

Another Death by Drowning.

As a man named James Marion, employed at Sugden's manure manufactory, near Braybrook, on the Saltwater River, was on Friday night last in company with four or five of his fellow workmen enjoying a bath, their attention was suddenly attracted to the presence of a dead body in their vicinity. No time was lost in dressing and taking steps to have the Footscray police informed of the incident. Trooper Cavanagh and Constable Rosengrave having engaged a cart proceeded to the scene of discovery. The body was on the far side bank, and Rosengrave without the slightest hesitation immediately denuded himself of his clothing and swam the distance—fully 100 yards—returning with the corpse after a short interval. Having been transferred to the vehicle it was brought to the Footscray morgue. Deceased had evidently been eight or nine days in the water as the skin peeled wherever touched. The corpse was that of a man from 25 to 30 years of age, 5ft. 9in. high, of stout build, with sandy hair, and whiskers of the same color. These last and the moustache were so remarkable that little difficulty was found in getting the body identified. As the face was very full bearded, and the chin shaved, the whiskers formed "sideboards," while the moustache was a very heavy one. The body was considerably decomposed, but did not bear any marks of violence. Deceased was dressed in a diagonal Beaufort coat, with vent of the same material, moleskin trousers, and a striped cotton shirt. He had on a pair of light shoes but no socks. As was anticipated, identification was not difficult, the body being recognized on Sunday by an acquaintance as that of "Billy" Workman, a good-natured fellow, well-known about Footscray. It was also seen by young Osborne, whose mother keeps a boarding house in Donald street, and with whom deceased had lodged. On Friday week, although the matter had been hushed-up, deceased had made an attempt to commit suicide by throwing himself into the river, but he was dragged out by a number of young men. He subsequently made his way to his sister's house, a woman named Mrs. Larkin, with his swag. He suddenly disappeared again, saying he was going up country. On Tuesday night week he came back, when his sister asked him if the police were after him, to which he replied in the negative. He then intimated to her that he had got a job at Sugden's. This was the last she saw of him. As showing the action of saltwater on the hair of the human body after death, it is stated that that of the deceased in life was quite black, although so light-colored when the body was found.

INQUEST.]

Mr. Candler held an inquest on the body at the Court House on Tuesday, when the following evidence was adduced:—

James Marion, said he was a farm-laborer living on the Saltwater River. He discovered the body on Friday evening in the river. Left it there and informed the police. Did not know deceased. The body was face downwards, floating just outside the reeds.

Constable Rosengrave stated that he took charge of the body. Searched the clothes, which were all in order, and found nothing. His coat was on, but he had no hat. (Sergeant Rutledge: I may state that the river was searched on both sides by two troopers for a considerable distance, but no hat found.) He knew deceased who was very eccentric in his habits, and took periodical bouts of drink.

Charles Louis McCarthy, said he had made a post mortem examination of the body. There were no external marks of violence, but the

post mortem examination of the body. There were no external marks of violence, but the body was very much decomposed. Internally the lungs were healthy and the plural cavities contained a little fluid. The heart was also healthy, the liver was very much congested, so was the stomach. Otherwise it was healthy. The intestines were healthy, and contained the usual fecal matter. The kidneys were congested. The brain was very much decomposed being of a thick creamy consistence. All the other organs were healthy. The cause of death was drowning.

Marian Larkin, said she was the wife of Thomas Larkin, and a step-sister of Workman's, whose name was William Henry. His age was thirty last birthday. He was unmarried and resided in Footscray. He was last seen alive on Tuesday morning week, 15th instant, when he came to her house about eight o'clock. He sat down and witness offered him a cup of tea, but he would not eat anything. He seemed in his usual health, and stayed about half an hour. Suddenly he slipped out without saying anything. Witness asked her children which way deceased had gone and they said "Towards Sugden's." Thought he must be going to look for a job. Never considered that he contemplated suicide at that time, but had heard that he had made a previous attempt. Believe he sometimes drank to excess, and the day he came seemed to be in the horrors.

A verdict of "Found Drowned" was returned.