

FATAL SCALDING ACCIDENT

On Saturday afternoon the Acting Coroner for the Island (Mr F. A. Joyce) held an inquest at the Primitive Methodist schoolroom concerning the death of Reginald Thomas Fountaine WHITE, aged 1 year and 11 months.

Dr. A. B. WADE said he was at the hospital on the 28th November, when the deceased was brought in suffering from burns on the back of the head, neck, shoulder and left arm. These appeared to have been caused by hot water. The injuries were dressed and the child given a stimulant, but he never rallied and died at 9.30 on Friday morning. Death was due to shock arising from scalding.

Rose WHITE, wife of Walter WHITE, coal cutter, of Hillside, Slade Road, Eastfield, said on Wednesday she was cleaning her dresser in the kitchen and had a bath on the chair in which she was washing the plates and an enamel bowl on the table. She put some scalding water in the bowl, about a quart. She heard the deceased scream and then found that he had upset the bowl and the water had gone on to his back. She immediately stripped him and called for her neighbour. He was then rolled up in shawls and taken to the Nursing Home in Monkton Street, where Nurse BRAZENDALE applied oil and dressed the injuries. He was then taken to the Hospital. Deceased must have put his hand up and pulled the bowl over.

Florence BARTON, wife of James BARTON, of Clevelands, Slade Road said she heard the last witness call out and at once went to the house. She found the child was scalded on his left shoulder and arm and noticed the bowl on the floor. She helped to take the child to the Nursing Home and afterwards carried him to the Hospital.

The Coroner commented on the absence of Nurse BRAZENDALE, who had been summoned to attend and said if he had considered it necessary he should have issued a subpoena compelling her to come but they had the confirmative evidence of the neighbour and he was quite satisfied that it was an accident and that no blame was attached to anyone.

The Jury, of which Mr W. J. TILL was foreman, returned a verdict of "Accidental death," and expressed sympathy with the parents.
