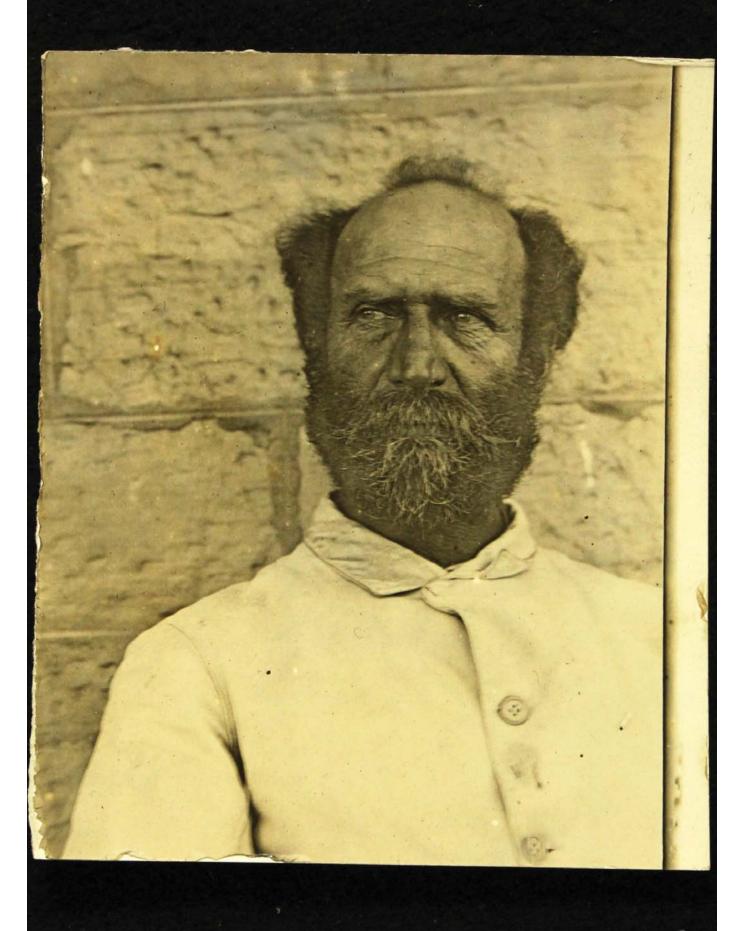


No 63, 1916 October 7th

1917 June 30th

OCT 1015



23

23. X. 16.

October.

As Jack, the blackfellow, has hopelessly lost his bearings we did not move from camp. Jack set off early with a bit in his pocket and returned at Sunset with information that he had "made" Cuttapirie Corner and would lead us there tomorrow. This proved to be another day quite lost for were on most unpromisuig ground. Very little timber and only a temporary mud hote in the way of water-

I went to the Saudhills but what with the flies and the heat I could to no callecture, even had there been anything to get Saw many tracks of lizarids and insecto but had no means of dieging, the spade being required for cooking purposes, That a few birds and found nests of Galahs a matter of no difficulty. Took the opportunity of readjusting + lesting the stores and packed away material collected to date - a neglit heron, visited our

vater hale while a flock overhead. 8 Sun.

Early this morning 4 teal + some Red-kneed Totterel visited the water hole we got 2 of the former + H Dotterel. Our course lay across Saltbush planis later in the morning we entered a dry creek of some size but failed to find water in time for lunch. However, in 15 moutes after again moving we came across a small muddy soak all the water is clay

Coloured. Big timber looming ahead indicates the creek + we arrived at the water in mee time. There is a good body of water at the Cuttapiril corner and as I had a swin across it I found it to be of ft deep in that part. Joon after starting this morning we exper-- renced a sand storm we could see clouds of Sand rising from the tills high wito the air + before long the whole horizon was blotted out. As we

[5]

were travelling between two Sand hills at perhaps a couple of miles from each we were not greatly troubled with the sand - my motor goggles Saved my eyes from the fur Sand which reached us. It the Creek we heard the night Heron and found a couple of little rightjars mi a spoul evidently just hatched mere masses of pure white down The creek swarms with an spus? larger than

the one seems at some of the water holes. * g. mon. white took a photo. of me writing these notes in my bunk just after Survive. This day we were still among the Sand hills but before noon walked down the valleys between them we failed to find water for lunch but discovered a pool to minutes after restart - mg - In the afternoon we crossed ridge after ridge the continual Climbuig + descending the stand slopes being slow

[7]

work for the camelo. at one shot we struck some low timber and pulling over a dead tree discovered 3 Bs a Bat, 2 Beetles (slaters) + Budgerigais nest (4 egg) fulled over another tree later + a stream of bato emerged, smaller x of lighter colour, there must have been between 3 + 4 dozen for on looking at those secured we had II. We could have taken almost the whole lot had I wanted them. The wind kept the flies fairly in check.

we suppose we are camped on the margin of the upper part of Lake Jack a narrow belt of low trees marking its flood limit. The timber is so stunted that the eagle (Ag. audax) hests within a few feet of the ground + I took a photograph In the evening we found the tracks of a Womer (Python) culturing an old rabbit burrow o I'm due in the saud for 40 feet then gave up. Jook a photo. of Jack (Blackfellow) ad

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naturae 10. Tues. Left 24th camp at 8 am + through lightly timbered area which borders the marein og Lake Jack (dry) thence to the sandhills which as before, alterhated with shallow vallegt with plenty of herbage. Sometimes we struck larger trees + here we always saw falahs fin tracked down + obtained Varanus fouldi. We lunched at 12. 30 where I took shoto of galah shout tree trues by the

Cockatoos. after 18 miles, winding up with Sandhills we came to Kangana Station, no. one at home but the cook & we camped in the hed of Coopers Creek, here absolutely dry we obtained water at the Etation Well * Saw a couple of fins + 3 récanonnies, Whom I am to photograph in the morning. Nothing startling to write of this very tiring day as far as I am con cerned.

11: Wed. Had a hurried break. fast & then walked to the Black's camp and took pholos of 4 zoung-- sters + some suis, the latter objecting to undress, or rather I had not time enough to humowe them. I then writ across to another eauch & found 3 gins. they all soon posed for me in the altogether. Returned to our own camp + the manager of the station (Battams) viduced the helle of the tribe

(Nellie) to give me a setting, she is a fuer specimen than I have yet seen. We struck camp 8.45 + took Jack to put us on our course. At about 3 miles out White dismissed him thinking the pad was good enough, but he soon lost it and failed to pick it up again we returned to a water hole we had passed & fim went to fetch Jack Had lunch + having lost half a day we

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restarted and soon deciding that the pad was good enough his discussed old Jack for good and passed over a successión of Sand hills all tending N. and S. they averaged a mile apart the sintervening Valleys differed greatly some benig almost barron + others well covered with timber. Shot a Brown Hawk with the "410 from the saddle At 5-15 lue again Struck Coopers Creek quite dry, at a

[14]

place where there were 13 dead bullocks in sight at once. I got 9 m one picture. There is big timber on the banks of the creek + the usual species of burds incheating that water is not far off. falahs, Budgerijars Top- Knot Jugeous ste we camped on a clay pan on the banks on the further side of the creek. The Sand hells have in places a harder,

[15]

OCT 1916

Clayey Strata Which resists the wind and becomes only partially denuded leaving rough mound 5 or 6 feet un height. It is in these mounds that the Sand martins make their tunnels, Every bit of bush, every stone or other object form a break would to a strip of Sand remains on the sheltered Rede. This is cut to a Keel like edge to produces precisely the effect seen on wind Cut Stones thus ?-

Treviously I had caught aut - lion larvae only at the bottom of their pits but we noticed a surface tunnel runring for some little distance from the pit of Jun discovered that by making a sudden grab at the further end of the tunnel he could often secure the

12 Thurs. After taking photos of Some gnarled trees & Skeleton of an ox + duigo together of which there were Several Hus associated we make an larly more, leaving our camp at 7.15. We had a most irritatuig day, heat and flies and in numerable Sand hills 17 some one said; the Carnels constantly broke their nose-lines and as the ghan is rather deaf he sometimes got far ahead with two three, sometimes his

own camel only. This bet much time and put out of all question the desire we had of reaching the Paragundi bore this day. Joure of the sand hells were steep + high and in places were muied with Old trabbit burrows who which a cause would break through. One of them fell in ascending a sand ruse + rolled over but fortunately got up without throwing his load though it had to be readjusted be were trusting very

OCT 1916

largely to a track made by horses some months ago but in Sandy parto I on all hells it was obliterated by the wind shifting the surface, then discussion arose as to the direction of the track & home was Sorry when we halted at 7. 0'clock for the night possibly within 6 or 7 miles of the bore, we had a Suack at 1. feeling in need of something to gast for we had breakfaster at 6. 30. The Valleys were well covered with

[20]

low bush, balt bush blue bush sto. Hor the first time we wet Spinger. The only trees if they can be so called are low heedle bushes but in these twithin reach from the ground we took egg og Black - backed hagpie Land 2 species of hawks, oblamed a Couple of Varanus gouldi one hidden in a hole in the sede & a bank, it's curved hard tail drawn, across the hale, no doubt for protection

OCT 1916

Saw many digguisp of the peptiles where, they had been on the Rearch for food perhaps lizards. Daw a few of the latter but we caught a seeko only. Which however I have not yet seen. Is we were unloading the causels in the fast disappearue daylight one of the packs was deposited almost on to a large suake Wh. Jim promptly but. taking it to a light I found it to be one of the Bordae but I

[22]

Aspidites.

forget the characters I the species. It is however, the snake known to the blacks as the womana we had the slightest pain on camping but it Soon cleared away though thunder was expected all afternoon. Saudhills still stretch away to the westward + after that I understand we shall again strike that wretched Subber country called by Sturt stony desert. the are looking forward to a dep in

[23]

the warm waters of the bore early tomorrow. For the second time I spoke to Ran about using water for hand face washing when travelling on the Canteens. Le réplied "we shall get plenty of water at the bore tomorrow. to which I Said, I hope so. 13.7r Made another early start 7.15. but before

Si leaving photographed the suake + white exposed

The reflex on my back as a harbour for flies

[24]

we set of for the bore with white as navigating officer of expected to make it about 10 b'clock but 11 × 12 passed x ho bore White got Very auxious as we had only 2 gallous of water in the canteens the outtook was very let me say sandy. Galahs, Shell-parroto true fisher and Dragon Hills appeared so we pushed on hopefully. we crossed a plat of about 12 acres & on this alone we.

counted over 50 dead bullocks. Then we struck a track of possibly 400 or 500 travelling stock and Then took as camel pad and ultimately arrived at a well only to find it dry with a saudy battom + a white owl sitting un one corner. as it flew up the shaft about 25 feet deep Jun knocked it down again. Ne went down on a rope but found the 4 eggs hatching. He brought up the bird

26

and some pellels, but white was so worried and unpatient he could scarcely want until the bords Was put away. We had certainly nussed the bore + hothing remained but to push on for water, we fortunately found a fuie Series of clay paus at 2.30. and here had our first drink succe 6-30. Filled up the Cauleens with extremely hundry water and continued much refreshed and

OCT 1916

with a rosier outloop became The Saudhills puraller & we crossed a gibber plain where we said saw pair of Fratincoles x got-3 eggs & borid of the Aust - Dotterel, Jim got eggs of Hawks or Ephth. Tricolor. We camped in a bit of bush hear a low Comeal mound which may be " Prominent Hill' of the map tho' much to the north of where white supposed us to be - Half a mule hefore camping

we noticed a rice clay pan with water T decided to fell canteens there in the morning I remuded Law that the funding of the bore had not been so certain as he had auticipated he got his lesson, for he had felt the want of water this day more than any of us, but I had decided not to open the cauteens until night at earliest. " Promuent Hill: of so it he reses out

[29]

OCT 1916

of the plain with an even slope apparently all round:

Friday the 13th is a combination which proved very unlucky for us & despite its drawbacks, the asso-ciation would please those who are more superstitions on such matters than I am 14. Sat.

My first care was to have the cauteens filled at the water hale

we had seen about 1/4 mule back, but the Shan said that when rounding up his flock he had seen plenty of water ou our course, over the hill: White, who has generally taken over this work of fuduig Water and teepinie the course said alright + on we went leaving our dry camp at. 7.15. We found practically no water but as it seemed a long way to go back we went on with the Cauteens empty, a

[3]

terrible mustake as afterwards transpered. We struck a wagon track t as this was supposed who orous the boring plant and as Jim Said he had started from Merrimette, our objective me decided to stick to it. The Camel carrying the canteens was sick but as the caus were empty it had no great load for which in a sense. I was glad. This day we passed over Saudy plains alternating with

[32]

Stony desert & flanked with flat-topped hills of varying extent but apparently all on the sauce level representing the former surface how so greatly denuded. This stony desert or gibber country appears to have Saud as a sub- soil + the stones mostly small " few larger than a crieket ball are left expired by the shifting sand which constantly dries my over them has rounded and polished them and left them

[33]

ou au approximate level. Our track led us much further to the Southard than I Cared for but it was thought that it would turn westerly later, to somewhere it was Thought best to keep to it especially as it was quite well definedfine, who proves to be quite a good collector, found a nest of the Australian Datterel Containing 3 eggs + we also obtamed a opecuien of the bord

Havring no Water Except a little ui the bays Which we decided to conserved though extremely muddy we had no set lunch but hunched a bit of dry bread + cheese as we padded along. we set out seouts a mile on each side of the track in Search of water but met of my watches I shot a rabbit of the Very Sandy colour which seems to be the rule in this Sand - pupplied

land but saw also grey animals + one black one. The one I shot instead of makuig for a burrow tried to clinib a tree * failuig fell back dead. I carry only the '410. Conferring with white we decided that we could not possibly he making for Merrinitta but that he were heading for Mungerannie. Tho Wayon tracks became obscured by sand having drifted over them we proked up

a good camel pad & plodded on nearly due south du the apternoon While again out looking for water to the east of the pad I flushed a female ashbyea lovensis which did the wounded bird truck very well undeed. I stood still Where I had flushed the bird and when et had fluttered far enough I shot her, feeling that if I could find the hest the maker of it would be necessary

to establish its identity. Half a munutes search & I found the nest flush with the ground containing 2 eggs & from the nest, ejected in its hurried flight this was the more surprising as the heats is a very deep one. The edges were spread some distance over the edge of the hale thus: the nest was made of materials - from the surrounding herbage & lived

38

with fine voots. The eggs are white shotted with brown, though Somewhat sparsely, this description will have to be amended as it it written from memory of a very hurried inspection. I signalled to the train + under the impression that I had found water the camels were turned in my direction - at length I made it clear that the train was to continue its Course + that I wanted White with the reduce

[39]

Camel carrying the Cameras. Notwithstandnig his feverish aux. iety as to keeping the Course at full speed The discovery of the hitherto unbuown nest tress of ashbyia was sufficient to permit tuin to give me a hand in photographing the next which I did with the Reglex, taking one plate of the nest + another of the nest + the bird bying he side it - Though he did not say so, am sure he feels very

Keenly his ill-luck in not devig actually the first to fuid, to an ornethologist, such a plum. He obtanied a speamen of the bird also - we now have a hice series of which about 9 were hitherto Known. By the time I have due out the nest which was placed in a deep hale possubly exeavated by the bird the camels were disappearing over a rise + took a lot of catching up as usual. Near here

[4]

I found some curious Demi-spherical bomblike rocks, with many cracks in them and from which I loosened some pièces. These buts look exactly like certani preces of heavy black stones lying around but are augular While the loose pieces are rounded I picked up a sample on two for Now Chin - we saw some cattle on our left + in the gathering darkness someone heard a horse neigh. White + Jun Were ahead about

[42]

3 hules from the train + were afoot, while I was on the camel hudday to Establish communication as the Sun Oct. Straight mi front of he was a domelike structure + as the advance guard, stopped by it I thought the object was a shed white & fun then went Rapidly on + disappeared in the darkness. In 20 minutes I reached the object & found it to be an evenly rounded tree one of the only 2 mi light. I waited

until the camels came up by which twie it was quite dark. In the tree I found a nest of the Chestrut- Eared fuich with le ello. The how got Sandy ground under our feet and groked for the pad, then lit a lautern + went along, picking up frie twhite who had waited for us. Then the pad was lost in the sand + we decided to caup for the night. Each man had to use water from his own bag + we had little

[44]

to eat under somewhat glooning conditions he were all fagged having done 30 miles * twomed in without pitching the tento or taking of our clothes. This happened at 7.30, that is the camping, so that we travelled continuously for 11/4 hours On rising, as usual, before the bun we asked what would our folks think if they tuen what a happy! Sunday morning this was to us-

[45]

distributed the balance of the apples, which have kept remarkably well went 2 each all Round. Carefully Studied the map & sent fin out to deconnoctre. When he returned he said he knew where we were that is about 4/2 miles from nungerannie. The had a suack of dry break + Jam + Started 74 at 7.0 am. Soon came hi sight of the White buildines then the Steam from the bore

[46]

I were undeed thankful that our auxiety was over. While Jui lit a fire, had a chat with mr. Crombie then with m.C. ("Mail constable) ----Auston who, with his wife, friend to us. Jun made a Welcome Tilly of tea which we tempered with a few biscuits erected tents on creek running a mule from the bore, head, the water being & decided mineral flavour- Then had

an appreceated Shower & change of clothes growing couled garmets to Judy Maggie for washing. Walked over to the Blacks' camp but I could not uiduce them to pose for me excepting in their clothes a privilege I did not embrace. In the afternoon went to the bore head & in the Swamp Shot a brace of avocet + plover & in returning a grey Rabbet which fru cooked for tea. Rain falling in the evening

we availed ourselves of the M. C's offer to sleep in the house re--moving damagable commodities thereto. It is here that I have written up the notes for 2 days past, the facilities of a table of Good light henig conduaire to writing more fully than in a tent with a hurricaine lantern - The bore water is very hot at the head + runs to waste at the rate of gallous per Here for the first time

suce leaving the Cooper we met with the Blue eyed Cockatoo. (C-cyanops) we are told that Swans Malive Companions are common & that the Cat often brugs in 3 kinds of bush mice She did not oblige me this evening but I may be able to make arrangements for some to be collected & sent to the nuseum later. Large numbers of ariel martins have built their nests under the Verantah roof of the house + the cat brought

[50]

in one of the burds , for which alt she was duly reprimanded-The position where we pitched the tents along-Dide the bore creek is little to be considered by even 1/2 mich of rain collected by about 6 water courses and as the water rises rapidly the were advised under probable conditions to remove to safer quarters Goods & Saddles were placed on higher ground + covered with the (tarless) tarpaulius x White Self were as-

[5]

commodated in a hedroom while Ran + Jim made up their bedding on the floor of the Police Office The sich camel improved. Rain did fall and Though not heavy was liable to merease so we considered ourselves fortunate in being under cover.

16 .mon

14 points of rain fell during the night as read by the constable. We dried the tents & other belongings + I had a short stroll with

Aiston Jaw 2 native graves; on the latest Various clothing and utensils used by the deceased were still on the grave, Everything the dead possesses is Thus deposited no legacy benig left. Saw a mound surrounded by flent chippings and evidently a former workshop. Jook photo. of Isabelle (drafted) & 2 piècaminies saw a pair of spur- wruged plover - Left at 10. am + Stirted until after noon a long sand

[53]

ridge from which I took photograph of Some - fine clouds. A blackbreasted Buzzard had a look at us from considerable height the yellow patches on the underside of the wings being very conspicuous. Flushed a Wedge-tailed Eagle + Shat a Cetron Chat (ashbyia). Had lunch at 1. 0. One of the camels threw his load but did no damage. Our course lay over sand alternating with gibber with some patches of herbage

[54]

Some of the clay paux held a little water from last nights rain. Camped at 6. about dans at Nurralvanna under a sand ridge which sheltered us from the cold wind but did not prevent the charging of everything with fine said. Jun Heroughout has proved to be the most uncertain tempered x foulest mouthed fellow I ever met. Horigh a good cook. For the second time I to-

night suggested that he might moderate his language; he thereupon said that I should hear it no more it was the second time I had "chipped" him & I could give him his cheque in the morning. He said he was quite indépendent & had a better job offered. This of course is the crux of the matter for he told Ran earlier in the day that he could join the men who were drivues the 600

cattle, + who were short handed treeene £4. a week. White urged me to ask him to stay on but I considered that if he determined to leave I could not induce him otherwise. Itis outbursts if frequent Fudden are usually soon over so I de ceded to await events As to his cheque this is a matter between hem + Budge, I Shall certainly not pay of he breaks his contract While erected his Tent

[57]

wherein to skin the few bords we have and I afterwards put my stretcher therein: as there were so few twidely spaced apologies for trees that we did not find room for another tent.

