

Hereford Journal Wednesday 9th October 1850 re the death of Benjamin Morgan died 25th Sep 1850

LEOMINSTER. IMPORTANT INQUEST UPON THE BODY OF AN INFANT PAUPER AT LEOMINSTER. **Much excitement having prevailed among the inhabitants bare touching the death Benjamin Morgan, infant aged five years, who was a pauper in the Union, and who was buried on Saturday at night, it was determined that the body should be exhumed and proper investigation made as to the cause death, it being supposed that deceased had suffered from ill-treatment.** Accordingly, an inquest was held on Monday evening, the 30th ult., at the Workhouse, before H. T. Pluck, Esq., deputy-coroner. The following gentlemen were summoned on the jury:— Mr. R. Ward, foreman Mr. James Morris Mr. John Crump Edw. Manwaring Thomas White Francis Davies John James Saxby John Philpotts Charles Allen R. S. Coates William Gilkes John Lowe After some remonstrance from the jury against the irregularity of the proceedings, the time for holding the inquest having first been postponed, and then the place of holding being changed from the Blue Boar Inn to the Workhouse ; and objection having been made to holding the inquest at the Union, inasmuch as the visiting committee were interested in the result of the present inquiry, and hence, in the opinion of the jury, the proceedings would not be conducted with impartiality, (which was overruled, the inquiry was proceeded with in the Workhouse. Mrs. Woolley deposed : am matron of the Leominster Union ; have been so for 35 years ; knew the deceased, Benjamin Morgan ; was admitted into the Workhouse two years ago ■ be was illegitimate child ; was tolerably well when admitted, though not a strong child —Cross-examined by juror : Took its food pretty well on its admission into the Workhouse ; ceased to be under care June last ; I delivered him the governess ; did not observe that he failed his appetite when with me ; he was five years old, had no cough.—By the foreman : When found any the children weak, I gave them some indulgence ; do not remember the deceased anything more than the others ; the child was good state of health when placed under the care of Miss the governess, which was some time in June last ; I had no control over the children unless they were unwell ; the deceased was sent back me in ill-health, about the 27th June last ; he was suffering from a bowel complaint ; Mr. Watling was called in to attend him, who ordered him into the infirmary, where he remained under medical treatment fortnight, and was then discharged cured ; considered he was restored ; I administered arrowroot, milk, and tea him ; can't positively say whether he had wine ; he continued to take this nourishment till he left me, after which he took the miscellaneous allowance of the Union with the other children ; had no means of knowing what treatment the child received afterwards ; I weighed out the children's food separately ; the deceased came into care again on Saturday fortnight, suffering from pain the bowels, with relaxation and vomiting.—By the Coroner : I observed that deceased was much reduced when last returned to me ; Mr. Watling was again called in ; he ordered arrowroot, brandy, wine, and coffee ; the child continued to get worse, and died on Wednesday last ; Mr. Watling did not see him every day, but every other day ; ' I consider deceased had the same complaint the second time was placed under care, with the exception of the sickness, which was violent ; the' doctor's instructions were strictly carried out ; when under my care every attention was paid deceased, and Margaret Sheen, a sick patient in the infirmary, attended upon him at night ; Sheen was not regularly employed to attend the sick ; he took biscuit and wine, which did not stay on the stomach ; Sheen and Mifflin fed him sometimes ; Mifflin acts nurse in the infirmary ; I am sure every attention was paid to deceased when in the infirmary.—By Mr. T. W. Davies, on behalf of the Guardians : The deceased was always attended to by one nurse the other ; he was so weak he could not stand ; after Mr. Watling saw him in his last illness he was put to bed and never got up again ; he did not make any complaints to me can't say whose duty it is to report sickness ; I did not see the child every day ; it was the duty of the governess to report the deceased's illness ; was forbidden by one the Poorlaw Commissioners have anything to do with the children under 16 years of age ; when the governess requires any variation in the diet, I always give it to her ; have the power to" refuse, but have never done "so ; the made such a request, I deemed it right, and did not to see about it ; never refused anything she sent for. Hannah Twigg deposed : I am governess at the Leominster Union Workhouse ; have been so since May last ; the deceased, Benjamin Morgan, was under my care, excepting the time he was in the infirmary, where he went on the 27th May ; he was then in a delicate state of health, and did not take his food well ; named this to the matron, who replied that he had always a poor appetite, and that **his grandmother had said before he went into the house** ; on the 27th May I took deceased to Mr. Watling, the medical officer