman named Mary Jane Phillips, aged 52 years, expired yesterday morning in Lord's Place, Orange. She had only been in Orange for six weeks, having come from Condobolin. As she had not been under the care of a duly qualified medical man in Orange no certificate as to the cause of death could be given, and so a coronial inquiry was held before Mr. E. Marriott, P.M., later in the evening. A husband and ten children are bereft of wife and mother. The following evidence was adduced at the inquiry:—

Lena Casey, masseuse, residing in March-street, Orange, deposed: I know the subject of this inquiry, and I have known her since two or three weeks before Christmas; I went to see her at her residence at her request; I treated her for dropsy and liver complaint; I last saw her about 9 o'clock; she was then exhausted; I eased her by massage treatment; I rubbed her round the heart; I gave her nothing; on Sunday night I got her a bottle of mixture for dysentery; I went to Mr. Fox Martin's; I gave her the first dose on Sunday night shortly after 9 o'clock; I only gave her one dose; I asked her brother to go for a doctor as I considered the woman's condition was serious; I heard that the brother went for a doctor; I never prescribed for the woman, nor did I give her anything to take; I have had 12 months' experience in massage treatment; I have had no special training for the particular class of treatment referred to; I was practising about six months in Bathurst; I came from Bathurst to Orange to treat patients; I believe I was recommended by Dr. Freyer; I first started my profession in Bathurst about 12 months ago; I have been in Orange about seven months; the woman, the subject of this inquiry, is the only person who has died under me; the police never made any inquiries at Bathurst respecting my treatment of cases; I charged £3 3/ in the present case, but I returned the money; I asked a gentleman to see a doctor; I believe it was exhaustion that brought about the woman's death; I got my experience from the Lord; I have credentials for magnetic healing; Dr. Freyer recommended massage treatment for a gentleman named Turner; a man died whilst I was treating him, but he was in a dying condition when he came to me; I told deceased I would not be hard on her, and that I would do all in my power for her; I returned the £3 3/

NOT, AND THAT I WOULD DO ALL IN MY power for her; I returned the £3 3/ after the patient died; the patient was dead when I called; I returned the money to deceased's daughter; £3 3/ represents the full amount received from the deceased.

To the P.M.: I don't object to you perusing the document, but object to it being made public property.

The P.M. said the document said the document would be marked for identification, but would not be made public.

The witness, continuing: I went to Mr. Fox Martin and asked him for a mixture for dysentery; Mr. Martin said it was a chalk mixture; I never prescribe for my patients; I gave the relatives of the deceased the money this morning; I loaned £22 to the daughter of the deceased to defray expenses in their sad trouble; it was a voluntary action on my part; the people told me they called for a doctor, who would not come without a fee; I felt sorry for the people and offered assistance; I told them not to be afraid to call on me for help; I loaned them £22; I gave £25 altogether, including the £3 3/; I did not give the money to hush up the matter; there is nothing to hush up; it was purely sympathy on my part.

By the P.M.: I saw the patient every day up till the last week, and then I called every second day; deceased's daughter was generally present when I called; Miss Phillips paid the £3 3/ to my secretary, Mr. Turnbull; nobody else has paid me anything in connection with the patient in question; I am a Presbyterian; I am a married woman; my husband is in Bathurst; he is a carpenter in business there; he comes backwards and forwards to Orange; I have a family, all but one of whom live in Orange with me; I have had a great number of patients in Orange; I have advertised my address, but not my work, in "The Leader;" I advertised to notify people of my removal or change of address; I treated patients for dropsy and liver trouble; a number of women have consulted me for womb troubles; I profess an inspired knowledge for the treatment of this trouble; the deceased is the first patient I have treated for dropsy trouble; I had an inspiration from the Lord to take up this calling; I attribute dropsy in the present case to bad circulation of the blood; I have a sign plate outside my residence; on the plate appear the words, "Mrs. D. Casey, masseur, D.P.S.;" the D.P.S. stand for "dental, physical science;" the deceased's trouble arose from a bad confinement case; the confinement took place some years ago; as far as my knowledge goes the lining of deceased's stomach was torn down.

