

# A Child's Death

## Follows Severe Scalds

### Evidence at Croom Inquest

The circumstances touching the death of a child named Josephine Croom, aged 3½ years, who died on Saturday evening as a result of injuries caused by using a kettle of water on the previous day were investigated on Monday by Dr P J Cleary, Coroner for East Limerick, at an inquest at Croom Hospital.

Sergeant Goggin, Croom, represented the Garda authorities.

Mrs Bridget Croom stated she was mother of the deceased child, and was residing at Moresane, about three miles from Croom. She was a widow carrying on farming, and had five children. At about 8 o'clock on Friday evening she went to attend the milking of the cows, and left her eldest daughter May, aged 13½ years, in charge of the other members of the family. There was nothing wrong then. When witness returned she was met in the yard by her daughter Nellie, who told her that Josephine, the youngest daughter of the family was scalded. Witness saw her in bed and found that she was scalded from the hips to the knees. Witness had a doctor summoned, and he ordered the child's removal to the County Hospital, Croom. Before going to the cows the kettle was not on the range, and it seemed as if the child had put on the kettle during her absence to prepare for the evening tea. Witness identified the remains as those of her youngest daughter, aged 3½ years.

Margaret Croom, sister of deceased, said she was 11 years old and on Friday evening last she was in the kitchen of her home with her sisters Josephine (deceased) and Bridie. A kettle of boiling water was laid on the range, and when witness turned her back the deceased pulled the kettle off. She cried and witness took off her clothes and called her other sisters. They then put her to bed and their mother returned about an hour later.

Dr John O'Connor, house surgeon, Co. Hospital, Croom, gave evidence that the child was admitted to hospital about nine o'clock on Friday evening last suffering from severe scalds, blisters and shock. The scalds extended from the knees along the thighs and buttocks to the abdomen and back. The lower forearms were also scalded. The child died at 7.45 p.m. on Saturday. Death was due to shock and toxemia following extensive scalding.

The coroner said he had found that the child had died as a result of injuries accidentally received and no blame was attached to anybody. Cases of the kind occurred frequently, and he tendered to the mother very deep sympathy on the loss of her child.

Sergeant Goggin, on behalf of the Gardaí, joined in the expression of sympathy.