

Strange Deaths

Brother and Sister Die

Within A Few Hours Of One Another

Doctor's Evidence At Inquest

The sad deaths of two children at Punchbawn, Meelick, county Clare, was investigated by Dr J Scanlan, coroner, and a jury, at Meelick on Monday afternoon.

The children—Thomas Galvin, aged 7, and Bernadette Galvin, aged 5 years—died on Sunday within a few hours of each other after having been ill only a few days.

Their father is Thomas Galvin, who works at a van man in a Limerick bakery, and has a small holding at Meelick; he has four other children.

Prior to the inquest a post mortem examination of the bodies was carried out by Dr Clohesy, House Surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, Limerick, and Dr J Power, Six-milebridge.

The coroner said the occurrence was very sad and was most unusual in his long experience. Both children had died within a few hours of each other.

Thomas Galvin, father, stated that when he came home from work on Saturday night his wife informed him that Thomas was ill and in bed. Bernadette had been complaining of a headache and was in bed since the previous day.

Answering Sergt T Dolan, Ardacrusha, the father said that on Sunday morning the boy was much worse and he went for a doctor. When the doctor came he was sent for a priest, and while he was gone the girl died. The boy died at 10 o'clock the same evening.

Sergt Dolan—While the children were ill what kind of nourishment were they given?—Milk diluted with water and a small quantity of whiskey.

Were they healthy children?—They were never sick and had been at school up to Thursday.

Dr Clohesy stated he performed a post mortem examination on both bodies with Dr Power. There was a quantity of puss around the boy's heart and was probably the result of a cold. This inflammation was the cause of death. The girl had inflammation of the kidneys, but otherwise was perfectly sound. In both cases death was due to natural causes.

Mr Nix, foreman of the jury, asked was there any danger of other children in the district being infected?

Dr Clohesy—There is no danger of infection and no need for any special precautions.

The doctor added that he had taken some of the puss for further examination.

This concluded the evidence, and the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.