

Shocking Hallucination.

Accused Discharged.

The case against F. C. McIntosh for assaulting with intent Ada Webber, was heard on Tuesday, at the Yass Court.

The deposition of Ada Webber, taken on oath at the Hospital on the previous afternoon, in the presence of the Court authorities and the solicitor for the accused was then read to the Court. The statement upon which the prosecution rested was as follows:—

Was at service with Mrs Besnard for 15 months; was taken away on a Sunday; was at Mrs Besnards that morning doing my work; do not think Mrs Besnard was at home; think Mrs Besnard, Miss Alkin, Mr Besnard, and boy Besnard were all away during part of the day; while they were away Mr Frederick McIntosh came alone; he came in the kitchen and spoke to me; he spoke to me after locking the door and said, "You'll have to do what I want you to do! You know what it is!" he took me to the wash-house and said he would dip me into the water if I didn't do it; he unlocked the kitchen door and carried me to the wash-house; went to scream while he was carrying me and he put a handkerchief into my mouth; he tied my feet with kitchen towels and string; he first tied my hands and bumped me against the wall; he then threw me on the floor and tied my feet; while he was tying my hands I was struggling and tried to scream out, and he put the handkerchief into my mouth again; while on the floor he took the handkerchief out of my mouth, and I called out and said "I'll tell!" he said "I'll leave you so you wont tell!" he tried to pull off my dress; before that I said "Will you let me out to get something to drink!" he said, "I'll give you something to drink!" and pulled a bottle out of his pocket and poured something into my mouth out of the bottle; he then put the handkerchief back into my mouth; I tried to scream; I said "I'll tell!" he first offered me five shillings and then half a sovereign if I didn't; he said "Don't tell, take the money!" told him he was drunk; told him he was a low scoundrel; the conversation took place before he poured the stuff into my mouth; he said "why do you call me Fred Mackintosh" I said "You're not worthy of the name!" called him Fred Mackintosh, while he was tying me: do not remember anything that hap-

pened after he gave me the drink out of the bottle; Mr Mackintosh's clothes were hanging off during the struggle; his clothes were unbuttoned; the front part was disarranged; he wasn't very sober; could smell grog on him; it all took place on a Sunday after confirmation, which was on a Friday; think it took place the third or fourth Sunday after confirmation; it was raining in the morning pretty heavily as far as I can remember; am not quite sure about the date it all took place; was at home with my mother when I first remembered anything about it.

F. C. McIntosh, accused, deposed that he heard Ada Webber's evidence that she saw him in the breakfast room at Besnard's that morning; it was not true, he was in bed at the Royal at the time, and didn't go to Besnard's till about 12.30. When he got to Besnard's he couldn't get in the front door so he went round and in by the kitchen; he saw Ada Webber in the kitchen as he went through; she spoke to him and asked him to go in for a raffle for a bazaar in aid of the Church of England bazaar. He replied he would. Mr and Mrs Besnard, Miss Alkin, the boy and he were at dinner. After talking to his sister he went to sleep and was awakened about 3 p.m. by the boy. The girl was screaming and he stopped with his sister, who was unwell, to calm her. Afterwards he went to the kitchen because Mrs Besnard told him to go and try to stop the noise. The girl's mother and Miss Alkin were there. He held the girl's hands for about five minutes, but his presence seemed to be doing more harm than good so he went out. He never had any conversation with the girl previously. Never touched her at all. He did not carry the girl to the washhouse, which would be 30 or 40 yards up a hill in full view of the street. He never gave the girl anything to drink; never locked the door upon her, nor tied her hands, nor threatened her with violence.

Several other witnesses gave evidence.

At 10 minutes to 12 at night the Police Magistrate summed up. He was brief and to the point; he had followed the case carefully throughout; it had caused him much thought and anxiety, and he could come to no other conclusion than that the girl was under an hallucination. The girl's statement was unsupported; the accused had given his evidence in a straightforward manner. He thought it probable the unfortunate girl quite believed her own story, but it was all a delusion on her part. The accused Frederick Charles Mackintosh was

accused Frederick Charles Mackintosh was discharged,