

SIX DIVORCE CASES.

Desertion and Misconduct.

In the Divorce Court yesterday Mr. Justice Draper heard six undefended petitions for the dissolution of marriages, all of which were successful. In each case Mr. F. Curran appeared for the petitioner.

Denis Papchuck, of Churchman's Brook, sought a divorce from Edith Agnes Papchuck on the ground of her misconduct with William Jamieson, who was joined as co-respondent. Petitioner said that he married respondent in England in 1919 and there were three children. They came to Western Australia in 1920 and he worked at Kalgoorlie and Geraldton before going to Churchman's Brook. His wife lived with him until January, 1926, when she left him to go to Perth after a row over her familiarity with co-respondent, who was also employed at Churchman's Brook. He later found respondent in co-respondent's camp. He had frequently seen them together and believed that Jamieson was keeping the respondent. Costs were given against the co-respondent.

A husband's gambling habits and his refusal to make a home for her led to Amy Mansfield seeking a divorce from Reginald Mansfield on the ground of desertion. The parties were married in 1922 and lived in a house owned by respondent's father. Three months after the marriage Mansfield developed gambling habits and sold her furniture to bet with. In 1924 she was offered a position at Carnarvon but before taking it she asked him to make a home for her. He replied, "I'm not going to keep you and I don't care what you do." Later she told him she would divorce him for desertion and he said, "Why wait three years? I can give you evidence that will only take you three days." An order was made for costs.

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Evalyn Alice Josephine Paterson was granted a decree nisi for the dissolution of her marriage with George Laidlaw Paterson on the ground of misconduct. Evidence was given that the parties were married in 1925 and were only happy for a few weeks, after which the husband got into bad company and kept late hours. Respondent went away for a time and when he returned she found a girl's address in his pocket. He said to her, "She is not the first and won't be the last." Later he was seen visiting a house in Roe-street. Petitioner was given her costs and custody of the one child of the marriage.

Separated After 21 Years.

After 21 years of married life John Albert Harders, according to his wife, Sarah Harders, said to her (in July, 1924), "If you don't clear out I'll put a bullet through you." She left him and started a boarding-house and after three years filed a petition for divorce on the ground of desertion. Mrs. Harders said she was married to Harders in 1904 and they lived at Fremantle, Cottesloe and Bruce Rock until 1924, when the incident narrated occurred. Respondent was selfish and cruel and expected her to keep five children and the home going on £4/10/ a week, as well as to save money to buy a farm. Petitioner was given the custody of three of her children (those under 18 years of age), and her costs against respondent.

Desertion was the ground of the petition of Walter Haines, against his wife, Elsie May Haines. The parties were married in 1917 and lived at Kellerberrin and Northam, where petitioner was employed at the flour mills. Their life at Northam was unhappy because of respondent's late hours and neglect of the home. In Sen-

hours and neglect of the home. In September, 1924, after a quarrel, respondent went to Perth. He had only seen her once since and she then refused to return. Petitioner was given the custody of his child.

The petition of Daniel Juett against his wife, Mary Ann Juett, was based on desertion and misconduct. Bert Dawson being cited as co-respondent. Dawson entered an appearance, but did not go any further. Petitioner, who married respondent in 1899, said there were nine children of the marriage. They lived at Kalgoorlie until 1920, when he went to Meekatharra to work. He sent his wife £10 a fortnight. While he was at Meekatharra he received certain information and in 1922 he obtained an admission from his wife that she had given birth to a child of which he was not the father. Respondent admitted intimacy with Dawson. Costs were given against co-respondent.