



# CORONERS INQUESTS



## Inquest

The Wiltshire Coroner returned a verdict of "Accidental death" at an inquest at Seend on a youth named Joseph Charles Ellis Collett, of The Stocks, Trowbridge Road, who was killed by a gun the previous evening.

The youth was out with several friends and was carrying a gun. He was attempting to pull down a branch of a tree in an orchard with the object of picking apples from it, and used the butt end of the gun, holding the barrel towards him. As he pulled, the cartridge exploded and shot entered his chest. He died at once, his only words being "I am shot".

Richard Allen Brimble of High Street, Seend, said that Collett fetched the gun from his house. He took out the gun the previous night, but had no occasion to fire it.

The Coroner: When was the last time you saw him load it?

Witness: The night before; but he did not fire it. I did not actually see him unload it, but he told me he had.

The Coroner: Did you see him load it on Friday evening?

Witness: No but I heard the breach bolt go, and he said "I will load it in case I see a pigeon".

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