



# CORONERS INQUESTS



## Inquest

Bath City Coroner, Mr F E Shum, held an inquest at the Guildhall on July 18th on Dennis George Elms (17) Pile Cottage, Seend, Wilts, farm labourer. Mr H Sillett was foreman of the jury of seven.

The father, Herbert James Elms, builder's labourer, gave evidence of identification.

Dr George Eldred Rae, house physician, Royal Untied Hospital, said Elms was admitted to hospital at 9.30pm of the 15th inst. He died at 10.25 am next day. A post-mortem revealed severe cerebral haemorrhage. Death was due to cerebral haemorrhage, following a severe fall from his bicycle last Thursday week.

Miss Christina Ramsay, Nurse's Cottage, Seend, said she was called to the scene of the accident close to Elms's own home about 9.15am on the 10th inst. The lad's mother and other people were there. Witness told his mother to send for a doctor, but when witness saw the boy again at home she found a doctor had not been called. Elms, who was lying on a couch, was calling for his father, and witness sent for him.

The foreman, when she first saw the boy she thought the case was serious, on seeing him again she still thought so.

The boy was not attended by a doctor for two days after, added witness. She advised the mother to send for a doctor. When she saw Mrs Elms later she said he seemed better, and he had been very sick. Witness thought the boy was suffering from sunstroke. His mother told her he had been working in the hayfield.

The father was recalled and when asked the reason why a doctor was not called for two days, he said he had "grave reasons". On the morning when the boy was brought home, he was visited by the nurse. Witness's wife phoned to him at the rubber works at Melksham to come home as quickly as possible. He cycled home, and found the nurse there, and the boy in a deckchair just before being taken upstairs. Witness asked the nurse, "Is the boy hurt. Do you know what is the matter with him?" She replied that she thought the boy was shamming half of it. He asked if she thought it necessary to send for a doctor, and she said "No, I don't think so, but please yourself. I do not think it is necessary." Those were the true remarks made by the nurse.

Nurse Ramsay, recalled, was informed by the foreman of Mr Elms's statement, and then said she spoke to the boy, who was conscious, and asked him, "Are you shamming? I think you could talk if you would." She did not tell the father himself.

The Coroner said the nurse at first thought the boy was not seriously ill.

The jury found that the lad met his death by a fall from a bicycle, causing cerebral haemorrhage. They expressed sympathy with the parent.

The Coroner returned a verdict accordingly.

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