

**Kate Ellen Ballard**

**Hampshire Telegraph - Saturday 30 May 1896**

**TERRIBLE FATALITY AT COWES.**

On Saturday, Mr. E. F. Blake held an inquest on the body of Kate Ellen Ballard, 18, a Newport servant girl, who died on the previous day at the Parkhurst Infirmary. It appeared that on the night of the 14th instant deceased, who was in service at Mr. E. Tharles, of New Barn, Osborne, went to bed about 10.30 p.m. with two of the children. A quarter of an hour later Mr. Tharle and his wife were aroused by screams and they saw deceased standing at their bedroom door enveloped in flames. Mr. Tharle extinguished the flames by wrapping deceased in the bed-clothes, but not before she had been terribly burnt about the body, arms and legs. Fortunately the father was able to remove the two children who were sleeping with deceased before they were injured, though the bedclothes and carpet were burning. Deceased said she dropped off to sleep with the lamp in her hand as she was reading in bed. Mr. Tharle had cautioned deceased about the practice. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

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