

CHILD KILLED BY OVERHEATED POULTICE

Coroner's Finding At Melb. Inquest

MELBOURNE, Tuesday.

That shock following scalds from an overheated plaster poultice on her chest had caused death was the finding of the City Coroner (Mr Tingate, P.M.) at the inquest on a four-year-old girl who died in Kew Asylum on August 3.

"I BELIEVE that great carelessness was shown in placing the plaster poultice on the chest," said Mr Tingate. "Obviously, the tests made by nurses to determine the heat of poultices were unsatisfactory.

"I do not believe that proper tests were made in the present case."

Dr Stanley Jacob Cantor, of the Children's Cottage, Kew Asylum, expressed the opinion that the poultice was placed on when too hot.

Nurse Catherine Sheehan said that there were no blisters on the child's chest.

After heating the poultice before a fire she had tested it by placing it on the back of her hand, and then on her face. The child did not appear to be uncomfortable after its application.

In the departmental examinations, nurses were told to try the heat on the back of the hand or face. No time to keep it there was specified.

Nurse Lillian Latimer said that she removed the poultice after the child's death, and saw that her chest was blistered and red.