of the Union ; "he gave him some medicine, after which he was better for short time ; on the June took him to Mr. Watling again, who said he was poor delicate fellow, and that he could not do much for him ; he remained in the infirmary till the 21st July, when he was again discharged as cured ; when deceased returned to me ' I thought he looked much thinner than when he went to the infirmary ; I passed my hand down his chest, which felt like skeleton, and remarked that I had a good mind send him back ; this I said the other boys and girls ; for some time after this the deceased appeared much the same, and was in very weak, low state ; soon after he was attacked with diarrhoea ; the children were all subject to it, which I attributed to their diet ; I informed the matron that thought it was from the salt broth, and also mentioned to the medical officer, but not at the time of deceased's illness ; the diet was altered by the visiting committee. -By the foreman : The visiting committee attend for the purpose of giving instructions and inspecting the Union ; when deceased first came out of the infirmary did not give him any extra indulgence, but afterwards did to ; deceased was put in a*cold bath several times in the latter end July he had gruel with bread in it for breakfast, and a piece of bread afterwards ; Mr. Watling ordered the bath ; I asked if it would be injurious to any of the children, especially the deceased ; he replied that baths would be conducive to health ; the last time deceased had a bath was about a month before he was taken ill.— By the foreman : The deceased walked to the infirmary ; a day or two before, walked with me and the other children as far as Poplands ; deceased had every attention whilst with ; the usual diet for the children is follows : —breakfast, from a pint to a pint and-half of gruel with bread it, and piece of bread afterwards dinner on Mondays, suet pudding ; Tuesday, soup made of pease, or Irish stew ; Wednesday, pease or rice ; Thursday, beef and potatoes ; Friday, rice ; Saturday, pease soup ; Sunday, beef and potatoes ; never took from the children the food they could eat ; did not take from one to give to another by way punishment ; when deceased could not eat, I put his food by till he could. Thomaß Fairchild Watling, Esq. deposed : I am a surgeon residing at Leominster ; I formerly held the appointment medical officer to the Leominster Union ; I ceased to be such medical officer on Saturday night last ; knew deceased, he was five years old ; I recollect the deceased being brought to me on the 15th Sept. last ; on the 22nd June made entry of his being under my care, he was then labouring under general debility ; he was placed in the infirmary, where attended him up to the July last, when he was discharged cured ; he was again admitted into the infirmary on the 15th Sept. ; pronounced him to be withered. emaciated, hopeless state ; he not suffering from diarrhoea, nor did I ever receive a report of that kind, neither was reported to me that he had been attacked with vomiting ; I administered some trifling medicine to him ; his case did not appear to require much medicine ; placed him on diet No. 6, which consists arrowroot, milk, ground rice, and brandy what quantity could take, he could not take brandy I ordered him wine ; entered him in medical report-book 'anetomie rivante the guardians always allowed me to use own discretion to the allowance to sick paupers, and never one single instance restrained me.— By a Juror: cold bath would very injurious, I never recommended it for the deceased any occasion ; I was never consulted by the governess as to a cold bath. —By the Foreman : think the child had not sufficient treatment, I may be prejudiced by report ; I could have done much better for him if he had been brought

earlier to me ; I invariably sent to the governess to ask if there were any cases of illness, and the general reply was ;" it was past any attempt to restore the deceased ; I was never informed of the child having diarrhoea ; if salt broth and suet pudding were administered to excess, they would be injurious.—By a Juror: No complaint was ever made me about the salt broth ; I never had bad a case as the one in question: never had so many children ill till since the governess came ; the children are much more infirm since; I have heard reports in the house unfavourable to the governess, viz., of ill-treatment; three females named Mifflin, Oakley, and Sheen, have so reported.—Cross-examined by Mr. T. W. Davies*, the child's death : General debility—no constitutional disease —as he recovered more from nutrition than medicine; deceased did not complain of not having what I ordered, he made other complaints, viz., that the governess had kept him without food for two or three days, and can only attribute his illness to this cause ; did not report this to the board of guardians ; a woman named Sherman applied to take child away which was wasting; the child it now recovered.—By a Juror: Complaint have been made the other children.