

Called to Park

Star

Sergeant Robert William Hope said he received a message at the Central Police Station on June 22 from Mrs Ritchie that there had been an accident and a woman had been injured. That was at 3.50 p.m. He and Constable Molyneux went to Victoria Park, arriving there at 4.20 p.m.

He and Constable Molyneux were taken to the body by McIlroy and the ambulance driver.

He could see as soon as he went to the upper end of the body that the head was very severely injured.

The woman's right shoe was alongside the foot, the gloves were just to the right of the right knee, and there were a handbag, a hat and a pullover beside the right elbow.

Half a brick was lying fifteen inches to the right of the head, said Sergeant Hope. A woman'sisle stocking was found on the bank.

Dr Walker examined the body in his presence, and, as a result of that and his own observations, he instructed Constable Molyneux to let nobody approach the body. He then went back to the tearooms, and waited there until other police arrived about 5.15 p.m. He took Detective-Sergeant Tate, Detective Gillies, and Constable Griffiths, of the women police, down the track to the body.

Robert Rieper, a company manager, of 31, Gloucester Street, said that before June 22 he lived at that address with the dead woman and children. He lived with the woman for twenty-three years. He was not married to her, but they were known as Mr and Mrs Rieper.

There were three children born to them, and Pauline was the second. She was a normal child. She suffered osteomyelitis, and spent her fifth birthday in hospital. Her leg discharged for two years after that.

The doctor's opinion was that it was not advisable for her to

go in for sport, but she did some modelling in plasticine and wood, and was fairly good at it. She went to Girls' High School when she was about fourteen.

"How were your relations up to that time?" Mr Brown asked.

"We were very good friends."

And with her mother?—They were the same.

Did you ever see any signs that your daughter was abnormal in any way?—No, never.

Friendship

When his daughter went to Girls' High School, she formed a friendship with the girl Hulme, which became very intense.

The effect was to cut her parents out of her life.

At Mrs Parker's request, Dr Hulme had called at his house on one occasion to discuss their daughter's friendship with her daughter. As a result, his daughter was taken to see Dr F. O. Bennett.

During 1953, his daughter had a horse. She did not tell him until three months after. He agreed very willingly to her retaining the horse, because he thought it might make the friendship with the girl Hulme less intense. However, after a time she lost interest in the horse, and the friendship with Hulme became more intense than ever.

Pauline went to Ilam to visit the girl Hulme on occasions, and sometimes stayed there.

His daughter took up writing, and it interfered with her school work towards the finish. It was agreed between her mother and Pauline that she should leave school. It was arranged that she should go to Digby's.

About Easter, Mrs Parker again got in touch with Dr Hulme about the girls' association, and he told her that he would be leaving New Zealand in about

three weeks' time, and would take Juliet with him.

They were very pleased about this, as it would mean the breaking of the association, and Mrs Parker agreed to let Pauline see as much as she wanted of Juliet until the latter left.

Pauline stayed at Ilam from Friday, June 12 until the afternoon of Sunday, June 20, when he brought her home, said Rieper.

That evening Pauline sat in front of the fire writing an opera.

She was much more friendly and talkative than she had been for some time.

Next day, when he came home, his wife was very pleased with Pauline. She spoke about what bright company Pauline had been, and how much work they had got through.

Very Bright

He was home at lunch-time on June 22. He was in the garden, and when he went in to lunch Juliet Hulme was there. The lunch was very bright indeed. The two accused were very happy, and were laughing and joking. Nothing was said about the proposed trip.

He was in and out of the shop once or twice in the afternoon, and on one occasion there was a message from Victoria Park.

When he reached there, the two accused had gone.

"Before this, did you feel there was any need for medical attention to Pauline as far as her brain was concerned," asked Mr Brown.

"She had treated me with disdain, and all that, but apart from that—No," replied Rieper.

The book produced was a diary that he gave Pauline last Christmas, said Rieper. The writing in it was his daughter's.

To Dr Haslam, Rieper said that his daughter was 16 last May. At school she was quite a normal little girl.

Had Operations

During the period when she had osteomyelitis, she underwent several operations?—Yes.

That involved considerable pain?—Yes.

And the doctor advised that she should not play games in case she might damage her limbs?—No violent games.

After she met Juliet Hulme, Juliet seemed to have almost no other friends. Sometimes, though not often, he saw her with other girls. Juliet Hulme seemed to be her chief preoccupation.

She began to treat her parents with disdain, said Rieper. She became moody, and easily moved to anger, and kept her thoughts very much to herself.

He identified a diary for 1953 produced by Dr Haslam as his daughter's handwriting.

"We had never looked at her diary; we did not think it was honourable to do so," Rieper said.

His daughter did not play games at school

To Doctor

Dr Haslam: Was it on the suggestion of Dr Hulme that your daughter was taken to Dr Bennett?—Yes.

You had been worried about the friendship?—Yes.

You thought the doctor might be able to give some advice on the matter?—Not so much that as the fact that she had lost a lot of weight.

During 1954 she was visiting Ilam rather frequently?—Yes.

Did she tell you what she had been doing at Ilam?—Never.

Did she seem happy after visits there?—She never spoke. She went straight to her room and kept to herself.

On the Sunday before the tragedy you picked her up at Ilam and during the afternoon she seemed much happier and more friendly?—Yes.

Did you go out to Templeton that afternoon?—Yes.

That is where Rosemary, aged about 5, a sister of the accused, is at the Templeton Farm School?—Yes.

She has unfortunately been classed as a mongoloid child?—Yes.

You and Mrs Rieper lost a "blue baby"?—Yes.

To Mr Gresson, Rieper said that his wife and daughter used to visit Juliet Hulme in the sanatorium.

It was after that that there was a great increase in the amount of writing your daughter did?—Yes.

She spent, literally, hours writing?—Yes.

You did not know what she was writing?—No.

But it seemed to have been of absorbing interest to her?—Yes.

After the girl Hulme came out of the sanatorium your daughter went to stay at Ilam?—Yes.

You did not know what she did there?—No.

The visits appeared to be very important to your daughter?—Yes.

When she was not visiting Ilam, she had long telephone conversations with Juliet Hulme?—Yes.

How long were these conversations?—They used to last until we told her that she had to clear the line.

Examined, Rieper said that apart from her interest in Juliet Hulme, she also used to model in plasticine sometimes.

There is mention in her diary of choosing material for a dress. She calls it "divine," apparently she maintained an interest in clothes?—Only after she got friendly with Juliet Hulme. Before that, she was not much interested in clothes.

Was she interested in boys?—Very little. Only once, for a short time.

There is a reference here in the diary to one Nicholas. She says "I feel well disposed towards him."—He stayed with us for a while. We sent him away.

Dr Colin Thomas Bushby Pearson, a pathologist, said that on June 22 he examined the body of the dead woman, then lying on the path at Victoria Park.

The next day he made a post-mortem examination. He concluded that the cause of death was shock associated with multiple injuries to the head and fractures of the skull. He produced his detailed report (Exhibit I).

In this report he listed a total of forty-five discernible injuries.

The lacerated wounds in her head could have been inflicted with a blunt instrument. It would have had to be wielded with considerable force.

The crushing fractures of the skull indicated that the woman's head was immobile on the ground when the blows were struck.

If the half brick produced was contained in a stocking, it would be capable of inflicting the wounds.

The bruises on the neck indicated that the woman had been forcibly held by the throat, but there was no suggestion of throttling.

The brick (exhibit J) showed bloodstains. The foot of a stocking (exhibit L) had hairs on it which were the same in texture as those taken from the head of the dead woman.