

this tragedy, or a most extraordinary neglect of the medical instructions. It is quite wonderful that no one asked a question on this point at the inquest, because it clearly explains the whole accident. The baby was in a very weak state; it probably became chilled, and fainted. All the medical men to whom I have spoken ridicule the idea that a stone in the ureter caused, within twenty-five minutes, sudden death, and they say, moreover, that no proof was, or could have been, given that the "stone shifted" immediately before death; they opine that if the stone passed into the ureter while the child was in the bath he would have screamed out with the pain, and in that case the Sister in her evidence swore that "it could have been heard."

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WHATEVER the reason, doctors seem sure that the child fainted, and if it were in so weak a state as to be liable to syncope they say that it renders it all the more inexcusable that it should have been left at all. If it fainted, a depth of six inches was quite sufficient water to cover its face, and it would then simply be drowned without the ordinary signs being so evident after death, as they are in a grown up person, whose struggles cause the lungs and stomach to become filled with water. And, besides this, it was proved that the ordinary treatment for drowned cases was carried out, which would considerably modify the appearances found at the post-mortem; another point, which, strangely enough, was not brought out at the inquest. Very little notice also was taken of the significant fact that those who saw the child first—Nurse, Sister, and House Physician—all thought from the appearances that the child had been drowned.

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THE coroner's jury, with their traditional acumen, brought in a verdict of "death from natural causes." If they were right, and such causes of death are "natural" at the London Hospital, it is a poor prospect for the patients. It is earnestly to be hoped, however, that the matter will not be allowed to rest here, and that means may be adopted to reform the Nursing arrangements at the London Hospital as speedily as possible. Perhaps even the medical staff and Committee, in the lurid light of this inquest, may be shaken in their belief that everything is excellent in their Nursing arrangements. It is clear now, that the Matron's instructions are calmly ignored. The Nurse admitted doing so, and the Sister admitted that she did likewise, for she found the child alone, found the Nurse elsewhere engaged, and then herself went away, leaving the child alone and uncared for.

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THE following very guarded annotation in the *British Medical Journal* last week shows what the medical press think of the matter:—

"The unfortunate case at the London Hospital of death while in a bath draws renewed attention to a matter which cannot be too constantly borne in mind by Nurses and those who have to do with sick people—namely, the necessity of watchfulness while any patient is having a bath. In this particular case the child was ordered a hip bath, a soaking for twenty minutes to half-an-hour in six inches of water, three times a day. The bath was on a table in sight of those in the ward; across it was a board on which the child's hands rested, and around his shoulders a blanket was secured. The process was hardly looked upon as a bath; it was, as the Nurse expressed it, more like an application. The child was seen at 16 minutes before 12 by the Sister, who said he was happy and well, but, when the Nurse entered the bath room at 5 or 10 minutes past 12, he was found curled up in the water dead. Dr. SMITH, after making a *post-mortem* examination attributed the death to the shock caused by the shifting of a large calculus in the right kidney, probably assisted by the impure condition of the child's blood, and a verdict of death from natural causes was returned. Most people, however, will agree with the 'Sister,' who, when asked 'Should a child be left so long, in your opinion?' answered 'No, sir.'"

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THE following note from Mr. CLEMENT POUND (Odiham, Hants), in last week's *British Medical Journal*, is well worth remembrance, as an important practical hint in a very dangerous class of accidents. "On August 15th, I was called, in a great hurry, to see a woman, two miles and a-half from my house, of whom it was reported that, whilst drinking in a dark cellar of some "sugar beer," she was stung on the tongue by a wasp which was lurking in the top of the barrel, and was washed into the glass she was using; that the tongue had swollen enormously, and was protruding, and that the neighbours thought she would suffocate before I got there. I was rather non-plussed what to take with me, and could not get ice. However, I took, amongst other things, tannin and glycerine, and got to the place in twenty minutes, and, to my great delight, found no difficulties, as the same messenger who came for me had called the husband, and he had at once filled her mouth as full as he could get it with sliced raw onion, and this was rapidly reducing the swelling, and, before I left the house, which was

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