17. Tues.

Early + before breakfast

fuir asked for "his

Cheque" I suphasised

the difficulty in which

he was placuis us +

asked him to play

the game. questioned as

the real reason & his

stated decision he said

Budge had promised hui a 2 montes engagement & Livas joing to turn him off at 6. weeks. It he has ies absolutely on toast I agreed to split the difference pay him for 7 weeks; though I feel sure that Budge engaged him for the period of the expedition only, and so we are To move on as before. tound that the fine Sand permeated all themes + affected the Reflex. usuig it on

the party catuing in a sand storm " Had at Wurralvanna before breakfast + Saw a Silver full (Larus jamiesoni) Photo The doubey taking the caretakers (Scorby) Children to school 5 miles distant (Mulka) we passed this place on the swamp at the dans were many Spurwriged Plovers & While headed or barbuig Stilts, heir noté much resembling the barking of a little dog. Here for the first time I saw a pair

[60]

of Vature Companions Struttuig about ni a stately fashion teeping well ahead of me by waltuis only. Wort of us washed our feet in the water at the new well bore, where we had lunch, but be had to go a cousiderable distance out wito the Swamp before we could use water sufficiently cool take tolerated. In the channel in which the water leaves the bore head the water nucl be close upon borling point

Taw 2 Black - Heroated Buzzards and one of the camels throw his boad, saddle included but did no damaes. the took a couple of fledguig galafis hoping to rear them. In the afternoon we passed "White Well" & obtained Some good examples of forsil wood ni a flat between sand hills. I found the skull of a Peragale + several of porsoned dungos. Took the head of an Eagle. (a. andax) poisoned & another dead bird

[62]

was com hear the same spot, we had a dry camp this night having come about 20 thiles t henig within 7 hules of hoppermerame. from which I am now told that all hatiris have been removed to the Head Station.

18 wed.

Left Camp at 8. and ni due course reached topper merranna to fuid the Mission Station deserted an old blind Acotsman of 85 herne in charge, In alleged consequence of the

withdrawal of the Sovernment grant the Station has been removed to Tillanpani -nna - I therefore decided to go thither though a triple out of our course & 12 hules distant. arrived & Called on Rev. Bogner arriving at . 3.0. and he unvited us to stay the night, but white being auxious to push on I dectued bogner Said our mail had passed us by direct route + promised to Rend it after us

by blackboy. It arrwed hefore we had gone 2 miles. I 807 letter from Rose telling me of death of cold welch. 2 from adams & 1 from Stirling. We understood that the Islazes bore struck water yesterday and that it was 8 hules distant. I walked 9 mules without fuedicing the bore and we Camped at dusk 7. on a salt bush flat. Bogner showed me a copy of the Observer"

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OCT 1916 with 2 pictures taken by Budge, one of the Camel team, the other of members of the party. Ite game me rames of the strange Boomerangs required by Stirling. The Stations both at Kopperamanna + at Killanpinninna are on Sandy wastes possibly due to removal of the tumber in the vicinity. but near the latter there are some good Koolibah trees and we had lunch under one p them. I am told

[4]

they are the only kind of Rox" that Camelo will eat & they may be known by their blacks butto and white branches. White received a batch of newspapers by the mail the Register" 2 Sep. 23º Coulairis a notice of the mawson publication ph. 1-

OCT 1916

SCIENCE AND FISHES.

Under arrangement with the South Australian Government, the Government Printer (Mr. R. E. E. Rogers) has just completed the publication of the first part of the scientific reports of the Australa-(Mawson) Antarctic Expedition. Others will appear in due sequence, and the full work will be large, and not finished for several years, as its preparation requires great care, and the process of production is necessarily slow. The general editor is Professor Haswell. The subject of this introductory part is "Fishes," and the author is Mr. Edgar R. Waite, F.L.S., of the Adelaide National Museum, who has illuminated his detailed descriptions with remarkably fine drawings, for he is an expert with the artist's pencil. The part contains, in addition, charts and maps, and its scope and character indicate that the completed volumes will constitute a monumental work, which will be of incalculable importance scientifically, although it is naturally not the kind of publication which is likely to have a run in the circulating libraries.

7. Thurs When we camped in
the dusk last night
we selected what appeared to be a nice
clean clay pan, but
loon discovered we

were not free from burrs. This morning we discovered we had Camped on a Veritable nesty of the pests or got clothes, cauvas covers, ropes + camels filled with them to say nothing of our own stins. When the Shau brought in the Camels we found that one had had a fight with one of the Russion Station annials which he had put to flight but had not come off Scatheless. He

OCT 1916 had a gash over one eye and a large piece of flesh having from his under jaw One les also had been brtten, Imade up some Borie aux-Vaseluie ouitment which the 'shaw applied Haugus to a salt bush I left a pair of pauto + one of the books totained new for the expedition is now Through at the sale. just as me mere leaving Mr Boguer turned up in his

motor Care he had read in the papers by gesterdays mail that I am director of the Museum & he drove over evidently to apologise for what he unaquied was want of respect to one occupique such The suggested that the reason we had notaccepted his hospitality last evening was be Cause " he was a bloody ferman L this from a Lutheran minister. We assured

himi otherwise and left with the contineutal doffuis of hats, though muy helmet henig Elecured by a Chin Strap, interfered somewhat with speedy response to our friends saluthat is Juin, White + self left the camelo + had a stiff walk to . Wakalanna bore which struck water a fortnight ago & is now ewing forth 1/2 million gallous her day. The depth

of the bore is 3740 feet and boring, operations have been Louis on Ruice May 1915 lue did not regain the team till we had walked 9 Tules and we passed a couple of black fellows diffing out a rabbit burrow with sticks, they had dbtained one animal Do far. As we looked at the carrels in the distance they were nuraged first They though could be easily made out 2

OCT 1916

Counted, then their feet were cut out apparantly by water t they were finally visible as dots only entirely reappearing shortly afterwards. the passed over most desolate country & arrived at Blazes well, now dry and deserted at 1.0 and had lunch. The house, windowless * in part roopless is half silted up with sand and I can now anderstand the expression 180

to Blazes. Here are a few trees & in one of them Otto found a nest of 4 well-grown falahs. a nest of 2 young Kestrels & an empty ope og the Blue- Eyed Cockatoo. Leaving at 200 we reached Dulkannina Bore. at 5.30. Here found a caretaker + his housekeeper and a copple of black falk Heavy clouds came up & writing this in the tent thought I heard ram, found

it to be the bumping of Small mother on the canvas. Fighting Boomerangs identified by Bogner. Ngamiringa Callitarra. Queensland. hast night nimimum 38° The lowest I have read.

Slight rain fell later however and with a fallnig glass proepeets are not too bright. Had thunder last night I some rain. As the Shan brought in the camels it was seen that the one which had fought was very laure and when it was saddled & loaded it had difficulty in rising the poor brute limped badly all day but held out. Ceft- camp at 8.0 I had a dreary time over sandy story plains

OCT 1916

crossing one sand till only. It rained more or less all day. he cut lunch time short + used some dead Twies of bushes for fuel there being no timber for miles. The covered the 20 mules bringing us to the creek of claytous bore where there is a narrow belt of decent oured trees. Walking on the rain damped and Sticky Surface was very heavy going and when riding one got chilled Through so there was not much comfort

in either method. It is doubtful of the lane camel write he able to walk tomorrow of not we shall have to distribute his load L let hem 80. Rau fot a Spur- winged Flower at Dulkaning Where I also saw Itilts I also noticed a few Ashbyea on the gibber land kites and Crows overhead but nothing further.

60

21 Sat. Heavy rain last night one of the Station hands told us the gauge had registered 90 points. It continued until 10 Octock which have I occupied with writing 11 1/2 sheets of Teal with account of Journey for advertiser " at this time a break occurred and we put out clothes ate to dry in a strong breeke. I Exposed Reflex on camp with clothing swinging in the world (6. no. 7). The rain had swollen the creek and overflowed

mlo many channels but did not reach our higher camp. The conditions after lunch gave no promise of unproving so I decided to remain here for the night where at least we have water wood & trees to which to affix our tents -There are no other trees between Claytons Creek Alergot. brale further 10 1/2 Sheets of 7/ caps detailing proceedings as far as dunamineka + decision to return va Coopers Creek beavy

ram + almost- continuous fell in afternoon and evening.

22 Sun.

Heavy rain apparently all night . flass very low standing at 29.43 to which it has steadily fallen from thed. 18th when it was 30.3. The would has changed to the westward + though heavy clouds are banked up we may hope for a break of possible I Shall make an attempt to reach the bore at Wells creek to day, 10 miles distant, + put

up at some shed or other. There are no trees for tuber or tent - fexage short of 26 miles which is a days journey on good track and out of all question under present conditions. Had a bath at 6. am in the flood waters. none of the others would take it on. Went to the depot house crossing the swollen creek by means of a double wire. The Ramfall had been 40 pourts additional to the 95 recorded

yesterday. Picked up 3 hand cruiding stones + bought some eggs. By 8. O'clock the glass had commenced to rise the clouds dispersed & the oun touid soon dried our belongings. The rising waters overflowed the banks and as another 4 or 5 inches would swamp our camp we packed up * left at 12.30 - Had a Elippery passage for a few miles + many awkward crossuigs. We passed over small gibber Coarse Sand

[84]

The lizards aughbolum are exactly the colour of the red ground, Sans a couple of Tern. S. bergii! Aiston, the trooper overtook us & Camped near Lake Harry we went further, passed the date palm planta tron and camped in the Open against a wrre fence Changel Replex plates 23 Mon Had a slight Shower last meht & a very heavy dew. fot some clothes & hedding wet. was up long before

survise and by 7.0 eve were again on the -move - our last day. Saw terus again but we had crows only at the camp - tites being - for the first time absent. We have to make 20 miles for Hergott. Aiston passed us in his buggy and me met a team for the nussion Station-Had lunch at wells Creek & took a few personal photographs. When within 5 miles of Hereatt the town was beautifully emiraged

and a Turneresque fucture presented. The houses were wereased in height, apparently to Several stories + were replacted in clear water. To the left the water formed a large lake and the tills were faithfully turroined therein ou the right was a now of tale trees and the water was spanned by a long viaduel. The colouring was very tender and subtle + after proceeding a short distance it was

[81]

sad to think that their beautiful picture had faded to a most pro-Saic setting of houses and desert. The row of how trees turned out to be some low bushes white the Viaduet resolved itself wito a few spaced Salt bushes. Reached the town at 4. O. unpacked, Sent telegrams to adams & Rose - Rearned that the Mission trap had our mails on board for White to expre a plate on my hunch herbliskered face, had

a clip a bath Louce more assumed the Quise of a city man. manfield hald off the cook giving him the weeks extra money J had promised. Shout the evening at hotel in company with the trooper (auston) he is an enthurerastie lautern stidest and had brought down 300 Rudes which we had to inspect a considerable infliction! Reply to teligram received from adams re raulway passes -

[84]

24. Tues. Up before survise put out tents to dry, emptied water bags had a stroll all round the town and returned to breakfast. Unpacked The luggage i handed over to manfield to (Willeams, Manager) goods returned for Credit purposes Repacked callections + foods for rail. Letter from Rose + Railway passes from Adams The telegraphist (n. Hopewell) gave me a few local Diprotodout

[90]

teeth, Some aerolites etc. also a young Blue - eyed Cockatoo. Aiston the constable who is going to the City gave me a cir-Cum - Subrucesion hunge Jook photograph of a large herd of camelo Rudge Came in the evening from tarina x I went through the accounts with him. we went accepted W. Me Donalds wive tation & he gave me a couple of photographs furshed the evening music ete) with my

envi Willeans.

25 wed

Up at 5. am fed the 3 baby evekators + afterwards booked them by rail 3/8. Left for the South at 6.45. Took photos from the movering train of the enguie rounding curves freat dust storms at + near Parachelua Where we lunched. he had an excitury time chasuig 2 Red taugaros. They had by Rome means got within the fenced Rail track & they

fumped ahead of the train for 2 miles Then descending a Gradient we gamed on them One got under the fence on the right bide, the the fence on the left, but the poor animal was done & fell in a heap. It was up again in past the train when I made a sporting chance of getting hui ou a film. Reached Quorn at

* put up at Bruces hatel, as hefore-As we came along he hearvelled at the growth that had taken place in 6 weeks Wheat that was just above fround is now 4/2 peet high other Crops Similarly. 26 Thurs. Fed the birds at 6.0 in the brake van + left Quorn at 7.45 am. Reached Adelaide 7.7 pm. Thet by adams Mr. other Lea, Zietz. Hale, J. Rau + Mr. White also al- the Station. adams

[94]

took my Mes of part 2 which I had completed on the tream to the Advertiser Office. at home found all well excepting "Serai who was evidently dying of falty degeneration, he died at 8.0 clock - 1/4 hour after my arrival. To Museum again. Sent Luib for body of Serai + passed it over to the taxiderousts. Put Hale on to developing my films. Article on Expedition (2) appeared in the Advertiser?

[95]

OCT 1916

28. Jat.

has been "called - up"
and leaves at the end
of the month. "Referendum
Day" Took Rose to the
pall. I voted "les" and
She "Vo". Half wrote
arliele No. 3. for the
"towertiser."

29 Sun.

Concluded article for the "Advertiser" + took it to the office at night.

30 . Mon.

Retter from Haswell and replied; the Mollusca of the autoretie Exped is not published yet letter

[94]

Jrom Wilfrid.

31. Tues.

The "advertiser published the 3th article to day.

Bought 20 copies of each usine, Oct. 17. 27 + 31
Partly wrote upon the 4th and last. Owing to interference of the President, I did not send this for publication -

8-1

101/1010

November -

1. Wed. adams delivered a verbal message sent by Sowden to the effect that he

considered I had shown disloyalty to her in

having contributed to the "Advertiser"! He knew

of course that white

had been asked to write

for his paper but is

doubtless annoyed that his his has not yet

come to light. wrote

the following to adams who expects that the

President will say he

has been rusquotet.

Museum Committee lapsed for want of a guorum, a too common occurrence, to be again called for the 9th.

2. Thus.

Sold Jas stove £2. to an advertiser. Sent receipt to Christohurch £4.4.0 2 years publications & Linnaen Soc. Letter from Speight.

3. Fri.

Received from adams a reply from the President Correspondence attached , and filed at end of this book. Corby telephoto to say he had enlisted

[99]

NOV 1916

twe asked hui for dinner ou Tunday. 4. Sal-

Have developed many of the photographs, the plates are better than the filius. Spent all afternoon in the garden Cut hedge and planted suckets in vacant places

Soun. Corby came to dinner tea Had a Stroll to tensuigton gardens.

6. mon.

helter from Regan he will notice the mawron frohes in a cuchit. Had new spokes put in the push bike.

7. Tues. Seut Copies of Advertiser Och 17. 27 and 31 with ruy artièles to:-Speight no Carter Misses allan. Bessie Welch. Wilfrid mes waite Belle Lawry Bowling Kellie Beale. Vause Received proofs of two papers. L. H.J. (MC.C. Th.) and Norfolk &. (Edw.) Sent them to allan.

[101]

NOV 1916

J. Wed with Rose 6 " Mrs O'Shanasy " (Maggie Moore) A I warm of bees has Taken possession of the Ventilator space ni my study. 9 Thurs. Committee meeting adfourned from the 12h (no quorum) Arranged to take a weeks holiday from 20 = Received A.A.E. Report on Fishes from Sydney the part is evidently now benie distributed.

[[02]

11. Sat.

7 setz came to take the bees but although we smoked them out he failed to get the green Raining hard many were drowned, falling to the ground.

Fitted pulleys in workshop and twend the current

13 mon. Wrote to Welfrid Cherry, "Harry Cherry" is listed

as among the dead at the front Aiston, who is relivening home to Mungeranie, called.

[103]

14. Tues.

attended exemption court,
Obtained 2 months exemption for Itale, application
to be reconsidered. Davies
having asked me for a
lecture for the "Dual
Club" I gave him the
title "Whales".

15. Wed.

The rain & hail of the present month is likely to put up a relord for November. Torote Hardie of my return.

The present was apprising them of my return.

Seut photograph of self on camel, as Xunas Card

[104]

to: - Yhuas cardo.

We waite,
Belle.
Baung Bowling.

Hellie Beale,

Thet tause,

Chadwick,

Brauer,

Triumphs and selected one at £35, as Hale is celebrating his aidvance to 9/- per day by buying a motor-

106

18. Sat.

Telegraphed to allan who has not returned proops of fish papers for which the printers are clamowring.

19. Sun.

Corby came to dinner ted. Suddenly, hot: max. 85 - Took photos of Corby and Rose.

20 Mion.

Commenced a weeks
holiday due for last
year, merged balance
nito "Interior repedition".
Letters from Hedley re
"Antarctic mollusca"
+ allan, re proofs.

made temporary Cage for the Cockatoos + wrote to Speight and to Redley, both in reply. 21 Tues. went out to post the letters when the chain of the Douglas slipped the cop. as the teeth have worn very then had new sprokets a Chain fixed - Bought bush - house plants of-+ double- pale switch. Received proofs from allan & Sent them to Howchin. Took Rose to pretures.

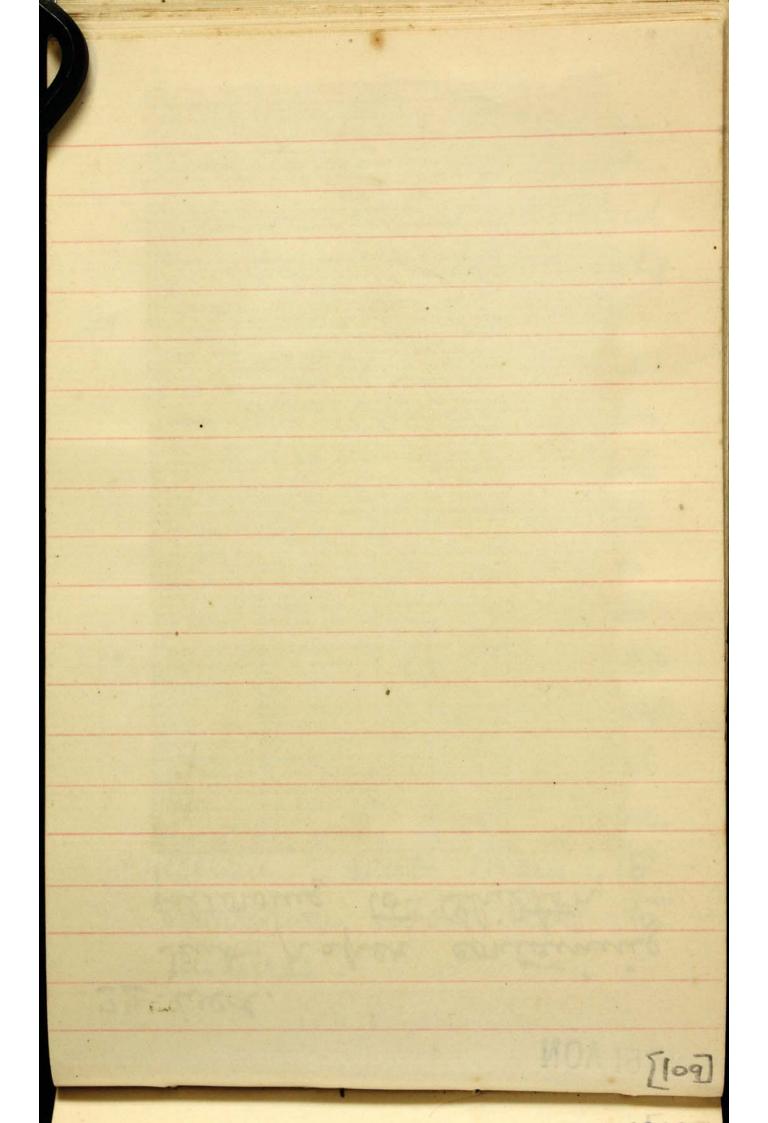
[[0]]

22-wed. Jeut paper containing following to Chilton

A DESTRUCTIVE SEA ANIMAL.

