

## STARTLING DISCOVERY AT CAMPSEA ASHE.

### CHILD'S BODY FOUND IN A WOOD

#### A YOUNG WOMAN ARRESTED.

#### JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

The Woodbridge Petty Sessional Court was thronged on Wednesday morning, in anticipation that the most serious charge of wilful murder was, as the result of the discovery of the body of a child in a wood at Campsea Ashe, to be preferred against a young woman named Martha Hammond, whose parents reside in that locality. As a girlish figure of prepossessing appearance, neatly, but fashionably dressed, stepped into the box reserved for her, and took a seat to await the hearing, it was rather hard to believe that this was to be the subject of such a grave accusation. The prisoner, who was described as 23 years of age, but looked younger, bore the ordeal of a first appearance with remarkable calmness; indeed, she hardly seemed to realise her position, which she might be expected to feel the more acutely because she was without legal adviser or other aid. Mr. W. P. T. Phillips, who presided over a full bench of magistrates, considerably directed that the accused should be seated as soon as the charge had been read, and in taking the evidence the Magistrates' Clerk (Mr. F. J. W. Wood) was most careful that the prisoner should suffer no injustice from the lack of a solicitor for the defence. The object of the hearing on Wednesday was to obtain sufficient evidence to justify a remand until the Coroner's inquiry had been completed. This was opened on Tuesday by Mr. Walter Brooke at the Brock's Head, Campsea Ashe, and the magisterial proceedings traversed a portion of exactly the same ground. According to Mr. George Mason, the Master of the Workhouse at Wickham Market, the girl, who is the

DAUGHTER OF A RESPECTABLE FARM LABOURER at Blaxhall, was, on July 3rd, admitted to the Wickham Market Union, on a transfer from the Workhouse of St. George's in the East, London. She had been employed as a general servant in London, and, being near her confinement, had applied for relief to the St. George's Guardians. They granted it, but finding that she was born in the Plumsgate Union, and was "chargeable" to it, obtained an order for her removal to that place. On August 11th, the girl became the mother of a fine little boy, and on September 11th she and the child were discharged from the House, leaving it at ten minutes past eleven o'clock. Mrs. Mason (the wife of the Master) saw that it was well-clad, and observed to Hammond that it was a dear little creature. The clothes were part of a parcel which were supplied to the girl by a friend.— Alice Heywood, housekeeper to Mr. Charles Garrett,

Alice Heywood, housekeeper to Mr. Charles Garrett, was next called, with a viewing to identifying the body found in Campsea Ashe Wood as the child of Hammond. Heywood had been an inmate of the Workhouse for three years, and left on September 12th. She deposed that she saw Hammond while in the lying-in ward make a little calico band for the child's waist, and she identified a band taken from the body as the same. She saw Hammond undo the parcel of clothes which came from London, and that it contained

**A BABY'S WHITE LINEN GOWN,**  
a little shirt, and two or three small things. On the day that the witness left the Union-house she saw the prisoner standing on Wickham Market Hill. She was in company with a woman named Sargood, who had been a nurse at the Union-house, but had left on the previous day—the day on which Hammond left. Witness asked her where the baby was, and she said she had got rid of it. She further said that she took the baby to her home, but her mother refused to receive it. On her way back she called at Ashe Rectory to see her sister, who was a servant there, but could not, and then called at a woman's next door to Tunstall Post Office, and left the baby there. She explained that on the way back she met Nurse Sargood at Ashe Station, and she invited her to come to Wickham Market. Nurse Sargood said it was a good thing that Hammond had got rid of the baby. Witness had tea with them at Mrs. Lamb's, and in the evening left them together at the Chequers Inn, Wickham Market. Going through the articles found on the child's body, she identified a small linen shirt as having been in the parcel from London.—Mildred Lamb, who lives at a cottage in Wickham Market Street with her grandmother, deposed that between eleven and twelve on the morning of the 11th she saw the prisoner going down the street with the babe in her arms. About six o'clock in the evening witness met her again, and, although she was a stranger, they got into conversation. The prisoner said she had nowhere to go, and witness induced her grandmother to let her stay there until the Thursday morning.—Annie Hammond, cook at Campsea Ashe Rectory, stated the prisoner called on her about half-past two o'clock on the afternoon of September 11th. Asked what had become of the child, the prisoner said she

**BABY HAD DIED IN THE UNION.**  
The prisoner further told her she wanted to walk to Melton and take the train to London. She did not explain why she wished to go from Melton when Wickham Market was nearer. She went to London. Coming back some three weeks ago, she told the witness that she was married, and that her name was Templeman. She did not ask for the loan of any money.—Charlotte Lamb, the grandmother of a previous witness, stated that she asked Hammond what had become of the baby she had with her in the morning, and she replied, "I have put it away." Witness asked, "Where did you put it?" She said, "I took it home, and mother dare not have it because of father, so I took it to a friend of mine at Tunstall, a Mrs. Smith, the second or third door from the Post Office." Witness enquired how she thought she was going to get to London, and she answered she would have to walk. Witness

she answered she would have to walk. Witness declared that she could not walk, but the prisoner persisted she would have to try. It was under these circumstances that the prisoner stayed at her house until Thursday morning. Then nurse Sargood lent her 5s., and the witness made up the rest of the fare from Woodbridge to London. She returned Sargood's money in a few days, but the balance the witness had given her.—James Farrow, gamekeeper for the Hon. W. Lowther, said that on Saturday last he

#### FOUND A BLACK PARCEL

lying on a bank in Campsea Ashe Wood. It was tied with two pieces of string, and a piece of black tape. It contained the body of a child in a state of decomposition.—Police-constable Wilson, of Wickham Market, said that by a coincidence when he received information about the body he was making inquiries as to Martha Hammond's child, as the vaccination officer wanted it for vaccination.—Superintendent Hubbard said that the wrapper of the child was a black cloth cape. The child was clothed in a linen gown, a grey flannelette bed, and had round the body a white linen band, a flannel band, a small underskirt, three napkins, and white calico bedding. Dr. J. C. Keer made an examination of the body on the Sunday morning. The same afternoon the witness obtained a warrant for the apprehension of the prisoner, and arrested her at half-past eleven o'clock the same night at 293, Vauxhall Road. Charged with the murder she replied, "But I did not do so." She was living in furnished apartments under the name of Mrs. Templeman.—Dr. J. C. Keer said the body was in an advanced state of decomposition. The lungs, which were much decomposed, had every appearance of being gorged with blood. The left side of the heart was entirely empty. The right side contained some black fluid. The other organs seemed to have been healthy. This state of things pointed to the exclusion of air from the respiratory organs. He should not have expected to find the left side of the heart empty if death had resulted from natural causes. While in the house he saw the baby and considered it

#### A STRONG AND HEALTHY CHILD.

A juryman enquired whether the skull was decomposed or a portion of it missing? The doctor replied that a portion of it was missing altogether, but the bones present were not broken. The Coroner's inquest was adjourned until Monday, the 26th inst. The witnesses examined at the Magisterial sitting were Supt. Hubbard, Mr. George Mason, and Annie Hammond, sister of the prisoner. With regard to the prisoner's statement that she had married and that her name was Templeman, Mr. Phillips asked whether she was wearing any wedding ring. The sister replied she was. The accused had no questions to put, and she was remanded to Ipswich prison until the day of the adjourned inquiry, which would give an opportunity for her attendance at the inquest if thought desirable.—After receiving the Coroner's certificate the overseers of Campsea Ashe (Messrs. W. Blomfield and J. Algar) arranged for and superintended the interment of the deceased child in Campsea Ashe churchyard on Wednesday morning.

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