

Murder Charge

An Infant's Death

Case Against Co. Limerick Woman

The discovery of the body of a male infant buried in a backyard had a dramatic sequel before a special court at the Garda Station, Newcastle West, on Monday, when Mrs Elizabeth Duddy (40), Garryduff, Newcastle West, was charged with murdering the child on the night of the 19th February last.

Sergt Daly, Newcastle West, stated that the accused was taken into custody on Sunday. When charged and cautioned she said: "I have nothing to say except that I hope I will be back to my two little children again to-night."

Answering Mr M Lavan (Messrs J P Lavan and Co, solr, Newcastle West), who represented the accused, witness said he first went to the accused's house on Saturday at 4.30 p.m.

Mr Lavan—Did she bring the superintendent around and show him where the child was in the backyard?—Yes, she did.

Further questioned, witness said that accused admitted that she had put a string around the child's neck after it was born and subsequently buried it in the backyard.

Supt Holland asked to have the accused remanded in custody to Dromcollogher Court on Friday, 6th March.

Mr Lavan asked for bail and said that substantial sureties would be forthcoming.

The Superintendent opposed the application, and the accused was remanded to 6th March.

Sitting at the Courthouse, Newcastle West, Mr R Cusack, coroner for West Limerick, opened the inquest on the body of the child.

Medical evidence was given by Dr Nora O'Connor, who stated that, with the assistance of Dr N O'Gara, she held a post-mortem examination on the body. Earth was adhering to parts of the body and there were several purple patches on the skin. A cord was tied tightly around the neck three times forming a deep indentation. The examination revealed that the child had lived and breathed. In her opinion death was due to strangulation caused by tying a cord tightly around the neck of the child.

The coroner then adjourned the inquest pending the hearing of the criminal charge against the accused woman.