

Daisy Pearl Gwendolyne Cass

Isle of Wight County Press – 2 May 1908

NEWPORT CHILDS FATALLY BURNED.

An inquest was held at the I.W. County Hospital on Wednesday, touching the death of Daisy Pearl Gwendolyne Cass, of 2 Florida Terrace, Hillside, Newport, aged 2 ½ years, who died as the result of burns sustained on April 13th. The inquiry was conducted by the Acting Deputy Coroner (Mr. James Eldridge). – Mr. Whittington was elected foreman of the jury. – Mrs. DAISY CASS, the mother of the deceased child, stated that her husband was a bricklayer. On April 13th witness arose at about 5 leaving the child in bed with her husband, who got up about 6. At 7 o'clock witness went up, and the child was then asleep. At about 7.15 witness heard the child cry, and going upstairs found her in flames on the bed. Witness took her up and wrapped her in a dressing-gown, which extinguished the flames. Witness brought the child downstairs, and sent for a neighbour, Mrs. Hayter, who came to her assistance. They found that the child was burnt on the lower part of the body. Witness applied linseed oil, and did what she could for deceased. Dr. Foster was sent for and attended at 8.40. He said he would send a nurse, and the nurse came between 10 and 11. They both attended the child subsequently until the 23rd, when she was removed to the County Hospital. At the time of the occurrence there was a box of matches on the washstand. It was usually removed with the candlestick, but must have escaped her notice. The washstand was near the bed. Witness afterwards found the matches on the bed. The child could have easily reached them from the bed. This was witness's only child. The child had never touched matches before. – Mrs. HAYTER, of 4, Priory Terrace, Hillside, said she was called on the 13th inst. by the last witness. The baby was very much burnt about the lower part of the body. Witness applied linseed oil prior to the arrival of the doctor. – Dr. THOMAS SMITH, house surgeon at the I.W. County Hospital, said deceased was received on April 23rd, suffering from very severe burns on both legs. The right arm was also burned, and the skin was scorched practically up to the neck. On Sunday signs of septic poisoning set in, and the child died on Monday afternoon. When deceased was brought to the hospital, the burns had been very well dressed. A fire such as described would be sufficient to cause the wounds. The FOREMAN asked what was the reason the child was moved to the County Hospital after 10 days. – Dr. SMITH said the reason given was that the nurse was unwell, and there was no one else who could dress the burns. – Mrs. CASS, in answer to the Coroner, said the child's nightdress was of flannelette. – The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, the FOREMAN remarked on the dangers of using flannelette. – Mr. MORRIS, (one of the jury) said the milling accounted for the quickness of ignition. – The CORONER expressed his sympathy and that of the jury with the bereaved parents.

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