



Newspaper Reports & Notices Southbroom

Articles from Various Australian Newspapers

1874

2 Dec 1874 - A CURIOUS MISTAKE.

The Devizes Gazette states that, on Monday last, a female lunatic, who had died in the Wilts County Asylum, was to have been buried in the cemetery attached to that establishment, and, as usual, a quantity of sawdust was put into the coffin, previous to the reception of the corpse, and the lid placed on the top. The carpenter, whose duty it is to "screw down" the lunatics, soon afterwards came to perform his functions, and, taking for granted that the body was inside, made the lid safe, and in due time four lunatics carried the coffin to the cemetery, where it was met by the chaplain (the Rev. T. Purrier), the funeral service read, and the coffin duly deposited in the grave that had been prepared for it. It so happened in the evening, however, that a man connected with the asylum went into the dead-house and seeing the corpse of a woman lying there, he inquired whether another death had taken place. It was then discovered that the corpse was that of a woman supposed to have been buried in the morning; so, very early next day, the turf was removed from the newly covered grave, the earth dug out again, the coffin disinterred, the body put in among the sawdust, the funeral service again performed, and the corpse effectually consigned to its last resting place.