EWELL.

A Sad Case.—At the Epsom Police Court, on Monday, before Messrs. W. Trotter, A. W. Gadesden, R. Cunliffe, and W. R. G. Farmer—*Rebecca Goodship*, a girl seventeen years of age, was charged with stealing a silver watch, value £3, and 10s. in money, from a house at Gibraltar, the property of her father. Daniel Goodship, the prosecutor, on being asked if he wished to go on with the case, replied that he was compelled to do so, as it was not the first nor the second time that she had robbed him. He stated that on Wednesday the prisoner, his daughter, left her home and did not return. He kept the watch, a lot of threepenny and fourpenny pieces and other small articles in a drawer, which he had fastened in such a way that no one could get into it except himself. On Sunday his wife removed the drawers and found that a large board of the case had been removed, a hole cut into the back of the drawer, and the watch and other articles removed. On Sunday afternoon he heard that the prisoner was in the neighbourhood, and in the evening she returned home, and when asked what she had done with the watch, placed it on the table. She, however, refused to say what had become of the other articles. Prisoner had been for twelve months at the Princess Louise Home, but they could do nothing with her there, and since her return she had been in the habit of leaving home for two or three days at a time and they could never tell where she went. Police-constable Perry deposed to apprehending the prisoner, and stated that from enquiries he had made he found that on the day she left the house she purchased an ulster at a shop in Ewell, for which she paid 6s. in small change. Prisoner was asked several times whether she would plead guilty or not guilty, but refused to speak, and the magistrates were about to enter the latter plea and commit her for trial at the sessions, when, in answer to a question from Sergeant Pearman, she nodded her head as an indication that she would plead guilty, and she was thereupon committed to prison for three months with hard labour, the chairman stating that it was one of the most disgraceful cases that had ever been before the Bench.

"EWELL - A Sad Case," Wallington & Carshalton Herald, 04 Nov 1882, p. 5, col. 3; digital images, British Library, British Newspapers 1800-1900 (http://newspapers.bl.uk : accessed 03 Jul 2022).