

TWO DOCTORS DISAGREE. LOSS OF MEMORY.

Constable Miller's Actions.

Dr. W. S. Dawson, Professor of Psychiatry at Sydney University, and honorary psychiatrist at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, gave evidence before the Royal Commission on starting-price betting yesterday, disagreeing with previous expert evidence.

Dr. Dawson said that, in his opinion, Constable Miller's actions when he went to Nyngan were compatible with a highly nervous condition, and that his loss of memory was perfectly genuine.

Having read through the evidence, said witness, he did not agree with Dr. McGeorge, another witness, that Miller was only pretending that he had lost his memory.

Answering Judge Markell, Dr. Dawson said that there was no limitation to loss of memory, as it might extend from a complete break to only a loss on minor matters.

To Mr. Windeyer, witness said that Miller's case was amnesia of emotional origin.

DR. McGEORGE CROSS-EXAMINED.

Dr. John McGeorge was further cross-examined by Mr. Shand (for Miller). He denied that he was a personal friend of the Commissioner of Police (Mr. Mackay) or that he had visited him in hospital in the last two weeks. It was not true that Mr. Mackay had helped to secure him a Government position. When he said during his evidence in chief that Miller had acted with "deliberation" he did not mean "premeditation."

Dr. McGeorge said that he had been asked to submit opinions on phases of reports by Superintendent Walsh when witness wrote that the whole episode of Miller's visit to Nyngan "was a futile and stupid attempt by an individual to either obtain sympathy or to escape from his present difficulties for a time," and that "his sudden recovery would suggest that he had realised the absurdity and uselessness of his actions and a desire to make the best of his situation."

Mr. Shand detailed what he said Miller had gone through for three years, culminating in his being questioned by police officers for two days, and being subjected to other treatment, including the questioning of his sick wife until he broke down. Would all that be a proper setting for general hysterical amnesia? he asked.

Dr. McGeorge: Yes, it would.

INSPECTOR FERGUSSON'S POSITION

Mr Piddington, K.C., asked Judge Markell to bring in an interim report, as soon as convenient, saying that Inspector Fergusson's report, that the conviction of W. G. Mowds for street betting at Dulwich Hill in 1933 was justified, and that he had not been "framed," was an impartial, and intelligent finding arrived at from a true sense of justice on the evidence then available to him.

While the stigma wrongly placed on Fergusson remained, Mr. Piddington said, the promotion promised him was held up. As the result of statements in a weekly newspaper, public opinion had been moulded against

the result of statements in a weekly newspaper, public opinion had been moulded against Fergusson during his absence abroad. The public had misinterpreted the comments of his Honor, following the last Commission, as a censure on Fergusson, and he had been made the target for the bullets of vindictive justice.

The Commission adjourned until Monday at No. 2 High Court, Darlinghurst.