

Burnt to Death – Mary Ann MAXWELL, in the employ of Mrs REDFERN, of the Brackens, Partlands Avenue, Ryde, was on Saturday engaged in lighting a fire, and not being able to get it to burn, she used a can of paraffin, which burst over her, burning her in a most shocking manner. She was at once conveyed to the Infirmary, where she died on the following day. The inquest was held at the Infirmary on Monday, before F BLAKE, Esq. (Coroner). – Mr JAMES, of the Brackens, Partlands Avenue, whose right arm and hand were bandaged and in a sling, in consequence of the burns he had received, said that between seven o'clock and 7.30 on Saturday morning, he was awakened by a dull explosion and sounds of distress. He immediately arose, and shortly reached the kitchen door, when he found that room in flames, and the deceased in flames from head to foot. He took his dressing-gown and threw it around her body, and then got some water and threw over her head and face, and at the same time sent the housemaid, who had come down, for a cab, and had her at once conveyed to the Infirmary. In the meantime, he managed to extinguish the flames in the kitchen, and to get cotton wool and oil to put over deceased. She was perfectly conscious, but her only remark was "I hope you are not angry". A paraffin can (produced) had exploded – the top was on the hot plate and the bottom on the floor. It must have contained nearly a gallon. It has spurted all over the room. He supposed she had some difficulty in getting the fire to burn, and had poured some paraffin on to assist it. Deceased had been in their employ about three years, and was very steady. – The House Surgeon of the Infirmary stated that the deceased was brought to the Infirmary about eight o'clock on Saturday morning. She was extremely burnt over the whole body, excepting the chest and back. She died at 8.15 the same night, quite conscious, death resulting from congestion of the brain and lungs, caused by the burns. – The Coroner summed up the case, and complimented Mr JAMES for the promptitude he had displayed, and the Jury returned a verdict of accidental death.
