

WITNESS COLLAPSES. AT MURDER INQUEST.

The sudden collapse of one of the principal witnesses at yesterday's inquest into the death of Arthur Adolf Lange, who was fatally stabbed on December 7, caused a prompt adjournment of the inquiry.

The witness—Mrs. May Grace, a widow—had barely completed her evidence when she fell from the witness box in a dead faint. As she had fallen heavily upon her face, and as she lay so still it was for a moment thought that she was dead. Later, she revived.

William Ralph (36), who is alleged to have stabbed the deceased was present in custody, having been charged with murder.

Mrs. Grace explained that she resided at 435 Riley-street, Surry Hills. Lange, the deceased, had also lived there. Another resident at the house, William Ralph, arrived home on December 7 "mad with drink." He had a violent quarrel with his wife over money, and later, when he found his bedroom door was locked, he broke in a panel of the door with his fist. He then returned, and said to Lange that he had "busted his knuckles." He went to show his knuckles to Lange, but the latter said: "Keep off me, Bill, or you will make me all blood." Further words were passed between them, and then Ralph said, "You are looking for trouble." He drew a knife, and flourished it, but Lange caught him by the wrist, and bent him backwards over a table. Witness tried to wrest the knife from him, but could not do so. Then he pressed his knee into Lange's stomach and Lange let go his wrist.

Witness then saw Ralph stab Lange. Another witness of the tragedy pulled Ralph away from the wounded man, who fell to the ground. He had been almost disembowelled.

Witness thought that the only cause of trouble between the two men was that Lange had said that he didn't want blood from Ralph's injured knuckles on his shirt.

Phillip Arthur Toms, an ambulance officer, said that whilst he was rendering first aid to Lange, Ralph was behaving as if he was deranged. He had to be held down until the arrival of the police. He had said, "Give me a knife or a gun to kill myself with for what I have done."

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have done."

The inquiry was adjourned until to-day.