

## Hit, Kicked in Stomach, Said Mental Patient

SYDNEY, Monday.—An attendant hit him on the back of the neck and kicked him in the groin and stomach, an ex-serviceman patient said in a statement made before his death.

The statement was read by police to the Coroner at Parramatta (Mr. Williams), who conducted an inquest on Frederick Leslie Robert Winter, 29, single, of Old Guildford. Winter died at the Repatriation General Hospital, Concord, on September 25, a fortnight after he was transferred from Callan Park Hospital. The inquest was adjourned until to-morrow.

The statement said: "I was transferred from Ward 6 to Ward C, a wholly repatriation ward. I was called into the office by the charge-man and he said, 'Change your clothes. How are you feeling?'"

"I walked out of the charge-man's office and said to the attendant, 'Wait till I get my cake.' He said, 'Don't speak to me like that,' and this attendant and another attendant ploughed into me. I threw a bag of salt at them. The bigger one of the two hit me on the back of the neck with his fist and kicked me in the groin and stomach.

"The small attendant was kicking me in the back. This happened on the floor of Ward C, in the kitchen. The one I described as the big fair fellow was the one who kicked me in the groin and the stomach. The other attendant, the smaller one, was a brownette."

Detective-Sergeant H. M. McFarland, of Balmain, said that William Ternan, one of the attendants at Callan Park, alleged that Winter attacked him and he was compelled to use force to overpower him. Another attendant, Carleton H. Shadlow, went to his assistance to overpower Winter and put him to bed.

Ternan allegedly told McFarland: "Some of these fellows are very strong, like this fellow, and I am an old man," McFarland said Ternan told him. "We did not kick or punch him."

### Bowel Ruptured

Dr. Irwin Lionel Smith, of Burwood, said he had formed the opinion that Winter's death was caused by a ruptured bowel, peritonitis and internal hemorrhage.

Replying to Sergeant Balmer (assisting the Coroner), Dr. Smith said Winter's bowel injury was consistent with Winter having been kicked in the abdomen.

To Mr. K. Gee (for Ternan and Shadlow), Dr. Smith said the injury would be equally consistent

with a man having fallen on him.

Gordon Bruce Roy Wooster, Medical Superintendent at Callan Park, said Winter was admitted as a violent patient on January 13, 1947, and discharged the following day. He was readmitted as a certified patient from the Reception House on February 28 and let out on leave to the care of his parents on August 28, 1947.

On May 26, 1948, Dr. Wooster said Winter was returned to the hospital by his parents, who reported that he had suddenly become a raving maniac.

Winter, on September 14, complained of abdominal pains and told him he had trouble with attendants the previous day, but did not know who they were.