The Director of the Adelaide Museum (Mr. E. R. Waite) writes:- "As is well known to most people who live in seaport towns, and especially to those who are responsible for the well-being of wharves and jetties, submerged timbers are commonly attacked by a borer, the usual remedy consisting in sheathing the timber with metal. The submarine borer is known as the gribble (Limnoria lignorum). and has, unfortunately, been introduced into most parts of the world, Australia and New Zealand included. The introduction was, of course, unintentional, and took place at the time when wooden ships had not been replaced by the modern iron The gribble usually confines its undesirable attentions to timber, but my friend Mr. Charles Chilton, of Christchurch, New Zealand, has recently recorded an in-stance where the crustacean damaged a submarine cable. The cable in question was laid in Cook Strait, and as communication was interrupted in March last, the cable was raised, and the fault discovered at a depth of 60 fathoms, 15 miles from Wellington Harbour. The leakage occurred in a former splice, where, owing to consequent disturbance in the arrangement of the armouring wire, the gribble found an entrance. It had perforated the various wrappings, and when discovered had pierced the gutta-percha layer protecting the inner core of the cable. The eggs of the gribble are carried by the female in a brood pouch until the young are hatched in almost adult form, and as the crustacean is small and possessed only of feable powers of lacement in it. of feeble powers of locomotion, it is regarded as surprising that it was found at such great depth and so far from Wellington Harbour. Several specimens were discovered in the cable at the defective joint, but it must be remembered that a single perforation, admitting sea water, will absolutely destroy communication."

"Revister" Nov. 18. -



NOV 1916

Toro of White's articles on the Expedition have been published in the Register: Nov. 11. and 18.

23 Thurs.

Fitted new pipes to W.C. water supply, a growing leak culminated ni a burst to day. gardening

Letter from Allan and replied. Cleaned aquariums Thunder storms.

25 Sat White's 3rd article on The Far north-east," published in the Register;

27. mon. Returned to work after a weeks absence Letter Toholo. from mes waite. Took negative of ashbyia to be enlarged so that I can retouch the print for reproduction in 2 mu". 28. Tues, Attended Council meeting of Zool. Soc. Commenced Colored drawing of the Desert Chat. ashbyia 29. Wed. altended ann meeting of Zool. Soc. Sovernor in the chair. Thought I might have brought Bandicoot for the

NOV 1916

fardens from Central Australia! Returned revise of proofs of the 2 fish papers - Took Rose to meeting of the Yorks' Soo.

30. Thurs.

Called at house in response to advt. a modern Donglas fer Sale. £35. Examined it spaid deposit on £33-15.0. Paid balance at noon and rode the machine. Farewell to Chitty & Ruis Gartou my share of con tribution for presents

[112]

December.

Commenced to dismantle the new Donglas" 1914 model. 2 speed & foot boards - Which I witered to thoroughly overhaul. It- is the same style of wodel as my old. machine, excepting that it has no foot-Clutch nor kick-starter. 2. Sat.

Took photos of eggs of Ashbyia and retouched enlargement of photo. of next Corby came to tea bringing his camp

friend ... Roper. The latter left early & I took Rose + Corby

to pictures. 3. Sun Took Douglas engine to pieces decarbonized cyluiders + cleaned. 4 mon. Bruce called with Mm grand of N. S.W. Who has been borrowed to report on Oysters un S. A. The minister ask that I be leut to report on biological content of water, in-Vestigations, to commence on the 12th.

114

5. Tues White handed me his two papers - nost rego + Ashbyia and a new Climacteris - V Edited' them pretty severely. The Creeper he will call C. Waiter. Took Hose to pietures. le wed. Museem Committee. Fave lecture to Dual Club on " Whales." 7. Thurs. Letter from Hedley re his autarctica mallusca 8. Fri. Called on Government printer + then wrote

115

to Kedley: the mollusca will be issued this 9 Sat. Watson came to after noon tea to see the innards of the Donelas. Took Rose to pietures. 10. Sun. Reassembled the Douglas eneine. 11. Mon. Adams received a frery letter from white respect - me the embargo laid on his Expedition photos by the newseum Committee Bruce advised me that we leave tomorrows 116 It. Wakefiell - Bought Hydrometer funnels & rubber tubnig etc.

12 Tues.

Turned up for the 9.12 train, met Bruce and Grane when we learned that owner to the coal strike, there was no train to day, Bruce obtained one of the 14 government cars, a Vauxhall and we left soon after 10. arriving at Pt. Wakefield about 12. 30 without medent Rain fell making the roads greasy. Bruce had intended picking up a

Car here but one not benig available retained the Vauxhall. We had au excitue ride lound the head of the gulf. heavy rain made the troads, such as they are, Very bad. Iwice the car twined completely round facing the way we had come, once bogged + we had to push; the mud benig driven in Showers from the futilely revolving wheels. The driver throughout had a hard time brying to Keep something og a course but the slippery

rutted Surface provided plenty of incident. 4 times we took wrong tracks. We had to cross ploughed fields, to stubble & once pulled up with one front wheel half over a culvert 4 feet deep. When we reached the shore we encountered an extensive mud flat + the tide out leaving the mangroves Exposed. This is "Port" Arthur, ho jetty or other means of reaching deep water. took deusity. 1.022. A temp. 65° Took a wider sweep of country when

returning with roads not so bad.

13. Wed.

Morning broke cold and grey, When the can was taken out to return to Adelaide it was found that something was wrong. Examination re-Vealed 2 teeth out of the large hevel of the differential. Alexander the driver started for home intending to go Very slowly & hoping to get back ui one day. Wen Went to the Port River, drizzling rain. I look gravity

and photos while grand waded out in connection with his work. Lunched at the trailway and left at 1.20 partly along our route of yesterday afternoon, round the head of S. V. G. Thence to Kadina. Here engaged a car for Pt. Broughton 32 miles. £3. Put up at the fine hotel Rept by W. U. Wall x managed by his wife + 4 daughters, a very Superior family- torote to Rose and sent £2 I should not be back

for the week end. The letter was taken by wolor cycleing by courtesy. Visited the local photographer who has negatives of a 50 ft. Whale stranded 6 hules north of the Port.

14 Thurs.

Took out a boat in
the morning & explored
Mundora Creek, Went
to head of the bay
by motor car in the
afternoon _ Acted as
coach to local theat-ricals in the evening.
Fri.

beut ret fishing with

proprietor of the hotel (W. U. Wall). and got 6. dog whiting, Salmon Front, flathead Coached theatricals again. Some of the "actors are very deuse - made usual observations on temps Sp. gravity, biological content of water -16. Sat Had a Strobl before breakfast and watched a party of Somatostomus. Then fishing again france + Bruce also takning part, netted 6. doz or so mostly. arripis palar.

DEC 1916

temperature rising & kept us indoors in the afternoon. Sent notes to Rose and adams to effect that I shall be in town on suesday afternoon . Changed the Reflex plates at the photographers but too, late, discovered that it is very leaky.

17. Sun.

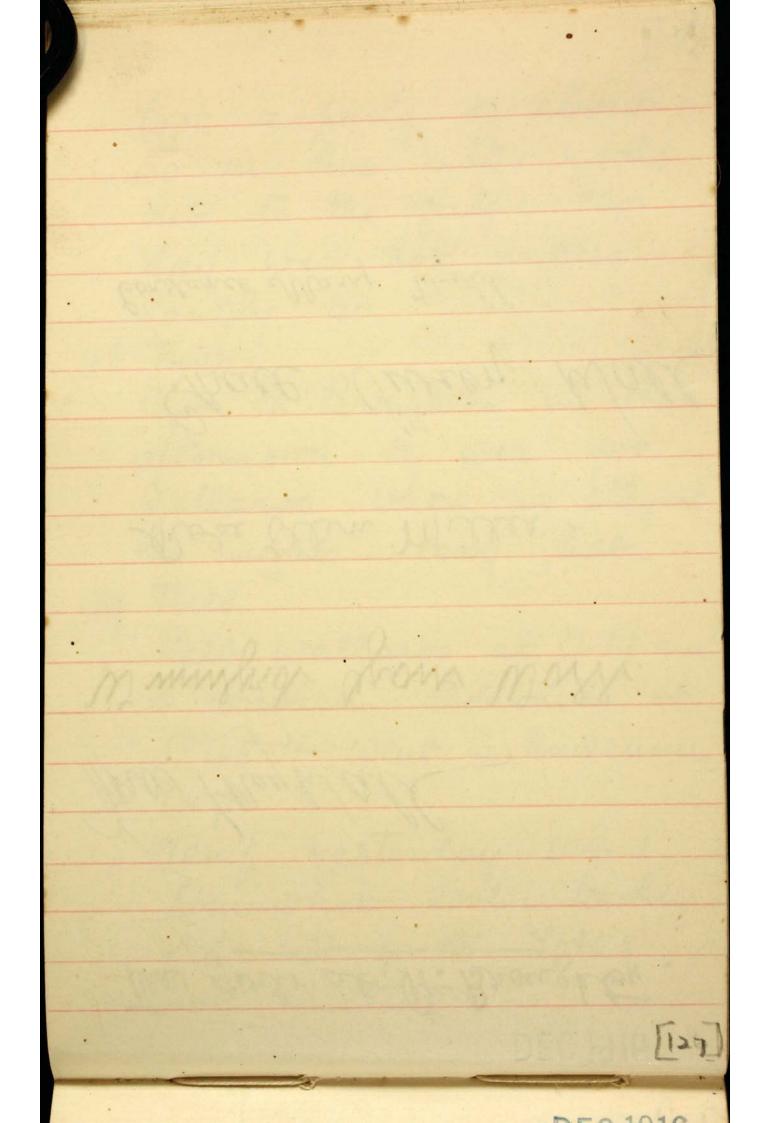
An early swim with the girls before break. fast, after which Mr. allchurch took Bruce Self a motor ride to his farms etc. In the afternoon Mr. wall

took a party of about 50 in his motor yacht out to the gulf: the day was not unplea-Santly So. 18. mon. Reft of Broughton in the afternoon by car for Wallaroo where we stayed the rught. very hot. 19 Tues. Left Wallaroo at 7.19 am + reached adelaide at 1.45 + Went to huseum 20 wed. Temp. yesterday 104.1. Somewhat cooler to-day ord not go to looks Soe meeting.

125

The gords at Pt. Broughton. Tha May Wall Winingra Gran Wall. Rose Ellen Miller Trace Vivien Wall Constance Mary Wall

[126]



21 Shurs.

De Rogers approached we as to finding a position for Longman of Brisbane.

22 mi.

Saw the minister for oudustry re application from le Souef. Melbourne as to taking bords in SA for melbourne 200. wrote huz wall. Port Droughton sending photos taken there. Took nine selected "Futerior" photos to Howertiser. Sent a lantern slide & letter to Aiston, Mungeranie. grave left for Tydney

23 Sat. Position of Director of Botanie gardens adot? 7 400. Sent this and newscutting to young. Letter photos from De Vause, Reassembled the new Douglas, the rear. Cylinder only fixing 24. Retreaded the footboards with rubber sheeting & put these, brakes & all accessories on the wachine -25 Mon Xmas. Holiday - Wrote Baker for Book on how fishes. 26 Tues. Received reprints of fish

papers. Sent specimien to allain. Replied 6 letter from llawson maximin temp. His day 106. hattest for the Season.

27. Wed.

Sent reprints of papers (bulk) to allaw. Sent New Years Card (Red-Crested pochard, I had drawn) to Watson. The brid on the Bolanie fardens lake noted with a Black duck & Reared 8 dueklings. Watson feed the birds daily. The heat yesterday kelled Many Paradise fish.

28 Thurs Holiday. DE Rogers Came to see me at Kirkstall re Longman of Brisbane: Engaged Charabane Seals for Victor Harbour, Saturday. Advertiser published a few of my Cent. aust. photographs. Took Rose to glenele in afternoon While there she rememhered having left a pan on the gas store I being uneasy we returned at once found nothing worse than the pair and contents

DEC 1916

29. Fri.
Italiday. Sebrazged the Induction pupe of the Douglas and got the front cylinder to fire (See 23°). Extended water Connection in the Bush house.

30 Sat.

Reft house at 7.20 am with Rose Claude & Claude & Claude & Journeyed to Victor Harb. by Motor Charabanc. coming by way of Blackwood Kangarilla Leturning via Willinga. Dined at Goodwa on the Murray. Had half hour at Pt. Elliot,

[132]

where I saw H. Thearshall and 1/2 hours at Victor Harbour, Went across to Granite Island. Saw a havi seal, just tilled by fishermen, it having taken the catch out of a net. Had lea at Willinger + reached adelaide at 9.30 pm. Return fare each including 2 good weals 14/6.

31. Sun.

Too hot to work 93.1.

put on clock 1 hour,
on retiring - daylight
basuig order.

January. Holiday, With Rose, to Glenelg in afternoon. 2 Tues. Resumed work. Received from R. T. Baker. -book on aust. Fisher illustrated in colour from Casto in the Teehn. Mus. Sydney. 3. Wed. Went to see war office Douglas second hand £ 65. Took Watson who bought it. a bargain, speedometer + all accessories. Adotmy new purchase at £40. Took Rose to the

Wondergraph pietures. 4 Thurs. Took home Pulleines "done las" to look over, he takuig Walson's last purchase (see 30). Sent Me \$5.4.1. to Bruco expenses Pt. Broughton te. 5. 12 Examined Pullemes Douglas wants considerable doing up" watson wichied to keep the new purchase 6 Sat. the 1914 Douglas look (See Nov. 30=) to agency for Sale @ £40. 7. Lun value lifter.

JAN 1917

8. Mon

Dest Museum Kodak A

from carrier of the
Donglas. advertised!

Ack? 'Australian Fishes'

by Roughley. to Baker.

Anderson Stuart of

Sydney called.

9. Tues.

Kodak Returned paid 7/6 as reward. Reducan of Mosman, who has been staying a week here, called.

With Rose + Claude to With Rose + Claude to theatre - " Hands across the sea". Rec? inquiry as to Federal taxation -

[36]

11. Thurs. Replied to taxation uquiry Le Racheur Who had given me Mc Coys Trodromus spent evening at "Kirkstall. Received Treasury bonds £20, uvested in war Loan. Letter from Jordan and replied. Jaw Di Rogers re Longman, Brisband + wrote to latter asking if he would join me ui preparing a second edition of my australian Suakes" Letter from Jany Bowling & Kote from Vellie Beale -

[137]

13 Sat.

Bought I large & 2
Small casks, Sawed
He larger in half,
making 4 tubs for
Verandah plants. To
Norwood pietures with
Rose.

14 Sun.

Took photographs of Rose in new dresses & of bits about the ground. Pounted garden tubs 14. Mon.

arranged for Nat Clubexcursion, dredging on Sat. Bruce asked me to go with him on wed. re content of sea water eto.

[138]

16 Tues. Regalises taken on 14" sates factory. 17 Wed. with Gruce 6 m. Torreus do. to oblain biological Content of sea water. Took pholo. of Syphon. a hat day. 100.00 18 Thurs Sent in peturn of State Jucome Tax to 31/x11/16 £ 588. net. Temp. 104.0°. Had a ventilator fixed in kitchen ceiling. 19 m. Dought nurror for drawing room 25/2 Temp. 102'32 Paid Rand tax 9/4.

Received Expenses Oyster unquiry trip £ 5.4.1 from Minister of Industry. Lea white returned. Temp. 102.3. 20 Sat with taturalists Club, dredging. (see 22 m). temp 100-00 21 Sun. Too hot to work 22 . Mon. Handed water samples to Juller for report. Letter from allan. Invitation from Dodwell for Rose + self tomorrow. Letter from Jaxation Dept. Melbourne.

[40]

13 Tues. Sent to melbourne details of received from 'Headusley for Jean ending 30/vi/16 £54.8.5, net. £53.19.10 Letter from Longman generally favourable to association with me in a book ou Snakes, is mentioning that he wants to make a change, notfelting on with the Director. To Observatory ui evenuig. Saw Jupiper + 4 of his 9 Thoous, Saturn, also the nechanical and electric recorders ste.

ENEMIES OF THE OYSTER.

On Saturday afternoon the Field Naturalists' outing took the form of a dredging excursion from the Outer Harbor in a launch into the gulf. Here and in the Port River a number of interesting specimens were secured. Mr. Edgar R. Waite, F.L.S., Director of the Museum, with Mr. W. J. Kimber, directed operations. Mr. Waite also delivered an interesting address on a disease that is, doing so much harm to the oyster fisheries of South Australia. The oyster shells dredged were seen to be affected by the dreaded worm (Polydora), which, gaining an entrance sets up internal troubles that ultimately cause the death of the oyster. The lecturer stated that the disease was making alarming progress, and it was an important economic question how to restock the oyster beds with healthy oysters. Mr. Kimber spoke on the other great enemy of the oyster, the starfish, a five-rayed red species of which does immense damage to the oyster beds.

NEWSPAPERS FOR SOLDIERS.

Finished report on the Oyster investigations. Wrate to Longman & replied to his question as to prospect of employment leaving the matter of the snake - book over for present.

Letter from mawron. he expects to be back in fune. 25. Thurs. Letter from Wilfrid in Which he describes the destruction of a Zepp. as witnessed by him. He also states he is lecturing on the metrice Systèm. Sent Extracts to the Register wrote to Bessie Wetch and Jessie allau, for love who has cold in her staff are considering a suggestion to divert

to the Contributionis Patriotie fund to the war loan. 28 . Sat. Newspager paragraph on Ke Zeppelin Raid af. pears in the Register (see over) Replanted bush-house plants who tubo recently bought. 29 Sun Betweens, did little work. Left at night takuig Claude and found the Vicilant with private dreague party -144

30. Mon. 29 Holeday. Left Port ui Vigilant at 3. am, and returned at 9. pm. dredged of Troubridge Island Etc. My ferst Experience og heing really ill. doubtless due to siekness yesterday, few Escaped. 30. Tues. Meeting of the combined

Meeting of the combined Staffs unanimously decided to contribute to the war fund. Letter from Allan asking me for Zool. Ree. as he is going to New guman in a war boat, I had

[145]

Zeppelin Raider's End.

A letter which Mr. Edgar R. Waite, F.L.S. (Director of the Adelaide Museum) has received from his brother, Mr. Wilfrid Waite, who wrote from the east coast of England under date December 1, says:-Last Monday night we had the sight of a About 10.30 our gaslight went down-the warning that Zeppelins are approaching. As half-light is a misery, we toddled off to bed. At 11.30 we were awakened by the rattling of the windows and the shaking of the house, which meant "bombs" (there is no mistaking them when once they have been heard). I went to the north windows and saw, in the distance, ominous flashes, and heard the reverberations of a raid. Up in the sky, fixed, so to speak, by four searchlights, was a Zeppelin. We could see the track of shells and the flashes from the guns; also one or two aeroplanes flitting about. Very soon one of these dropped a tiny star signal, and the guns were silent. Then a little wobbly light, for all the world like a luminous tadpole, seemed to drop on the raider and the nose of the latter glowed like a spent fuse. I excitedly exclaimed, "They've got her!" At once a flame sprang up and seemed to travel in three or four seconds the length of the Zeppelin, which tilted end-up, and became one gigantic flame. I do not think I exaggerate in saying that the blaze was 1,200 ft. long and 500 ft. broad. This great glare-which, although some miles distant, lit up our room enough to read by-began to descend. I lost count of time, but the whole episode from start to finish lasted only 10 minutes. Three-quarters of the only 10 minutes. way down the construction seemed break into pieces, and take a rapid plunge, and then-darkness. We could hear the roar of the townsfolk cheering themselves into a frenzy of jubilation, after which silence, an absolute reaction."

— Decimal Coinage.—

In another portion of the letter Mr. Waite wrote:-Next Friday I am to give an address to business men on "Decimal coinage and the metric system." We want to educate public opinion enough to favour the change, which is long overdue. It will not be surprising if the change from the present cumbrous system is introduced as a result of the war, to defeat the disabilities under which conservative Britain has so long laboured, by adhering tenaciously to an antiquated system of weights and

measures.

