

Dead Infant

Charge On Remand for Birth Concealment

At a special court at Newcastle West before Mr G S Kenoy, B.L. D.J., Hanna Dillane, Roskagh, Newcastle West, was charged on remand with concealment of birth of an unnamed male infant.

Supt Holland, Newcastle West, prosecuted, and the accused was not professionally represented.

Dr P McGrath, M.O. Athra, deposed at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 2nd May, he saw the accused at her home in Roskagh. On discovering the dead body of the infant he reported the matter to the coroner and subsequently to the Guards at Newcastle West. On the 8th May at the Courthouse, Newcastle West, with the assistance of Dr O'Brien, he held a post mortem on the body of the child. He found one lung expanded which showed that the child had breathed. The other lung had not expanded. In his opinion death was due to inattention at birth. There were no marks of violence and no indications that the child had died from any other cause than inattention.

Sergeant J Daly, Newcastle West, stated that on the evening of the 8th May he had the body of the infant conveyed to the Courthouse at Newcastle West and was present when the post mortem examination was carried out. On the same evening he went to the farmhouse of Richard Leonard at Farriby, where accused was employed, accompanied by Kitty Dillane, sister of the accused. She pointed out in the bedroom formerly occupied by the accused an attic in which witness found a number of garments. Witness added that he arrested the accused on the 29th May. When charged and cautioned she said she was guilty of concealment of birth, and she subsequently made and signed a statement.

The accused was returned for trial to Limerick Circuit Court on 8th July.