

CROWN REBUTS OPINIONS ABOUT GIRLS' INSANITY

Trial of Teenagers Facing Murder Charge Continues

PAULINE YVONNE PARKER, aged 16, and Juliet Marion Hulme, aged 15 years 10 months, were both sane, said Dr Kenneth Robert Stallworthy, a psychiatrist from Auckland, in the Supreme Court to-day.

Dr Stallworthy was the first of three psychiatrists to be called by the Crown in rebuttal of the defence evidence regarding the accuseds' insanity.

They are being tried in the Supreme Court before Mr Justice Adams and a jury on a charge of murdering Parker's mother, Honora Mary Parker, on June 22.

The trial to-day entered the fifth day. The last defence witness, Dr Francis Oswald Bennett, a Christchurch physician, who considered the girls were insane, spent more than five hours in the witness-box.

Mr A. W. Brown and Mr P. T. Mahon are appearing for the Crown. Dr A. L. Haslam and Mr J. A. Wicks are representing Parker, and Mr T. A. Gresson and Mr B. McClelland are appearing for Hulme.

Once again there was a stampede for the best seats when the doors of the public gallery upstairs were opened shortly before the sitting began.

At least a hundred members of the public were in the Court, and once again several of them had waited a considerable time at the doors.

There were more men than usual, and in the front row of the upstairs gallery ten men and ten women were sitting.

Continuing his cross-examination of Dr Bennett, Mr Brown asked why the poem, "The Ones That I Worship," was selected from all the others.

Dr Bennett: Because, more than any other, it illustrates the extraordinary mood of the authors.

Have the first two lines, "There are living among two beautiful daughters, of a man who possesses two beautiful daughters," anything to suggest that it applies to these two girls? They are not beautiful

sisters, are they?—It is poetical licence.

It is the only grandiose poem in the diary?—Yes.

Do you know these lines:

*Not marble nor the gilded monuments
Of princes shall outlive this
powerful line*

That is full of grandeur, isn't it?—It's impossible to comment on a poetical line out of its context.

Mr Brown: But it is the writer's poem?—Yes. I presume so.

Did he not consider his poem would outlive marble?—Yes. May I ask, have you ever heard of the "Immortal" Shakespeare?

Mr Brown: I have read quite a lot of him. In fact that is from Shakespeare. Shakespeare wrote a lot of tragedies full of murder. Would you call him a genius?—Yes.

Have you read "The Rape of Lucrece"?—Yes.

That is full of sex?—It is the story of the expulsion of the Tarquins from Rome.

The Tarquins were expelled because of their sexual activities?—Yes.

That poem is full of sex?—Yes.

The girls wrote a lot about sex?—Yes.

They read and wrote about tragedy, play-acted, and enacted a real killing?—Yes.

They wrote poems that suggested they thought a lot about themselves?—Yes.

Their ideas that they were geniuses had some foundation in fact?—They had a little foundation.

You said earlier they had no friends of their own age?—I am not going to pretend you cannot find an occasional friend.

But they did have some?—They had an extraordinarily small circle.

Why did you say they had no friends of their own age?—It depends on what you mean by friends. I am thinking of a real pal.

Mr Brown: What about Nicholas?—Nicholas was a mere trophy, not a real friend. And actually, when I said they had no friends, I was speaking of their state a short time before the murder. At that time Nicholas had been utterly rejected. I am trying to give the Court a general impression of the mental processes of these girls. I did not subject it to any time analysis.

Mr Brown: But it is important to give the jury a correct impression?—Which I think I have done.

But when in your evidence you said that they had no friends of their own age, you did not say that you were referring only to the period shortly before the murder?—Perhaps I made that omission.

That could give a wrong impression?—I would doubt it.