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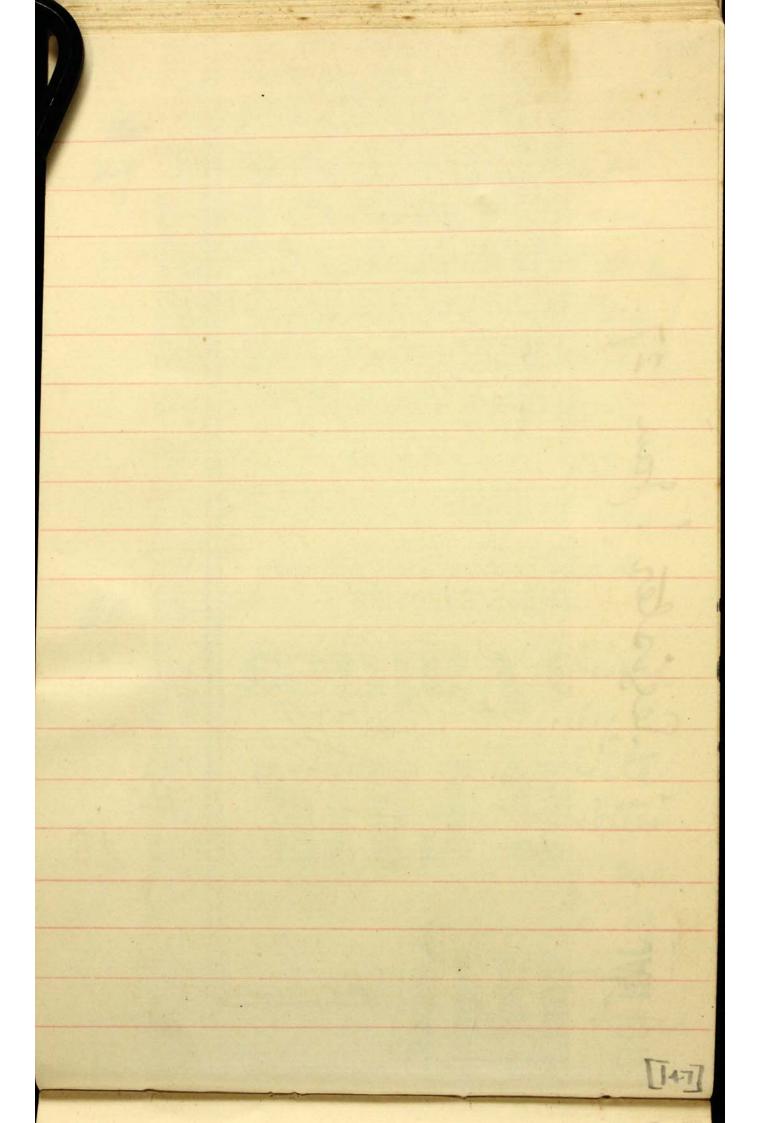
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146 the rea



previously telegram' don't lend 31. Wed. Arranged to contribute 72 monthly for 10 -months to war fund also to Support Belgian fund. Sub Committee to consider a Museum publication, decision deferred " until after the war? Vature of Nov. 16. notes under Books received. Autaratie tiones the Prefatory note?
Took Rose to pietures. Handed in the Oyster

report to Minister of Industry. Had Contents
Olips printed for Volo.

V # VI and VII. of

[149]

FEB 1917 February. wrote to Wilfrid + Sent newspaper with account of Teppelin raid Our usual jaint down the parade, bought some more tubs for plants & 2 copper cartridge boxes Well Suited for callecting. Rehooped and generally repaired the tubs. News

that america may join us against Germany. 4. Sun. Disconnected piping of the transcar parling to

1. Thurs.

2 m.

3. Sat.

utilise ni maknig a case for the Cockatoos. 5 mon. wrote me waite sent photo. of Rose, wrote report for Committee on beduesday. 6. Tues. wrote to Longman gwing ou outline of my ideas of a snake book. 7. Wed. Wrote Vellie Beale Teut photo. of Rose. Paid Wolor tex 15%- Riceuse 2/6. 8. Thurs. Retter from Kedley re the long deferred Mollusca of Mawrons Exped. With

Rose Claude to pictures wrote family Bowling Gent photo of Rose. 9. tri. Took photos of Coin room + incidentally, one of mine also, at Museum, Saw Good Printer - the " mollusca" is packed to Send to Tydney. it is not fet officially published but bears date! Nov 6: Wrote to redley. Bought second- hand aviary to adapt to use a Cockatoos though they roam at Will over the back gardon excepting at night when then, univited, so indoors

[152]

Also bought a larger dresser as part Exchange for the Small one we have

10.5at

Overhauled the dresser & made rackwork. lorote to Fanny Borolnie Sent Rose's photograph

11. Sun.

Muchin hasuig invited us to afternoon toa, I took Rose - He was out to her m. was not expectuic us. "Commenced to line asaux aviary in part, with quie so as to make it suitable for the cockatoos.

[153]

FEB 1917

12 Mon.

Bt. 3 ply, Knobs Framet for the new (old) dresser.

13 Tues.

Thunderstorno ui early morning, drove me indoors. Letter from Longman Put on the 3. ply.

14 Wed.

Relter from Hedley in ack! Received keprils of article on hest & sess of ashlyia. Took Rose to pictures wet D= Rogers there

15 Thurs

Recewied & w-4.9 from Advertiser for articles on Cent. aust. Exped.

[154]

Bought a few books, our · Parade , night. I Rau ile with his old duadenal trouble. Il Robin, our neighbours received news that his elder son james, was Shot at the front, he Sat hrevously. 17 Sat Dodwell (astronomer) Braydon & to visit the Museum but they sent their respective wives to represent them Painted the dresser in 2 studes of green 18. Sun. Fitted drawer + door to

FEB 1917

drosser + gave second coat of paint. 19. Mon Paid 12/6 for printing hiders for 3 vols of my papers. 20 Tues Communeed examination of Suakes taken on our " duterior" Expedition. 21. Wed Letter from W.B. Sumpson Took Rose to pictures. 22 Thurs. wrote to wa nuseum for Typhlopidae as I intend to resume work on the tamily. Bt plants on the Parade.

[56]

24 Sat. Worde le Souet Kershaw (Melb) re aspidites.

25. Sun.

Fuirshed the avery, the wood styles are covered with zine + the whole lined with nelting, so as to fit it for the Cockatoos.

26. Mon.
brole note on Dingo for
C. Aust. report. Engaged
a man to remake the
laws in two weeks time

FEB 1917

28 hed. Recewed Chafe \$10.16.0. "N. Z. Refrigeratuig Co."

The Large of the Contact

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[83]

March. 1. Thurs. wrote to allan, Sending the Coopero Creek fish. Took Rose to pictures. The net reutal her month from Ikadingley (if ho deductionis, Repairs + Kales,) us \$7.3.11. 3 Sat Took lose to local pictures 43 Sun. Too hot to work. of Mon. now looking at the bats taken on our expedition. Paid Sub. Roy Soc. 21/-

7. Wed. Committee meeting post. Loved to the 12th chairman out of town. It. tended council meeting of Zool. Soc. Letter from Speight + replied + wrote to congratulate Chilton on being awarded the Heelor prize. 8. Thurs ; Took Rose to pictures. 9.m. Bought plate - rack at 10. Sat. Celters from W.B. Simpson + Fanny Bowling.

[160]

12. Mon. Letters from Wilfrid & Kellie Beale - Museum Committee, justponed from the 7th. Letter from Longman in cepty to mine of 726. 65 Good rains. 14. Wed. Took have to pretures. Letter from Jordan with list of changes in fish nomenclature. and from farman " galapagos Tortoises. Retter from allan Saying the Coopers Creek Therapon is new watson returned.

15 . Thurs .

Sent an "O.C. Therapon from Annaminches to Allan. Now examining owe pellets for mammal records. Ilus.

Exped.

16 Fri.

Bought Bath room trellis second hand. 576.

17 .Sat.

Replied to Longman Senthim my paper on aspidites of Mus. Exped for meorporation of features of his specimens.

18 Sun.

Commenced to make a Cabmiet to contain the Blake transmitter boxes.

[162]

Gardennig, put in beaus - carroto. 19 mon. Took Rose to partonine a diplay of bieycles with the quantest gearings Strange patterns was a splendid feature. Paid Municipal Rales £3.10.10. tasked for reply to my letter of aug. 16th last. Paid gas Mc. 19/5 for mouth. Wrote to W.B. Simpson. 21 wed.

vorole to D: Vause, Nastings

23. mi.

Capt Davis called. He left Shackleton in Syoney to will now take a transport from It. Piris. The following appears in todays "Register".

24. Sat.

Commenced to draw map to illustrate expedition.

25 Sun.

Finished cabutet frame & fried platerack.

[4]

de p [165] THE MICE PLAGUE.

From Various Aspects.

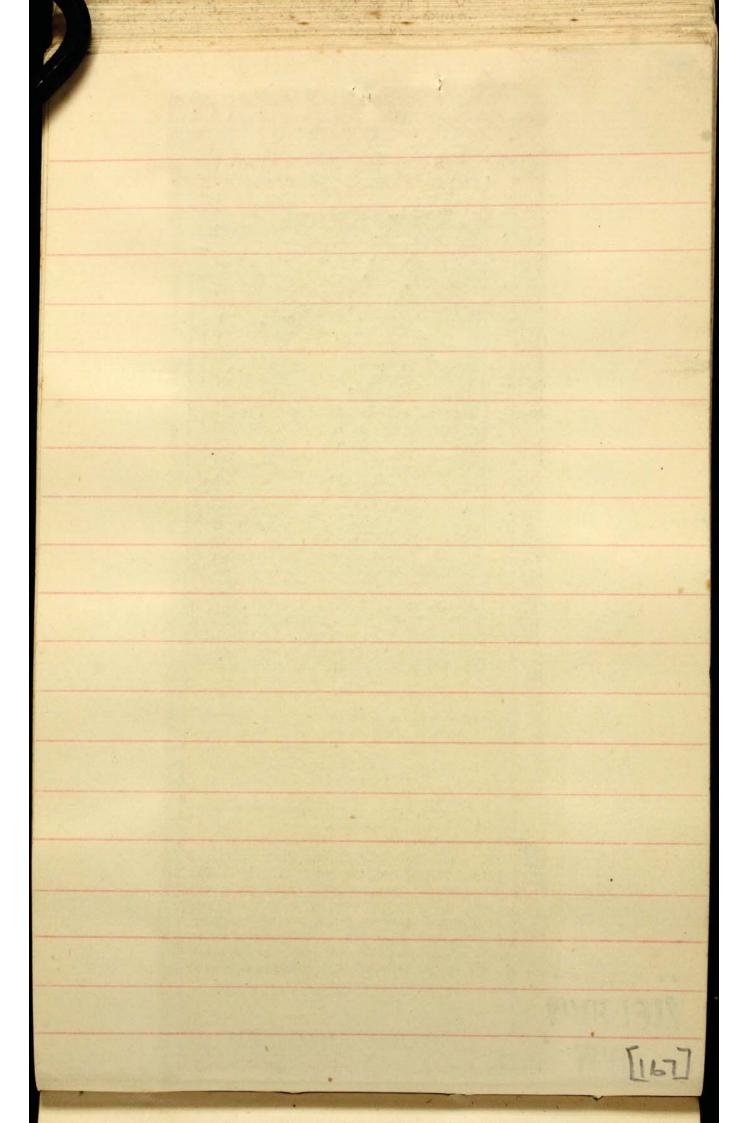
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Of the several topics of conversation in the rural districts at present, including the war and the political tangle, none other appears to command so much attention as the mice plague. The war is proceeding a long way off, and the politician are relatively few, but the mice abound n millions, and are met with practically everywhere. Correspondents of The Register assert that the rodents have become so numerous, hungry, and valiant in some localities that they have even ascended the legs of tables and removed scraps of bread during the progress of the meals. In other cases they have consumed the small layers of cork attached to the supports of spectacles, and for candles they have manifested an extraordinary fondness. or two instances they have gone so far as to nibble the fingers and the hair of persons asleep in bed, and mothers have deemed it wise to watch over their slumbering infants with exceptional vigilance.

-Great Damage.-The worst feature of the unwonted visitation, which is equally pronounced in the other cereal-producing States. is the great damage wrought by the mice among the wheat stacks. Operating in countless numbers they have riddled cornsacks, and in many instances, through the releasing of the grain in this manner, large stacks have partially collapsed. The trouble, of course, has been particularly acute at certain of the railway centres. So serious are the ravages by the pest that the local Wheat Harvest Board has offered a bonus of £500 to any person who can demonstrate an effective and economical method of destroying mice in wheat-stacks. The authorities in Victoria are resorting to the erection of galvanized fences, fumigation, and poisoning, and it is reported that by these means 15,000 mice were killed at one stack in two nights.

MAR 1917 MAR 1917

[16]



Private persons have adopted all kinds of plans, but, although they have been more or less successful, the mice continue to prove a source of worry and loss.

-Not Migratory .-

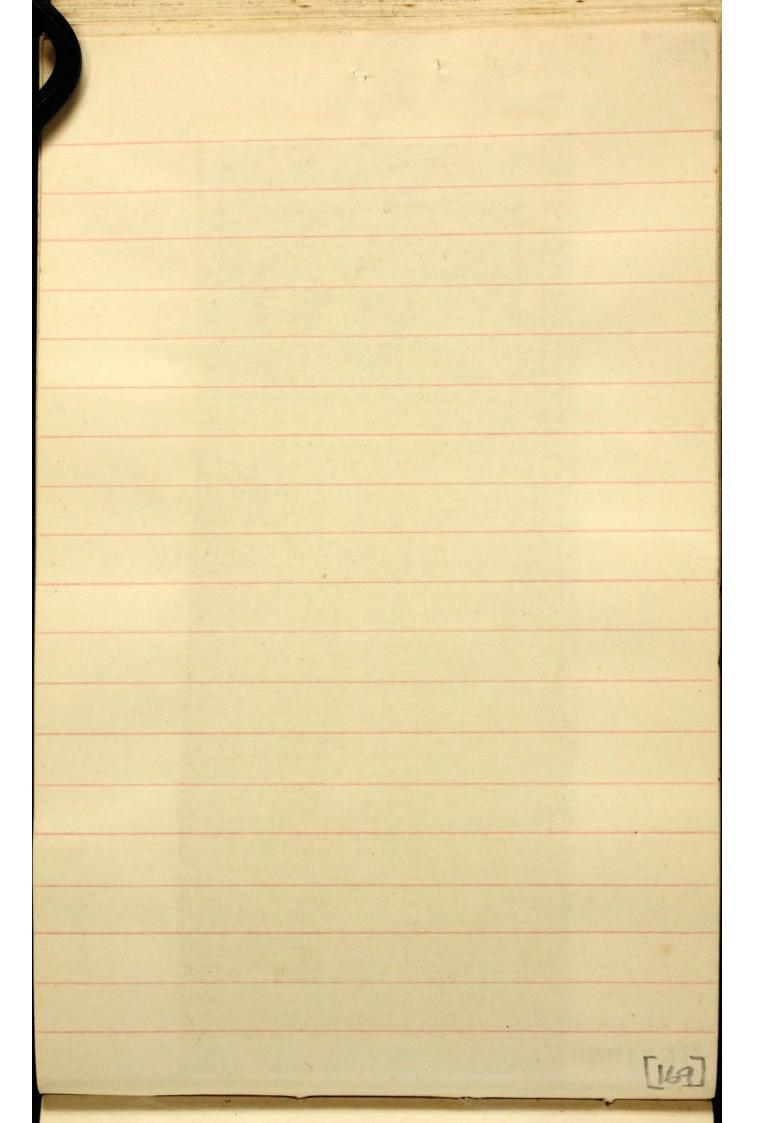
The question has been asked, in view of the comparative immunity from the pest experienced for a number of years, "Where do the mice come from so suddenly and in such vast numbers?" As one who has devoted considerable thought and attention to the matter, the opinion of the Director of the Museum (Mr. Edgar R. Waite, F.L.S.) was sought. "In the first place," he said, "I do not think that the present invasion, if so it may be termed, can be attributed to migration, because in n.y experience mice are not subject to greatmigrations. An example of true migra-tion is furnished by the lemming, a small ratlike animal, that occurs in Scandinavia and other northern lands. There animais appear in certain districts in myriads, all progressing in the same wes-The hordes behind, interly direction. aware of what is happening in the front rinks, drive them into the sea. The most feesible explanation of this phenomenon is the suggestion that the animals are following an ancient land course which has since disappeared, and the procedure is comparable with the movements of birds which now cross wide tracts of ocean where in former ages, the geologists tell us, land existed.

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—Due to Favourable Seasons.—
"No," continued Mr. Waite thoughtfully, "instead of it being migratory I believe that the advent of the enormous army of mice is due merely to natural increase, facilitated by unprecedentedly favourable seasons, following upon a period of severe drought, which, no doubt, markedly diminished propagation, and, in fact, caused the rodents to remain stationary numerically. So soon as the conditions improved, however, they began to breed again, and rapidly multiplied with the development of vegetable life and its subsequent seeding. Not only have the mice benefited from the wonderful abundance of food, but also grasshoppers and flies are said to have been extremely numerous, and in many parts rabbits have greatly increased in numbers. All circumstances, in fact, point to exceptional prolificacy in both plant and animal life." In the case of the mouse it is in-In the case of the mouse it is interesting to note that the female is mature

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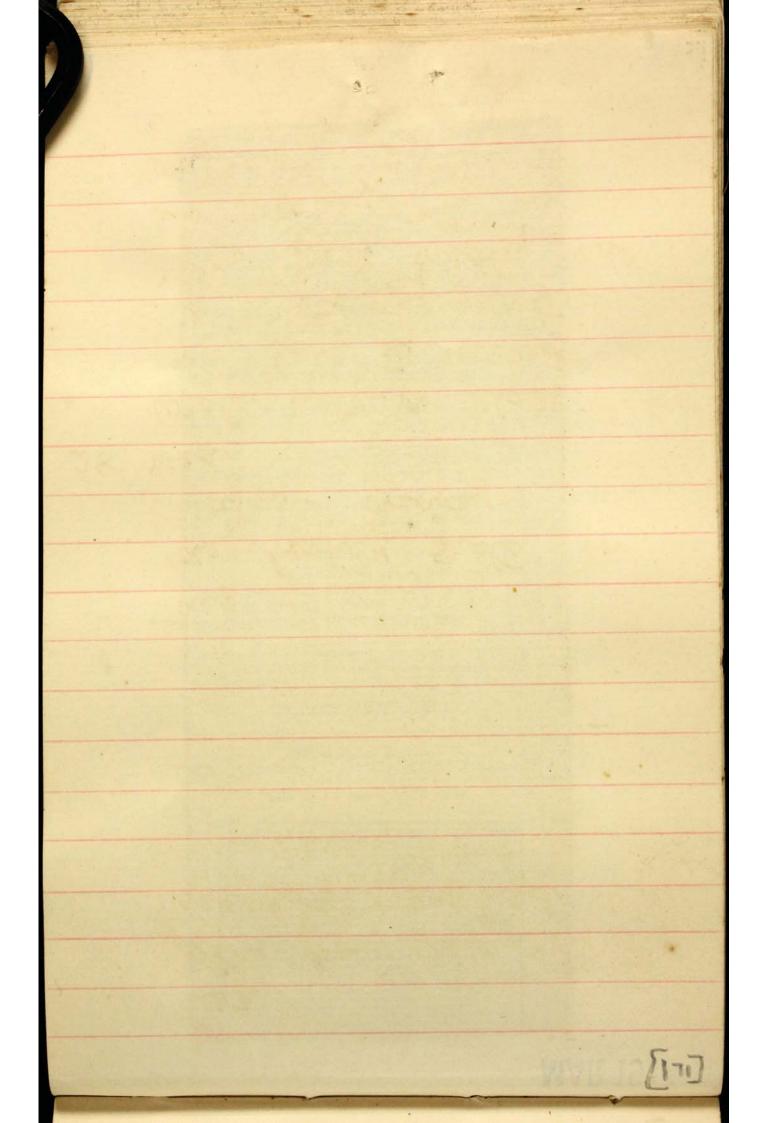
11

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at a few months old, and brings forth several litters of four or five young in a year. Interrogatively it was pointed out to Mr. Waite that the inference to be drawn from his observations was that, granted another favourable season this year, the mice plague will probably be quite as bad during the ensuing harvest. "That is so," he replied; "the breeding of the mice is likely to be governed only by the limitations of the food supply."

