

Death of Karl Fourdrinier.—An open verdict was returned yesterday by the jury at the Coroner's inquiry touching the death of Karl Fourdrinier, aged 40, a returned soldier, and ex-managing law clerk for Mr. A. F. Abbott, solicitor, who was found dead at the latter's office, St. George's-terrace, on January 27, with a bullet wound in the right temple. A. F. Abbott, in evidence, stated that the deceased left this State in August, 1915, and was successful in obtaining a commission in a New South Wales battalion. During the Gallipoli campaign he sustained a severe wound near the spine, and was invalided back to Australia. When sufficiently well he resumed his old duties in November last. In December witness left for a month's vacation in the Eastern States, and on his return Fourdrinier complained of illness. At witness's suggestion he remained away for a couple of days, and the next he saw of him was when he viewed the body lying on the office floor. He had previously noticed that deceased's health was not too good, but Fourdrinier always appeared optimistic regarding his condition. Constable Butler gave evidence of having found the body lying on the floor of Mr. Abbott's office. Deceased had apparently removed his coat, hat, and shoes, while his walking stick was lying across the desk. There was a bullet wound in the right side of the head and a revolver was lying beside the body. There were five live cartridges in the weapon, and one empty shell case. Four cartridges were found in his coat, and subsequently a box was discovered in his desk. Deceased had a wife and small family residing in Adelaide. The medical evidence showed that death was caused through a bullet wound, which had brought about laceration of the brain.