

*(The Wrexham Advertiser, 23 February 1895)*

## THE LATE MR E. H. ACTON.

We regret to record the death of Mr Edward Hamilton Acton, M.A., son of the late Mr T. B. Acton, of Wrexham, which took place very suddenly at St. John's College, Cambridge, on Friday evening. Mr Acton was sitting talking to a friend, when suddenly his head fell backwards and before assistance could be obtained he was dead. Mr. Acton, who was in his thirty-third year, was educated at the Wrexham Grammar School and Rugby. From the latter school he obtained a scholarship at St. John's College, Cambridge. He was in the first class of the Natural Science Tripos, 1885. He was elected fellow of his College, and was lecturer of Natural Sciences. Mr H. Saunders French, the Cambridge borough coroner, held an inquest at St. John's College on Monday morning.

Mr Thomas Arthur Acton, solicitor, of Wrexham, a brother of the deceased, identified the body. The deceased, he said, was thirty-three years of age, and enjoyed exceptionally good health. He last saw him alive in the early part of January, when he appeared to be in perfect health.

Dr. Lewis Erle Shore, Fellow of St. John's, said the deceased was a great friend of his. About ten o'clock on Friday night Mr Acton came to his rooms, as he usually did, and they had tea together. Soon afterwards they settled down to their respective work. Mr Acton sat at the table with his back to the fire. About eleven o'clock witness asked Mr Acton a question, and he explained the answer to the question quite clearly and lucidly in his usual way. Witness said, "Thank you; I see that point now," and turned to go on with his work, Mr Acton turning away to go on with his also. About a quarter of a minute after that witness heard a deep respiration behind him. He looked round and saw that Mr Acton's head had fallen back on the chair, and he was breathing heavily. Witness at once put him on the ground, undid his collar and waistcoat, and drew the tongue forward to assist respiration. He noticed that Mr Acton's pulse was not perceptible; his respiration was faint for, perhaps, two or three minutes, gradually becoming shallower, and finally stopped. Just before it stopped he rushed out into the court and succeeded in getting the porter, who came to his rooms, and sent for Mr Douty. When witness returned to his rooms there was still a very feeble respiration, which stopped almost at

once. Witness began artificial respiration, and kept it up until Mr Douty was coming up the stairs—about five or six minutes. When Mr Douty arrived Mr Acton was quite dead, and he had no doubt deceased had been dead five minutes. He kept up artificial respiration in the hope that something might be done to the last. Deceased had always been very active, never complained of exhaustion, nor had he, to witness' knowledge, ever consulted a doctor in Cambridge.

Mr E. H. Douty, surgeon, Bridge-street, said he was called to the deceased just after eleven on Friday evening. He examined him with a stethoscope to try to detect any heart beat but could hear no heart sound at all. He thought Mr Acton was then dead. Witness had made a post mortem examination, and found that he died from heart failure, due to heart disease. In every other way he was perfectly healthy, as far as he could see. There were no marks of external violence. The evidence given by Dr. Shore was perfectly consistent with what witness saw.

By the Foreman: The heart was extensively diseased, which might have been brought on by excessive strain and exercise in the past. It must have been of long standing—The jury found a verdict of "Natural causes," in accordance with the medical testimony, and expressed their sympathy with the relatives.—Mr T. A. Acton thanked the jury for their expression of sympathy.

The funeral took place at Cambridge, on Tuesday, the service being held in the College Chapel.

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