



CORONERS INQUESTS



The Inquest on the Body of Frank Pill

On Monday afternoon an inquest was held before Mr. J. B. Baker, coroner, at the cottage of Mr. Wm. Thorn (for convenience), on the body of a child named Frank Pill, aged three years and seven months, and son of Alfred Pill, a labourer residing at Hinton, who died on Thursday, the 1st January inst.

Sarah Adams, wife of Isaac Adams, labourer, stated that on Wednesday afternoon, December 31st, between four and five o'clock, she was in charge of deceased and other children – her grandchildren. She had occasion to leave the house for a minute, when she heard the child scream out, and she at once went in to see what was the matter with the child. She saw the deceased screaming, and holding its mouth with both hands. She asked the child what was the matter, when another little brother stated that he had been drinking out of a tea kettle. She at once looked in the child's mouth, but saw nothing, but thinking the child had scalded its mouth, she grated out some raw potato and put it in its mouth. She believed the water in the kettle was nearly boiling; it was pulled aside, hanging in a crook on the hob. The mother and husband shortly afterwards came home, when she told them, and assisted in nursing the child.

Alfred Pill, the father, stated that when he came home and first looked at the child's mouth he did not think the child had scalded it, but afterwards seeing the child was getting worse he went for a doctor; first going to Bishopstone, but finding no one there, he went to Stratton.

Dr. Fernie stated that the last witness came for him on Thursday morning about 12.30. He at once went and saw the child. The back of its throat was much blistered, and he at once saw it was a hopeless case, as the child appeared to have put the spout of the kettle right into its mouth. The child died from inflammation of the throat the same day at three p.m.

Verdict accordingly.

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