—[Mr. Watling grossly insulted during the delivery his evidence one of the jurors, whose strictures upon Mr. W. were so flagrant and base that the deputy coroner called him order. Mr. Ward stepped forward on behalf of himself and nine the jury and thanked Mr. Watling for the very straightforward evidence he had given, and that the unjust and* irrelevant remarks would not affect their good opinion of Mr. Watling.] The other witnesses were then examined :— Susan Mifflin deposed : I a nurse employed in the infirmary ; I recollect Benjamin Morgan, the deceased, coming into it in June last; he was in very weak state ; hit bowels were not relaxed, nor was he sick; he was attended by the medical officer; he was suffering from great weakness when in the infirmary he had port wine when came into the infirmary the last time he was much weaker ; he was not then relaxed; about two days before his death he was much relaxed and very tick ; on the Sunday after he last came into the infirmary he complained and said, " Susan, the governess was used to keep "my victuals off me and give it to Jack Symont, and that made me bad ;" he mentioned this more than once ; hat the medical officer ordered for him was duly administered.—Cross examined by Mr. T. W. Davies : He had wine and brandy. Margaret Sheen, a pauper in the Union, exactly corroborated the preceding witness at to deceased having complained of the governess, &c; and the evidence of Benjamin Morris and John Svmons some measure supported deceased's statements, but nothing very important was elicited from them. Hannah Twigg, recalled, stated: never took any food from deceased, but when he could not eat it; never allowed him to go without food from dinner-time one day till breakfast the next morning ; when he applied for something he " liked sent to Mrs. Woolley, who always forwarded what required. This closed the proceedings. The lasted seven hours, during which the room was crowded inhabitants of the town, who appeared exceedingly excited concerning the matter. The jury then retired to consider their verdict, which occupied three hours. "Verdict, " Death from natural causes."—The foreman then prepared a memorandum, stating that the schoolmistress's conduct called for severe animadversion, and that the visiting committee deterred censure. —This was signed Richard Ward, foreman ; Edward Manwaring; John Crump; R. S. Coatet; William Gilket Edward Bannister. A subsequent reproof of these parties was then made in milder language than the first, and was signed by all but Mr. Lowe but it did not convey the feeling of the foreman, he, on Mr. Lowe's refusal, declined to carry it in, and the verdict was therefore allowed to stand alone expressly on the ground that the public might not be misguided by any half measure.

Hereford Times Saturday 5th October 1850 re the death of Benjamin Morgan died 25th Sep 1850

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HEREFORD TIMES. Sir, —No doubt you will receive through your agent a report of the proceedings at an inquest held on the body of Benjamin Morgan, who died in the Leominster Union Poor-house. As foreman of the jury, I am desirous of laying before the particulars of the case, after the examination of the witnesses. The verdict did not seem to require consideration, but the censure which all the jury considered the case called for, and which they were of opinion should go with it, was a subject of difficulty as regards degree. In the first instance, a note was prepared stating that the jury considered the conduct of Hannah Twigg, the schoolmistress, deserved "severe animadversion," and that the visiting Guardians were open to "censure." This was signed by myself, as foreman, and by Mr. Edward Manwaring, Mr. John Crump, Mr. William Gilkes, Mr. Edward Bannister, and Mr. R. S. Coates. Five of the others on the jury agreed in the opinion expressed, but thought the language too strong. At about half-past twelve at night, the following was prepared and signed:—"The jury empanelled upon this inquest cannot separate without denouncing the conduct of Hannah Twigg, schoolmistress of the Leominster Union, towards the deceased child, Benjamin Morgan ; I and they recommend the visiting Committee to exercise a greater degree of vigilance over the management of the children in the workhouse.—Richard Ward, Edward Manwaring, Edward Bannister, Thos. White, J. J. Saxby, Fras. Davis, R. S. Coates, James Morris, William Gilkes, John Crump, Charles Allen." The remaining jurymen, Mr. Lowe, refused to concur in this, contending that the medical attendant and all the officers of the Union should be censured. Inasmuch the jury were not unanimous (Mr. Lowe standing out), and that this last statement did not convey the views of the six who signed the first one which had been prepared, I declined to present it, and the Coroner, therefore, took the simple verdict. If any report of the case is given to the public, the circumstances as to the consurc should appear with it. R. WARD. P.S. The public here are much excited upon the-'case, **and I may add that it was the opinion of the jury that the death of the child was brought about by neglect, being past all medical aid when reported to the medical officer.**

Hereford Times Saturday 5th October 1850 Death of Benjamin Morgan

