

'Boot could have caused bruise'

moved towards the surface, he said. They first showed granules, then became transparent. Also, keratin was present.

According to Dr. Robertson keratin was present at five days after an injury was received at the earliest, he said.

A small scab would not necessarily be covered sooner than a large one.

The abrasion on Mr. Timol's collarbone could have been damaged after it had started to heal, which would then delay the healing process.

The fact that a wound was covered was no indication of its age. A smaller wound did not necessarily heal sooner than a large one. A small wound that was disturbed took longer to heal than a large one left undisturbed.

Although he saw the scab, Dr. Gluckman did not, Dr. Schepers said. They both saw the keratin layer.

Questioned by Mr. Maisels he said he would agree with Dr. Gluckman that there was haemorrhaging in the deeper layers of the wound. The only conclusion he could draw from this was that there was inflammatory reaction present.

Mr. Maisels then told the court he had the original paper read by Dr. Robertson at the symposium and that this referred to four to eight days.

Dr. Schepers replied that he had made a tape-recording of the actual lecture.

Mr. Maisels read from the paper that Dr. Robertson said that "the confidence with which evidence on the age of bruises can be given is another problem. This will always vary according to the experience of the witness in this particular field."

Mr. Maisels then pointed out that Dr. Robertson divided the possible age of injuries into seven groups, of which the last three were four to eight days, eight to 12 days and more than 12 days.

Dr. Schepers then said that in giving the age of injuries as five to six days he was "giving his closest guess."

Mr. Maisels: Give me one piece of evidence that it is more probable that the age of the injuries was five or six days, than four or seven.

Prof. Simpson: This is perhaps an opportune moment to establish the experience of the witness in this particular field.

Dr. Schepers: I have been trying to establish the age of injuries since a year or two before Dr. Robertson gave his lecture. I concentrated on brain injuries, but I also paid some attention to skin injuries. I did not treat them in the same way as Dr. Robertson, however.

Prof. Simpson: You chose other periods? On what did you base the period five to six days? On your own experience? — They did not look to me as though they were eight days old.

Prof. Simpson: Why? Dr. Robertson was not able to specify?

Dr. Schepers: I think I made a mistake. I agree to change five to six to four to eight.

Mr. Maisels then questioned Dr. Schepers about a large bruise and an abrasion on the right elbow (F in the pictures).

Dr. Schepers said he would describe the abrasion as "near" or "longish".

Replying to Mr. Maisels, he said the white cells in the tissue underneath this bruise were not perivascular. They were "lying loose," he said. Therefore, no inference could be drawn from them. He looked at the blood vessels to determine if there was inflammatory reaction, he said. "The presence of white blood cells only indicated inflammation," he said.

One could make no inference as to age from them.

Mr. Maisels: Can you express an opinion on how the large bruise E could have been caused? — It was caused by friction between the skin and a hard object. It is not a bruise. It is an abrasion.

Mr. Maisels: If somebody kicks you with the side of a boot . . . ?

Dr. Schepers: It could cause this sort of a wound.

Dr. Gluckman must have seen all the lesions, Dr. Schepers said, because he was present all the time.

Mr. Maisels: Is the bruise on the upper arm consistent with having been produced by fingernails? — Not in my opinion.

Mr. Maisels (gripping Mr. Bizo's arms from behind): No, consistent with this? — No. The pressure on the different fingers would have to be different.

Mr. Maisels: It was certainly caused by some pressure or blow or blunt instrument.

Dr. Schepers: It is possible, but very improbable. I don't know what it was caused by. There is nothing in the pattern to show.

He did not agree with Dr. Gluckman that fat necroses were present, he said. He could not agree that there was "a

Timol inquest

Prussian blue reaction," because he could not distinguish between different shades of colours.

The injury to the upper arms could have occurred one to seven days before the death, he said.

Bruises on the hip (see pictures) were probably about eight days old, he said.

If keratin was present, a bruise was more than four days old, he said. He was not prepared to agree that a bruise in which no keratin was present was less than four days old.

Questioned by Prof. Simpson, Dr. Schepers said he could not say what had caused the linear scab on the forearm. It was an abrasion. Subcutaneous tissue could not be damaged in such a case unless force was used as well. This was not an incisional wound.

Bruises on the chest could have been caused by blows with "some degree of violence," he said.

The bruises on the arm and the chest could be the same age "if one looked at them superficially."

Mr. Maisels: For instance, they could have been caused if a person lying on the ground was kicked and put his arm up — this sort of thing could have happened. I do not say they did happen.

Could they have happened between the Friday when Mr. Timol was arrested and the Wednesday when he died? Could he have sustained these injuries in this time?

Dr. Schepers: Doctors Robertson and Mansfield tried to ascertain the age of bruising in subcutaneous tissue, but they could not fix any norms for ascertaining the age of such injuries. One cannot determine the age.

At this stage the hearing adjourned till today.

Mr. I. A. Maisels, G.C. and Mr. G. A. Bissop, instructed by Cachalia family, Timol, were assisted by Dr. H. Shapiro and Dr. J. Gluckman. Mr. S. A. Gilliers, instructed by the State Attorney, appeared for the Police. He was assisted by Prof. H. van P. Koch. Mr. P. A. J. Kotze led the evidence. Mr. J. J. L. de Villiers was on the Bench with his assessor, Prof. I. W. Simpson.