



CORONERS INQUESTS



Inquest Report on John Purdue

Fatal Accident

An inquest was held here on Wednesday, before Mr. R. M. Wilson, coroner, concerning the death of John Purdue, who had died the previous evening from the effects of severe scalds received through falling into a copper containing hot liquor. The deceased, who was a bricklayer, was 38 years of age, and it appeared from the evidence that the poor fellow was assisting a man in the employ of Mr. S. Weeks, of the Brewery, emptying hops, and when about to throw in the third pail, he over-balanced himself and fell into the copper. He was taken out immediately, and Mr. Pike, the surgeon, was sent for. The deceased continued quite sensible, and was enabled to explain how the accident occurred. Mr. Helston, assistant to Mr. Pike, said that he found the deceased almost pulseless and sinking fast, and he died in about seven hours after the accident from the effects of the severe scalds. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death."

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 21 May 1870