-Various Colours .-Mr. Waite mentioned that he has received from different districts mice of various sizes and colours, including yellow ones from Mr. Mellor, of Fulham. Anatomical examination, however, has shown them all to be members of the common house mouse family. In this connection Mr. Waite explained:—"When animals are removed from their original environment, there is a noteworthy tendency toward variation. As an illustration, the rabbits met with in the central Australian districts during our recent expedition were found to be largely composed of sand-coloured individuals, which had assimilated to their surroundings, whereas rabbits which I saw in the islands south of New Zealand were nearly all of the silver-grey variety, having adapted themselves to the sombre and snowy conditions. body would say that both of these types, now apparently so markedly different, are not descended from the common European stock.

Reference has been made to the destructiveness of mice. They have to be considered also from another aspect—that of disease carriers. Periodically there are brought under the notice of the Adelaide Pocal Board of Health specimens affected with Tinea favus which produces white encrustations, usually first on the head, and frequently this is mistakenly called "cancer of the mouse." Dr. E. Angas Johnson, in the course of a chat, explained that the disease eats right into the bone, and may be communicated to both cats and human beings. Hence the necessity for rigorously destroving all mice, and handling them as little as possible. Whether the rodents have been attacked by the disease or not they should be burnt, as fire is the finest of all disinfecting agencies.



26 Tuon.

Letter from allan re the Therapon + replied. Wan Commenced work in the garden, treuching the lawn. To telegraph office at right where Claude is employed as mechanic.

27. Tues

Rose booked seals for Theatre - Friday.

28. Wed.

brote note on Black Rat for white to include in his newspaper article. Letter from Hedley with his monograph on the Antarctic mollusca. he is incensed at the charge

our Goo! Printer is making for reprints & asks we to intervene. Attended lecture by Wilkins on Stephanson's Exped to Arctic Canada - Esquimanx. -land.

29 Thurs writing Committee report, suggested that a cast be made of the trunk of Burke's tree.

way from Melbourne,

he will probably tring the W. a Museum Typhlops back with him. Obtained from Correll on approval at £17. 10.0 his photo. Iularger which I will recommend for purchase. Took Rose to Peg & myo Heart, a pretty little play. The following is White's article on the Rat in Adelaide.

Ing up and planted the last bit of the lawn, the man having been paid off yesterday.

Trees of [175] THE BLACK RAT.

A SERIOUS MENACE.

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has had very light running.

Self-ctarter, Detachable Wire Wheels,

Silent Knight Engine, Five Seater, Electric Light.

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BLACK RAT. THE

A SERIOUS MENACE. [By Capt. S. A. White, M.B.O.U.]

-The Origin.-In The Register of February 12 last year a most able, interesting, and instructive article appeared from the pen of Mr. Edgar R. Waite, F.L.S. (Director of the South Australian Museum). This article was headed, "The Black Rat in Adelaide." Mr. Waite opened with the following words:-"Although I have no desire to pose as a prophet, much less as an alarmist, I venture to think that, if the danger be not combated at an early date, Adelaide is shortly to receive a visitation in the form of an undesirable animal, hither-to almost unknown in our city." I am sorry to say that Mr. Waite's prophecy was only too true, and since he sent those warning words to us by the medium of the press (a little more than 12 months ago) one of the most serious pests has taken hold of the country. There is little doubt, as Mr. Waite points out, that the They landed from transports. were first seen in numbers at the Semaphore, and then rapidly made their way through to the Reedbeds, and from information received seem to be making their way north. But I do not think they will a travel rapidly in that direction while the orchards and gardens to the south of Adelaide and the hills districts are more attractive in the shape of food and cover. Mr. William White was the first to notice the arrival of these long-tailed rats at the Reedbeds, he having captured one in a cage trap. I was asked if I knew the species, and at once said I had never seen it before, and communicated with Museum Director, who said he would send down for it. Soon after this the same an gentleman captured another, which was a st female, and before the Museum authorities ge sent down she gave birth to a litter be of young. Thinking if the young rats bu were allowed to remain with the mother se for a week or so they would form an interesting family party in the Museum ki cases, the rat, with her young, was placed ad in a tank, and well looked after. Very the soon it was discovered that the mother for rat was able to get out of the tank, in spite of all precautions, but she always just returned to her young. During this time be she was making every attempt to convey or entice her family out of the prison, and the upon finding this was impossible, and being sty unwilling to leave her progeny to the mercy of man, she killed the lot, and made her escape, so the family party te never adorned the showcase in the le

The Problem

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register.

soon it was discovered that the mother rat was able to get out of the tank, in spite of all precautions, but she always returned to her young. During this time she was making every attempt to convey or entice her family out of the prison, and upon finding this was impossible, and being strumwilling to leave her progeny to the mercy of man, she killed the lot, and made her escape, so the family party never adorned the showcase in the le Museum.

-The Problem .-Just about this time I found that this new rat had appeared at Weetunga, I would soon thinking an end to these new arrivals I set traps and found four or five captured every morning. This has been going on ever since then with little interruption, and there seems very little if any headway made in eradicating these pests. wishing to question for one moment such a well-known authority upon zoology as Mr. Waite, I am giving the following notes to show how the rats, like so many other imported pests, change their habits in their transported condition or newly adopted country. This is one of the greatest risks, for an animal, which may be quite harmless in its own natural home, may become a fearful pest with change of habitat. These black rats are supposed to be almost fruitarians, and to live in trees and the roofs of houses, where they build large nests. I have been most successful in capturing them in traps baited with rabbit flesh, cooked and raw meat, star-lings and sparrows, all making splendid baits. Now, as to their places of concealment; during the day time they hide in holes in the river bank, under the floors of dwelling houses, and have been found in old sparrow nests in hedges; in fact, they are to be found in all rubbish, logs, and the like, and at dark can be seen coming out of rabbit burrows and almost every other situation. These long-tailed pests seem to have as great a liking for the cellar as for the house top, and when young ones are captured in spring traps they are soon devoured by their friends, only the skin being left. The amount of damage these rats are doing in this district is very great, and the annoyance and trouble given is beyond words. It is almost impossible to grow maize, sorghum, sunflower, or other seeds. They will consume an immense quantity of grapes in a night, strip-ping the vines as they go; climb up into fruit trees, devour and destroy the fruit, many remaining on the ground for the fruit that is knocked down. I have had a bed of zinnias in full bloom destroyed in a night, for these invaders climb up the stem until their weight breaks it down, then the flower head is bitten off, and pulled to pieces in search of seed, or carried off to their hiding places to be searched in safety. The rate are cunning, and it is seldom that the second rat can be captured in the After the first capture the same place: trap must be shifted, if only a few yards.

-Enemies of All.-

When rate first attacked the fruit, maize,

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The rats are cunning, and it is seldon that the second rat can be captured in the After the first capture the same place: trap must be shifted, if only a few yards. -Enemies of All.-

When rats first attacked the fruit, maize, sunflowers, &c., many methods were adopted to prevent the mischief. In the case of fruit trees and vines very little could be done, because if prevented from climbing up the main stems they found their way from adjoining trees, and jumped from that vantage ground on to the vines. Upon experiments being made it was found that paper twisted into a spool or beli shaped and quite encircling the stem of the maize or sunflower plant proved a great success, for the rats seemed to think the paper was a trap, and when all leaves had been cut off and other plants removed the papers answered well. course, a field could not be treated in this way, and it was only in the case of a few rows with each seed planted at equal distance that the pests could be dealt with. Now that the rats have increased so much, and when the fruit harvest is over, it is more than likely that our native birds will greatly suffer. The rats are to be heard every night climbing about in the shrubs and trees from which the alarm calls of birds come, and there is little doubt these pests are in search of the birds at roost. Our unfortunate native Ti avifauna is beset on all sides now by imand ported enemies, and if not more strictly protected will in many instances soon become extinct. From time to time I have sent Mr. Waite specimens of these rats for examination, and the following is the latest report kindly supplied by that wellknown zoologist and Director of the South Australian Museum:—"I have examined the rats which you have from time to time sent me for the purpose, together with those forwarded by others. Some time ago when the present irruption first came to my notice, and due, as I think, to the conveyance of the rats from Egypt in troop transport vessels, the animals were of fairly uniform type, agreeing well with the Mediterranean form of black rat. I have previously published some account of this rat in Adelaide, and detailed its known habits in Australia generally (see The Register February 12, 1916). I will therefore now confine my remarks to the subsequent aspect of the rats as ascertained from specimens examined.

-Forming New Species."It is well known that when animals are removed to a new environment there is a marked tendency to variation, which in course of time may produce fixed characters resulting in the formation of distinct species. I referred to this aspect during an interview published in The Register of the 23rd inst. in connection with an article on "Mice Plague." To judge by the specimens received from time to time, the change taking place is remarkably rapid, the most noticeable being an increase in size, due doubtless to better food supply and more favourable conditions generally. The animals are certainly becoming more prolific, judging from the fact that in breeding females the 10 manual, or nipples are now all in use, whereas in those first examined a number were un-The changes noticed are not developed. taking place in any definite direction as far as is at present known. Characters of the typical black rat are larger ears and longer tail as compared with the

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Australian Museum:—"I have examined the rats which you have from time to time sent me for the purpose, together with those forwarded by others. Some time ago when the present irruption first came to my notice, and due, as I think, to the conveyance of the rats from Egypt in troop transport vessels, the animals were of fairly uniform type, agreeing well with the Mediterranean form of black rat. I have previously published some account of this rat in Adelaide, and detailed its known habits in Australia generally (see The Register February 12, 1916). I will therefore now confine my remarks to the subsequent aspect of the rats as ascertained from specimens examined.

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Photographs from life, kindly supplied by Capt. White to illustrate this article, will appear in next week's Observer, and will give a graphic idea of this new and

terrific menace.

the date

place A. Ass. Mr. Lus

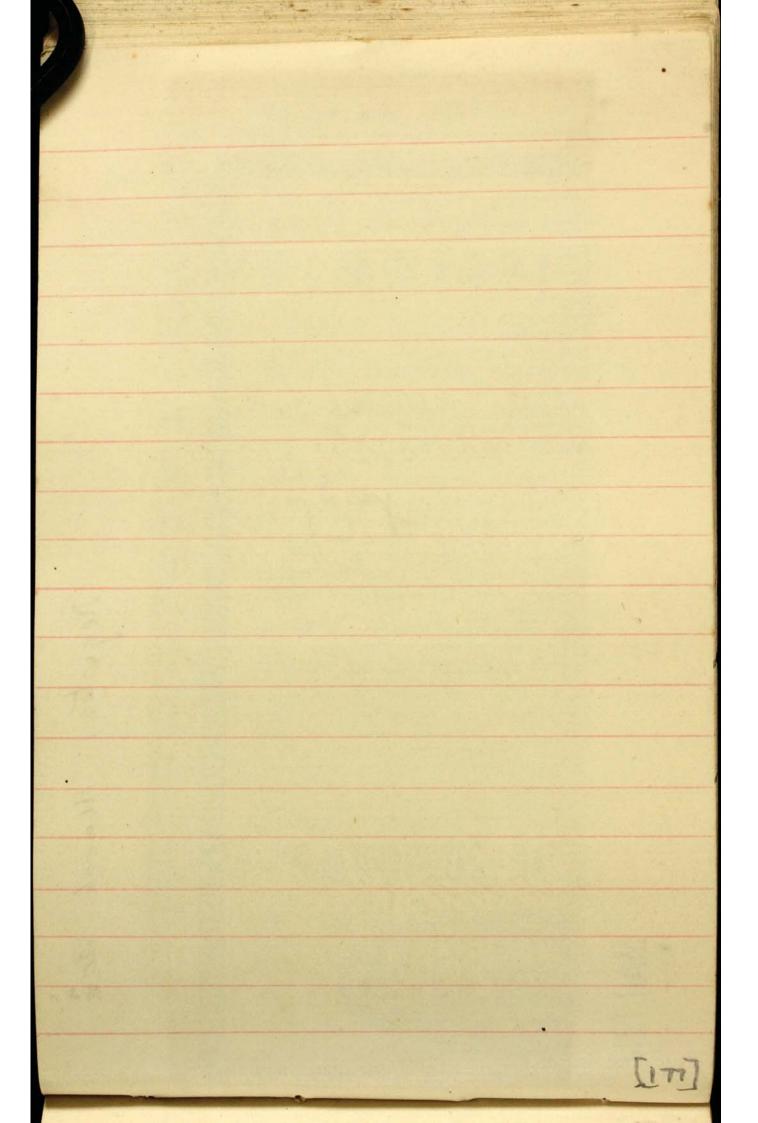
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April.

Jook down the engine of the 'Douglas' cleaned treassembled. Speedoweler reading: - 4240.

2. Tuch.

Greeneut wentroried in his article to XXI and other matters. Took the Misses Harwood Hale to the Observatory . Viewed the moon.

From Correll for \$17. 10.0

Rose is ill with intestinal trouble - Letter from Ashby suggesting that I join the Ornithological Elnion.

4. Wed Wrate report ou requirements of nuseum, in View of Vacated property al- rear of the nuseum benig available- Sent Rose to D. Mc-feary. Sup. presentations of twillellor at request of numister. Committee meeting. le-

ported proposed callaboration with Longman & obtain permission to

[179]

send snake to him & to work in official time. 5 Thurs. lorote to Longman was visited by their local Excellencies and Sir Low Macarthy, transferred as goo. of Tasmania 6 W.a. Purchase of the entarger authorised at yesterdays meeting-6. Good Fraay. zardening all day. Paid for 4 loads of Soil 30/- and man for labour 36/-. Took Rose to the Strallers' Married 25 years to day 180

8. Easter Sunday. Su the garden between the showers, 9. Mon. Holiday. Speut afternoon ui Bolanie Gardens. lo .Tues. 24 years since we landed in Tydney. Letter from alland. He wants our sobioidae to review. Received draft £ 5.3.3 in respect to "Headingley? 11. Wed. wrote to Hedley in replyalso to ashby who suggested proposing me as member of R. A. O. U. but declined. attended the

[181].

Orchestral Concert, Truman at the peans in his own compositions. 12 Thurs. altended meeting of A. Soc. first of the lession. Took Douglas to repairers, one of the piston-rings is worw & leaks at the joining. 13 . Fri. Rose's birthday. Accepted invitation to meet Nat. Club, at Museum on 19= may, brote to allan & suggested that we unclude the whole of the Bight ui our S.A. Fish list. Letter from Mawson + from allan Showson. The

latter asks for names of 2 fishes of which he sends photograph the is soming to record recent additions. Le Says that Hamilton has toined the Admikalty wolor boat reserve. Bought Reamons chest of drawers 12/6. Dunier Set 30/- Book for Claude 26/6. 14 Sat. Claudes 21th burthday -He invited his friends from the workshop of the kusses Wallace Harvey. Paid Rife Premium to the " Star" office - \$3.7.6.

[183]

16 mon. torole to allan Thompson his fishes are Germo & Leptoscopus macropycus-Tent in application for holiday in July-17. Tues. Received the Donelas (see 12) in good condition Changed automatic order with that on the more recently purchased machine. 18 wed. Replied to Marson. but very ile all day. 19. Thurs.

at home in hed influ-- enza

THE COMET.

16

Mr. G. F. Dodwell, the Government Astronomer, informed us last night that the heavenly visitant now adorning the morning eastern sky is not Wolf's comet, as was at first supposed. It is an entirely new comet, and has not yet been identified. To-morrow morning it will rise about half-past 5 o'clock, and will be visible for some time before sunrise. tail will make its appearance a little earlier than the nucleus, which is very large and bright quite equal to a first magnitude star. The tail is a long one, measuring more than seven degrees. is impossible to say at present how it will develop, as its orbit has not been cal-Mr. Dodwell saw it on Wednestay morning, and describes it as a beautiful object, well worth getting up a little He says it earlier than usual to see. was seen in a telescope yesterday some time after sunrise. The master of a ketch in the gulf has reported having seen it, and it has also been observed in Melbourne. Early rising, for a time, will no doubt become popular, especially if the undertaken expected visitor from out of the depths of space should become even more brilliant, as it may do when it approaches the sun.

20.7ri.
Still in bed, Walson
Called and gave me
Salicydene. a water
beine burst and being
mable to get up had
to lend for plumber.

21 Sat.

Salo the Comet at 5.30. Went to museum t at. tended to correspondence.

22 Sun. Still ill, Raid low.

23 Mon

Retter from Longman & at his request wrote to Director, Q: Museum for hermission for him to collaborate with me-tranged to give an Osteological demonstration to Senior Itigh School pupils on May 19th.

25. Wed Letter from Edgar 7. Stad. N.3. re Shogs paying for 2 birds I sent in try. 1915. He is going into camp. 26. Thur. Paid : \$ 18:4. for Water Ralè + £ 1. 250 for Case of Petral. Replied to letter from Stead. Replied to Kershaw, told him Iwould be in Melbourne ni July 2 bring the Blind Snakes back with me.

[127]

1000 day of the war-Advertised the Donalas'

30 Mon Interviewsed again (see March 25) by Register in respect to the mouse plaque. (see over.). Attended concert given by the Italian operor Co. in closing the season.

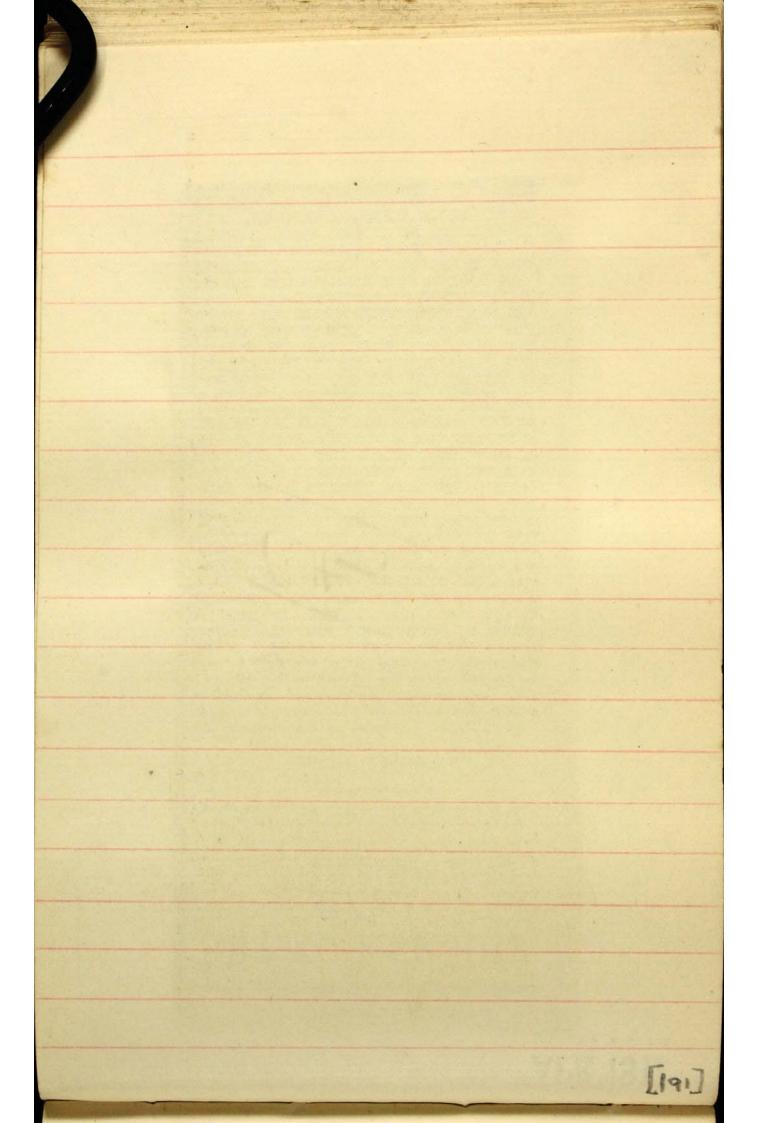
28 Sut.

COOD " Stary 149

"BIG PLAGUES HAVE LESSER PLAGUES."

