

SUDDEN DEATH OF AN INFANT- An inquest was held at the White Swan Inn, High-street, before F. BLAKE, Esq., coroner, upon the body of Margaret DAVIES, an infant four months old, who was found dead in its bed, by its mother on the morning of the 16th inst. After the Coroner and the jury (of which Mr. HUNT was foreman) had viewed the body, the following evidence was taken :

Mary DAVIES, a rather good looking young woman, said she was the wife of Oliver DAVIES, and the mother of the deceased infant, who was born on the 23rd of last July. Her husband was a dealer in ferns and she made wool work and sold it. Both travelled about with their respective goods, but their proper home was at Torquay. She came to Ryde from Portsmouth on Monday. She had her baby with her, but her husband she left at Portsmouth, intending to join him in the evening. She, however, lost the last boat to Portsmouth was obliged to go to lodge at a house in Bedworth-place. The child had been very good and had slept during the greater portion of the day. In fact she slept longer than ever witness had seen her do before. Witness went to bed at out 10 o'clock and took the child with her. Before she went to bed witness nursed the child before the fire. She kicked and screamed dreadfully, and witness could not pacify her. She continued to scream very loudly, but only now and then, after she went to bed, but at last witness got her to sleep. About half-past 2 that morning the baby woke up again, and kicked and screamed dreadfully. Witness than sat up in bed with her and nursed fer for some little time. That quieted her, and witness laid her down and went to sleep, and did not wake up again till 10 minutes to 8. On looking at her baby she found der little eyes were turned. She jumped up and cried out "Oh my blessed! What is the matter with my baby?" and called up the other people in the house, who said the poor little thing was dead. Witness sent for the parish doctor who said he would be there in a few minutes. He did not come till after the other gentleman had been. When the found the parish doctor did not come they sent for Dr. WOODWARD, who said it was quite dead. The child did not appear to have struggled, and its head was on the pillow just as she had paced it when she went to sleep. She had never had a child before this. This was her first one.

-By Foreman: I fed the baby at half-past 5 with biscuit; that was the last time I fed her with biscuit. I fed her with the tea biscuit, which I bought for the purpose, at four a penny. It was the same kind of biscuit as I had given her before. After she began to scream I bought a pennyworth of peppermint and gave her some. I do not think the biscuits I bought were stale.-

Mr. Alfred WOODWARD said he was called that morning just before 10 o'clock to go and see a child which he was told was dead. He went and saw the deceased. She was in a top room on the house. She was quite dead, but warm, and he could not tell how long she had been dead. He afterwards made a *post mortem* examination, and found the membrane of the brain a great deal congested and effusion into both ventricles. The lungs were also congested. The cavities of the heart were full, but the stomach was empty although the body was extremely well nourished. He should conclude from the condition of the body that the child died from convulsions, which was not unusual with children of the age. This would account for the child screaming so. The child might have died from this cause and yet the mother know nothing about it. He was no evidence of pressure on the mouth of the child, and he had arrived at the conclusion that the child died from convulsions and not from violence of any kind.

- By a Jurymen: I think that administering the peppermint would relieve its sufferings a little,

The mother of the child further questioned by a jurymen, said that Dr. BEATON did not come till 1, but then she had told him the child was dead.

-The Coroner: Ah, that put's another feature on the case.-Verdict, "Death from natural causes."
