

# Supreme Court Trial

## Witnesses Tell of Finding Body

**C**ONTINUING his evidence in the Supreme Court late yesterday afternoon, in the case in which Pauline Yvonne Parker, aged 18, and Juliet Marion Hulme, aged 15 years and 10 months, are charged with murdering, on June 22, Honora Mary Parker, mother of the first accused, Kenneth Nelson Ritchie, caretaker at Victoria Park, said he saw the brick and the stocking shown in the photographs.

He left McIlroy with the body, and returned to the tearooms where he rang the police. The ambulance arrived as he reached the top of the path.

The two accused were both in the tearooms. Parker was quiet, and the other girl was very agitated.

The ambulance driver went down the track with the police to the body. Dr Hulme had already arrived and took the girls away. Before he left, he gave his address to an ambulance man.

Mr Mahon: What is the path like where the body was found?

Ritchie: It is fairly level. There is just a slight slope.

Are there any rocks there?—No, there are no rocks handy.

On a week day would the place where the body was found be a secluded spot?—Yes.

To Mr Gresson, Ritchie said Hulme was excited, but not hysterical when he first saw her.

Mr Gresson: From some yards back you could see at a glance that the woman had not been in an accident?—Not from some yards back. I could not see her head.

From the moment you saw her head you could see she had not been in an accident?—That's right.

Eric Gordon McIlroy, a labourer, employed by the Christchurch City Council, who worked at Victoria Park, said that he

was burning some rubbish on the opposite side of the tearooms from the plantation when Ritchie was called by a customer.

Accompanying Ritchie down the track, he saw the body of a woman lying on her back on the track. Her head was severely injured and she appeared to be dead.

Harold Ernest Keys, of 9, Gordon Avenue, St Albans, a St John Ambulance driver, said he received a call about 3.30 p.m. on June 22, that there had been an accident. He went to Victoria Park.

He ascertained the police had been called, and went down the track to look at the body.

"We were told at the tearooms that there had been an accidental fall. We decided not to shift the body until the police arrived," said Keys.

The woman had suffered very severe injury to the head, Keys said. There was part of a brick by the body, and also the woman's personal effects. He left his assistant by the body and returned to the tearooms. Dr Hulme was there, and Dr Hulme gave him his name and address.

He took Dr Walker and Sergeant Hope down to the body.

Called to Victoria Park at 3.55 p.m. on June 22, he was met by Ritchie and an ambulance driver, said Dr Donald Walker.

Having heard from them that as a result of an accident, some-



Mr K. N. Ritchie

one was dead, he decided to wait for the police.

When Sergeant Hope and a constable arrived, he accompanied them down the track to where a body was lying.

It was the body of a middle-aged woman, lying on her back on the path, with her head down hill. One of her shoes was off. Various articles were lying around her. Her head was very severely injured, and a stream of blood had flowed down hill and congealed.

Her lower denture was lying near her jaw. Her stockings were mud stained, with perhaps some blood stains. Both arms were mud stained and blood stained.

A half brick was lying near her head.

There was no blood on the path a few yards in either direction. It had been suggested to him that she had been injured by a fall, but he looked carefully, and could see nothing that would account for her death in this way.

He saw a stocking lying in the position shown in the photograph. The dead woman had both stockings on.