

Domestic Discord

HUSBAND FINED FOR ASSAULT

A sad story of an unhappy marriage and a husband's peculiarities, and at times, violent conduct, was unfolded at the Sunshine Court on Tuesday last, when Minnie Ruby Traynor, of 7 Dedrick Grove, Sunshine, charged her husband, Harold Herbert Traynor, of 15 Dedrick Grove, with assault.

Mrs. Traynor, who appeared with a bandage around her head, said that at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning last she was in her home and was ironing. She saw the door open and her husband came in. She rushed screaming to the front door and her husband followed her. She was struck on the head about half-a-dozen times. She could not open the front door to escape, but evaded her attacker and reached the back door, and ran to a neighbour's place. She was subsequently treated at the Melbourne Hospital and had four stitches in the head wound. The police were later notified.

To Mr. W. H. Jones (for defendant): I have not been living with my husband since February last. There has been trouble between us for years.—When he came in last Saturday he never spoke to me.—I did not hit him with a stick.

In answer to Senior-Constable Mason, the witness said that on the Thursday previous she had

occasion to call for police protection. At 8 a.m. in the morning her husband had knocked on the door. Nobody answered and he had tried to take a pane of glass out of the window. He had some substance in his hand that morning and applied a match to it and it broke into a flame on her verandah.

Senior-Constable Mason said he was called to Dedrick Grove at 10.40 a.m. on Saturday last

at 10.40 a.m. on Saturday last. He saw that Mrs. Traynor was bleeding from a wound on the head and had a lacerated finger. He questioned accused in Duke Street, who said that his wife had received something that had been coming to her for years. Accused added that his wife had first struck him with a stick and he had wrenched it from her and retaliated. Accused also complained about the conduct that had been going on in his wife's home.

The defendant, Harold Herbert Traynor, said he was a process laborer, and was at present boarding at 15 Dedrick Grove. He had not worked for five months on account of ill-health. He had requested his wife to abstain from leaving his daughter alone for week-ends. In regard to the alleged assault his wife had attacked him first.

To Senior-Constable Mason: The stick produced in court belongs to me.—It should have been in my room.—I went over to the house carrying a pusher.—I only asked her to stop soothing men on to me.—I did not say it was a pity I did not make a good job of it.

Mr. Jackson, P.M., said the Bench was satisfied that an assault had taken place, though there was probably some provocation, and he would be fined £2.

Bound Over to Keep the Peace

Mr. F. O'Brien, who appeared for Mrs. Traynor, then made an application that her husband be bound over to keep the peace. He said that his client was in fear of her life, and was becoming a physical wreck in view of defendant's attitude. She had been abused and insulted at bus stops on many other occasions.

Mrs. Traynor then recounted several instances of her husband's offensive and threatening behaviour. She had been threatened on numerous occasions and her husband had declared that he would knock her brains out. On one occasion he followed her to Footscray in a bus and when she alighted he called her dreadful names in Duke Street a man had remonstrated with her husband for his unseemly conduct.

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In answer to Mr. Jones, witness said she had three children in a convent and perhaps it would be better if the remaining one at home also went there. It was not true that she frequented houses with a dubious record as all her friends were respectable people. She denied using bad language.—It was also a lie to suggest that her lady friend had called her husband foul names.

Frederick James Addison, of 114 Duke Street, Sunshine, said he was walking home one night and he saw a man following several ladies. The man was using the vilest of threatening language and he (witness) remonstrated. The man said it was his wife. He told the man he was either drunk or mad. He had not known either of the parties previously.

In his defence, Traynor said he resented the way his wife was living as it was a bad influence on his young daughter for whom he had the fondest affection. He was suffering from head injuries brought about from an attack by his son, and was at present attending hospital. He had a job to go to in the country and could go away as soon as he was well.

The Bench said it believed the evidence of complainant, and ordered defendant to observe the peace and enter into a bond of £50 to do so.

In regard to the application for maintenance for his daughter, aged 12 years, Traynor was ordered to pay 12/6 per week.