Violet May Phillips, single woman, residing at Lake Cudgellico, said: I came to Orange in December, about

residing at Lake Umbagog, came to Orange in December, about six weeks ago; I knew the deceased, Mary Jane Phillips, she was my mother, and had been ill for about 12 months; she had been under the care of Drs. Campbell and McPherson at Young; she was also under the care of Dr. Chisholm at Sydney, between four and five years ago; Dr. Kearney, of Condoletin, treated my mother shortly before she came to Orange; Mrs. Casey had seen my mother; my mother was under Mrs. Casey's treatment for about six weeks; I was present when Mrs. Casey called to see my mother; Mrs. Casey said my mother was suffering from dropsy, heart and liver trouble; I don't remember that Mrs. Casey mentioned any other trouble; I saw Mrs. Casey give my mother medicine, on Sunday night, I think; I believe Mrs. Casey brought the medicine to the house; I understood the medicine was for diarrhoea; I don't think Mrs. Casey promised to cure my mother, nor did I hear any mention of fees; my mother gave Mrs. Casey £3 3/, but I was not present at the time; I heard my father say that he gave Mrs. Casey £3 3/; I don't know that Mrs. Casey received any other money in connection with my mother's illness; my father is a selector; I paid Mrs. Casey £3 3/ for treating me; I borrowed about £20 from Mrs. Casey; I sent up and asked her for it; the money was given

in gold and notes; I gave a receipt for the money to Mr. Turnbull; the signature to the document produced is mine; Mrs. Casey told me last night that mother was dangerously ill and to get a doctor; she did not advise me on Sunday night to get a doctor.

Neville Reginald Howse, Government medical officer, practising at Orange, deposed: This day I examined the body of Mary Jane Phillips; the lower portion of the body was swollen; there was evidence of a surgical wound on the back; the stomach contained a quantity of liquid, smelling strongly of brandy and yellow flakes, which seemed like pieces of egg; the intestines and liver were healthy; the kidneys were large, white, rough, and contained a quantity of liquid; the womb and tubes were those of a woman who had borne children, and were perfectly healthy and normally situated; the lungs were small, but healthy; the left side of the heart was contracted; the right side of the heart contained clotted blood, but otherwise was healthy; the rain was slightly contracted.

To Senior-constable Byrne: To stop diarrhoea would be the worst treatment; excessive purging would be the

diarrhoea would be the worst treatment; excessive purging would be the best treatment for dropsy; the treatment described by Mrs. Casey respecting the prevention of purging was unwise treatment, to say the least; I don't think the deceased could have been cured; the life of the patient might have been prolonged a few days, but she could not have been cured.

To Mrs. Casey: Your treatment was objectionable; to produce intense diarrhoea would be the best treatment for dropsy.

Mrs. Casey said she could not see that the doctor's treatment was correct.

Dr. Wilson, sworn, said: I am a duly qualified medical practitioner residing in Orange. This morning at 20 minutes to 6 a man named Boddicott called at my place and asked me to see a patient named Phillips, who, he alleged, was dying. I arrived at the house 10 minutes later, and saw a woman lying in bed. She was cold, unconscious, and apparently dying. I noticed she was dropsical and her back was covered with sores. I could not make a thorough examination, but told her daughter that the woman was dying.

By Senior-Constable Byrne: I was present at the post mortem examination with Dr. Howse. I am of opinion that kidney disease and dropsy was the cause of death. The woman appeared as if she had not received proper skilled nursing on account of the numerous bed sores on her. Could not say how long she had been dying. Her condition had been hopeless for some time. If the medicine had been prescribed for diarrhoea it would have had an injurious effect.

By Mrs. Casey: I could not say whether the diarrhoea had stopped after I saw her or not. Did not say that stoppage had hastened the end of deceased.

By the Coroner: Was not present when the deceased died. Went to the house about 10.30 and was told she was dead. Massage treatment would not be effective to the disease that the woman suffered from. In certain cases of kidney trouble it may do a certain amount of good, but not in this case.

This concluded the evidence, and the court was adjourned till next Saturday at 2 p.m.

The Coroner (Mr. Marriott) made an order for the burial of the deceased.