

GRIEVED FOR HIS WIFE

WIDNES MAN'S BODY FOUND IN A CANAL

A pathetic story of a young man's grief following the death of his wife was disclosed at an inquest held at Widnes to-day, by Coroner Brighthouse.

On Sunday morning last the body of Thomas Ward, aged 27, who had lodgings in Charlotte-street, Widnes, was recovered from the Sankey and St. Helens Canal, near Pilkington's Works, Widnes.

It was stated in evidence that his wife had died in Whiston Institution the day before he took away his life. Ward was a farm labourer, and during the past two weeks had been depressed owing to his wife's illness.

On Saturday morning he was seen at Mass at St. Mary's Church, and in reply to a friend's expression of sympathy said, "I will be all right." Ward then mounted his bicycle and rode away.

Shortly afterwards a bicycle was found on the canal side by a man named Welding. Over the handlebars he found a coat, to which was pinned a letter bearing the instruction: "Who ever shall pass by please open this envelope."

The coroner read one of the three letters in the envelope, which ran: "As my beloved wife died this morning I will die to-day. May Jesus have mercy on my soul. Please bury me with my beloved wife."

A verdict of "Suicide while of unsound mind" was returned.