

Mental Patient's Father Alleges Assault

A witness told the City Coroner, Mr. E. J. Forrest, yesterday that his son, a mental patient, had complained of being "knocked about" by two warders.

His son, William Thomas Jenkyns, 34, was a patient at the Callan Park Mental Hospital.

He died in Balmain District Hospital on June 27, and the City Coroner is inquiring into his death.

Jenkyn's father, Alexander Jenkyns, a senior attendant at the city markets, said in evidence that his son was injured in 1930, when he was 11 years old.

Operations were performed on his brain, but he began to have epileptic fits, and in 1935 he went to Parramatta Mental Asylum as a voluntary patient.

In July, 1937, he was transferred to Callan Park.

Jenkyns said he and his wife visited their son about once a week.

When they saw him on Sunday, February 8, he appeared very ill and drawn in the face.

His mother asked him: "What's the matter, Bill?" and he replied: "I've been knocked about."

Jenkyns said there were bruises on his son's neck, shoulders, and down his chest.

He told his mother, when she questioned him: "Colin Craig and Dick Blair (two attendants), they did it to me."

He added: "They were hitting an old man on the head with keys they have on a strap because he was slow getting into bed."

"I spoke up against it, and

they came over and had a go at me."

His son told him that the attendants held his arms, kned him in the stomach, and picked him up and dropped him on the floor.

IN HOSPITAL

Jenkyns said he visited his son on the following Wednesday

son on the following Wednesday, and found him in the hospital ward. He was transferred to Balmain Hospital on June 19.

He underwent an operation on the day he was admitted, and on that day, or the following day, Jenkyns said he went to the Balmain police station.

To Sergeant L. Mudford, assisting the Coroner, Jenkyns agreed that from time to time his son had to be restrained.

He had been sent to the institution because he had become aggressive to his mother in the home.

Jenkyns said that he and his wife told the resident medical officer at Callan Park, Dr. Papworth, what his son had said.

He showed Dr. Papworth his son's pyjamas, which were torn into strips.

To Mr. Isaacs (for Craig and Blair), Jenkyns said he could not recall Dr. Papworth saying that on February 6 his son had fallen in a fit, struck a table, and suffered abrasions to the forehead, left shoulder and side.

Jenkyns said he was not told that between February and June his son had 38 epileptic fits.

"NO MARKS OF VIOLENCE"

Detective-Sergeant Milton Small said he interviewed William Jenkyns at Balmain Hospital on June 24, and asked him if everything he told his father about being assaulted by Craig and Blair was true.

Jenkyns had replied: "Yes." Dr. Stratford Sheldon, lecturer in forensic medicine at Sydney University, said he examined William Jenkyns's body on June 28.

"There were no marks of violence, recent or remote," he

"There were no marks of violence, recent or remote," he said.

Death had been caused by haemorrhage into the abdomen.

Dr. Sheldon said that it was impossible to say what caused the haemorrhage, but it could have been caused by disease of the pancreas.

Dr. Gordon Bruce Roy Wooster, medical superintendent of Callan Park Mental Hospital, said Jenkyns was violent and impulsive, and in the six years he had known him, he had been troublesome from time to time.

He examined him after the parents had complained, and

He examined him after the parents had complained, and found bruising on the chest, left hip, and foot.

Jenkyns had complained of a pain in the stomach. He examined him closely, and found a very faint bruise on the upper part of the abdomen.

He had always known Jenkyns to be truthful. Whenever Jenkyns had been in a fight, he had admitted it.

"RECENT ORIGIN"

Dr. J. F. Parle, resident medical officer at Balmain District Hospital, said Jenkyns was admitted in June and operated on the same day.

He had a bruise of recent origin on the wall of his stomach.

John Joseph Thomson, an attendant at Callan Park, said he was on duty on February 4 when Jenkyns was alleged to have been assaulted.

The ward had quietened down for the night, and he considered it safe to go away for six or eight minutes, leaving Craig alone.

When he returned he saw Craig and Richard Blair holding Jenkyns on his bed while they strapped him into a canvas jacket.

Thomson said Jenkyns was known to him as a troublesome patient.

He was very quick at punching, and would strike anyone who annoyed him. He did not see any marks on him on February 4.

"VERY ABUSIVE"

John Oswald Muir, charge attendant, of Callan Park Hospital, said Craig told him that Jenkyns refused to put his clothes away on the night of February 4.

Craig told him that he became very abusive and aggressive, and had to be placed in a canvas jacket.

Muir said Jenkyns had been in the jacket about 12 hours when he came back on duty on February 6. He had not complained of any injuries.

He saw Jenkyns fall into a fit about 8.30 a.m. He struck a table as he fell, injuring his left side.

The next day Jenkyns complained of a pain in his shoulder and down his left side, and he called Dr. Papworth.

To Mr. Isaacs, Muir said Jenkyns struck the table very heavily and lost consciousness.

"ATTACKED ME"

Colin John Craig, of Smith Street, Rozelle, a senior attendant, said he had never assaulted Jenkyns, and had never smuggled him into the bathroom

Jenkyns, and had never smuggled him into the bathroom to avoid inspection by doctors.

On the night of February 4, Jenkyns was lying in his bed in his pyjamas. His clothes were under his mattress. He ignored a request to put his clothes away and was abusive.

Craig said "I lifted the mattress and took the clothes out. He jumped up from the bed and attacked me."

Craig said he grabbed Jenkyns around the shoulders and Blair held his legs. They struggled for seven or eight minutes to put the jacket on him.

Craig said he had been in the ward about nine months, and during the time Jenkyns had been confined in a jacket six or seven times.

The previous occasion would have been about two months before this incident.

Mr. Forrest adjourned the inquest until 10 a.m. to-day.

Sergeant J. Mudford, assisting the coroner, Mr. Simon Isaacs, Q.C. (by Sullivan Bros.), for Colin John Craig and Richard James Blair, Mr. C. D. Cullen (Crown Solicitor's Office) for the Inspector-General of Mental Hospitals.