

Charles Albert Cass

Isle of Wight County Press – 18 March 1911

CHILD'S DEATH AT NEWPORT

On Tuesday the Deputy Coroner (F. A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquest at the Guildhall, Newport, on the body of Charles Albert Cass, the 2 ½ year-old child of Mr. William Frank Cass, mariner, of 4 Blackhouse Cottages, Newport. Insp. Cass was present on behalf of the police. Mr. S. Johnson was foreman of the jury.

AMY GERTRUDE CASS, mother of deceased, said that on the previous Wednesday morning deceased was poorly, and thinking he was sickening for measles she put him to bed after he had breakfast and carefully tended and nursed him, giving him warm milk, &c., and keeping him in bed till his fatal seizure on Friday. The child was cheerful on Thursday, but kept asking for drink, and during Thursday night he was talking in his sleep and kept asking for his father who was away from home. She did not ask any one to come in to see him until she found him in a fit in bed at about 1 p.m. on Friday. She then got a neighbour to come in and put deceased into a warm bath in the hope that it would bring him round, but he died soon after. Deceased had not had a fit previously. She had three other children and had not lost one before.

By the foreman: Deceased had a cup of warm milk and half a sponge cake soaked in it on Friday morning for breakfast and ate it all.

Dr. C. J. THOMPSON said he found the little one dead when he arrived at the house at about 2 o'clock. As the body was extremely rigid he thought the mother had made a mistake as to the time of the death, but the neighbour said she saw the deceased alive after 1 o'clock that day. A series of violent convulsive fits would produce a condition resembling rigor mortis. He made a post-mortem examination, and found the apex of each lung congested and the pleura on the left side adherent. The surface of the brain was congested, particularly on the left, and under the most congested part the brain was very soft in a small part, though he found no abscess. The lungs showed a pneumonic condition, and he attributed death to convulsions, the result of the congestion of the brain, arising from the lung trouble. He did not think the congestion was of long duration, probably not more than 48 hours. It was very difficult even for trained people to diagnose pneumonia in a small child.

By the foreman: He did not think it would have made any difference if medical aid had been called in earlier.

The CORONER said the mother had given her evidence very straightforwardly. Putting children into a bath when in fits was not to be regarded as injurious, as in 99 cases out of 100 it was no doubt the proper thing to do.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, and, through Mr. Carwardine, expressed sympathy with the parents, to whom some of the jury gave their fees.

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