

Folie simultanee is a recognised mental condition, but it is rare, is it not?—Yes.

In that condition the mental instability of one aggravates the mental instability of the other?—That is true.

And you get an acceleration of the mental illness?—Yes.

Would it not have assisted your diagnosis if you had seen the accused earlier than you did?—It would have been preferable. In certain circumstances the delay of a month in seeing them would be a handicap, but I do not feel in this particular instance that it has been a handicap. My colleagues saw her very much earlier than I did.

Study of Diary

When did you see the 1953 diary?—Comparatively recently.

You had formed an opinion on the girls and reported on it before you read that 1953 diary?—That is so.

What is kleptomania?—It is a disease alleged by counsel for the defence but rarely accepted by the psychiatrist. I have had kleptomaniacs under my care. But it is not insanity. It is a neurotic desire to steal.

It could be broadly described as a form of mental disorder?—Yes, broadly.

If a person has paranoia the disease will taint the whole of his reason and effect his judgment?—Yes.

It was referred to yesterday to be like a cancer in the body. Do you accept that metaphor?—Yes.

This paranoia involves persistent delusion?—Yes.

And the delusion is coupled with lucid thinking in other directions?—Yes.

And that is why paranoia is such a difficult thing to pick?—Yes.

Changed Attitude

James Edwin Saville, medical officer at the Sunnyside Mental Hospital, said he had examined thousands of mental patients in England and New Zealand. While he was in the prisons service in England his work was medico-legal in connexion with insanity. No instance of two insane persons combining to commit a crime was known to him. He examined the accused on June 24 at the police station, at Paparua Prison on July 12 and 26 and August 13 and 20. He had heard the whole evidence of Dr. Stallworthy.

"I saw them a month before Dr. Stallworthy did, and at my first two interviews they tried to make out they were insane," said Dr. Saville. "At my last two interviews they wished to be regarded as sane. When I first interviewed them I told them I was not concerned with their guilt but with their mental state at the time the alleged offence was committed, and told them that in this type of case the question of their sanity was bound to arise. Juliet Hulme told me that if they were found not guilty on the ground of insanity they would be out of a mental hospital by the time they were 18 or 19, and they could not see themselves getting out of prison as early as that. At times they were quite pleased to see us, but at others they regarded us as a nuisance because we interfered with their time together.

"From my interviews, my considered opinion is that at the time of the offence they knew and understood the nature and quality of their act and they knew that that act was wrong in law and wrong as to morals," said Dr. Saville. "I have read Parker's diaries and I have skipped through both accuseds' writings. There was nothing in them to cause me to change my opinion about their mental condition. I would not certify either of them."

Mr Brown: What is your opinion as to whether they are sane or insane?—I think they are sane.

At the time of the killing of Mrs Parker?—I think they were sane.

Mr Gresson: Have you conferred with Drs. Stallworthy and Hunter about this case?—Yes.

And you are three Crown servants?—Servants of the country.

James Dewar Hunter, superintendent of Sunnyside Hospital, said he had been attached to the Department of Mental Hygiene for 29 years, except for two years spent as an officer in a mental hospital in Scotland. Thousands of mental patients had come under his care.

"Would Not Certify Accused"

"In my experience I have had no knowledge of two insane persons conspiring together to commit a crime, and I have read of only one instance," said Dr. Hunter. "Medical officers of mental hospitals in New Zealand are always called in to examine a person charged with murder. The purpose of the primary examination is to determine whether they are capable of appreciating their legal responsibilities.

"I have examined the accused on a number of occasions, sometimes by myself and sometimes with Dr. Saville. I have read Parker's diaries and read some of the literature; and I have questioned the girls," said Dr. Hunter. "As a result of all those things my considered opinion is they are not suffering from any disease of the mind nor were they at the time of the crime. I would not certify either of them. I consider they are sane.

Dr. Haslam: I take it you have respect for Dr. Medicott and Dr. Bennett as medical men?—I have.

And you agree this a question on which medical opinion may differ?—I do.

That concluded the evidence in the case.

His Honour asked the foreman of the jury to consult the jurors on whether they would like to continue in the morning. The foreman said they would prefer to sit today (Saturday).

His Honour said to counsel he was inclined to think, unless there were strong views to the contrary, the Court must sit in the morning.

Counsel said they would suit his Honour's convenience.