Mice Attacked by Disease.

About the end of February mice first began to make themselves disagreeably evident in country districts, and since then have destroyed thousands of bushels of wheat. Numerous devices have been used in an attempt to combat the plague; and the Government ordered a subsidy of £200 to be paid to the inventor of the most successful means of destroying the vermin, which continue to spread havoc among the crops and haystacks notwithstanding. A representative of The Register enjoyed a chat with the Director of the Museum (Mr. Edgar R. Waite, F.L.S.), who supplied him with some most interesting literature on the subject of mice. "On March 23," said Mr. Waite, "I gave it as my opinion that the prevalence of mice was not caused by a migration, because my experience has told me that mice are not subject to great migrations. I quoted as an example of true migration the lemming, a small animal, not unlike a rat, that inhabits the shores of Scandinavia. These animals appear in vast numbers in certain districts, and gradually progress in a westerly direction. But with the mice it is different. The present plague is, to my mind, due to a favourable season following upon one of drought. The abundance of food causes the animals to breed rapidly.

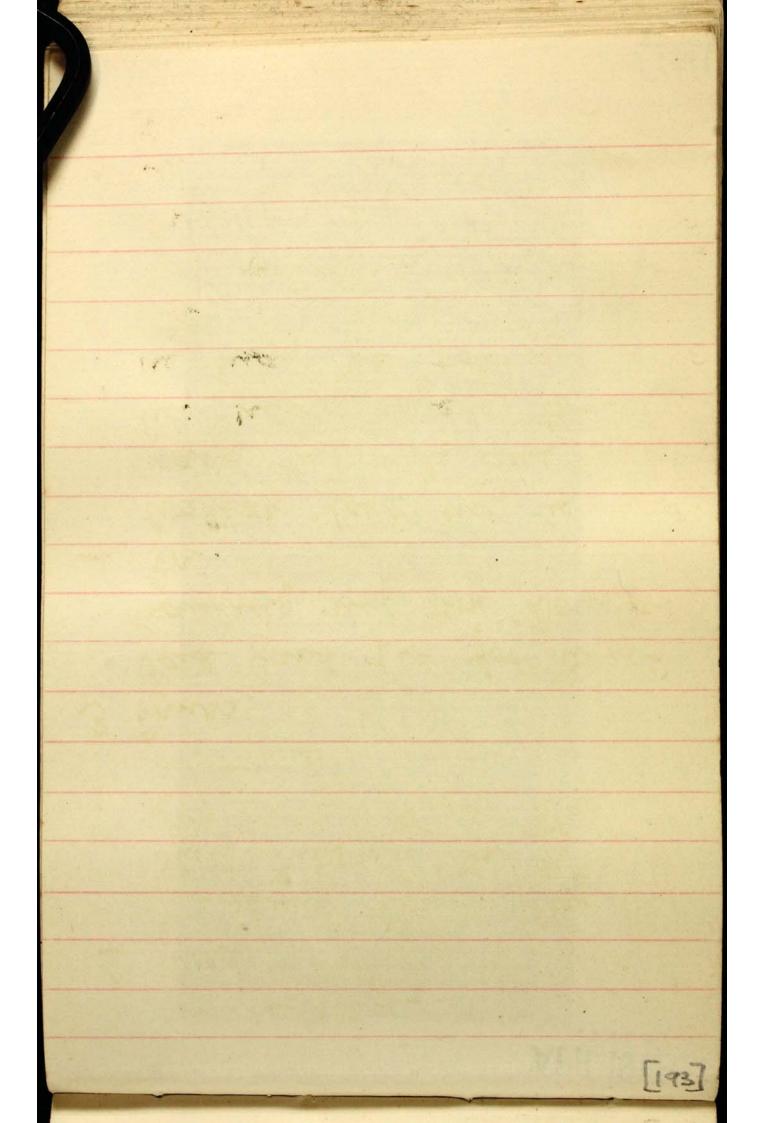


-An Infectious Disease. "I have now been informed," continued Mr. Waite, "that the mice plague favus, which so often decimates the animals after a period of great increase, is breaking out. Several mice sent alive to the Museum developed this disease, and afterwards died. The plague is commonly known as honeycomb ringworm, and is caused by the growth of a fungus on the skin. It was first made known in 1839 by a German medical man. Although commonly associated with man, it is found in several of the lower animals, and it is probable that it has been transferred by mice through cats to children."

-Fatal to Mice.-Mr. Waite went on to say that the disease, when contracted by mice, nearly always proved fatal, not only producing a disease of the skin, but also an erosion of the bones themselves. The plague also occurred in fowls and pigeons, and in excep-tional cases in horses and cattle. "The disease," explained Mr. Waite, "is in the same category as the more common ring-worm. It is accompanied by a peculiar mousy odour, which is due to the decomposition of the dead fungus. This epidemic is an extremely serious one, and progresses, when contracted by human beings, until every hair on the scalp has vanished. In countries where it is epidemic its control becomes a serious matter to the civil authorities. It is found in many of the countries of Europe, including, in rare cases, the British Isles, and it has unfortunately made its appearance in Australia.

Disastrous to Child Life.— "Children affected with this disease are refused admission to any educational establishment, and generally grow up without any education, and generally ultimately drift into the criminal ranks. It would be well that mice caught under the pre-sent conditions in South Australia should. be carefully examined for traces of this disease. There is little doubt that the liberating of favus-affected mice in the districts most affected by the mice would be a rapid and certain means of coping with

the present trouble?"



MAY 15

2. Wed.

Huseum Committee Paid State Income Tax 31/x11/16. £7.6.8. Took Rose to

pictures.

3 Thurs.

Paid fard £4 for overhaulnig my own Douglas.

4 mi.

watson told me he had made his will and left his motor cycle to me: he may be joking.

5. Sat,

My birthday. Frderal Polling Day, wrote to We Barrett Cheh. She had sent me a paper.

[194]

torate account of the aquaria installation at the newseum with the ulea of sending it to " Aqualie Life" 542 E. Guard tven. Phil. Isla. Seut 157- for 3 years Sub. to the Journal -6 Sun. lust day. In workshop -Shortened rod + refixed brackets in transmission between motor & lathe. 7. Mon. Holeday for accession Day (6.16) The national party builting Everywhere. Furbrohed up the garden.

195

THE YAM

8. Tues.

Walson has decided?

to so in for a twostroke

Motor cycle "Connaught."

* my Douglas will be

put in in part payment

at \$37.10-0.

9. Wed.

Connaught delivered to me to day. The control is Strange, It 4-strokes at low speeds notioth - standing that I letard the magneto! Attended the tarold gard as tenor -

10 Thurs. Me followsie appears Register of May 1st it is not thought worth While to reply - Received Federal ricome Tax assessment. £11.9.7. I paid State Jax May 2 40 7: 6.8 Paid Federal meonie Tax £ 11. 9.7. Basedow gave me a Cape Barron. goose (2) as mine does not take to the gander.

[197]

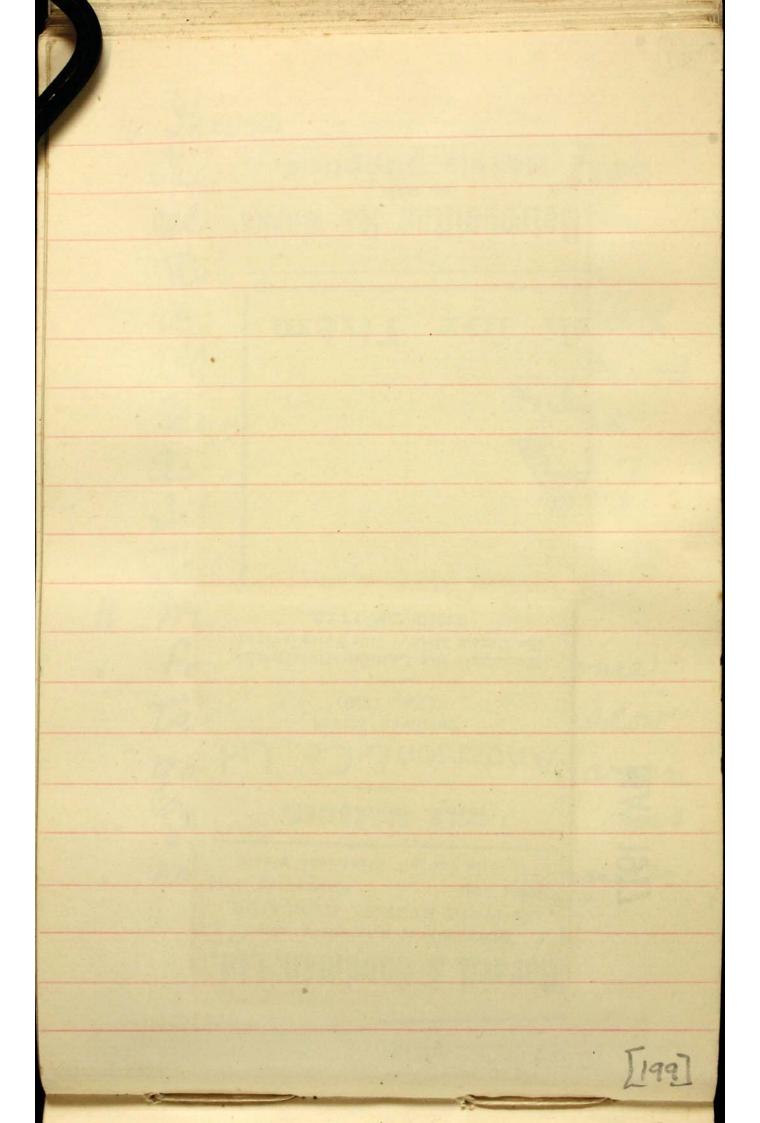
MAY 1917

OUR WHEAT.

We had almost asked what we really are to do with the wheat. The mice, trats, birds, weevil, and cockroaches know—they are eating it! True, we could not consume all the wheat we have in store, even if we would, but we have done the next best thing—we have sold the grain to the British people, and are collecting the money. So why worry? It is their wheat, not ours. And if they cannot take it away, that is their look-out. Meanwhile, we will grow more grain on the same terms. At least, that is what our politicians

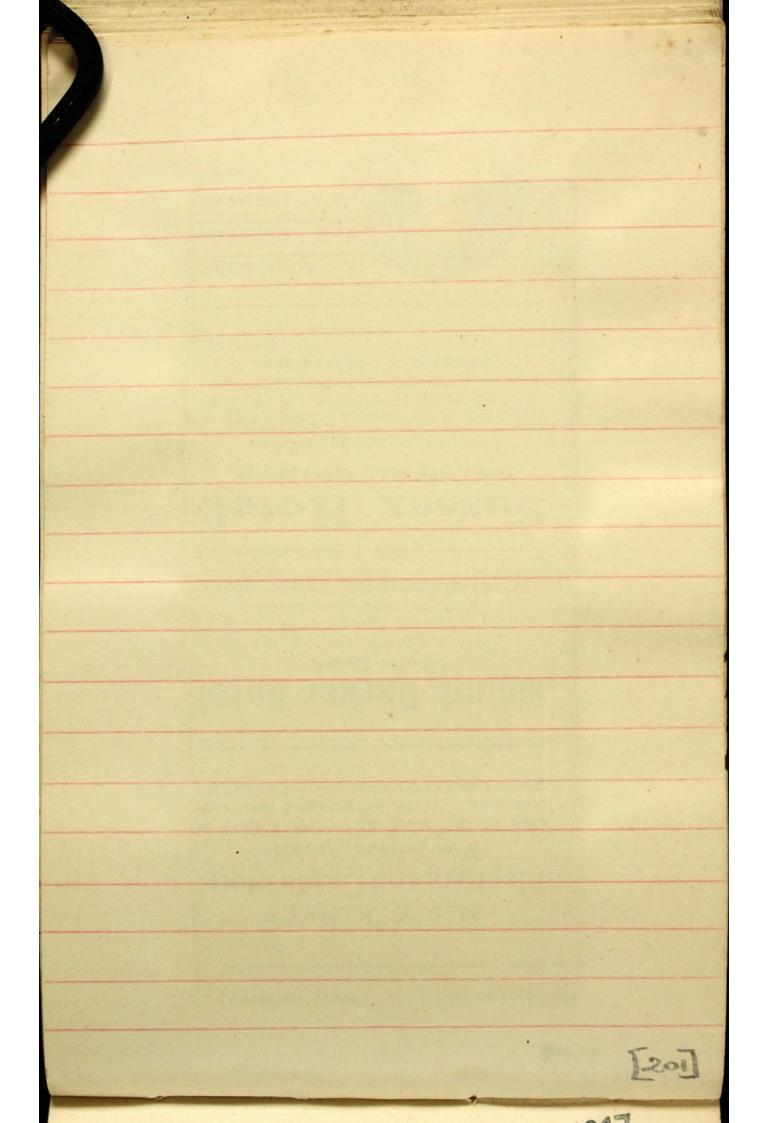
and officials and general "know-alls" are urging us to do. But our farmers are not so sure about it, and the chances are that this year the wheat acreage of Australia will be many thousands less than was the case last season.

If the question is asked why, the answer is fairly plain. Our agriculturists have had experience of officialdom, and they are not particularly enamoured of it. They see the appalling waste that is going on in the stacked grain, and they are aware that futile steps, or wrong steps, or no steps at all, are being taken to effect a remedy. We hear of a few thousand mice being caught in kerosene tins, or of spilled grain being replaced in other bags, to be again riddled.



There can be no getting away from the fact that the mice plague should have d been provided against by the men who have charge of the wheat. Even if they could not guess that the little pests would crop up in myriads, they should have bestirred themselves when the first warnings were forthcoming. But they did nothing. Meanwhile, the mice were adopting a different policy. They were breeding and eating on a wholesale scale. If the officials had conveyed as much of the wheat as possible to the seaports, the mice would be less to-day. If the grain had been stacked on three-feet high concrete platforms, and fenced round about with galvanised iron, it would have been protected to that exent. True, the cost would have been great, but not nearly so much as the sum total of the loss of 1/2d. per bushel that the vermin at have caused.

But the official mind often fails to take hold of matters that are commonplace. Let us quote an instance to prove our statement. Discussing the mice pest, Mr. Edgar Waite, the director of the Adelaide Museum, has said that the little animals are being attacked with, to them, a deadly ringworm disease, known as favus, "which is found in many of the countries of Europe, and has, unfortunately, made its appearance in Australia." The plague can attack human beings, and Mr. Waite explained that—



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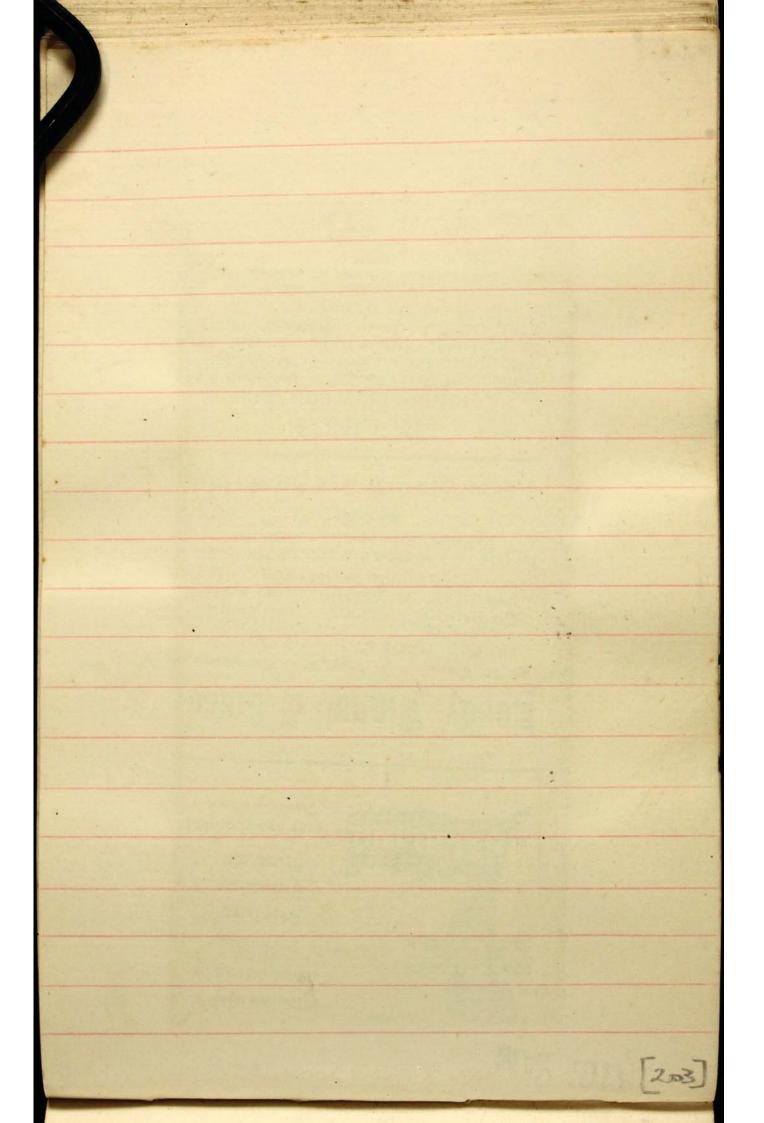
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"Children affected are refused admission to any educational establishment in the older countries, and generally grow up without any education, and generally ultimately drift into the criminal ranks. It would be well that mice cought under the present conditions in South Australia should be carefully examined for traces of this disease. There is little doubt that the liberating of favus-affected mice in the districts most affected by the mice would be a rapid and certain means of coping with the present trouble."

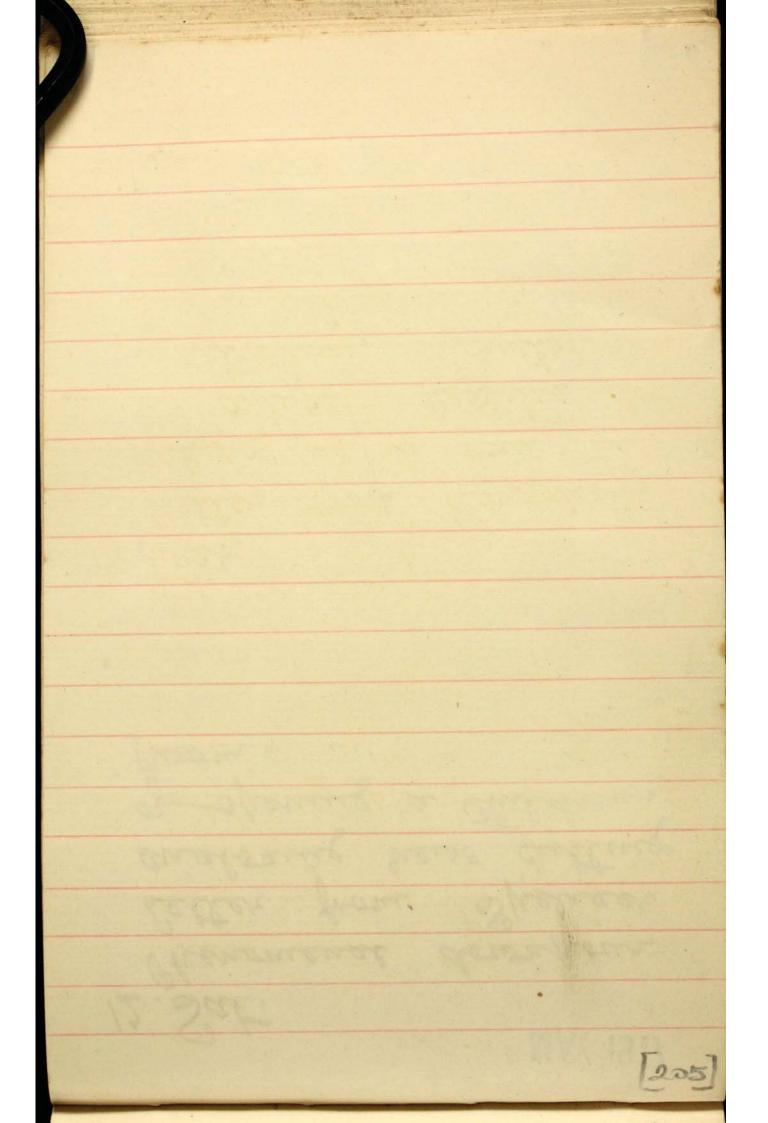
Here we have contradictory opinions. If the disease is so serious in its possibilities, why suggest its deliberate transference to spots that are free th from it? And why should an ignorant child necessarily become a criminal? And, lastly, why does Mr. Waite state to that, "unfortunately favus has made its appearance in Australia? He should know that mice ringworm is no new thing here. We have had mice in multitudes before, and we have had mice favus before, or something precisely like it. It is in just such little things that our scientists and officials fail us. As we said above, the officials did not foresee the mice coming, although past experiences should have warned them. When the mice first arrived, nothing was done to cope with them. That is why our farmers are chary of officialdom.



