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**Name** Matilda Lark **Reg. No.** 2274 **Admitted** 27th September 1911

**Nationality** British **Religion** Church of England **Transfer** No **Civil State** Married

**Occupation & symbols** Housewife ya4 **Age on adm.** 63 **At onset.** 63 **First attack**

**Attack. Cong. First Attack** / **Not First. Unk’n.**

**Duration of present attack. Y’rs. Mo’s** 1 **D’ys** 56

**When and where previously treated.** Nowhere. **Ep.** No. **Sui.** No. **Dangerous** Troublesome at times  **Union, or Parish.** Bermondsey **Adjudicated to**

**Causes of insanity**

**Principal and symbol.** Alcohol, K.I.

**Contributory and symbol.** Cardio-vascular degeneration L.J.

**MEDICAL CERTIFICATE, by Slierling ?** 15/9/1911

1. **Facts indicating Insanity observed by myself at time of examination**

She told me that her mother was dead then asked me if I was going to see her today. She talks incoherently, does not know her age, nor where she lives.

1. **Facts communicated by others**

Amy Hopkins Nurse at Parish Street Workhouse tells me that patient says she hears voices and sees imaginary people and talks to them. Also swears very much.

**PERSONAL HISTORY.**

(No information available):

**1 – (See 22)  
2 – Infantile history   
3 – Catamenia   
 Onset, regularity  
 Duration, &c.   
4 – Intellect, education  
5 – Infantile, or later fits  
6 – Injuries   
7 – Various neuroses   
8 – Venereal   
9 – Other illnesses   
10 – Consumption   
11 – Pregnancies  
 Number, details, deaths, Miscarriages, health, &c.   
12 – Work and habits**

**13 – Drink** Takes Beer.   
**14 – Temperament** Very excitable   
**15 – Previous insanity** No   
**16 – Symptoms at previous onset** /   
**17 – Suicidal** No   
**18 – Dangerous** No   
**19 – Sleep** Sleepless   
**20 – Causes** Alcohol. Fatty degermation of heart.   
**21 – Occupations** None

**FAMILY HISTORY.**

**1 & 22 –**

**23 – Were parents related** No   
 **And ages at marriage** 21 + 23

**24 – Family history of** No information.   
 **Insanity   
 Drink  
 Epilepsy  
 Consumption  
 Paralysis  
 Any other disease   
 Any other information**

**PHYSICAL CONDITION ON ADMISSION.**

Brown eyes.

**Height.** / **Weight.** / **Hair** Grey **Temp.** 97.6  
 **Bruises or injuries** Head nitty, arcus senilis present. Suffers from chronic rheumatism in the hand.

**Physique** Poor / marks of old bed sore on her sacrum   
**Nutrition** Sparely nourished   
**Expression** Cheerful  
**Attitude**

**Respiratory** Some slight emphysema of lungs

**Circulatory** Heart rapid + feeble

**Alimentary** Tongue furred  
 Teeth carious   
 Palate vaulted

**Genito-Urinary –   
 Glands, scars** /   
 **Urine**  Acid reaction, SG 1019, No albumen, blood, or sugar.

**Nervous –**

**Motor** Unable to walk, brought in on an ambulance stretcher   
 **Sensory** Anaesthesia of lower extremities  
 **Pupil reflexes  
 a. – Consensual** Present  
 **b. – Irido-plegia** Not present  
 **c. – Sympathetic** Not obtained   
 **Size, equality, mobility** Average size, equal + mobile  
 **Superficial reflexes** Diminished   
 **Deep. do.** Knee jerks absent.   
 **Sphincter control.** Is wet + dirty.

**OTHER SPECIAL ORGANS**

**MENTAL CONDIITON ON ADMISSION**

**Mode of speech** Normal

**Reaction** Fairly good

**Memory** Much impaired

**Attention** Wandering

**Intellect** Poor

**Conduct** Very noisy, excited + talkative

**Will power** Conversing with imaginary people.

**Impulses** Has no idea of time.

**Delusions** Says she came here yesterday whereas she came 3 days ago + imagines she is in Queens Road Rotherhithe.

**Hallucinations** Says the only thing that troubles here is that she cannot get anything to drink.

**Suicidal** /

**Homicidal** /

**Erotic** /

**Sleep** /

**Ward.** KN

**Date.** 10/1/12

**Diagnosis** Confusional Insanity **Sym.-** 11 5

1911

Sept 30 K Takes ordinary diet, Is very noisy, talkative + sleepless. Wet and dirty habits. MT.