LEOMINSTER. IMPORTANT INQUEST AT THE UNION WORKHOUSE. On Mondnylast an inquest was held at the Board-room of the Leominster Union Workhouse, before H. T. Fluck, Esq., deputy coroner, on view of the body of Benjamin Morgan, a child of six years of age, who had died in the Workhouse above-named, on the previous Wednesday. The body had been interred on the Saturday prior to the inquest, but, by direction of the Coroner, it had been exhumed and deposited at the Workhouse for inspection the jury. The following persons answered to their names as jurymen, viz.:—Foreman, Mr. Richard Ward ; Mr. E. Manwaring ; Mr. E. Bannister ; Mr. John Crump ; Mr. K. S. Coates ; Mr. Wm. Gilkes ; Mr. F. Davis ; Mr. Thos. White Mr. Jas. Morris ; Mr. Chas. Allen Mr. John Jas. Saxby and Mr. John Lowe. Mrs. Elizabeth Woolley, who being sworn and examined deposed as follows: I am a married woman and am matron of this workhouse, and have been so for 35 years ; I knew the deceased Benjamin Morgan ; he was an illegitimate child ; when he was first admitted he was tolerably well, but not a strong child ; I do not know whether he ate his food well ; he did when first admitted ; I observed no defect in his appetite at the time of his admission ; I cannot tell when h appetite first failed it was in June last when the child ceased to be under my care ; at that time, all the children under 16 were placed under the care of the governess ; I do not recollect observing any change in him before he left my care ; think the child is five years old ; he had no cough ; I considered it

necessary to grant the children under my care some little indulgence now and then ; their breakfast, while under my care, was generally gruel ; when I found the deceased or any other child unwell, I indulged them giving little extra meals ; I never remember any extra indulgencies to the deceased child beyond the others ; the state of all the children when placed under the care of the governess, was good ; when the children left my care, they were placed under the care of the governess, Miss Twigg, and from that time I had no control over them, unless they were unwell ; the deceased child was sent back to my care in the Infirmary as unwell, about the 27th of June last; he was then suffering from a very severe bowel complaint; I did not notice any material diminution in the fleshy appearance of the deceased child when he was sent into the Infirmary ; he looked poorly in the face from the bowel complaint ; Mr. Watling was the surgeon of the workhouse, and attended the deceased ; he was called into see the child while it was in the Infirmary Mr. Watling attended the deceased for about fortnight, and then discharged him cured ; I don't think the child was weaker when discharged than when admitted; I considered he was better in bodily strength when discharged—more restored ; whilst under my care in the Infirmary deceased was ordered arrowroot, tea, milk, and what he would take ; I don't know whether wine was ordered ; deceased continued to take these things till he left my care his diet afterwards was the same as before, viz., broth, gruel, rice, &c, as the other children I have no means of knowing whether the child ate his food after he left my care ; weighed out his food and put it on a separate platter, a* I do for all the rest ; he did not come into the Infirmary again until last Saturday fortnight (the 14th of Sept.) ; he was then suffering from pain in the bowels, a relaxation with vomiting ; he was not sick the first time I had him in the Infirmary, but he was the last ; the last time he came to me I observed he was very much reduced, and had lost flesh, suffering from pain the bowels and vomiting ; .Mr. Wat ling was again called and deceased was ordered arrow-root, brandy, and wine, and a little coffee deceased continued to get worse, and he died last Wednesday, about o'clock ; Mr. Watling did not see the child everyday, but about every other day, whenever he attended don't know what his duties are, or how often he ought to attend ; I should say that the child suffered both occasions from the same complaint, excepting that the sickness was more violent the last time ; the child was carried up, I believe, to the doctor, who was in the Infirmary when he was last admitted there ; the doctor's orders were strictly carried out, and every attention paid to the deceased that was requisite ; I always made the food myself ; there was an attendant named Margaret Sheen, who was inmate of the Infirmary herself ; her age was about ; fed the child myself the last time it was in the Infirmary, with biscuit and wine, but they would not remain on its stomach ; when I did not feed him, Sheen and Mifflin, inmates, did ; Mifflin is the person who regularly acts nurse in the house ; I am sure that every attention was paid to deceased while he was in the Infirmary ; he had all that the doctor ordered him, and every attention and comfort possible ; the order to remove the children under 16 from my care was given me by the Commissioner, who told me that all under that age were to be put under the schoolmistress ; I do not know what day in June this occurred ; the child was carried to the Infirmary ; he was very weak ; he crawled out of bed when he wanted, with difficulty ; he could not stand ; I did not know him to walk about afterwards ; he never complained of any bad treatment that he may have received ; it was the duty of the schoolmistress to report the child if ill ; I was forbid, by the Commissioner, to have anything to do with the children under 16 years of age, and also by the guardians in the Board-room ; saw the child about once a-week while he was under the care of the governess I did not see any difference iv the child between the times he came into the Infirmary ; it was my duty to see all the paupers daily, but I considered that the order of the Commissioner and Guardians superseded authority the child was badly purged when he last came to me ; no food was ever returned not consumed by the children ; the schoolmistress sent for flour, milk, bread, butter, and tea for deceased, some few days before he last came to the Infirmary ; she sent three or four times ; she sent word it was for Benj. Morgan ; at that time the deceased was in the schoolroom; the room was a comfortable one ; there was fire in the child had access to his bed-room, where there were blankets, beds, and other comforts ; I saw the deceased child abed there in the day time ; two or three days before he came to the Infirmary, spoke to him ; he was lying: down ; the schoolmistress had power to order him to lie down, and to vary the children's diet, and she used her discretion in the matter ; the schoolmistress cannot vary the diet without the matron's consent ; I had the power to refuse consent, but did not; I did not this case go to see whether what the schoolmistress sent for was requisite, but took it for granted it was, and I never refused to give it ; it was part of my duty to report any case of illness when I knew of to the medical officer, and I did report the illness of the deceased to the doctor before the child was sent to me: it was in consequence of the extras which had been asked for that did so ; the governess told me the child was unwell and did not eat his food, two or three days before he came to the Infirmary Mr. Watling said to the governess in my presence, " tell you in the presence of a witness, that, if ever any child is ill, you report it to Mr. Woolley, who is the master, and he will send an order to me to attend it;" I on my own authority called in the doctor to the deceased, the schoolmistress and two or three others having said he was ill ; the schoolmistress said the little boy had been sick, but he had eaten his food very well up to within a few days. Hannah Twigg being sworn and examined, deposed : I am schoolmistress of the Leominster Union Workhouse, and have been since the 14th of last May ; the deceased Benj. Morgan was under my care during that time excepting when he was in the Infirmary ; when I first came here he appeared to be in a delicate state of health, and did not take his food so well as the others, and I named it to the matron, and she said he had always been the same. On the 27th of May I took deceased to the house surgeon, ■ Mr. Watling ; deceased then had some medicine and appeared to be better for a short time ; a short time previous to the 22nd of June his appetite failed, and on the 22nd I took him to the surgeon again ; Mr. Watling said " He's poor delicate child, I don't think we can do anything for him beside nurse him with a spoon, but as you have brought him to me, I suppose lie must go to the Infirmary-;" he went to the Infirmary on the 22nd of June, and "remained there till the 21st of July, and then he was sent back to the school-room as cured when he came back to the school-room he looked so much thinner than when he went, that I passed my hand down his breast (under his clothes) and felt his bones almost as thin as a skeleton, and I said ' Really what poor little skeleton he is I am surprised that they should send him out of the Infirmary, and I have good mind to send him back again I said this to some of the biggest boys and girls Joseph Oakley, another little boy, came out of the infirmary at the same time ; from the 21st of July for three or four weeks deceased appeared much the same as when he came out, namely, in very week low state ; after that time he was attacked with diarrhoea, which continued for a clay and night ; I attributed this to the diet, salt broth, because I found that diarrhea frequently followed after broth suppers; did not mention this to the medical officer when I sent the child, not being then quite sure to whether the broth was the cause of it ; the diet has since been altered by the Visiting Committee, who as soon as they knew it ordered milk to substituted for broth ; the deceased rallied for several days, and was then again attacked with diarrhoea and vomiting, and on the next morning I took him to the doctor this was September ; don't know the day exactly ; I him once in the infirmary ; I went to visit He was then under care : when I visited him l" 1 1 three or four days after he was admitted, the diarrhoea was very violent ; I saw him purging very Violently ; from that time I did not see him till his death ; I did not alter his food when he first came out of the infirmary ; It not customary to put the children into a cold bath now but it was m July • it has been discontinued a fortnight : deceased was put into a cold bath after he first came out of the infirmary the breakfast after the bath consisted and bread the Guardians ordered the baths, and they were ordered to be used ; I have no written order to immerse the children ; the medical

