

*Otago Daily Times.* 28 June 1927 [28 June 2016]

## **ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES.**

POISONED BY GAS.

A DENTIST'S DEATH.

(Special to Daily Times.)

AUCKLAND, June 27.

"I have been a trier. This place has proved a white elephant. Continued ill health and domestic and financial worries have got me down, and I cannot go any farther." That was the message left by James Alexander Campbell, aged 55, a dentist, who was found dead in his surgery at Great North road about 2 o'clock on Saturday afternoon. Mrs Ann Dale, the cleaner of the premises, was about to start her work when she noticed a strong smell of gas coming from one of the rooms. Upon looking in she saw Mr Campbell sitting in a chair with a gas mask over his face. A tube connected the mask and the gas was turned full on. Mr Campbell had been staying at the Royal Hotel where he owed about £98. On Friday he told the proprietress, Mrs Catherine Reilly, that he was going over the harbour and would probably not return. On Saturday morning she received a letter from him in which he said that he would not be back that night. He enclosed receipts for premiums on an insurance policy for £500 with the A.M.P. Society's Wellington office, and gave her authority to operate the policy. "You should get your money first," he said. "Take it and please send the rest to my wife." He also thanked Mrs Reilly for all she had done for him, and closed his letter by saying "Good-bye."

Mrs Reilly said in her evidence that deceased was a sober man, and that she had never seen him the worse for liquor. He had never made any threat of committing suicide, but when she received the letter Mrs Reilly was naturally alarmed and at once communicated with the police. It was too late, however, to do anything. The deceased's body was examined by a doctor, who said that death was due to gas poisoning. A verdict of suicide by gas poisoning was returned.

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## DENTIST FOUND DEAD.

### CASE OF GAS POISONING.

The body of Mr. James Alexander Campbell, dentist, was discovered in his surgery in Great North Road, at two o'clock on Saturday afternoon by a woman who had gone to clean the premises. When she opened the front door she noticed a strong smell of gas, and on going upstairs found the body of Mr. Campbell in an arm-chair in his work-room, with the gas supply turned on. Mr. Campbell, who was aged about 35, resided at a hotel in the city.

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## DEATH OF A DENTIST.

### VERDICT OF SUICIDE.

An inquest regarding the death of James Alexander Campbell, dentist, aged 35, who was found dead in his surgery in Great North Road on Saturday afternoon, was held before Mr. W. R. McKean, S.M., coroner, yesterday.

Catherine Reilly, proprietress of the Royal Hotel, said deceased had been staying at the hotel for about six months. At 11 p.m. on Friday he said he was going across the harbour, and would not be back that night. On Saturday witness received a note from deceased, in which he said: "I have been a trier, but this place has proved a 'white elephant.' Continued ill-health, domestic and financial worries, and trying to please too many have got me down, and I cannot go any further."

Ann Dale, who was employed to clean deceased's surgery, described finding deceased in an armchair with his face covered by a gas-mask, from which a tube led to a gas jet.

The coroner returned a verdict of suicide by gas poisoning.