

The Seend Iron Works

Staffordshire Mode of Resuscitation Successfully Employed

On Saturday afternoon an accident, which was nearly proving fatal, happened to a man named Adam Drewe, employed at the Ironworks, Seend, near Melksham. It appears that the large iron tube, about 30 feet in circumference, through which hot air is blown from the engine, sometimes gets obstructed by ashes, and then a man has to creep into it for the purpose of removing them.

This was the case on Saturday and Drewe, who is a powerfully built man, got into the tube for the above purpose. Not making his re-appearance a man was sent into the tube to search for him, and found him jammed in a narrow part of the tube in an insensible state. After some difficulty he was pulled out, still insensible, with several scars and burns on his body.

Now comes the most extraordinary part of the story – the Staffordshire mode of bringing him to life and it was as follows:- A hole was dug in the ground large enough to receive Drewe's head, and into this hole his head was put, face downwards, and carefully covered up in the "mother earth", with the exception of a small hole left when breathing time came. Wonderful to relate there were soon signs of returning life, and Drewe so far recovered as to "unearth" himself. Brandy was administered to him, and he was soon himself again.

North Devon Journal Thursday 30 October 1873

©Wiltshire OPC Project/2013