

INQUESTS.

Burned in Bed.

Young Woman's Death.

The circumstances of a fatal burning accident which occurred at a house in Salvado-road, Wembley Park, at an early hour on June 16, as a result of which Ivy Bell (20), died in the Perth Hospital several hours later, were inquired into by the acting-Coroner (Mr. M. H. Murray, J.P.), in the City Courthouse yesterday. Sgt. Harris examined the witnesses and Mr. W. M. Nairn watched the proceedings on behalf of Thomas Clare, at whose home the accident occurred.

Dr. J. Day, a resident medical officer at the Perth Hospital, said that he conducted a post-mortem examination of the deceased on June 17. He found that she had been severely burned on the arms, thighs, face and back. Death was due to shock, following extensive burns on the body.

Thomas Clare, a building contractor, stated that deceased was a friend of his wife. About five months ago she came to stay at his home in Salvado-road, Wembley Park. On the night of June 16 witness and his wife went out, leaving Miss Bell at home with their child. They returned about 11 p.m. Deceased was then in bed and the electric light was burning in her room. About 2 o'clock the following morning witness and his wife were awakened by screams, which were coming from the direction of Miss Bell's room. Witness rushed to investigate and saw that the bed in deceased's room was in flames. Deceased was standing

in the centre of the room and her night attire was in flames. Witness extinguished the flames on deceased and then hurried out to procure water to throw on the burning bed. When he returned, the injured woman had gone to the bathroom, where he found her lying on the floor. With his wife's assistance, witness wrapped the deceased in a blanket and then drove her to the hospital. When he asked deceased how the fire started, she replied that she was not certain, but she supposed that the wires attached to an extension reading lamp had fused. He found the charred portion of an extension light by deceased's bed after the accident.

Lucy Clare, wife of the previous witness, said that deceased used to place an extension reading light on a box by her bedside.

To Mr. Nairn, witness said she knew a man named Les. Dawson, of Pemberton. She had read a letter which Dawson had

sent to deceased's parents.

Mr. Nairn read the following extracts from the letter: "I would strongly advise you to see a solicitor in connection with Ivy's death. Any person who employs a servant must have the servant insured. The full amount payable is £750. Be sure and always say Ivy contributed towards the maintenance of your home. Write to the State Insurance Office at once."

Mr. Nairn: Was deceased ever employed by you?

Witness: No, she was staying with us as our guest.

The Acting-Coroner returned a verdict of accidental death, no blame being attachable to anyone.