officer approved of the immersion of the children, and said it would be conducive to their health ; he also said the cold bath was used in his own family twice a week ; I selected several delicate children, among others, Hornsby, Mapp, and the deceased Morgan, and asked Mr. Watling particularly if the bathing would be injurious to their health, and he said " No, think it would be conducive to their health the deceased was last bathed about a month before he was taken ill; the mode of using the bath is to first bathe the head, then jump in, remain a minute or so, and come out again and rub the body dry with towels the boys on coming out of the bath step upon a cocoa-nut matting, and then on to a boarded floor ; when the de was last taken into the infirmary, he was purged and was y low ;he had ailed a day or two diarrhoea fori lm rallied then and a ain had tl c Lfirmarv"A? a d a ht and then sent h ™ 38t time he 6eQt into iufir " ma 'j k d there and a day or two before that he r lke i d r d 8 from and- atong with the other children and myself; I took him by the hand and walked WaB taken frQm M*w , sitting room to ^ mfi rmar y.and f rt >m the girls' day room , to the , day room and sitting upon the forms, and I took him from that room to the master's sitting room, where lie was examined the medical officer ; the deceased walked up stairs to the master's room ; the child had every attention paid him while with me ; when he could not eat his gruel, got the matron to send me some milk, some arrow-root, and some tea for him ; he had beeu ailing for several days before I took him to the medical officer ; I have noticed, for some years past, the diseases of children between the ages of two and six years ; I have done so for the last 11 years, during which I "have been schoolmistress, ami have had many opportunities of observing the different diseases of children ; sometimes punished the children by putting them in the corner, and sometimes by giving them a lesson to learn ; I had been National schoolmistress at Longton and Woolstanton, in Staffordshire, previous to my coming here ; I had nearly 100 children under my care—the number varying different times of the year ; I had nothing to do with baths there, but have noticed children's diseases and visited them at their homes ; I asked the deceased where he had pain, and he told me in his bowels **the mother of the child has never been here to see him, but the aunt has** ; deceased never complained to me, but I used to ask him where he was ill, and showed me by putting his hand to his bowels ; he frequently appeared to be sleepy, and I allowed him to lie down ; he has been a weak sickly child all the while I have been here; he had an occasional dry cough, not violent; I administered the medicine myself during the first sickness, prescribed by the doctor for diarrhoea the doctor decides what patients go into the infirmary ; the medicine which the doctor provided was duly given—a teaspoonful when the purging took pace; be "improved after this medicine; the children's ordinary diet is—breakfast, one pint of gruel with bread in it, and piece of bread to eat afterwards ; dinner, Monday, suet pudding ; Tuesday, pea-soup or Irish stew ; Wednesday, peas or rice ; Thursday, beef and potatoes ; Friday, rice ; Saturday, pea-soup Sunday, beef and potatoes ; suppers, Sunday and Thursday, salt broth (twice a week, Monday and two or three nights in the week bread and cheese, and one night gruel ; a good large piece of bread with the cheese; the little children have quite as much as they can eat, and always have time allowed to eat it; they never asked for more ; they have always bread in the broth and gruel, and bread eat after it ; the children, when first came here, could not eat all their food I asked the matron what I should do with what was left, and by her desire I gave it to the elder boys girls, or to any child who could eat it, and when none of them could cat it, it was taken back to the kitchen ; I never kept any food from one child to give to another ; deceased could not always eat his food at meal time, but I used to give it him when he was hungry between meals ; he was a very delicate child, and so were Mapp and Wosger, and served them the same Mr. Watling said the three or four who were delicate had better have what they left given to them between meals deceased was in a very emaciated state when he came out of the infirmary the first time, and the child appeared to me to be gradually sinking from that time. Thomas Fairchild Watling being sworn and examined, deposed ; I am surgeon, residing and practising in the town Leominster, and was lately medical officer of the Leominster Poor-law Union I ceased hold such office on Saturday night last; I knew the deceased Benjamin Morgan ; he was an inmate of the Union workhouse ; I recollect his being brought to me on the 22nd of June last ; I did not, about the 27th of May, give any medicine to the schoolmistress for the deceased or any other