

CORONER'S INQUEST.

An inquest was held at the Swan inn on Tuesday, before F. BLAKE, esq., coroner for the Island, on the body of **Alfred ROGERS**, aged seven months, who had been found dead in its bed on the previous Sunday morning.

Elizabeth, wife of John ROGERS, the mother of deceased, said her husband was a tailor, residing in Bedworth-place. They have five children living. The deceased had been delicate from its birth, and had suffered greatly from affection of the throat. For a month it seemed to thrive, but within a few days of its death caught a severe cold and cough. They had had no medical advice, but on Saturday morning she gave it castor oil, and applied bran poultices to his chest, which appeared to relieve him for a time. They went to bed about half-past 12 on Saturday night, when she took the child some thick baked flour, of which he ate heartily. Neither her husband nor herself had been drinking. They had some coffee before going to bed. Deceased slept between her and her husband. He was very restless as he usually was at night. After she nursed him she turned him off her arm, and he then went to sleep. She also went to sleep, and heard nothing more of the child until nearly 8 o'clock on Sunday morning, when she listened for the usual noise in his throat, and not hearing it, felt startled, and on looking round found him lying on the left side towards her in the position she had left him. At first her impression was that he was in a sweet sleep. The shawl was either on one side of the face or over it. On looking a second time, she at once saw the child was dead, and cold nearly all over. She remarked there was a ridge in the bed between the child and her husband, and she herself was satisfied she had not overlaid him. Witness believed he died from suffocation, as he suffered so from the throat.

John ROGERS, the father of the child, gave corroborative evidence, saying the deceased was cheerful when they went to bed at half-past 12. He was quite sure there was no possibility of his lying on him. He was tired, having walked from Newport. His wife woke about half-past 7. His back was toward the child, so that he did not at first notice it.

Dr. BEATON was called to see the deceased on Sunday morning, and arrived there shortly after 11, when he found it was quite dead, and should say it had been so for many hours, as the body was stiff and cold. The features were placid, and still the child laid on its back in the bed below the pillow and covered with a shawl. The fists were firmly closed. There were no marks of external violence or pressure of any kind. He introduced his finger into the mouth and throat, and found nothing impeding the passages. There was no evidence of suffocation, but from the evidence he had heard of the state of health and the lungs, it was most likely death was caused by a paroxysm of difficult breathing, which came on during the night. There was no free space for respiration on account of the coverings over deceased's face. Again, a large meal of unsuitable food like that spoken of would be likely to cause such a result. He should not think it a safe position for a healthy child to lie between its parents in the way described, as there was no means of fresh air. He certainly thought the covering over deceased's face the approximate cause of death. The baked flour was most unsuitable food for such a child. As a matter of course, the cough was increased thereby, and that impeded the breathing.

After some remarks from the Coroner on the evidence, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally suffocated."
