

Coroner's Inquest Report



Inquest on John Maunders

Shepherd's Death Mystery Solved at Calne Inquest

The mystery surrounding the death of John Maunders, a shepherd, at Yatesbury, near Calne was cleared up at the inquest yesterday when a verdict of "Death from food poisoning" was returned. Maunders died on July 18, following four days illness during which he complained of pains in the stomach.

Three weeks before his death Maunders was engaged in sheep dipping with a dip which it was stated yesterday contained 20 per cent. Arsenic, and the Coroner (Mr. A.L. Forrester) closely questioned the witnesses who assisted him as to procedure.

"Too Easy To Get"

Professor Walker Hall, pathologist to Bristol University, stated that the organs contained a quantity of arsenic which was more than a medicinal dose but less than a poisonous dose.

He found food poisoning bacillus which was the cause of death.

Summing up, the Coroner said it appeared that arsenical compounds were somewhat more easy to get than they ought to be.

The jury added a rider that more stringent regulations should be imposed regarding the distribution and use of arsenical compounds.

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