

Nurse 'raped on way to lunch'

A 26-YEAR-OLD man was said at Leeds Crown Court yesterday, to have locked a 17-year-old voluntary nurse in a psychiatric hospital staffroom and raped her. The man, also employed at the hospital, pleaded not guilty to rape on

November 26, 1977.

Mr. Stephen Williamson prosecuting, said the girl did voluntary work, which included certain nursing duties, at weekends at the De la Pole Hospital, Willerby, near Hull.

She was going to lunch at the hospital social club when she met the man who inveigled her into a staffroom by saying he had lost his lighter.

He locked the door, pushed her to the floor and raped her.

Mr. Williamson said that after an internal hospital inquiry the incident did not come to police notice until April 1979, when the man was arrested.

He is said to have told the police: "I never had sex with her that day or any day."

The girl said she did not complain to the police because she was frightened at the prospect of going to court.

Cross-examined by Mr. David Savill, QC, the girl agreed that she was not a virgin at the time. She had had intercourse with two men under 20, whom she had known for some time.

She denied that she had been sent off her ward for making herself a nuisance with the male staff.

Mr. Savill said: "Did you tell a woman employee that a staff nurse had taken you into a cupboard and made love to you?" "Certainly not."

The trial continues today.

Nurse acquitted of hospital rape

A MALE nurse was acquitted at Leeds Crown Court yesterday of raping a 17-year-old voluntary nurse in a staff room at the hospital where they both worked.

The 26-year-old man had pleaded not guilty to rape at the de la Pole psychiatric hospital at Willerby, near Hull.

Mr. Stephen Williamson, prosecuting, said the voluntary nurse was going to lunch at the social club when she met the man, who lured her into a staffroom by saying he had lost his lighter.

He locked the door, pushed her to the floor and raped her, Mr. Williamson said.

There was an internal inquiry in November, 1977,

but the complaint did not come to police notice until April. The girl had said she did not complain because she was frightened of going to court.

The girl denied that she had been sent off her ward for making a nuisance of herself with male staff.

She agreed that she was not a virgin at the time of the alleged offence, and that she had had intercourse with two men, both under 20, whom she had known for some time.

The man did not give evidence during the four-day trial, but was said to have denied the offence in interviews with the police. The jury took 15 minutes to reach a verdict.