

SUICIDE AT BRAYBROOK.

John Babb, an inspector for the Shire of Braybrook, committed suicide at his residence, in Ballarat-road, on Sunday evening. Babb had for some time been in ill-health, and on Sunday afternoon his brother took him to the Melbourne Hospital for examination. At that institution he received very discouraging news, and, on returning to Braybrook, he went into his yard and cut his throat with a table knife.

RUINED THROUGH DRINK.

A SHIRE INSPECTOR'S SUICIDE.

At Footscray court house yesterday, Dr. Cole, District Coroner, held an inquest concerning the death of John Babb, aged 47, Braybrook shire council inspector. Evidence was given to the effect that deceased, who was a married man with two children, had been drinking excessively for the past three or four years. He had been in failing health of late, and was depressed in consequence. On Friday night last he said to his boy Ernest, twelve years of age, "You will not have your father and mother long." On Sunday last his brother, Mr. Jim Babb, also residing at Braybrook, took deceased into the Melbourne Hospital, where a doctor examined him, and gave some medicine and ointment. They returned to Braybrook, and his brother left him, telling him to take the medicine. A little before tea time deceased went out into the yard. As he did not come into the house again, his son Ernest went out to call him in for tea. He found him lying down dead, with his throat cut. He was lying in a pool of blood, with a table knife in his right hand. He was then quite dead.

The Coroner said that it seemed to be a case in which a man had set himself to ruin his own health and prospects by drinking. There could be no doubt it was a case of deliberate suicide. His finding was that John Babb, on 13th November, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a table knife, and there was evidence of mental depression through long continued intemperance.

A special feature at the Cathedral Hall dinner this evening will be a shadow exhibition,

INQUEST.

On Wednesday last an inquest was held in the Footscray court house, touching the death of John Babb, who committed suicide by cutting his throat at Braybrook on Sunday last. Dr Cole, coroner, conducted the inquiry.

Thomas Wm. Babb, brother of the deceased, living at Braybrook, identified the body of the deceased as that of his brother John Babb, who was 40 years of age. He was a married man living with his wife and two children at Braybrook. He last saw his brother alive about a week before he died. At that time he seemed very weak and languid. He thought it was caused by drinking too much. It had been going on for 3 or 4 years. He had been inspector for the shire for 15 or 16 years. He was in fairly good circumstances until recently. He spent his money in drink. So far as witness was aware he never threatened to do away with himself.

Eliza Babb, wife of the deceased, last saw her husband alive on Sunday afternoon about 3 o'clock. She was ill in bed and he went into her room several times. He had not much to say. He had been to the Melbourne Hospital on the Sunday, but he said nothing to witness about his visit to the hospital. He had been suffering for some time, and appeared to be very much worried about it. He was very low spirited, but she could not say that he had been drinking. She could not say when he had last drunk, but some time. She first heard that her husband was dead from Thomas Babb at about 7 o'clock on Sunday evening. Her husband said on Friday to Ernest: "You and Emily will soon have no dad." He was in bed at the time.

Kenneth Babb, son of the deceased, said he was 12 years of age. He last saw his father alive on Sunday evening at about 6 o'clock. He was walking in the yard. Witness went inside and his father came in. He went out again and picked up a knife off the table. He went outside and witness started to have tea. His aunt called him and he went out and saw his father lying down. He moved his father with his foot and told him to get up. He never answered and witness saw blood about his head. He told his aunt, who sent for his uncle. His father said to him on Friday night: "You won't have a father and mother long."

Annabel Babb also gave evidence.

James Babb, brother of the deceased, said he drove him into the Melbourne Hospital on Sunday morning for the purpose of getting him into that institution. There was no one in the house to look after him. He was examined by the doctor and came out with some medicine and ointment. Witness asked him how he got on, and he said "All right." They told him to go back to the hospital in two or three days time if he liked. He said "I don't think I need bother going again, as Allan can get the medicine for me." He seemed troubled when they got home. He had not quite recovered from the drink, and his mind seemed to be affected by drink.

Constable McGuigan said that Harry Durham called at the Braybrook police station on Sunday night and said that John Babb was dead. Witness went and found the body lying in the back yard. His throat was cut from ear to ear. He had a small table knife in his hand, and there was a large pool of blood on the ground. Dr Haynes, who arrived promptly, said that death must have been instantaneous. Witness had known him for about four years. During the

have been instantaneous. Witness had known him for about four years. During the last 18 months he had given way to drink.

The coroner said this appeared to be a case where a man set himself to ruin his health and prospects through drink. He had succeeded in ruining his mind and body. His mind must have been in a terrible state through his long drinking habits. He found that John Babb had committed suicide through cutting his throat with a table knife.

The remains were interred in the Footscray cemetery on Wednesday, and were followed to their last resting place by a number of sympathising friends. Pall-bearers were—Dr Mullenger, J.P., Cr Barwell, J.P., Mr Collins, Mr Hopkins, Messrs J. Crawell, J. Mullenger, J. Cook and C. Laughlin. They burial service was read by the Rev H. More and Walter A. Warne conducted the funeral arrangements.

SICK AND WORRIED.

MAN CUTS HIS THROAT.

An inquest was held on Wednesday at Footscray, before Dr. Cole, Coroner, touching the death of John Babb, who committed suicide by cutting his throat at Braybrook, on Sunday evening last.

Evidence was given that deceased was 47 years of age, and a married man, living with his wife and two children, at Braybrook. He had been suffering for some time, and was very much worried about it, and had been drinking heavily.

Ernest Babb, son of the deceased, said that on Sunday last he saw his father go into the house, pick up a table knife, and go into the yard. The next time witness saw him he was lying in the yard with his throat cut.

The Coroner found that deceased committed suicide by cutting his throat with a table knife.