

SOME ABORIGINAL FLAKES FROM MORNA POINT, NEW SOUTH WALES.

BY

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(Plates xxxii-xxxviii and Figures 1-9.)

INTRODUCTION.

The paper contains a detailed description of a series of flakes and chipped implements found at a deserted aboriginal camping ground among the sand dunes of Morna Point, New South Wales. The aborigine chose to live near the sea which supplied him with food in the form of shell fish, and all along the coast, in places suitably sheltered, regions of kitchen midden material are to be found. A search among these heaps will reveal very few native weapons such as spears and boomerangs, for these were carried by the hunter wherever he went and were left distributed over wide areas. Segregated artefacts are limited to these small sharp-edged chips of chert or other hard stone, which were struck off from a suitable pebble in hundreds, used indiscriminately for all manner of domestic purposes and then discarded. These chips occur in mounds associated with the shell middens and constitute the typical "workshop" material as described by Etheridge and Whitelegge.¹ In their paper chips from workshops along the coast near Sydney are described in detail, but other than this comparatively little work has been done on these small flaked artefacts in New South Wales. Roth² gives a complete description of the method of stone flaking and the various uses to which flakes are applied by the Queensland aborigines. Basedow³ has also a comprehensive article on stone implements used by the blacks of central and northern Australia. He describes the method of chipping flakes from an original core or nucleus and discusses the uses for which the various types were made. He also describes the methods of flaking by percussion and chipping by pressure.

The use of stone knives and flakes by the natives of central Australia together with descriptions of various tools are given by Horne and Aiston,⁴ and also by Spencer and Gillen,⁵ from whose

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¹ Etheridge and Whitelegge.—Rec. Austr. Mus., vi, 4, 1907, pp. 233-250.

² Roth.—North Queensland Ethnography, Bull. 7, 1904.

³ Basedow.—The Australian Aboriginal, Adelaide, 1925.

⁴ Horne and Aiston.—Savage Life in Central Australia, London, 1924.

⁵ Spencer and Gillen.—The Native Tribes of Central Australia, London, 1899.