

**A CAUTION TO PARENTS**  
**Fatal accident to an infant**

An inquest was held on Tuesday afternoon at the Fleming Arms, Binstead, by the Deputy Coroner (E. F. BLAKE, Esq.), on the body of an infant named **Florence May HENDY**, aged 8 months. After the jury, of which Mr. JAMES was forman, had reviewed the body, the following evidence was taken:

Augusta JAMES deposed: I am nearly 10 years of age. The deceased is my niece, and was 8 months old. My sister asked me to take deceased out last Wednesday. I went to see my sister, and when deceased woke up my sister asked me to take her out while she took in the clothes. I took the child out, and when near the school I kicked up against a stone and fell forward with the child. I had a bruised knee. (Here the little witness began to cry violently). The baby did not cry, and I walked about with her a little while. I did not think she was hurt. I took her home to her mother and told her that I had fallen down with the baby. My sister undressed the baby and said she thought I had stunned her.---By the Jury: I was not running, and I did not see the stone there till afterwards. When I picked the baby up her eyes were shut.

Harriet Miriam HENDY, wife of Albert HENDY, a shepherd, deposed: The deceased was my child. I asked my sister to take her out last Wednesday afternoon. Last witness returned to the house, it seemed to me, in less than 5 minutes. I undressed the child directly she brought it in, but did not see anything the matter. On the following day it appeared to have a fit while it was in the cradle. I sent for my mother, and by her advice sent for the doctor. I carried out his instructions, but the child died on Sunday. Noticed a swelling on the side of the head on Thursday. My sister has been out with it before.---By the Jury: A neighbour told me the girl had fallen with the child, and I went out and took the child from her.

Dr. Channing NEILL deposed: I am a doctor in medicine and master in surgery, practising at Ryde. The child had been under my care before the accident. I was sent for on Thursday. I went at once, and found the baby in the kitchen of the house. I made an examination and found a swelling on the left side of the head towards the back. The child was unconscious and suffering from spasm of the right side of the body, caused by the injury to the head. I thought the child in a very dangerous state. I saw deceased again on the following day, and prescribed for it, and left word I was to be informed of any change in its condition. Saw it again the following morning, when it was in much the same condition, and on the 3rd it was evidently dying. On Sunday I saw it about 12.30, and it was then *in extremis*. The cause of death was compression of the brain by the effusion of blood resulting from the injury. The mother carried out all my instructions.

The Coroner, in summing up, remarked that they might consider whether the mother did right in allowing such a young child to carry out a baby. But of course in the position of life in which the mother was, she could not always get a woman, and some little girls were very handy in taking care of children. He had seen the road in which the accident occurred, and it was in a bad state. Anyone might have fallen there. The jury could refer to its condition if they pleased. He did not think that any blame was attributable to anyone. He understood that the road was a private one.

A Juryman thought they ought to do something to try and get the road put in order to save another accident there.

Another Juryman said the road was a private one. Farmer YOUNG had received instructions to repair it, but all he did was to tip a lot of course stones there.

The Foreman said that the road was not in good enough condition for the Highway Commissioners to take to it, but something ought to be done.

A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

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