Oct 3 Statement. Confusional insanity. Is much confused + vacant. Says she came here today + that it is Sunday. Cannot tell her age or where she, says in Lambeth. Hears her husband’s voice + believes that he has just been here. Talks to herself. Mistakes identities. Requires to be washed + dressed + is faulty in habits. In poor health.

Oct 10 K Very confused. No idea of time. Cannot tell how long has been here, or where she is. Imagines her relatives come here daily to visit her. Very shaky. MT.

Oct 17 K Imagines her relatives are here; thinks her mother is in the garden. Is very restless + confused. Is in bed today owing to an attack of diarrhoea. Is on milk diet. Ordered mis. Bis. MT.

Oct 24 K As confused + irrational as ever + still thinks her relatives are here. Has had no diarrhoea since the 17th inst. + is up again today. Very restless. Faulty habits. Feeble health. MT.

Nov 24 K Is very noisy + abusive. Her memory is much impaired, says she came this morning. In feeble health.

Dec 7 K She has been in bed since Nov 29 owing to inflamed left ankle.   
 Saturated solution of mag. sulph. applied. Is well again + able to get up today.

Dec 23 K Very confused + forgetful, thinks she has not been here a week yet. Very noisy, resistive and spiteful. Poor health. M.

1912 Jan 10 Removed to Ward N. MT.

Jan 25 N Is noisy + excited. Her memory is much impaired. Is unable to give a sensible account of herself. Poor health. CR.

Apr 24 There is little change in her condition. Noisy + excited. Her memory is much impaired. Poor health. CR.

July 24 N Memory + intelligence much impaired. Cannot tell the day or month. Thinks she has been here a ~~month~~ fortnight only. Excited, noisy, resistive. Faulty habits. Poor health. MT.

Aug 31 Special Report + Certificate

Secondary dementia. Is quite childish and simple in manner + conversation. Has no memory. Cannot tell where she is, when she came here or how old she is. Requires everything to be done for her. Restless, noisy + excited at times. Wet + dirty in habits. In moderate health.

Oct 24 Very little idea of time or place. Thinks she has been here about a week and does not know where she us. Very noisy, incoherent + excited. Has to be fed. Is having a milk + Beef Tea diet. Faulty habits. Poor health. MT.

Dec 11 Has been complaining of difficulty in swallowing. A soft tube was passed yesterday + an obstruction was found in the oesophagus about a couple of inches above the stomach. The oesophagus was full of milk which she had tried to swallow this morning. Is now having nutrient suppositories. She was able to swallow a little tea this morning. Transferred to Ward G.

1913 Is now in a very feeble state. Can only swallow a few drops of water at a   
Jan 24 G time. Is having nutrient suppositories. Has apparently no pain, but has some discomfort from a sensation of hunger. CR.

Feb 10 Has become very feeble in the last few weeks, cannot swallow at all now. Is having the suppositories which make her very thirsty. CR.

Feb 14 Died quietly this morning.

Cause of Death as Certified.

‘Carcinoma of Oesophagus’

CR.

**COPY OG STATEMENT OF DEATH SENT TO CORONER** No. 2274

Died 14 Feby 1013

**Name** Matilda Lark

**Sex and age** Female, 65 years

**Married, single or widowed** Marrieed

**Profession or occupation** Housewife

**Place of abode immediately** Parish Street Workhouse F.E.  
**before being placed under**  
**care and treatment (if**   
**known)**

**Apparent cause of death** Carcinoma of oesophagus

**Whether or not ascertained** Yes   
**by post mortem examination**

**Time and any unusual** 8.45 am. 14th Feby 1913   
**circumstances attending the** None  
**death; also a description of**  
**any injuries known to exist**  
**at the time of death or found**  
**subsequently on the body of**  
**deceased**

**Duration and disease of**  Indefinite  
**which the patient died**

**Names, and description**  Nurse E. Rich  
**of persons present at the**   
**death**

**Whether or not mechanical** No.   
**restraint was applied to**   
**deceased within seven days**  
**previously to death, with its**   
**character and duration, if so**  
**applied**

**Signed,** ?, ***Med. Supt.***