MAY 1917

12. Sat.
Phenomenal downpour,
Letter from Spencer
enclosing hews cultures
of opening a Childrens
room.

[204]



13 Sun.

More rain Frail, spent day in workshop titles wetal foots. "boards" to the 'Connaught' a used my electric power for the first time.

Replied to Spencer.

15. Tues.

Letter from Rongman askuig me to join him in article Reptilia for Australian Encyclopedia to the published by angus to Robertson. Letter from allan telling me of the death of Suclair North & Try (the latter kelled in action). [205]

16. Took "Connaught" to gards to be completed Replied to Longman. Watson paid me \$37. 10.0 Value of the "Douglas". Telegram from alexander will arrive monday of formio Tybhlops - Took Pring Typhlops. 17. Thurs. Took Rose to white's leeture ou our duterior Expedition. 18. m. Saw Pulleine of to Sydney, he asked we to look at his 'Graflex' which is out of order-[207]

MAY 1917 19 Sat. At 10.0 I gave a Fallery demonstration to Students of the boys' * girls 'high Schools + at 20 received members of the Vaturalisto Club on the evening while Rose Claude were althe theatre I overhauled Pulleinis 34 graflex . Ram continues. 20 Sun. Exposed le felius in the graflex' rain notwith -Standnig -21. Mon. and brought specimens from

22 Tues.

NATURALISTS AT THE MUSEUM.

On Saturday last 30 members of the Field Naturalists' Section of the Royal Society visited the Museum at the invitation of the director (Mr. Edgar R. Waite, F.L.S.). The various aquariate were first inspected, and admiration was expressed at their interesting inhabitants. Following upon this, Mr. Waite gave an explanation of the methods adopted at the Museum for securing accurate casts of such forms of animal life as the fishes and snakes. After many questions had been fully answered, the party inspected the cases of Australian mammals, and fish, paying particular attention to the recently completed exhibits. The Museum entomologist (Mr. A. M. Lea) next showed the party some of his interesting cases of insects, describing their lives and answering many questions as to their forms, colorings, and adaptations.

Wrole to allan re our Sa list of fishes told him I should be in Syoney in July-wed.

Took Rose Proge Watson to pictures - alexander left for Neelbourne. Letters from Wilfies Mre W.

[20]

24 Thurs.

Empire Day. Bid good.
bye to Purnell who sails from Melbourne
in a day or so. Posted
lest of S.A. Fishes to
Allan. Wrote to Welfried
Fri

Wrole to 8-W. Russell of Chilh. for reports rte. on Fisheries of N. 3. Wrole

to hure w.

Shout afternoon with Watson & fard on the Connaught. Took photo. of Watson at Bolania fardens. To pietures at night.

20]

Made rack for Soup plates supplementary to the one we have -Took photo, with Pullames Camera grafler of Mis Bartholomens frace -28. Mon. Fixed double Switch in hedroom. Stirling asked me for an outing to. morrow, 29 mes. left adelaide ni ma Bakewells car with the owner, Stirling & Howchii - Halletto Cove Pt Noarlunga, noarlunga

[211]

30 bed

Letter from Loughan re Snake references.
Commenced to photograph our recent manual roups.
Attended meeting of the finance Comm. Look Soe.

31. Thurs.

Wrote to Lougman re my Visit & our Buake investigations. Received letter from adams, Pungonda,

1. Fri. Letter from Etheridge in reply - To pictures. Replied to letter from adams.

2 Sat. barknig his nose hands

3. Sun.

Several attempts to bruig 'the Cape Barren Geese. together fail. To day I hobbled the gander and he Selked. - Rain

4 mon. Holoday, Rained all day, as the gander though having plenty

JUN 1917

The ground. I released him but he rushed the seese as usual so had to be isolated. All went to the atre. Stirling Knighted. a birthday honour.

5. Tues.

Sent a letter signed by huseum staff to "Sir Edward". Rent from Hardie Gorman with usual heavy deductions for repairs unauthorised and ho receipts tendered. To Zoo, with Council to inspect additional area.

6. Wea Committee meeting. Letter from Braner. Acknowledgment to Staff for letter of congratulation received from Ttirling-Rose sprained her foot Badly. Letter from Speight + replied. 7. Thurs. Letter from allan with holes on my S.A. list. Now taking photographs of hammal groupsarranged with Julleine to remove the pedunculate Objects from May back -Returned his " graflex "

[215]

after putting it in order. 9 Salbrole to allaw re lest of fishes. 11 Mon. Pulleine removed the " molluscan" growths from my back, taking some entièle putting ni stitches. Packed up fobres etc. for allan-12 Tues. Lecewed £5.8.0 for 1/2 year ended 30. april from N. Z. Refrigeratuig Co-13. Wed. brote Introduction to the Results of the Museum Exped to Cent. aust.

216]

14 Thurs As we have to put our livestock out while on haliday. I gave the Seese to Carpenter who will also take charge of the 3 Cockatoos. Fitted wood footboards to the "Connaught for watson. Bought for £1. ratchet pedal wheel (Goodall Pratt) to be used for the grending Wheel - Paid Deane 10/6. 16 Sat. arranged with Conroy to take charge of Tui. Itad a try to

drive watsons side car but found it very authward.

17. Sun. Repaired broken ratchet of wheel and fitted to an old sewing machine Stand

18 mon.

Letter from allan telling of the death of Mrs Rambow and Hvs. Cooksey. Wrote to both the widowers.

19 Tues arranged to give a Museum demonstration to School teachers to -

morrow.

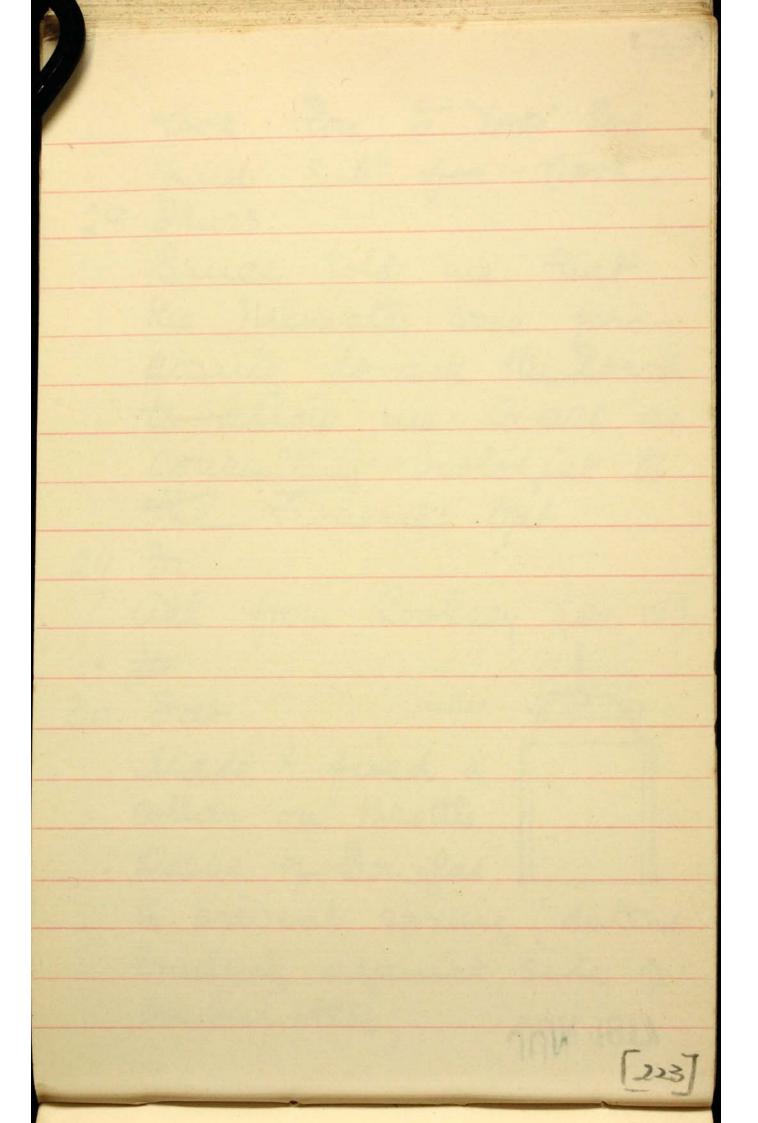
20. Wed. Museum demonstration to 70 teachers. 21. Shurs. Have now photographed all the manual groups prepared to date. In consequence q alteration in time q Claude's I postponed my holeday leave from July 2. to 9. 22. Fri. wrote to Fred Limit at Mannem le magneto Bought 2 Second- hand 14 pl regative boxesmade perches of iron peping for Cockatoos

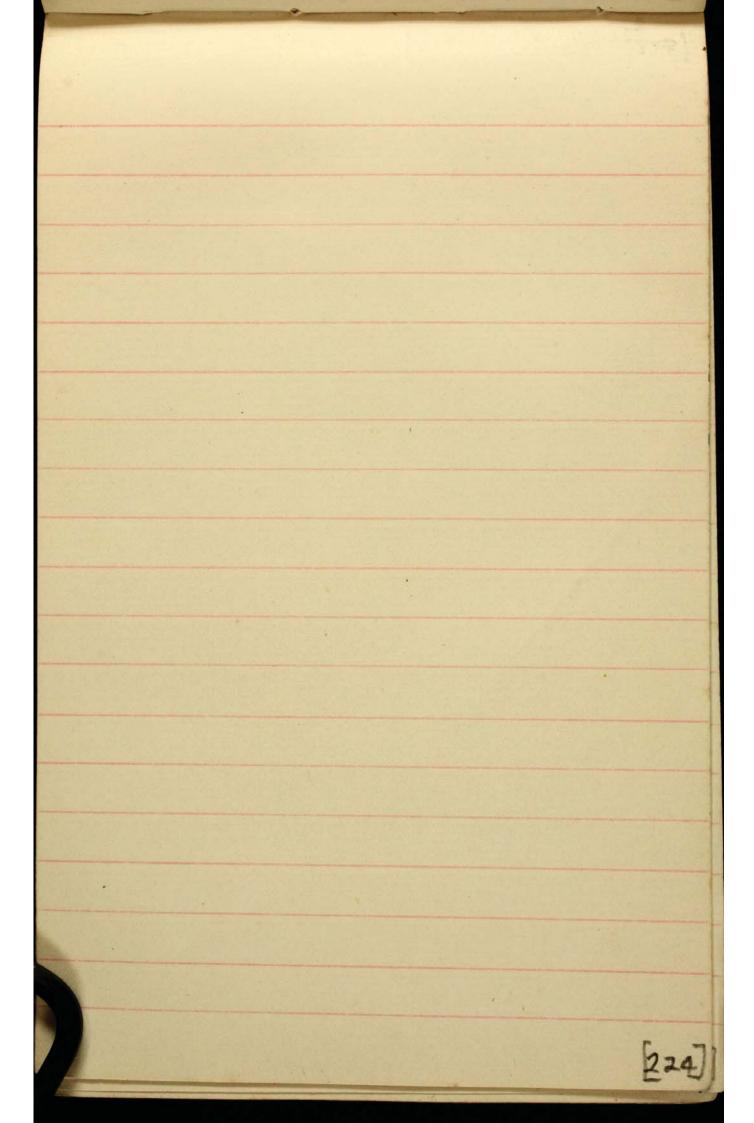
24 Sun. Laid floor of cose in cement 25 - Moh. Holiday. I went to Museum and at Expedition report. 26. Tues. Took dose to the Dandies Letter from Fanny Bowling 27 Wed. Letter from Bruce to effect that the minister will defer publication of the S.A. list of fishes "for the present! Letter from No W. with cutting announcing death of her eldest brother. Caron.

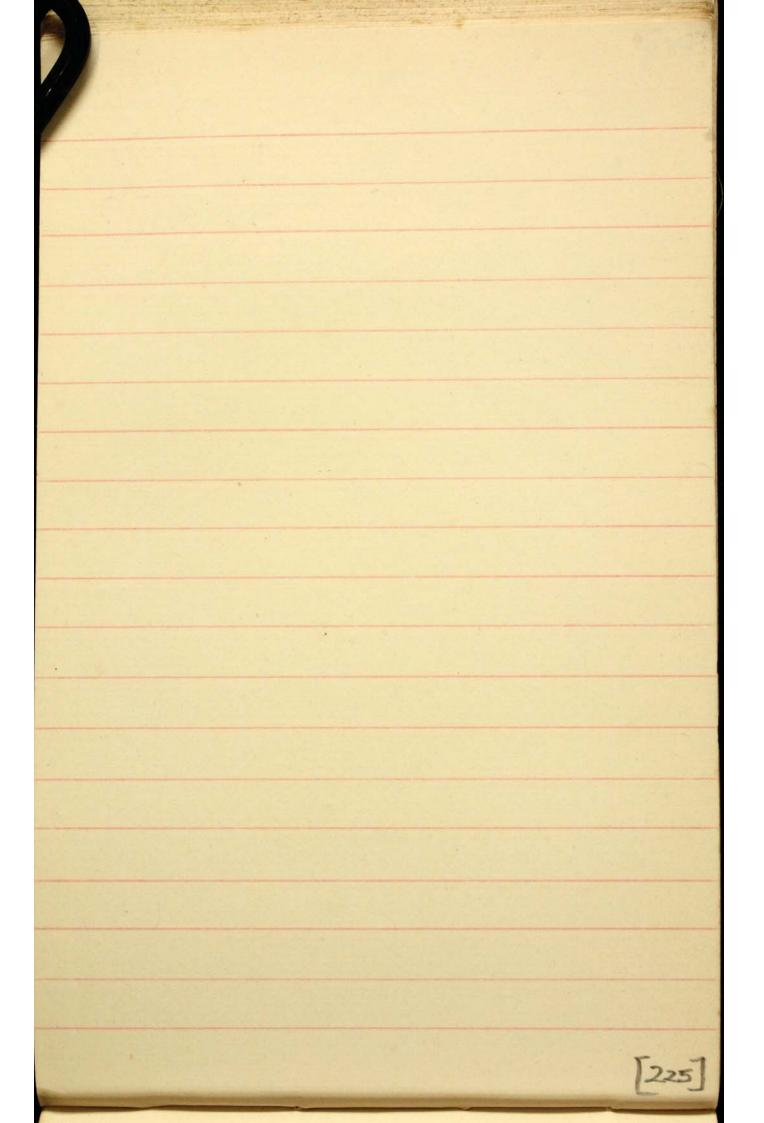
Took Rose to Yorks Soe haid Sub" for both -28 Thurs. Bruce told me that the Minister was proposicie to ask the Board to allow me to act as consulting brologist to the Fisheries Opt. akk from Cooksey (see 18.) llade & fixed a collar ou throttle sleeve of Douglas to prevent spring (dated) buidnig aganist side of Carbur etter [22]

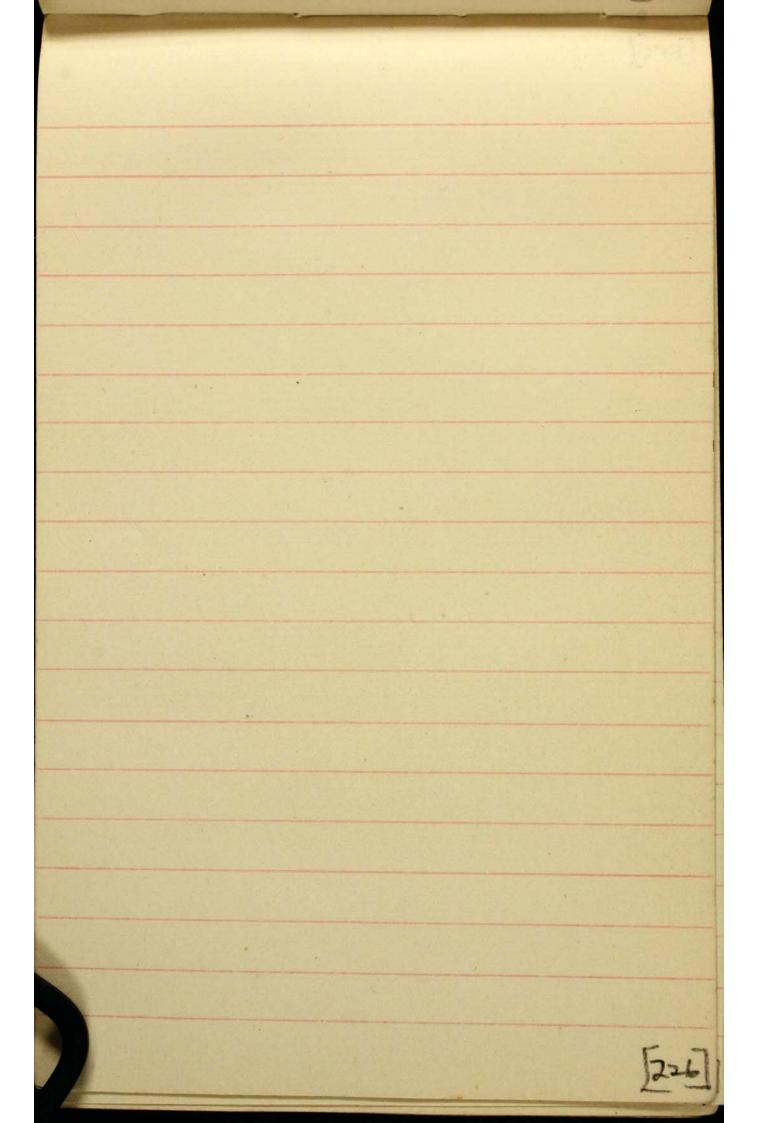
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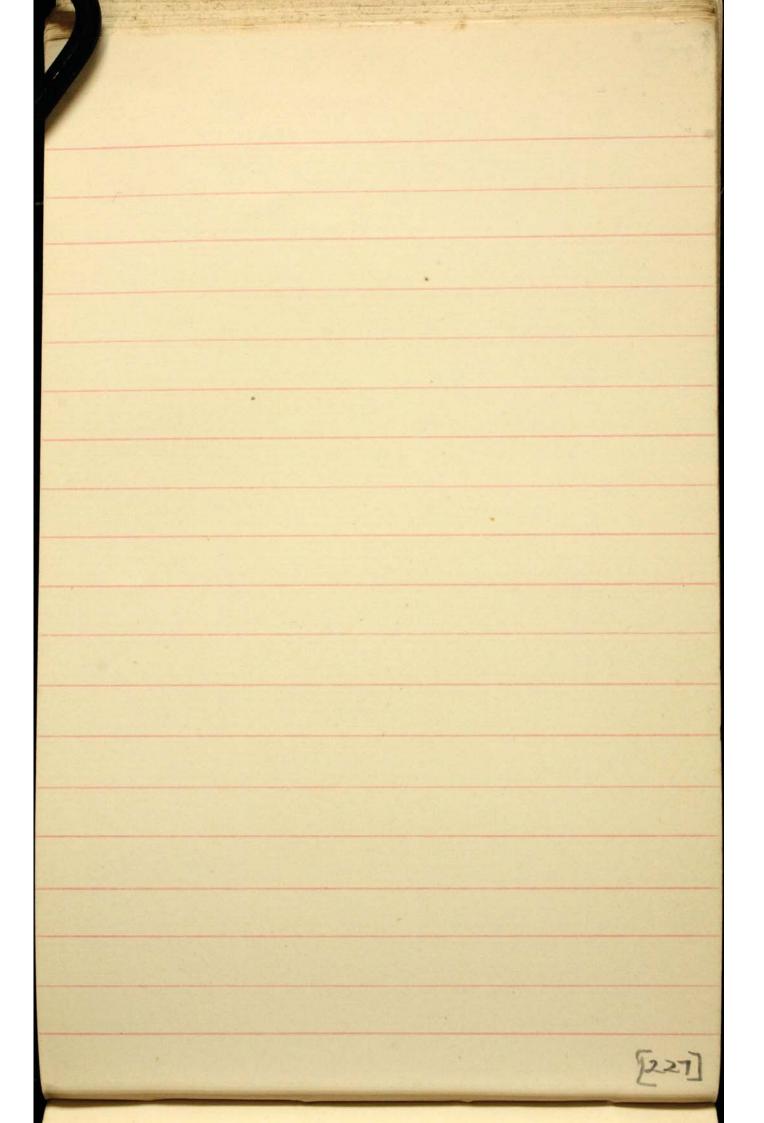
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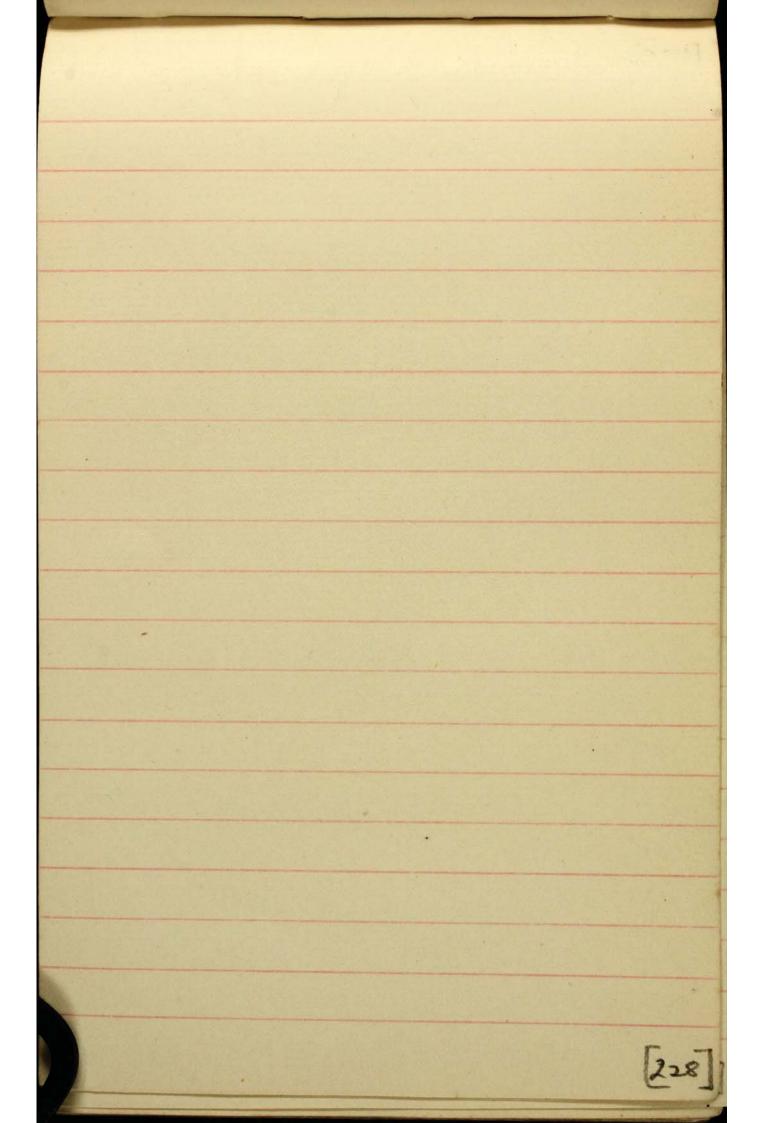


