

**WOODHURST.**—An inquest was held at Woodhurst on the 2nd instant, by Mr. C. B. Margetts, coroner, on the body of John Dring, who died from the effects of a dose of morphia.—Mr. Henry Brickwell, surgeon, of Somersham, said the deceased had been under his care for several days with a severe attack of bronchitis, and, having had no sleep for nearly a week, he thought it necessary to give him a small dose of morphia. He therefore sent the deceased on Friday one grain in a phial, to be divided into three doses—one every night. On Sunday morning, the 30th, he was sent for to see the deceased, and, on arriving, he found him in the second stage of narcotism, with a very ghastly appearance, very contracted pupils, and breath-laboriously; in fact, in a thorough state of stupor. He could not rouse him at all. He lifted him up to put a mustard poultice on the back of his neck, but the movement produced much increased difficulty of breathing, and he was obliged to desist. He left him for about a quarter of an hour, and returned to see the effect of the poultice, but found no improvement. As he could do nothing more, he left, in the hope that he would sleep off the effects, but in the afternoon he was told that he was dead. He was of opinion that the deceased died from taking an over-dose of morphia, and evidently, by the appearance of the bottle, he had taken two-thirds instead of one-third. The contents of the whole bottle was only half the quantity to be expected to kill a man in good health. He (witness) mixed the morphia himself.—Ann Dring, wife of the deceased, said he told her he took more than he intended, but he spat some out, and thought the rest would not hurt him. She thought at first that he was only sleeping, and called several persons in, and ultimately Mr. Brickwell was sent for.—The jury found that deceased died from the effect of taking an over-dose of morphia while suffering from bronchitis.—Deceased was a small farmer, and 37 years of age.