



SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORONER'S INQUESTS



CODFORD

Frank Winter 23rd April, 1915

Death from Spotted Fever - 15 Year old

Mr S. Buchanan Smith, City Coroner, held an enquiry at the Council Chamber on Monday afternoon, into the death of a young man named Frank Garland Winter, who died of cerebro-spinal meningitis on Saturday. Mr George Kington was chosen as foreman of the jury.

Frank Winter (senior), a painter and glazier in the employ of Sir John Jackson at Codford, stated that he had been lodging with Mrs Mitchell at 49, George Street, since November, his permanent address being 10, Gloucester Crescent, Cheltenham. The deceased was his son, also named Frank Winter and his son was 15 years of age. About seven weeks ago Frank Winter (junior) he came to Salisbury and he got employment at odd jobs for Sir John Jackson. On Wednesday, when Frank Winter (senior) arrived home from his work in the evening, he was told that his son was not very well and had a pain in his back. The boy had a cup of tea and went to bed. The witness - Frank Winter (senior) went to a chemist, who gave him some medicine, bovril and pills. He also went for Dr Thornton who was out. The boy seemed to take his food all right. He stayed with the boy all day Friday, and as he seemed to be better the witness went to work on Saturday, but before leaving for work by the six o'clock train took him a cup of tea and wished him good morning. On returning home he was told his son was dead.

Maria Mitchell, wife of William Mitchell, a goods guard, stated that the boy and his father lodged with her. On Wednesday evening the boy came home ill and went to bed where he remained the whole of Thursday and Friday. His father stayed with him on the Friday and gave him some medicine. On the Thursday he was sick, but then slept well, waking up delirious. On Saturday morning between 8 and 9 she took him some milk and made him comfortable. When she went about eleven to take him some bovril, he was breathing deeply and she could see a change in his face. She called her husband, who was in bed, but before he arrived the boy was dead.

Dr Gordon stated that on Saturday morning he was in George Street and was called to see the boy whom he found dead. From what he was told he expected he had died from spotted fever. On Sunday he made an examination and was satisfied that the boy had died from cerebro-spinal meningitis.

The Foreman: Don't you think it would have been wise to call in a doctor when he was delirious on Thursday?
Reply: I think so.

The jury passed a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

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