



CORONERS INQUESTS



Alfred John Jefferies

Death of a Child from Swallowing Benzoline Oil

An inquest was held on Tuesday at Marston, Worton, before Mr. Coroner Sylvester, touch on the death of Alfred John Jefferies, aged two years. The mother of deceased deposed that on the previous Saturday she was filling her lamp with benzoline oil, about five o'clock p.m., while the child was playing about the room. Having filled one lamp, she turned her back on deceased to fill the other. In that moment he took up the lamp and drank some of the oil. He immediately became very ill and appeared in great pain. An attempt was made to administer an emetic, and later in the evening a doctor was in attendance and remained until death took place at 10:15, no remedies having any favourable effect in recovering the child from the state of collapse in which he died. From a post-mortem examination the medical witness was of the opinion that death was caused by the action of the poison on the heart, causing cardiac failure. In any similar case, where a doctor is not in attendance, an emetic of mustard and water, and the judicious administration of a stimulant after the stomach has been emptied, should be the immediate treatment on the part of the friends.

Verdict. "Death from misadventure by swallowing a quantity of benzoline oil."

Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette, 18 October 1888