

Ellen Mary and Grace Ena Lockhart

Isle of Wight County Press – 24 January 1914

DISTRESSING SCALDING FATALITY AT NEWPORT.

DEATH OF TWO CHILDREN IN THE SAME FAMILY.

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Lockhart, living at 22 Crocker-street, Newport, have lost two of their seven children this week under particularly distressing circumstances. On Sunday a three-year-old daughter succumbed to shock due to extensive scalding, and whilst her body was lying in the house awaiting the inquest, the youngest child of the family, aged six weeks, died from natural causes early on Tuesday morning after a short illness, the little one having been weakly from birth.

The Deputy Coroner for the Island (F. A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquest on the body of the first-named on Tuesday afternoon at the Parish-room, Crocker-street, Newport.

ELLEN FANNY LOCKHART, wife of George Augustus Lockhart, labourer, said that at about 2 o'clock on Saturday afternoon she was in the kitchen washing up the dinner things and the deceased was sitting in an arm-chair by the table. She poured some boiling water from a saucepan into a bowl on the table and had turned to put the saucepan back on the stove when deceased put her hand on the edge of the bowl and pulled it over, with the result that it tipped and the boiling water went over her chin, neck, and chest. Witness called for help and Mrs. Taplin ran in and put oil and flour on the scalded parts and another neighbour went for Dr. Seagrove, who came shortly afterwards and attended to the child. Deceased was put to bed, seemed very nice and bright, and said "Good-bye" to the doctor when he left. She slept till about 4 p.m. and then woke and asked for some milk. She had a cup of milk and went to sleep and woke up again at about 7 and had more milk. Witness went to bed at about 11 o'clock and deceased woke up then and was talking to witness for most of the night. Witness gave her milk at about 7.45 on Sunday morning and at 11 o'clock and 11.45. Then witness left her in bed for a while, and when she went upstairs again at about 12.45 she noticed a change in the child and sent for Dr. Seagrove, who came directly and said that she was dying and that all that could be done had been done for her. Dr. Seagrove did not see the child between those two visits. Deceased seemed to be going on very well until the change came. The doctor gave directions as to her treatment, telling her to give her milk, that the district nurse would attend and dress the injuries, and that he would call on Monday morning.

Dr. SEAGROVE said that at about 2.15 he was called to see the deceased, who was suffering from burning over an extensive area on the lower third of the face, the front portion of the neck, and chest, over the whole of the left arm and hands, and on the left thigh. Witness applied the usual treatment and told the mother to put the child to bed, to keep it quiet and warm, and administer a little brandy. He told them that the child was very ill, although it was not apparently so, and he pointed out the grave risk owing to the shock from scalds over such an extensive area of the body. The shock was very grave when a third of the area of the body is burnt. He did not

consider it necessary to visit again unless he was sent for. On Sunday the child did not seem to be in much pain and he took it that that indicated the commencement of the shock. He saw it a second time, not long before the reaction set in. He attributed death to shock.

ELIZABETH TAPLIN, wife of Arthur Taplin, insurance agent, living next door to the deceased's parents, said that on hearing that the child had been burned she ran in and saw the overturned bowl on the table and the water on the table and floor. The child was badly scalded. They undressed deceased as quickly as possible and put some flour on the burns whilst she got some oil and lint, in which she did up the child.

The CORONER said this was one of those unavoidable and unexpected accidents, for which he did not think they could suggest blame against any one.

The jury, of whom Mr. E. G. Mason was foreman, returned a verdict of "Death from shock through accidental scalding," and the FOREMAN expressed the jury's sympathy with the parents in their painful bereavement.

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