

Infanticide at Bulli.

An inquest was held at the Court-house, Wollongong, on Friday, the 29th ult., before Mr. E. F. Smith, coroner for the district, touching the death of an infant found at Bulli, on the previous day, under suspicious circumstances.

The body of the infant being in the custody of the police within the gaol, the Coroner invited the jury to view it, which they did previous to the taking of the evidence, which was as follows :—

Henry Parkinson deposed : I am a constable, stationed at Woonona ; I know Jane Eales ; she resided with her father at Bulli, and to the best of my belief is unmarried ; yesterday morning (the 28th instant), between 11 and 12 am., from information received, I went to the prisoner's residence, at Bulli, and told her I was going to ask her some questions ; I told her she need not answer them unless she thought fit to do so, as whatever she said might be used against her in evidence ; I asked her if she had given birth to a child ; she said, " No," and that she had not been in that way, and that it was lies ; I said there is a great difference in you now and the last time I saw you ; she said it was nothing of the kind, and began to cry, saying Mrs. Moon had accused her of murdering a child ; she then went into the house, and I followed her ; I asked her again if she had given birth to a child ; she said " yes," but it was dead ; I asked her what she had done with it ; she said she buried it in the garden ; I asked her if anybody attended her in her confinement ; she said, " no ;" I asked her if she had made any clothes ready for the birth ; she said, " no," that her sister, Mrs. Jarrett, had promised to lend her hers ; I asked her where the child was buried ; she appeared very reluctant to tell me : I said she might as well tell

tant to tell me ; I said she might as well tell me to save further trouble, as I would dig the garden from one end to the other until I should find it ; she went down the garden a short distance and pointed to a small peach tree, and said, " It is buried there ; I did not kill it, it was dead ;" I then procured a spade and removed a lot of summer grass that was in a decayed state, under which I found a place where the earth had been disturbed ; I dug the earth up to a depth of about 18 inches, and found what appeared to be a black cloth ; after removing more of the earth I reached the body, which I lifted carefully out of the ground ; it was buried altogether at a depth of about two feet three inches ; I found it to be the body of a female child which had just been delivered ; I went to the prisoner with the child, and told her I would take her into custody on a charge of concealing the birth of the child ; I procured a conveyance, and brought her and the body of the child to Wollongong ; in consequence of something that occurred in the gaol, I charged her with having caused the death of a female illegitimate child, on or about the 10th instant, at Bulli ; she said she did not kill it, it was born dead ; she appeared to me for some months past to be in an advanced state of pregnancy ; I made inquiries about the matter, but could get no information ; her father suffers from the effects of sunstroke ; I asked him about this matter, but he said he knew nothing about it.

I believe her mother has been dead about 12 years ; she has had no mother over her since I have been in the district ; her father not only said that he knew nothing of the matter but he said further that he had never asked her who was the father of her other child, now about three years old ; she came from the Paterson about three years ago, and to my knowledge she has not been away from the

knowledge she has not been away from the district since; married females live within fifteen yards of her residence; there is no other female living in the house with her.

William Lyops stated as follows: I am a duly qualified medical man, practicing at Wollongong; yesterday afternoon I was called upon by constable Parkinson to examine the dead body of a female infant, found under suspicious circumstances; I saw the body at the gaol; it was that of a fully developed child, the body being well nourished; it was a good deal decomposed, the cuticle peeling off in flakes, and the flesh on the abdomen and back was quite greenish from putrefaction; the balls of the eyes were completely decomposed, and protruding from their sockets; the nose was considerably flattened; the cuticle round the neck was quite sound, and presented no discoloration; the naval string was properly tied in the usual manner with a piece of thick twine; at the point of juncture of the naval cord with the naval, there was no evidence of detachment by natural process; I could detect no wounds or bruises of any kind upon the body; this morning, by order of the Coroner, I made a *post mortem* examination of the body; in doing so, I found no fracture or displacement of the bones of the head; on opening the chest, I found the lungs well filling the cavities thereof; and on squeezing them crepitation was very perceptible; I carefully removed the heart, thynnus, glands, and a portion of the windpipe, with the glands attached, and put the whole into a basin of water, in which it floated; I then detached each lung, and put each in water, and they both floated; I then cut each lung into several pieces, and all the pieces floated; on examining the cavities of the heart I found them firmly contracted, without any blood or floss; the *ductus arteriosus* and the *ductus venosus* were both

