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FROM -
"THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ADVERTISER & COUNTY GAZETTE"
Dated 14th November, 1930.

WOMAN'S DEATH MYSTERY.

Question of Employment Raised at Inquest.

The mystery surrounding the death of a young Wealdstone woman, Florence Flood, of 49, Havelock-road, was only partly cleared up by the inquest at Hendon on Monday.

The husband said his wife worked at the Cape Asbestos Factory, Barking, from January, 1916, to June, 1921, and from August, 1921, to January, 1923, when she left to get married. She was never a healthy woman—was very frail and had a cough. He married her in January, 1923, and she went as an out-patient to Victoria Park Chest Hospital, Bethnal Green, about a year after their marriage. She was under treatment for about two years and then left off attending as she was not satisfied with the progress she was making. When taken ill she was seen by Dr. Gaze, of Wealdstone, who ordered her to Redhill Hospital, where she died after being there a week.

Questioned by the Coroner, witness said his wife had three children but had always been able to look after them and the house.

Alfred Charles Jones, assistant works manager at the Cape Asbestos Works, said that the break in deceased's employment was owing to strike trouble.

Examined by Dr. Middleton, of the Home Office, witness said deceased was employed in making asbestos mattresses. Between 40 and 50 others were similarly employed, and he thought several had been so for at least ten years.

Process Not Regarded as Dangerous.

In reply to Mr. John Russel (counsel for the Company), witness said there was a little dust in the process, but it was not until a few years ago that they ever heard of people getting any disease, or realized that the employment was in the slightest degree dangerous. A lot of improvements had been effected and the Company was in close collaboration with the Home Office experts as to means of extracting dust from the works. Thousands of pounds had been spent on life-saving devices.

Dr. Annison, of Redhill Hospital, attributed death to heart failure due to fibrosis of the lungs. That was confirmed by a post-mortem examination. The disease might have been caused by the inhalation of dust.

A report from University College as to the condition of the lungs was put in, and Dr. Middleton thought there was sufficient in it to connect the disease with deceased's employment.

Dr. Deacon, medical superintendent at Redhill Hospital, said he regarded fibrosis as the determining cause of death. No asbestos, however, was found in the lungs.

Dr. Middleton gave it as his opinion that there was a connection between deceased's employment and the disease. The only ground for doubt was that microscopic examination showed that there was no asbestos in the lungs.

Summing up, the Coroner advised the jury to return a verdict that Mrs. Flood died from fibrosis of the lungs and to leave it at that unless they were certain that death was caused by her employment.

The jury accepted the Coroner's advice.

Mr. Russel expressed the Company's

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