

David Lane

Isle of Wight County Press - 7th December 1946

Newport Baby's Death.

INQUEST ADJOURNED FOR PATHOLOGIST'S REPORT.

The Coroner (Mr. R. E. A. Webster) held an inquest at the Guildhall, Newport, on Saturday on David Lane, a five months old child, of 7 Orchard-street, Newport, who died on Thursday week.

The mother, Mrs. Jane Lane, was not present at the inquiry.

Dr. J. H. Jones said that at 8 a.m. November 28th, in response to a message that the child was dying, he went to 7 Orchard-street. The child was dead when he examined it at 8.15, and he thought that the death had occurred over an hour beforehand. There were no signs of a violence or of a struggle.—The Coroner: Did you see the mother?—Dr. Jones replied that he saw a person whom he assumed to be the mother. She gave little account of it. The child had been vaccinated on the Monday preceding its death. The woman told him the child had been very restless from midnight. He did not ask her if she was the mother of the child. There was another person in the room at the time. He examined the child's lungs, but found no evidence of a pneumonic condition. He could not certify the cause of death, on instructions from the Coroner he made a post mortem examination. The child was very well nourished, so well in fact that it surprised him. The stomach was abnormally thin and friable. The cause was eroded stomach and shock, but he could not say how that had occurred.—Asked by the Coroner if he thought a pathological examination would help them, the witness said he knew of no recorded case of rupture of a child's stomach. The case would be of interest to medical science. He saw no evidence of any damage by a corrosive or other poison.

Mrs. Eileen Margaret Ryall, who stated she had lived in rooms with Mrs. Lane, of Orchard-street, gave evidence of identification.

The Coroner said he would order a pathological examination. The inquest would be adjourned to await the result and for the attendance of the mother.

Isle of Wight County Press - 21st December 1946

Newport Baby's Death.

INQUEST VERDICT OF "MISADVENTURE."

The resumed inquest was held at the Guildhall, Newport, on Monday on David Lane, a five months old child, of 7 Orchard-street, following an adjournment by the Coroner (Mr. R. E. A. Webster) on November 31st for a pathological examination.

Dr. Edward M. Darmady, pathologist at the Royal I.W. County Hospital, said that on December 2nd certain organs were sent to him, and he later saw the child's body. An external examination showed that he was a well nourished child, and an internal examination revealed pin-point haemorrhage at the base of the heart and lungs. There was no evidence of infection before death. The lungs showed considerable congestion and rupture of the walls. He came to the conclusion that death was due to asphyxia, and there was nothing to suggest how this had occurred.

The mother of the child, Jean Violet Lane, a domestic servant, said the baby was not very strong. She understood that he nearly died at birth. The child was vaccinated on November 25th, and

was restless at night afterwards. His cot was in her room by the side of her bed, but he sometimes slept in her bed. On the night of November 27th the child had a bad night. She was walking about with him until about midnight, when he became quiet, and she put him in his cot again. He did not remain quiet, so witness picked him up once more and nursed him, sitting on the end of the bed. This went on for some time until she got cold and decided to take the child into bed with her. He lay with his head on her arm and his body across hers, and went to sleep. She also went to sleep. On waking at 7.50 a.m. the child was still across her, with his head on her arm. His head was above the bedclothes but it was cold, and she noticed that one side of his face was blue. She woke a co-tenant of the house (Mrs. Ryall), who came to look at the baby. She then wrapped him in a blanket and took him downstairs, going for the doctor (Dr. J. H. Jones), and leaving Mrs. Ryall with the baby. When the doctor arrived the baby was dead.—In reply to the Coroner, witness said she did not wake up in the night and find her baby beneath the bedclothes. She could not account for his having been asphyxiated, as he was in the same position as he was when she went to sleep. She had him in bed with her quite often. She was a heavy sleeper, but the child always woke her up when he cried.

The Coroner found that death was due to misadventure, saying the baby was probably asphyxiated while both were asleep.

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NEWPORT

HOUSEBREAKING CHARGE.

YOUNG WOMEN COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

The Newport Borough Magistrates, with the Mayor (Mr. A. E. King. C.C.) in the chair, were occupied for nearly three hours on Monday in hearing a joint charge of housebreaking against Eileen Margaret Ryall, married, and Jean Violet Lane, single, of 7 Orchard-street, Newport. They were committed for trial at the next Hampshire Quarter Sessions, bail being allowed in one surety of £25 for each accused.

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