

Ada May Earley

Isle of Wight Times - Thursday January 1901

FATAL RESULT OF THE BURNING ACCIDENT AT NEWPORT.

At the Sir John Barleycorn Inn, Newport, on Monday, the Coroner for the Isle of Wight, Mr. E.F. Blake, held an enquiry concerning the death of Ada May Earley, 16 years of age, living at 13, Newstreet, Newport, who died on the previous morning from the effects of burning.

The brother of the deceased girl, Ernest Earley, a painter, stated that the accident occurred early on the morning of the 27th December. At 6.30 a.m. his mother came downstairs early and lighted the fire, and the deceased came down shortly afterwards. Whilst witness was in bed he heard his sister scream, and coming down hurriedly he found her in her nightdress, which was in flames. His mother was outside filling a kettle when the deceased caught fire. Witness picked her up and threw some water over her. He then brought her in the house. She was burnt all over the body. Dr. Thompson was immediately called for. She lingered until yesterday morning, and died at half-past six. Prior to the accident – about six or eight weeks – she had suffered from diphtheria.

Emily Earley, a sister of the deceased, deposed that about half-past eight on the morning of the 27th ult she was summoned home, and had remained there ever since, looking after her sister. Witness asked her how it happened, and she replied that she did not know. She simply said that accidents soon happen. She thought he sister had been a little queer since her illness.

Dr. Thompson said that he had attended the deceased for diphtheria about a month or six weeks ago. He regarded her as an odd child and very hysterical. He was sent for between six and seven on Thursday morning, the 27th ult. He found her quite conscious, sitting in the kitchen. She was considerably burnt over the arms, legs, stomach, and face. She did not appear to have suffered so much from shock as one would have expected her to have done. He considered that death was due to exhaustion, from the effects of the burning, and not from shock. If it had been due to the latter cause, death would not have been so long delayed.

The Jury returned a verdict strictly in accordance with the medical evidence.

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