children ; on the 22nd day of June, there an entrance in the workhouse medical relief book of the deceased having been placed under my care ; he was reported by me as suffering from general debility ; he was placed in the infirmary, and I constantly attended him and gave him medicine until the of July, on which day there is an entry the same book of the deceased being discharged cured ; he was again placed under my care on the 15th day of September, a withered emaciated hopeless state I did not understand or find that he was at all suffering from diarrhoea ; I called the attention of the nurse to the case next day aud she said nothing of the kind ; deceased was not reported to me as vomiting ; I gave him some trifling medicine ; his case did not appear me to require medicine ; I placed him upon sick diet No. 6, which consists of arrow-root and milk, ground rice and milk, bread and milk ; I ordered him what quantity brandy he could take, and directed that, if he could not take brandy, he should have port wine ; on September 15th I entered again name my medical relief list " Anatomic rivant" (perfect skeleton); the Guardians have at all times allowed to use my unlimited discretion in ordering anything that I thought proper for the sick patients, and have always evinced great readiness in carrying out orders without the least restriction ; I continued to attend the deceased to the time of his death ; I make reports in my medical book as often as I attend the sick ; on the 25th of September I visited the house, and entered in my book " **Benj. Morgan died of waste** ;" I did not consider he was suffering from any particular complaint beyond perfect waste ; am unable to suggest any cause of such complaint the cold bath in such a case would help the disease and would be very injurious ; never said to the schoolmistress that the cold bath ought to be used, and never made any reference to the use of it in my own family ; some might have done so ; the deceased child had, I think, hardly received sufficient attention before he was received a second time into the Infirmary making this remark I may, probably, be a little prejudiced by report ; I think I might have adopted measures for his recovery if it had been brought to me earlier ; I believe it was the nurse who last brought him tome ; he was on his legs then repeatedly sent to the governess to know if there were any cases requiring attention, and was invariably answered, no ; I believe such an illness that of the deceased child would attract anybody's attention, professional or non-professional ; **I think the illness would have been obvious to any common observer** ; I never heard from the nurse that his food returned ; it was reported to me that no other than the usual evacuations had occurred ; I think salt broth and suet pudding diet would be injurious to children if continued; on the week commencing on the on the 23rd of June, I find an entry in my book that The medical officer suggests that fresh meat once week would be advantageous to the children and less conducive to lax," and it was immediately granted by the Board; the governess never complained to me of salt broth she might have mentioned common conversation, but never a complaint ; I think it possible that salt broth might have assisted in the cause of the child's death ; I did not order the discontinuance of the cold baths, or know that the deceased child was accustomed to them ; the deceased child had every attention paid while in the Infirmary, and orders were strictly carried out ; there are two or three other bad cases on record, but none bad as the deceased, and I never had one so bad before ; I have never had so many children ill as I have had since this governess has been here : I cannot give any reasons of my own, but it is a fact that more children are infirm now than used to be ; I can only draw my conclusions as to the death of the deceased from the reports I hear in the workhouse, which are unfavourable to the governess ; Oakley, Sheen, and Miffilin (female paupers) all give similar reports of her conduct; I did not see the deceased child in the interval between the time he was in the Infirmary ; I cannot tell the cause of the general debility under which

the deceased was suffering on the 23rd of June ; I am not aware that he had any constitutional disease, nor do I believe there was any, as the child recovered more from nutrition than it did from medicine, which was only given to regulate the bowels and prevent severe action ; the deceased never complained after he became patient of not having his regular food, but he made other complaints to me, and said that the governess had kept him without his food for two or three days ; you may say for a day or two, as I would rather not make the matter too serious ; the child's first illness was from the same cause ; I cannot state the precise words of the child ; the general tenor of the child's remarks was that was kept for two or three days without food, and it was stated by the child and those around it that its first illness was from that cause ; I attribute the death of the child to a general wasting away. [Mr. Watling was here questioned by a jurymen in rather an irreverant manner, and some confusion arose, but on the interference of the Coroner and the foreman of the jury, order was again restored.] The workhouse medical book was here put in and examined, and the following were the entries made therein :—" June 22 : Morgan, Benjamin, 5 years, general debility : tea ordered : discharged 21st July, cured." "Morgan, Benjamin, Sept. 15: anatomic vivand : milk brandy : skeleton training." **"Morgan, Benjamin, anatomic vivand : injudicious training-school : died of waste, Sept. 25."