

It must be always remembered and emphasized that the half-caste does not feel shame at being a half-caste, nor does the mother feel any shame at having a half-caste baby. To the mother it is rather a badge of honour in that it shows that she was able to interest at least one white man.

I really think, after seeing generation after generation grow up, that there is very little that can be done for the half-caste. Those who have any ability at all get on, the others fail, but even in failure they seem happier in the free life of the camp than in the boarded-out comfort of the mission station.

I have pitied the condition of many of the little half-caste girls whom I have known in adoption in white families. They are brought up amidst every comfort, but without any freedom, and sooner or later the inevitable baby arrives and they are turned out into the camp to fend for themselves. They are then absolutely helpless, and have to get a living the best way they can. It always seems so pitiful to me to see girls that I have known as clean house-servants living in dirty camps ignorant of how to keep themselves clean and half starved because they had never learnt how to find food for themselves. Sooner or later each case adjusts itself. The girl marries someone, and her man teaches her what she would have learnt as a child if she had been left with her mother. But just visualize a young white woman being suddenly cut off from all of the benefits of civilization and being thrown on her own resources even in a fertile country!

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Australia: Material Culture.

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Distribution of Merewether Chert. *By W. J. Enright, B.A.*

The local stone of which the aborigines of Newcastle, who were a horde of the Worimi, made most use was the Merewether chert, which is associated with the Newcastle or upper coal measures. When the last Science Congress met at Sydney, Dr. G. D. Osborne, of the Geology Department, Sydney University, informed me that a party of geologists found a fragment of it at Narrabeen. Prior to that I had found it at Anna Bay, a little to the south of Port Stephens, and at the Gibbers or Dark Point, about ten miles to the north of that point. It has therefore passed from the territory of one tribe to that of another, and through the hunting grounds of several hordes. I doubt whether this can be accepted as evidence of the existence of a native trade route in these parts. Personally I prefer to regard it as evidence of the gift days which were observed after the conclusion of initiation ceremonies.

W. J. ENRIGHT.

Australia: Material Culture.

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An Aboriginal Fish Trap. *By W. J. Enright, B.A.*

At the end of January last I spent a short holiday on Broughton Island, situated about twelve miles north of Port Stephens and two and a quarter miles east of Dark Point on the mainland. The island, which is one of a group comprising about five hundred and forty acres in extent, contains about three hundred and fifty acres. It is thickly grassed and devoid of timber, and rises at East Head to a height of about three hundred feet. Practically the whole island is of limestone covered with a mixture of drift sand, leaf mould, and decomposed limestone. The western end is a favourite breeding ground of the Mutton-bird. Towards the southern end of Coal Shaft Beach is a rocky floor, covered at high tide. On this there is a line of stones arranged in horse-shoe shape, with the toe facing the sea, and in that there is a small opening within which is a similar shaped but smaller structure. The sole inhabitant of the island has only been there twenty-five years, during which time it has not been visited by the aborigines. I learnt, however, from old residents of the mainland, that the natives had visited it, and as Dark Point shows evidence of having been used by them as a camping ground I do not hesitate to accept their statements.

The natives would not be induced by the fishing, excellent though it is, to visit the island, as the Myall Lakes teem with excellent fish and, in addition, there would be no marsupials on the island to tempt them to make the crossing. However, the Mutton-