

Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate (NSW : 1876 - 1954) , Thursday 6 October 1887, page 4

SAD OCCURRENCE.

MR. G. C. MARTIN, J.P., District Coroner, held an inquest yesterday forenoon at the Reserve Hotel, Bolton-street, Newcastle, on the body of a child named William John Preston, eight months old, who we stated yesterday was suffocated in a tub the previous afternoon. The child's mother, Kate Preston, in the course of her evidence, stated that she left the kitchen for the purpose of going into the yard to hang some articles of clothing on the line, leaving a tub of water, around which the child was playing, and when she returned she found the infant had tumbled into the tub and was lying in the bottom, although she did not notice whether its face was covered with water. She picked the child up, rushed into the yard screaming, and then swooned away. A neighbour named Mrs. Porter also tendered evidence to the effect that she undressed the infant and endeavoured to restore animation, but failed to do so. Dr. Eames stated that he had been called to see the child, which he saw was dead; still he tried to restore animation by artificial respiration for 10 minutes unavailingly. The verdict of the jury was that the child was found by its mother in a tub containing water, and that its death was caused through suffocation by drowning, which was purely accidental.

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