



# CORONERS INQUESTS



*Seend*

## *Inquest of Sophia Wiltshire 1889*

An inquest was held at the New Inn, last week, before Mr Sylvester, coroner, touching the death of Sophia Wiltshire, aged 58 years, wife of Henry Wiltshire, a farmer.

It appeared from the evidence that deceased attended to her domestic duties on Friday, and partook of supper consisting of Bread, cheese, celery and ale, going to bed shortly after. She made no complaint of feeling unwell during the night, and early on Saturday morning she rose with her husband and set about preparing breakfast.

Her husband went out into the yard to milk the cows, and about seven o'clock deceased called out to him saying she was ill, suffering from pains in her chest and head. He gave her some brandy, and as she got worse he sent to Melksham for a doctor, who arrived a minute or two before she died.

Evidence was given by the husband of deceased, and Hannah Hillier, Catherine Barnes, and Dr Ingram Keir of Melksham. Dr Keir said deceased had previously complained to him of rheumatism some time ago, when he was attending someone else in the house. When he saw her on Saturday morning she was quite unconscious, and she died in a minute or two after his arrival. Her face and lips were pale, and his opinion was that she suffered from gastro-enteritis, arising from some indigestible food, such as celery, she had partaken of, and that she died in a faint arising from that complaint. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.

**Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 22 August 1889**