



CORONERS INQUESTS



Swindon 1850-1899

1870

An inquest was taken before Mr. Whitmarsh last Tuesday at Swindon, respecting the death of Emma Eliza Considine Astill, four years of age, daughter of Mr. Robert Astill, printer. Deceased was taken ill on the previous Saturday, and getting worse on Sunday, Dr. Morris was called in who found the child in a state of collapse, and she died before his return in the afternoon of the same day. Having made a post-mortem examination of the body, there was a patch of inflammation on the cordiac portion of the stomach, and perforation of the coecum caused by the pressure of calcareous deposit in one of the mysenteric glands, which proved the child's death. Verdict accordingly. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 22 December 1870**

1871

Inquest before Mr. Coroner Whitmarsh. At New Swindon, to inquire into the death of John O'Brien, engine fitter, 29 years of age. It appeared in evidence that deceases, after leaving work, complained to a companion of a pain in his chest. Dr. Baynes was sent for but before his arrival death took place. The jury, after hearing medical testimony, gave a verdict that death arose from natural causes. **Western Daily Press, 1 July 1871**

1872

Suicide of a woman. An inquest has been held on the body of Ann James, a widow, of New Swindon. The deceased lived with her son, and had been attended by Mr Masklean, a local surgeon. She was suffering from hypochondria. On the 7th inst., she went to her room and cut her throat with a table knife, and afterwards hid the knife between the mattress and the bed. She lingered several days, and then died. The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide while in a state of temporary insanity." **Western Gazette 23 February 1872**