

WOMAN'S DEATH

Husband Attacks Doctor

A LLEGATIONS of a serious nature, concerning the death of a woman at the Coast Hospital on November 1, following an operation, were made against a Macquarie-street doctor, by the woman's husband, in evidence before the City Coroner to-day.

Maxmillian Kipman (35), said he was a commercial traveller, but had been unemployed for the past 18 months, during which time his wife, Florence Kipman, had worked as a costumiere.

Owing to financial circumstances, he stated, his wife said she did not want to have any more children. She said the doctor she intended visiting was Dr Franklin Richards.

According to witness, his wife and her sister came home in a taxi on October 22. His relations with his wife were strained, as he was not in favor of the alleged operation. His wife walked into the house, almost crawling, in a peculiar fashion. He asked her who did it, and she replied, "Dr. Franklin Richards."

"Not Afraid of Trouble"

Dr. Richards, according to witness, said to him: "We don't want to send her to hospital if we can help it, because if there is anything said it only means that you and I will get into trouble."

"I said," Kipman went on, "'Don't take that view! I want drastic steps taken and I am not afraid of

taken and I am not afraid of trouble.'"

Later, he said, he told Dr. Richards he would "sooner have the gunman on the roads than a criminal cloaked by degrees. Finally, Dr. R. F. Furber came to the house with Dr Richards, and after a consultation Dr Furber said the best thing to do was to send Mrs. Kipman straight away to the Coast Hospital.

Kipman said he believed his wife borrowed the money for the operation. He heard £15 mentioned.

Dr. Palmer (Government Medical Officer) said in his opinion death was due to peritonitis, following upon an injury brought about by mechanical means.

Mrs. Clarice Irene Olsen said deceased was her sister. She had accompanied her home from Dr. Richards's surgery, in Macquarie-street. Her sister had told her she was determined to bring about a certain event herself, and that she had tried to do so, and would try again. At the Coast Hospital her sister said, "No one is to blame for my condition but myself." Witness considered that Dr Richards did everything possible for deceased.

Detective Campbell said Dr. Richards told him that Mrs. Kipman had come to him first on October 19, and he refused to perform an operation. He treated her for haemorrhage. At no time did he use any instruments on her.

In her dying depositions, said witness, Mrs. Kipman stated that she had taken steps to bring about a certain event.

Doctor's Evidence

Dr. Franklin Christian Richards, of Macquarie-street, said that when Mrs. Kipman came to him on October 19 he said he could do nothing for her. She returned on the Saturday and asked him to examine her, and he performed a dressing he thought necessary. Subsequently he visited her home and continued treatment, but used no instruments except those necessary for ordinary medical treat-

necessary for ordinary medical treatment. He had suggested that Mrs. Kipman go to hospital, but this suggestion, so far as he could gauge, for the husband talked a great deal, did not meet with the latter's approval. The patient herself did not want to go to the hospital.

Dr. Richards said that subsequently a development of the case was followed by the calling in of Dr. Furber for a consultation.

Asked by Kipman: "Is it customary for a doctor to be so philanthropic as to bring special foods to a patient?" Dr. Richards answered: "I have a bad habit of being kind. I have often treated patients who were unable to pay me."

Dr. Richards considered that something very crude had been done before he became connected with the case, and, in his opinion, this would have caused the injury mentioned in Dr. Palmer's evidence.

The Coroner, in returning an open verdict, said there was not sufficient evidence before him to show whether the allegations made by the woman's husband were true. He did not believe her dying deposition that she herself had done what was calculated to bring about a certain event.