without any blood or mucus, the *ductus arteriosus* and the *ductus venosus* were both shrivelled up and contracted; the stomach was contracted and quite empty; the spleen and kidneys were perfectly healthy and well formed, and the large intestines were full of *meconium*, a trace of which was also discovered on the cloth in which the body was wrapped when found; I have no doubt whatever that the child was born alive, and that it lived for several hours at least, the functions of respiration being fully established; speaking approximately, I should say the child had been dead about three weeks; I have examined the prisoner just now, and am satisfied she has recently been confined; from the appearance of the body of the infant, and the result of the *post mortem* examination, I am of opinion that no violence was used in causing death; that is to-day, I believe the child was not killed; my opinion is, if I may offer such, that the child died through inattention and neglect, probably in the way of lying exposed, or in wet clothes; by the of presence secretions on the body, it was evident the child had never been washed.

Susan Moon stated: I am married, my husband's name being William Moon, who is a coal miner; I live at Bulli; I am acquainted with the prisoner; I live within a call of her door; I can't say the exact distance; all I can say is that she has been delivered of a child; I could tell that by her appearance for some time past; she appeared to be at her last

moment about a month ago; I mentioned it to the prisoner, and she denied it strongly; I knew she had been laid up, but I did not miss seeing her about; on her denying being confined, I forbade her to come to my house; I told her she had had a child; she said boldly she had not, and that I might search if I liked. I said I would have made for it

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I liked ; I said a search would be made for it
and that very soon ; between a fortnight and
three weeks ago, I went to her house and
found her in bed ; she appeared very much
confused, and said she had a bad headache ;
I suspected nothing at that time and went
away ; I spoke to her previously about being
in the family way, but she denied it ; I had
been asked by several persons if she had been
confined, it being so rumoured all over the
neighbourhood.

Sarah Jarrett said : I am the wife of Ed-
ward Jarrett, a labourer in the Bulli mine ; I
live at Bulli ; I know the prisoner, who is my
sister ; she never told me she was in the
family way ; about Christmas, when I first
heard of it, I went to the house to ask her if
such was the case, and she denied it ; last
Sunday I offered her some infant's clothes,
and she told me she did not want them ;
when she told me that I said no more to her ;
she never asked me for baby's clothes or any-
thing in that way ; she did not appear to me
to have anything wrong with her on Sunday
last, or to present any indication of having
been confined.

After consulting for some time, the jury re-
turned the following verdict :—“ That the
said female child, the illegitimate daughter of
Jane Eales, came to her death, at Bulli, on or
about the tenth day of May instant, through
the neglect of the mother.”

The prisoner was then discharged, but was
rearrested at the portals of the Court-house by
the police, to answer the following charge, viz.—
“ That, on or about the 10th of May, at Bulli,
she did feloniously, wilfully, and of malice
aforethought, kill and murder a certain un-
named female child, of which she had been
delivered.”

Prisoner pleded not guilty, saying, “ I did
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All the witnesses examined at the coroner's inquest, held in the afternoon in connection with the same matter, were called upon to give evidence before their Worships, their testimony being exactly similar in both instances.

The evidence having been read over to the prisoner, she, on the advice of her attorney, reserved her defence. She was then committed to take her trial at the next sittings of the Criminal Court, to be held at Darlinghurst, on the 10th August next.

Mr. Woodward requested that bail might be allowed the prisoner, but their Worships declined to grant it.—*Illawarra Mercury*.
