

Beatrice May Stocks

Hampshire Advertiser - 21 February 1885

NEWPORT.

AN INFANT ACCIDENTALLY BURNT TO DEATH. – On Monday an inquest was held at the Barley Mow Inn, Shide, before the Coroner for the Isle of Wight (Mr. F. Blake), touching the death of Beatrice May Stocks, aged one year and three months. - The mother, Agnes Mary, wife of George Stocks, living at Pan-cottages, deposed that on Friday morning, at half-past 7, she left the deceased asleep in bed, and her little boy was also asleep in another cot in the same room. At a quarter to 8 her attention was attracted by a smell of something burning, accompanied by smoke. She immediately went upstairs, and found the deceased sitting up in bed with the clothes on fire. She extinguished the fire, and sent for a doctor. About five minutes before she went upstairs the little boy came downstairs to be dressed. He subsequently told her that he picked up a match, struck it on the bed, and gave it to the deceased to play with. The boy must have climbed upon the bed to get at the matches. Witness's mother had beaten the boy several times for playing with matches. The child died at 7 o'clock the same evening. - Dr. F. B. Tuttiett stated that he was sent for to attend the deceased. He found her clothes much burnt. The case was hopeless from the first owing to the injuries on the back and leg being deep and extensive. – The jury returned a verdict of “Accidental death.”

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