

POULTICE TOO HOT, SAYS CORONER

Criticism At Inquest

MELBOURNE, Saturday.—He believed that great carelessness had been shown in placing a plaster poultice on a child inmate of Kew Asylum, said the Coroner (Mr. Tingate, P.M.) at an inquest into the death of a girl aged four years.

Obviously, tests made by a nurse to determine the heat of poultices were unsatisfactory, said Mr. Tingate.

A finding that the child died by misadventure on August 3 from shock following scalds when an overheated plaster poultice was placed on her chest was recorded.

Dr. Clive Farran-Ridge, of Mont Park Mental Hospital, told the coroner the poultice must have been very hot to cause the scalding.

Nurse Catherine Sheehan, said that after having heated the poultice before a fire, she had tested it by placing it on the back of her hand, and then to her face. The child did not appear to be uncomfortable after it had been applied.