

Murder Charge

Against Limerick Youth

Sequel to City Stabbing Affray

John Gleeson (18), of 8 New Road, Thomondgate, was taken into custody in Limerick late on Saturday night and charged with the murder of Norman Graham (20), of Castle street, Limerick.

Graham was found on Saturday evening lying in a lane-way off Catherine street bleeding from a gash in the stomach. He was removed to Barrington's Hospital, where he died some hours later.

The Inquest

At Barrington's Hospital on Monday evening, Mr J S McN-ice, Deputy Coroner for Limerick City, formally opened an inquest into the death of Norman Graham.

After medical evidence and evidence of identification had been heard, the inquest was adjourned.

Dr J McGrath, State Pathologist, who performed a post mortem examination of the deceased, deposed that the body was that of a young, well built man, of about 5ft 6ins in height and weighing about ten stone. There was a scraped bruise on the forehead about a half inch above the right eyebrow, measuring about 1½ inches by ½ inch. There were small scrapes on the back and front of the left wrist and an incised scrape on the base of the left thumb. These wounds were inflicted recently before death.

Describing the wounds which proved fatal, Dr McGrath said that he found an operation wound on the front of the abdomen and a number of surgical repair wounds along the small intestine. A number of the surgical repair wounds had caused perforation. There was a vertical wound through the posterior peritoneum, just below the promontory of the sacrum, somewhat to the left side. This wound was pointed at the top, and somewhat rounded at the lower end. The weapon that caused these wounds had passed a decimetre to the left of the sacrum towards the left side, and had made an incision to the left common iliac vein about a half inch in length.

The instrument which had caused the wounds had penetrated below the skin of the abdomen to a depth of about 4½ inches. The direction of the trajectory of the instrument is relative to the body of the deceased, from front to back, somewhat from right to left and somewhat from above downwards. The cause of death was shock and haemorrhage due to the wounds described. The knife produced would be capable of causing the wounds if used as a stabbing instrument.

Dr McGrath added that the body had been identified by Sergeant M. Murphy when he made his examination.

Dr F Crowe, house surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, who assisted Dr McGrath at the post mortem examination, corroborated the Pathologist's evidence regarding the description of the wounds and the cause of death.

Dr Crowe added that the deceased was admitted to the hospital at 5.15 p.m., was operated on at 7 o'clock, but did not recover, and died at 11.55 p.m.

When asked by Supt. Colleran if the wounds were consistent with a stab of a knife or sharp instrument, Dr Crowe replied in the affirmative.

Herbert Graham, a brother of deceased, deposed that he last saw his brother alive and well at 2.30 a.m. on Saturday; he later saw him at Barrington's Hospital before he died, and subsequently identified the body.

Supt. Colleran said that there was a person charged with the affair and asked for an adjournment.

The Deputy Coroner accordingly adjourned the inquest, and in doing so tendered sympathy with the parents and the relatives of the deceased.

Supt. Colleran associated himself with the expressions of sympathy on behalf of the authorities.