

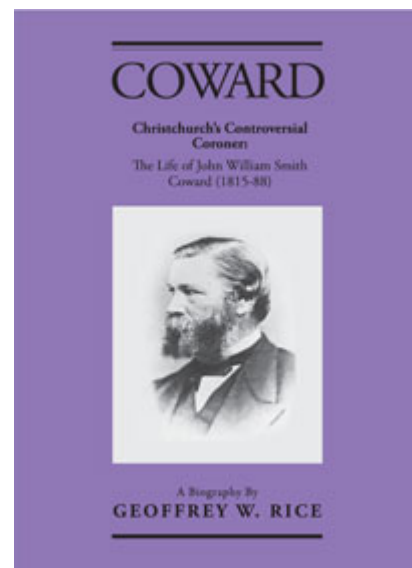
# COWARD

## Christchurch's Controversial Coroner: The Life of John William Smith Coward (1815-88)

A Biography by Geoffrey W. Rice.

ISBN 978-0-473-68157-9

Dr John Coward was Coroner for the Christchurch District in New Zealand between 1861 and 1886 and conducted inquests into hundreds of deaths in that quarter-century. The stories behind these deaths reveal much about the social history of nineteenth-century Christchurch and its often quirky inhabitants. Dr Coward's career also throws new light on Christchurch's notoriously quarrelsome medical fraternity. They criticised his appointment as Coroner because he had only the basic LSA qualification of an apothecary, yet he had practised as a doctor in London before emigrating to New Zealand.



Based largely on the newspapers of the day, this biography adds a richly detailed chapter to the medical and legal history of Christchurch and New Zealand.

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