

Douglas William Smith

Isle of Wight County Press 10 October 1908

BOY'S SUDDEN DEATH AT NEWPORT

On Tuesday evening the Deputy Coroner for the Island (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquest at the Parish-hall, Crocker-street, respecting the death, at 49 Crocker-street on the previous day, of Douglas William Smith, aged 6 years. – FANNY URRY, of 49 Crocker-street, said she had had charge of the child since its birth. It was an illegitimate child, and witness had been paid regularly to keep it. Except for a susceptibility to colds, the child had enjoyed good health. Last year Dr. Coombs attended it for weakness and cold. About a fortnight ago the child caught cold. On Saturday he seemed quite bright and better. On Sunday he was still a little better and went out in a wheeled chair in the afternoon for about an hour. He went to bed just before 7 and slept until about 9, when he was given some beef tea, and he slept again. In the early morning he became restless and kept asking for drink. About half-past 3 he had a fainting fit, from which he never rallied, and died about 4. He had never had fainting fits before. Witness did not think the child was ill enough to call in a doctor, - Dr. STANLEY FOSTER said he was called to see the deceased about half-past 4 on Monday morning. From external appearances he was unable to ascertain the cause of death. He had since made a post mortem, and found the child was fairly well nourished. Both lungs were in a condition of bronchial pneumonia, being suggestive of incipient phthisis, which might have developed. Death was due to syncope. – The CORONER said the evidence did not disclose any act of neglect on Mrs. Urry's part. A verdict of "Death from natural causes" was returned.

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