

A Christmas Candle

Causes Child's Death

City Child Dies from Burns

The tragic death of a little girl, aged 8 years was investigated at an inquest held at St John's Hospital, Limerick, on Thursday by Mr J S McNeice, City Coroner.

The child, Angela O'Neill, was daughter of Michael O'Neill, a fireman, employed at the G.S. Railways, and she died at St John's Hospital from the effects of severe burns when her clothing was set alight by a Christmas candle at her home on Monday night.

Evidence of identification was given by her father. His daughter, Angela, he deposed, was in the house with a younger child on the date of the occurrence. His wife and other children were absent. He was satisfied that the occurrence was a pure accident. His wife was most careful of the children. She was unwell and could not attend the inquest.

Dr Ridgely Crawford stated that when the child was admitted to hospital she was badly burnt and in a state of collapse. Death, in her opinion, was due to shock caused by severe burns.

George Baker, 36 Roca Avenue, described how he was leaving his home, which is facing O'Neill's house, on the 5th inst.

He saw Angela O'Neill standing at the door enveloped in flames; she was calling for witness's wife. Witness rushed over to her and threw his coat around her. He succeeded in extinguishing the flames, and the girl was then taken to hospital. There was another child of four years in the house, and there was a Christmas candle in a bottle lighting beside the fire.

The Coroner returned a verdict that death was due to shock, caused by severe burns, accidentally received.