**—Mr. Watling continued : These entries are in hand-writing ; I have heard similar complaints from children now alive of ill-treatment on the part of the governess. [This concluded Mr. Watling's examination, and the foreman of the jury here rose and said that he had been commissioned by nine of the jurymen to thank Mr. Watling for the way in which he had given his evidence, and that they (the nine) did not at all concur in the observations which had been made to Mr. Watling by one of the remaining jurymen. Some more confusion arose, and several of the jurymen inquired who were the nine ?"] Elizabeth Woolley, re-called, deposed: The salt broth before referred to is the broth made from the boilings of the beef, which is sometimes salted, and which has been in pickle about nine days ; sometimes a little more or less, according to the weather ; salt broth is now given upon one night of the week only the children have not salt broth at all now, but have gruel and milk instead ; the broth is the same as I have been in the habit of making for the inmates for the last thirty-five years ; I have never had an inquiry of this description before during the thirty five years I have been matron of the house ; everything sent to this house is of the best quality ; I saw the deceased child purging and vomiting after it was admitted into the infirmary ; the nurse, Mifflin, saw it also, and put a cloth under the child's mouth ; I reported this to the medical officer ; I did not see the child brought into my sitting-room to the medical man, but I saw it soon afterwards Miffiin was present at the time ; I used not to listen to the children's complaints of ill treatment ; I have heard them say their food had been given to other boys, and I have heard them complain of its being hard case. Susan Mifflin being sworn and examined, deposed as follows : I am a nurse employed the Infirmary of this workhouse ; I recollect Benjamin Morgan coming into the Infirmary, the first time in June last; he was very weak then ; his bowels were not much open then ; he was attended by the medical officer and had medicine given to him ; he was discharged cured in July and I understood he was suffering from weakness ; he had port-wine given him then ; about six weeks afterwards he was again admitted into the Infirmary I had seen him during the interval and spoken to him and he seemed better ; when he came in second time, he was very ill from weakness ; about two days before he died he became purged and sick, and threw up the wine and other things that he took ; he was purged for two days ; on the Sunday after he came in the second time, he complained to me follows ; I was sitting at tea and I fetched him off the bed and put him to sit on a chair and asked him if he would have some tea, and he said No ;" I asked him if he would have something to eat and he said " Yes ;" I then made him some toast and gave to him, and he called out Susan I answered him and he said, "**Governess used to keep my victuals off me and give it to Jack Symonds, and that made me bad**"; Mrs. Sheen and Oakley were present at the time he made this statement he told me this again one day afterwards everything the medical officer ordered was properly administered to him ; he said the same words when he complained the time ; the governess carried the deceased up-stairs to the medical officer ; I saw her ; she put him to stand before the medical officer, but he could not bear its own weight, and caught hold of clothes to keep itself up ; Mrs. Passey was in the room at the time and might have seen the governess bring the child into the room ; carried the child to the kitchen a short time afterwards, and then took him up to the Infirmary ; I do not think deceased could walk at all; I saw Jack Symonds carrying him into the orchard two days before he came to the Infirmary the last time ; the child had brandy and wine the last time was in the Infirmary; he did not throw up his food till the day before he died ; the child was never purged to my knowledge ; I held a cloth to his mouth when vomiting, the day before he died ; the child complained very much of thirst; he was not delirious ; his cheeks sunk very much before death. Margaret Sheen corroborated the previous witness. The boys Morris and Symonds were then examined. Their testimony was to the effect that the governess had frequently taken food from the deceased and given it to other boys; but that this was done only when he would not eat it. Hannah Twigg was recalled, and denied that she had ever taken any food from the deceased. After two hours' deliberation, the jury returned a verdict of " Natural death." An investigation is being made by Edward Hurst, Esq., Poor-law inspector.