

IMMIGRANT COMMITS SUICIDE IN PUBLIC GARDENS.

Found Matrimonial Obligations Too Heavy.

"It's no good—I've taken strychnine—it's too late—it's hell—I wish I hadn't taken it," gasped out a wan and shaking figure that lay on a bow-shaped seat at the corner of the bowling green in the Sunshine public gardens on December 24—the day before Christmas. The beaded dews of death already rested on the speaker's forehead, and the words were used to a young man named R. Machin, who with Herbert Harold Oakes, had been called to the scene by the groans of the dying man. Machin asked Mr. Oakes to get a drink of water only to learn that water was of no avail.

Dr. W. R. D. Fisher was at once called, and he and Senior Constable Thomas Dibbs and Constable C. G. Ross were promptly in attendance, but death had preceded them, and all that could be done was to remove the body to the city morgue. A bottle containing a considerable quantity of strychnine was found in the man's coat pocket.

Police inquiry showed that the victim was Arthur Sanders, 27 years old, an Englishman, about 18 months in Australia, employed as a steel-window maker at Crittall's factory, and living at Richard John Widdy's home, Ridley street, Sunshine.

The motive underlying Sanders' act of self-destruction, according to evidence given at the inquest, was a fear that he would be compelled to support

would be compelled to support his wife and family of two children whom he had left unprovided for at Rathfriland, County Down, Ireland, where he had spent some years after leaving Chester, his native place in England. Messrs. Widdy and Harry Deeley, the latter a room-mate, testified that Sanders had frequently indulged in talk suggestive of suicide. A sister of his wife, who had arrived in Sydney was pressing him, it was understood, to take steps to bring his wife and family to Australia, and the apprehension that some action would be taken against him induced insomnia and despondency. He had lost a leg in an accident in the old country, but the handicap in no way militated against his ability to earn a livelihood. The strychnine was obtained at a local drug shop on the representation that it was wanted to poison rats, and the book was signed by Sanders and a workmate named Stewart in accordance with the requirements of the law.

The verdict of the coroner was that death was caused by strychnine self-administered. Interment took place at the Footscray cemetery, the Rev. H. K. Mack being the officiating clergyman.