



Longbridge Deverill

A Shocking Case of Neglect

At the Warminster Police Court on Thursday, before Lord (in the chair) Captain Southey, and Mr W F Morgan. Herbert Newbury and Mary Jane his wife, were brought up from custody charged at the instance of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children with having neglected their three children, Emily (5), Margaret (3), and Lily (1½), in a manner likely to cause them unnecessary suffering and injury to health. The male defendant is a labourer and the female – is a well-known character in Warminster. Both reside at Longbridge Deverill, near Warminster, and the two-room cottage which they occupy, as described by three witnesses, was in an indescribable state of filth, the mattress, on which the three children slept, being rotten and full of maggots. The children also were scantily clothed and were very dirty and verminous, the eldest girl, Emily, being described by Inspector Barnes, of Salisbury, as the worse case he had come across. During the hearing the female defendant was very disorderly, keeping up a continuous fire of comment and abuse against the witnesses. The Chairman said the Bench considered the case to be the worst which had come before them, and sentenced Herbert Newbury to three months' imprisonment with hard labour, and Mary Jane Newbury to six months with hard labour.

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