

---

### THE MOTOR OMNIBUS ACCIDENT.

---

The inquest on the bodies of the victims of the accident to the motor omnibus on Handcross-hill is to be opened this afternoon by the coroner for the Lewes division, Mr. G. V. Benson. To-day's proceedings will be confined to the hearing of evidence of identification. The bodies will be removed immediately afterwards to the Orpington district for burial. An adjournment of the inquiry will be made to a date which will allow of expert testimony being called as to the exact cause of the omnibus running away. At present neither the Vanguard Company's officials nor the engineer who examined the wrecked car on behalf of the Local Government Board (Mr. H. Law, M.L.C.E.) are in a position to make any statement on that point.

At the Red Lion Hotel two patients are now lying—Mr. W. E. Bailey, the schoolmaster of Chelsfield, who sustained crushed ribs and internal injuries, and Mr. S. Croft, of St. Mary Cray. The latter is doing well, but Mr. Bailey is in a critical condition. Another sufferer whose recovery is doubtful is the conductor of the omnibus, Frank Ewens. Last night it was wrongly reported that he had died from his injuries. He lies unconscious at the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, whither he was removed on Thursday night by ambulance-car in order that the operation of trepanning might be performed. The second patient at Brighton, Mr. J. S. Mansfield, of St. Mary Cray, one of whose legs was broken, is reported to be very comfortable. Only four of the injured now remain at Crawley Cottage Hospital—namely, Messrs. R. J. Pugh, a schoolmaster, of Orpington (fractured left arm and leg), E. Smith, shoemaker, St. Mary Cray (scalp wounds), H. Glassup, a builder, of Orpington (fractured arm and scalp wounds), Charles Dengate, a grocer, St. Mary Cray (injured leg and scalp wounds). Last night it was stated that they were all doing well. Two of their companions, James Knoller, of Orpington, and Joseph Hayward, of Little Bentley, Essex, who had sustained scalp wounds, were allowed to leave during the afternoon.

Mr. John Burns and the Sheriff of Sussex yesterday sent messages of inquiry and condolence to Handcross.

---