

An Oakfield Child Dies from Scalds.

The Acting Deputy Coroner (Dr. H.Y. MANSFIELD) held an inquest yesterday (Friday) at St. John's Parish-hall, Ryde, on the body of Audrey Vivian KIRBY, the one year and 11 months' old child of Mr. Percy KIRBY, an unemployed cook, of 12 Highland-road, Oakfield, who died on Wednesday following scalds sustained in an accident on Sunday.

The mother, Mrs. Audrey Vivian KIRBY, said that on Sunday she was at her home peeling some potatoes on the table. A gas ring was alight on a bench beside her, and she was boiling some cabbage. Her two children were playing in the room. The water was boiling in the saucepan, and she suddenly heard a noise, and found the saucepan on the floor. She thought the deceased had caught her foot on the rung of the chair and upset it. At the time she did not think there was anything wrong with her but she afterwards noticed that she had a small scald on the foot which did not seem to worry the child. A little later she noticed another scald on the right shoulder. She dressed the scalds with vaseline and the child appeared quite well and had a good night. The following day and on Tuesday she took her to the nursing home at Ryde, where the scalds were dressed. On the second occasion they told witness to get the doctor. The doctor called and the burns were dressed again. Deceased had a restless night and died at 4.15 a.m. on Wednesday. She did not complain. She was always a delicate child and under weight,

Dr. T. SIM deposed that when he saw the child she had a temperature of 104 degrees. There were small scalds on the right shoulder and right foot. She had had sickness and diarrhoea, otherwise she seemed very bright. Death was due to shock following the scalds accentuated by the child's poor condition.

The Coroner: If you had been called in earlier could you have done anything more? - No.

The Coroner returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence. P.S. BUTCHER represented the police.

*Transcription produced for the Isle of Wight Family History Society by: Steve Newberry
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