

Robbie A.L. Dunn

(- 7 Sep 1871)

Dunn. On the 7th inst., Robbie A.L., infant son of Robert W. and Lizzie E. Dunn, aged 1 year 2 months 28 days. The friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral from the residence of his parents, G street s.e. between 4th and 5th, Saturday afternoon at 5 o'clock (Baltimore papers please copy).

The Evening Star, September 8, 1871

A Child Killed By A Druggist's Mistake

Night before last Dr. S.A.H. McKim was called in to prescribe for the child of Mr. Robert Dunn, residing on G street, between 4th and 5th street S.E. The prescription consisted of calomel, ipecac, magnesia and rhubarb, in six powders, was put up at the drug store of Dr. Taber, 7th street east, and instead of the fifteen grains of rhubarb it is alleged that fifteen grains of opium were put in the six powders, making 2 1/2 grains for each. The first powder that was administered had the effect of throwing the child into a stupor, from which it never rallied, although Dr. McKim did everything in his power to restore it, and it died early yesterday morning.

The Evening Star, September 9, 1871

The East Washington Drug Murder

Verdict of the Coroner's Jury

Yesterday's STAR contained an account of the death of the child of Mr. Robert Dunn, at the residence of its parents, in East Washington, from the effects of opium, put into a powder compounded at Taber's drugstore, on 7th street east, instead of rhubarb, as written by the physician on the prescription. The father of the child mixed one of the powders and gave it to the little patient, who soon after fell into a deep sleep. Nothing was thought of this until the following morning, when the parents were aroused by the heavy breathing of the child. The father ran for Dr. McKim, who, upon arriving, examined the powder, and found that opium was the principal ingredient, instead of rhubarb, which he had prescribed. Antidotes were administered at once, but too late, and death ensued at 9 o'clock a.m.

Lieut. Austin sent for the Coroner, on hearing of the affair, and soon afterwards Dr. J.F. Hartigan arrived. The child had been laid out on ice. A jury was summoned, and a post mortem examination was made by Drs. Lamb, McKim and Hartigan, who came to the conclusion that the opium caused the death of the child. A.C. Taber testified that he had put up the prescription; could not tell how the mistake was made; the writing on the prescription was plain.

The jury returned the following verdict--The jury, upon their oaths, find the deceased came to his death about 9 o'clock on the morning of September 8, 1871, on G street, between 4th and 5th streets southeast, from an overdose of opium, improperly compounded by A.C. Taber.

Dr. Taber does not belong to the Pharmaceutical Society of this District, but claims to be a graduate of a medical college.

Taber the Druggist to be Arrested

Dr. J.F. Hartigan, the deputy coroner, has had a warrant issued for the arrest of Taber and placed in the hands of officer Padgett for service and the accused, when brought before the deputy coroner, will be required to give bail for his appearance if required by the grand jury.