



CORONERS INQUEST REPORTS



Homington

“Death of a Child from Burning.

Thursday morning, an inquest was held at the Salisbury Infirmary, before Mr Smith, coroner, touching the death of John Earny, a little boy about six years and nine months old, who died from injuries received through his having accidentally set himself on fire the previous day. James Kelland, house surgeon, at the Infirmary said the deceased was admitted into that place at about half past eleven on the 23rd inst., with its arms, face and upper part of the chest severely burnt and it died about six o'clock the following day, the cause of death being the shock it received from the burns. Mary Laws, married woman, said she resided at Mr Walter Flowers, Down Farm, in the parish of Homington, and lived next door to where the deceased lived. On Monday morning last, the mother of the deceased left her house about eight o'clock and at about ten witness was aroused by a scream and shouts of Mary! Mary! Mary! which proceeded from the deceased. She immediately went to render assistance, and found the deceased standing at her door in flames from head to foot. She caught the child in her arms, burning her arms in so doing, and extinguished the flames. She wrapped it in her dress and took it in and laid it upon its Mother's bed. There were three other children in the house. She afterwards went into the field and got the assistance of Richard Harris, Mr Flowers' head carter who went to the house, as did the deceased's father, who was working with him. Witness wrapped the child in blankets and the father took it to the Infirmary in Mr Flowers' carriage. There was no protector against the fire in the house where the deceased lived. The fire was on the hearth. Luke Earny, father of the deceased, identified the body as that of his son He said that no doctor resided near his house than Salisbury. The eldest child in the house at time of the accident was nine years old. Eliza Earny, mother of the deceased said she left her home on the morning in question to go to the village (about mile and a quarter off) fetch some potatoes for Christmas. Sister of the deceased was called to speak as to how the accident had occurred but it was thought better not to swear her, and Emma White, nurse in the accidental ward at the Salisbury Infirmary was called. She said that about half an hour after the deceased had been admitted into the Infirmary she asked him how the accident happened, and he said that he was standing over the fire and writing on the mantel piece and his things caught on fire. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death and gave their fees to be divided between the mother of the deceased and Mrs Laws.”

Western Gazette 27 December 1878.