

John Alexander Dickman.

room in which Dickman was then being examined, and Hall and Spink did go round and looked in, but could see tops of some human heads.

Hall alleges he was accompanied by a police officer in p clothes, but Spink is equally certain that they went al Shortly afterwards both allege that the door of the room question was slightly opened and some one—presumably policeman—who was in the passage suggested to them to i in at the man. They say they did this, but only saw the b view of the man, and from that view Hall says he would have identified Dickman as the companion of Nisbet on 18th March, as the back view made him appear a much m thick-set man. He did notice that Dickman had on a li overcoat, and that the man he picked out later on in the was wearing a similar one.

He further states, and is most emphatic, that the impress he got when 'oking through the door did not in any v influence him when he came to the "Identification," such it was.

For it must not be forgotten that Hall's so-called identification has always been regarded as extremely weak. Both Wright and myself have very closely examined Mr. Hall and Mr. Spink this afternoon, and we find they both are certain that neither of them could recognise the officers who they allege they said made these suggestions.

In this connection we find that the incident as alleged to place between 5.40 and 6 p.m. in a partially lighted passage and that in the passage at that time were at least four officers of both county and city force congregated, and the N.-E. Railway police, most of whom were engaged in this case and none of whom were in uniform.

Having regard to the inability of Hall and Spink to identify the police officer in question, we do not consider it necessary to collect all the officers who were probably there at the time (although we have to-day seen seven of the number, and absolutely deny any knowledge of the incidents).

Three of the officers who were probably present are on leave (one of these being in Ireland), and two more are sick.

Of course, if it be desired, we could parade the whole number in a few days' time. It is only proper to say that several of the statements of Hall and Spink are at variance, one of the officers (known to Hall) and stated by him to have been present has now proved satisfactorily to us that he was engaged away from the office till some half-hour after the incident complained of.

May I be allowed to say that even if these allegations were true as represented, that Dickman then was not in arrest, and