

SHOCKING FATAL ACCIDENT TO MRS. BRADSHAW.

It is our painful duty to record the untimely death of Mrs. Bradshaw, the wife of W. Bradshaw, Esq., of Audleys Wood, near Basingstoke, which took place at five o'clock on Thursday afternoon. The sad event was caused by a horse accident, the particulars of which, as far as we can gather from persons on the spot, are somewhat as follows.

Mrs. Bradshaw, attired in her riding habit, and attended by her groom, George Launceston, had been for an afternoon's ride, and was returning along the London Road. When about four hundred yards distant from the Hatch Inn, Mrs. Bradshaw's horse stumbled and throwing her head foremost on to the road and falling on her. Recovering his feet, the animal galloped away at full speed and Mrs. Bradshaw's riding habit having caught in the pommel, the unfortunate lady, who, it is believed, had been rendered insensible by the fall, was carried head downwards along the road.

The groom, who was riding behind, rode hard after. On reaching the Hatch Inn, the fatal horse turned sharply round into the Mapledurwell Road and carried its insensible rider another hundred yards, when the riding habit became disentangled, and Mrs. Bradshaw fell into the road.

The noise of the galloping horses attracted the attention of Mr. Blake, the landlord of the Hatch Inn, who at the time was attending to his pigs, and also that of his son, Mr. P. T. Blake, and both these gentlemen hurried immediately to the spot in order if possible to render timely assistance. Sad to say the only office which they could perform was to help carry a dying woman to the Inn, in which melancholy duty they were assisted by Mrs. Blake, who came to the spot at the moment of the alarm. The unfortunate lady's head and face were sadly cut about by the original fall and by subsequent kicks from the hoofs of the frightened horse. The most serious injury was on the top of the head, the skull being, we understand, fractured. There were other ugly cuts about the forehead and lip.

The groom, who was almost distracted by what had occurred, fled on his horse with almost lightning speed to Dr. Webb's surgery at Basingstoke and urgently besought the doctor to ride back to the Hatch on his horse. Dr. Webb, however, preferred to ride in his brougham, which he ordered to be got ready immediately, and within a few minutes, he was on the spot.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Bradshaw had been taken into a room in the Inn, called the ante-room. There she was gently laid upon a mattress. Mrs. Blake bathed her face and head and administered a dose of brandy to keep alive, if possible, any spark of life that might remain in the body of the exhausted lady, who was still breathing fitfully. Mrs. Blake continued to tend her with womanly kindness, but within ten or fifteen minutes after she had been brought in, Mrs. Bradshaw breathed her last.

When the groom returned — he was back in an incredibly short space of time — it was to learn that all was over, and the poor fellow's agitation at the loss of his mistress can easily be imagined. A few minutes afterwards Dr. Webb arrived, and going at once to the ante-room, he saw that the lady was beyond all mortal aid.

The runaway horse was stopped on the Mapledurwell road by the Vicar of Basing, the Rev. R. F. Hessey, who at the time was returning on his tricycle from Up Nately.

The news of the accident was communicated to Mr. and Mrs. Salter, of Basing Fields, who, as near friends and neighbours of the deceased lady, were naturally much affected by the occurrence. Mr. Salter undertook to convey the sorrowful message to Mr. Bradshaw, and the deep anguish of the bereaved gentleman found expression in the most heart-rending manner.

At about half-past-seven, a large brake from Audleys arrived at the Inn. Into this, the mattress, bearing the shrouded dead, was lifted, and attended by Mr. and Mrs. Salter, and the male servants from Audleys, the body was conveyed home.

The sad event has cast an indescribable gloom over the whole neighbourhood, for the deceased lady, since her residence here, had won hosts of friends among rich and poor by her amiable disposition and deeds of charity.

Mr. Spencer Clarke, the county coroner, was informed of the occurrence, and directed an inquest to be held at half-past-eight o'clock, yesterday (Friday).

The deceased lady was forty-two years of age. It is remarkable that Miss Bradshaw, her only child, when driving with a friend about a fortnight ago, met with an accident which caused the fracture of her friend's leg. Fortunately the close carriage of the family was in close proximity, and the unfortunate lady was at once removed to Audley's Wood, where she still lies under surgical treatment.