

THE ABORIGINES OF PORT STEPHENS.

Mr. Walter J. Enright, of West Maitland, who has devoted much of his leisure hours to a study of Australian ethnology and who has already published two valuable brochures, the one dealing with "The rock paintings and carvings of the aboriginals of New South Wales," and the other with "The initiation ceremonies of the aborigines of Port Stephens, New South Wales," has published, under the auspices of the Royal Society of New South Wales, a more pretentious pamphlet, treating of "the language, weapons, and manufactures of the aborigines of Port Stephens, New South Wales." In his little work he endeavours and with a great degree of success, to supply a grammar and vocabulary of the Kuttung tribe, in order that the language of some of the native tribes of the coast might be preserved. The Kuttung dialect was spoken at one time by the tribes lying between Port Stephens, Maitland, and Paterson. The adjoining tribes were—The Gummingal, inhabiting the district on the north shore of Port Stephens and the Karuah River; the Warringal, between Telegraphy and Pipeclay Creeks; the Warrimee, between Telegraphy, Port Stephens, the seashore, and the Hunter; the Garawerigal, between the Myall River and the seashore; the Yeerungal, about the Myall Lakes; the Birrimbal, in the neighbourhood of Bungwall Flat; and the Birroongal, on the Myall River. The pamphlet shows the grammatical construction of set sentences very clearly, and provides very concise rules. The vocabulary includes 456 words of the language, representing common English equivalents. The second part of the pamphlet deals with the weapons and manufactures of the tribe. Each weapon, and some of the manufactures, are shown in the illustrations, and all are cleverly described by the author.