

INQUEST

An inquest was held at the Ryde Infirmary, on Friday last, before E.F. BLAKE, Esq., Deputy Coroner, on the body of a child named **Mary Ann DAVIDSON**, who had died from the effect of severe burns.

The following evidence was elicited.

Eliza CARTER said she lived in Week's-road, and was a widow. The deceased was her niece, and her father and mother lived at St. Helen's. Witness had not seen the deceased until the previous day for a month. About half-past 7 o'clock in the morning she heard that she had been burnt, and was lying at the Infirmary, and she immediately went to her and found her in bed. She was sensible at intervals, but never sufficiently well to say how the accident happened. She continued to get much worse, and at 5 o'clock she died. She was nine years old last October.

Henry DODSWELL, coast guard man, at St. Helen's, said that about 3 o'clock on Wednesday, he was standing in his garden. He heard a child screaming, and on looking round saw deceased running towards St. Helen's Green, all on fire; when she got about nine feet on the green she fell down. Witness ran towards her, and called out to some men to bring a blanket. Witness and another man got to her and succeeded in getting the child's clothes off. They then got a blanket and put it round her, and put her into a chair, and carried her to the house where she and her father lodged, and laid her on the sofa. She was not able to say how the accident happened. Oil and flour was then put on her burns, and she was put in a carriage and brought to the Infirmary.

Elizabeth WRIGHT said she lived in St. Helen's, and was the wife of William WRIGHT. Deceased, her sister, and father lodged with witness. About half-past 2 o'clock on Wednesday, witness sent deceased to Mrs. WARD who was lying ill with scarlet fever, to boil her a little milk. She heard no more of her until the last witness came and said she had been burnt. Witness immediately went to her, and found her sitting in a chair in a very bad state. After some remedies were applied, deceased was brought by witness to the Infirmary. Deceased told witness during the journey that she was taking off the saucepan containing the milk, when her pinafore caught the fire. Witness did not think it was an imprudent thing to send the child alone to boil the milk.

Mr. J. JONES, surgeon to the Infirmary, deposed to the deceased having been so badly burnt, that her case was quite hopeless. She died from the effects of burning, and the shock sustained by the nervous system.

A verdict of accidental death was returned.