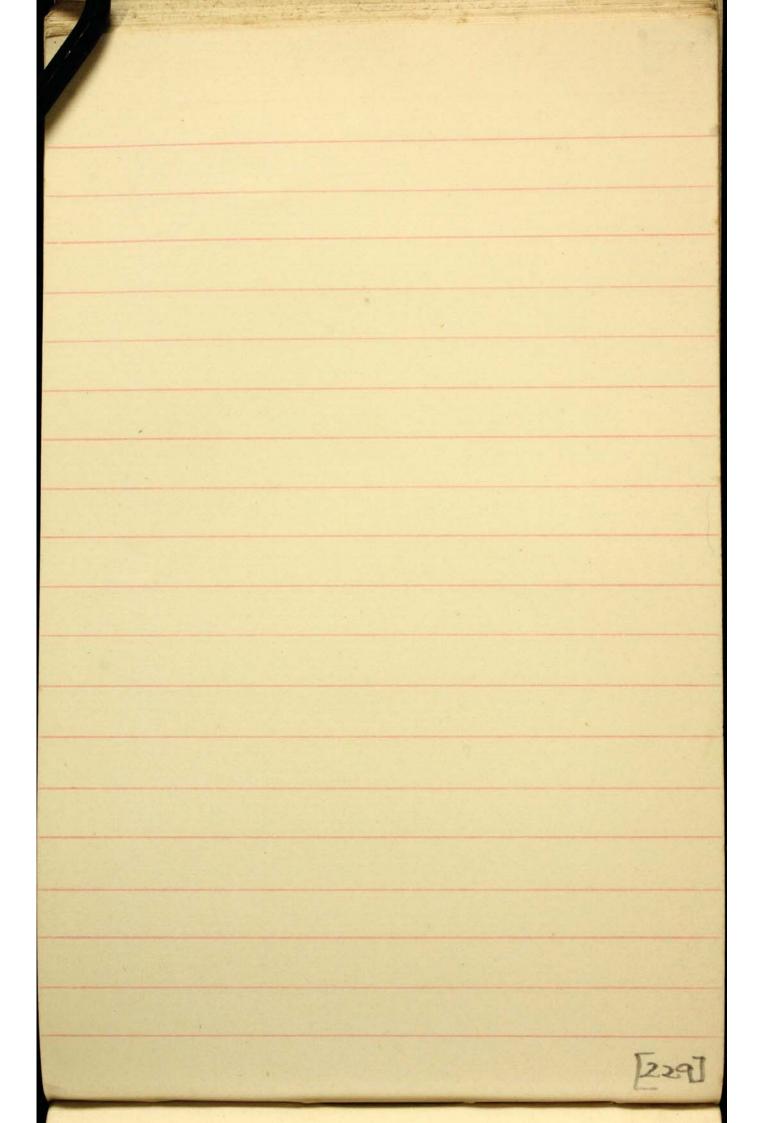


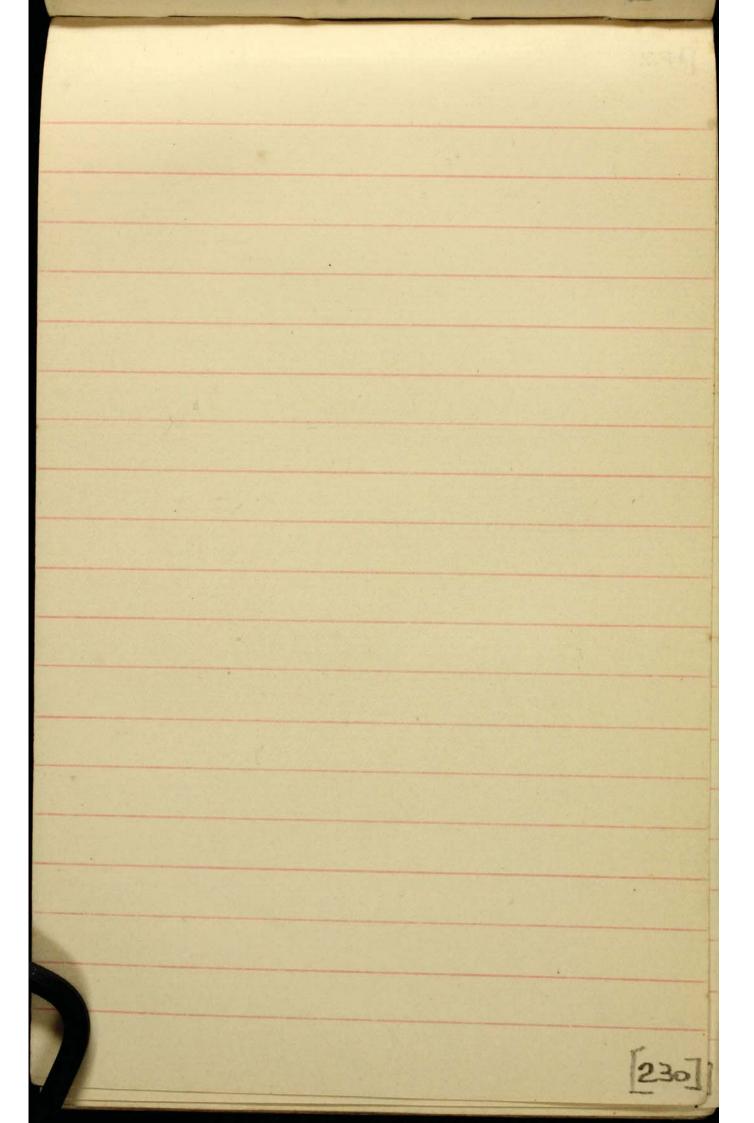


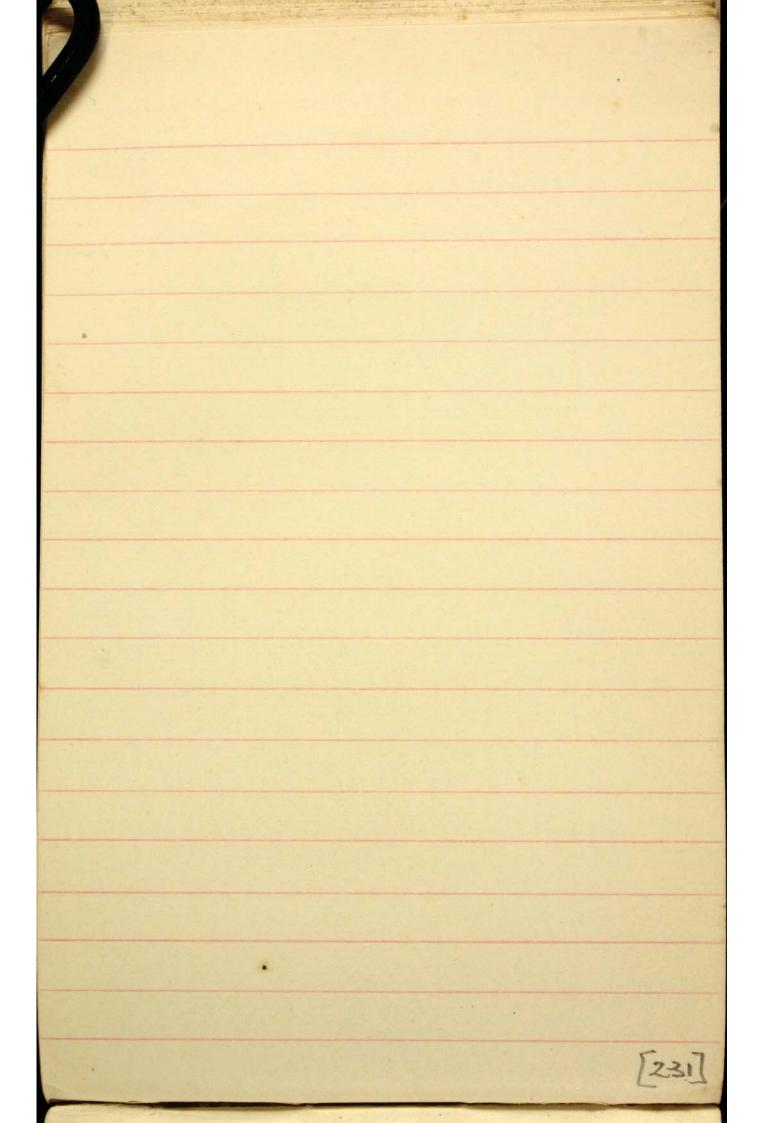


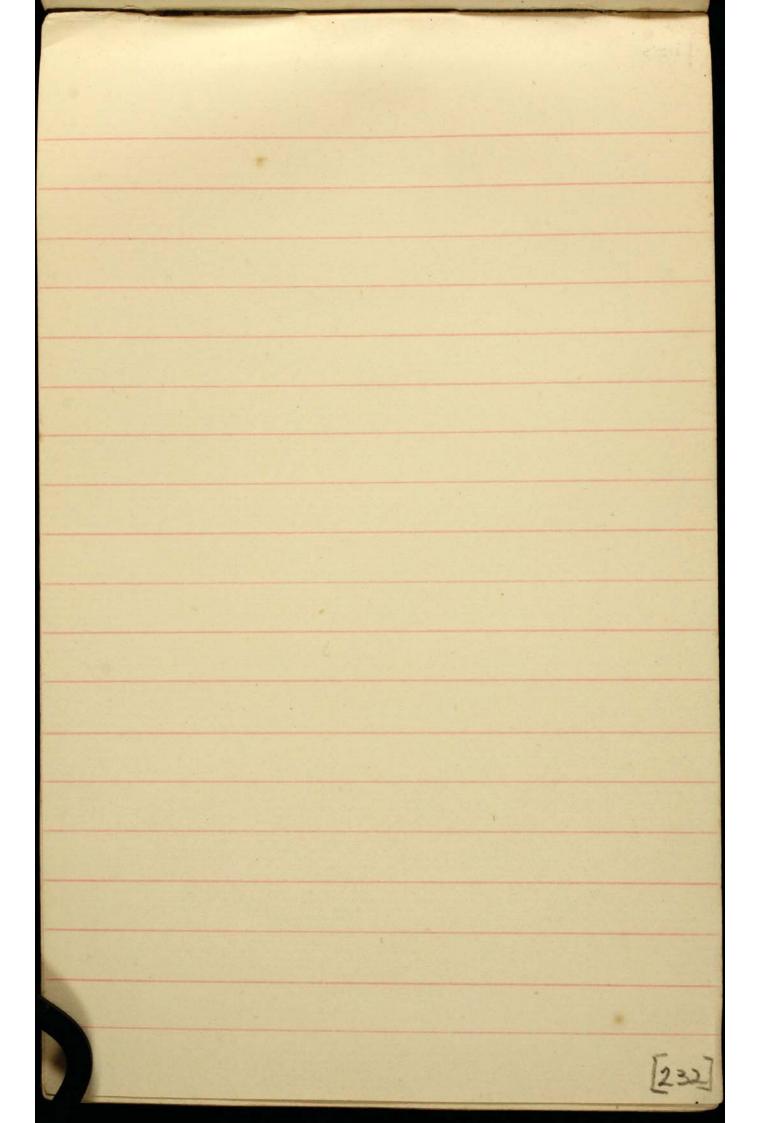


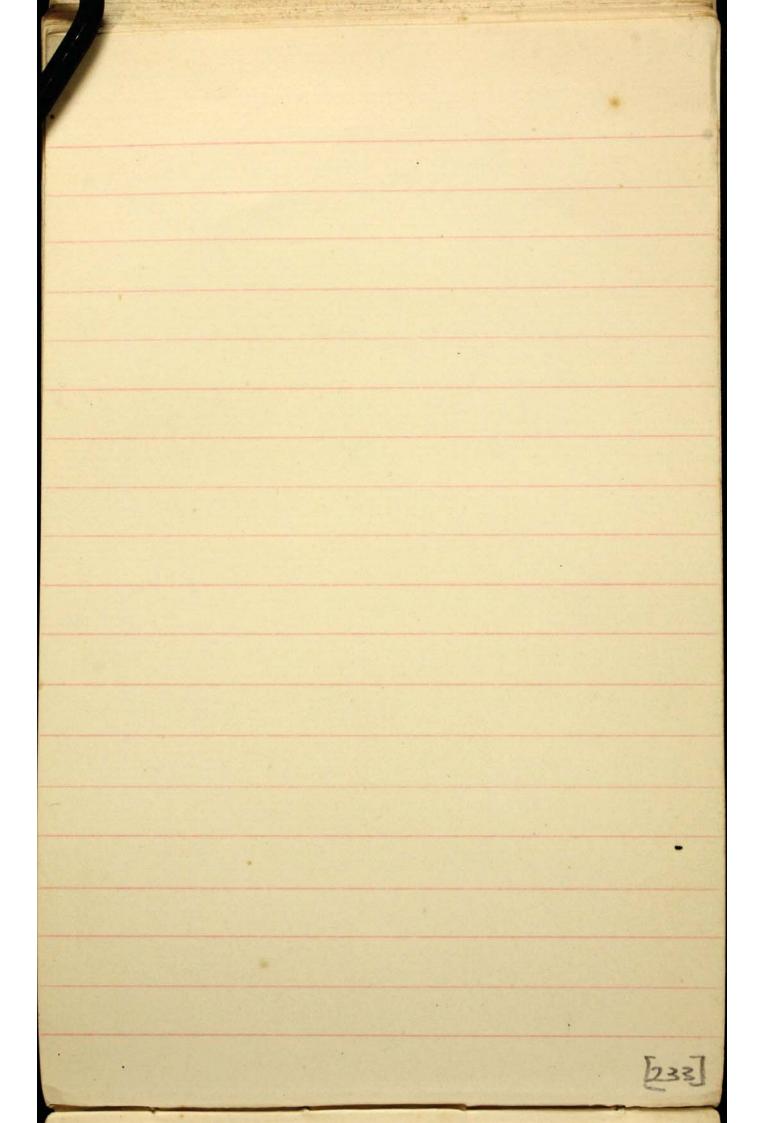




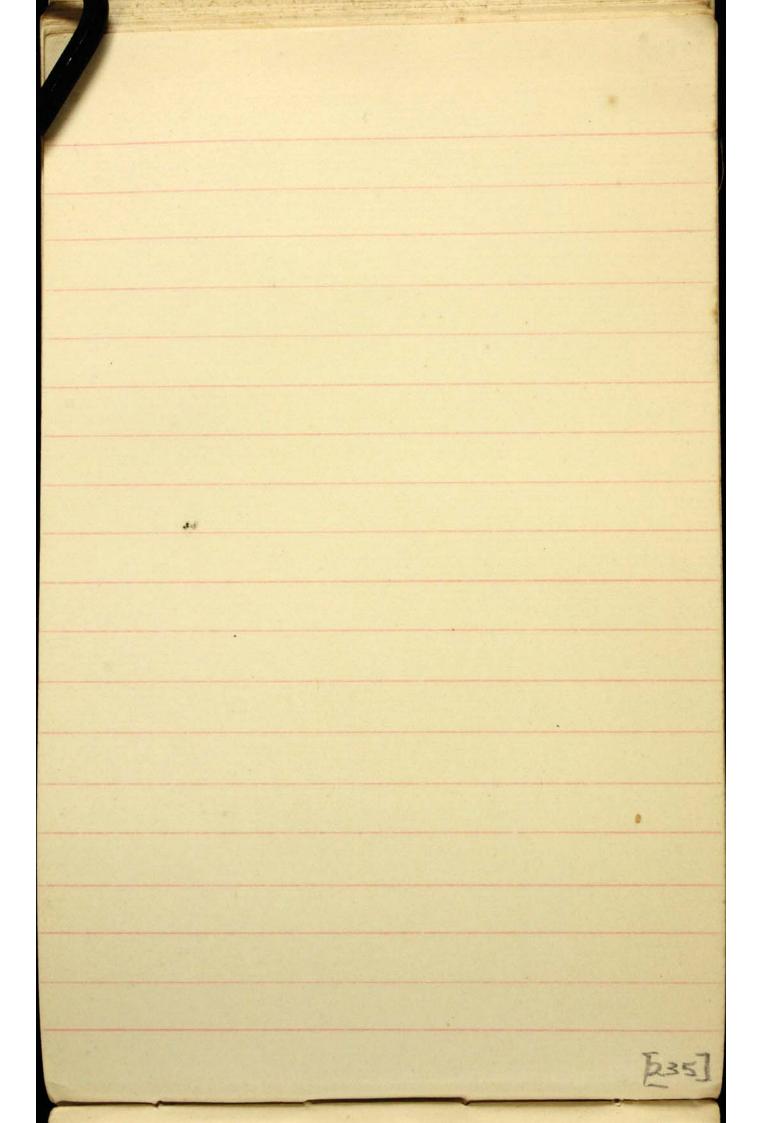


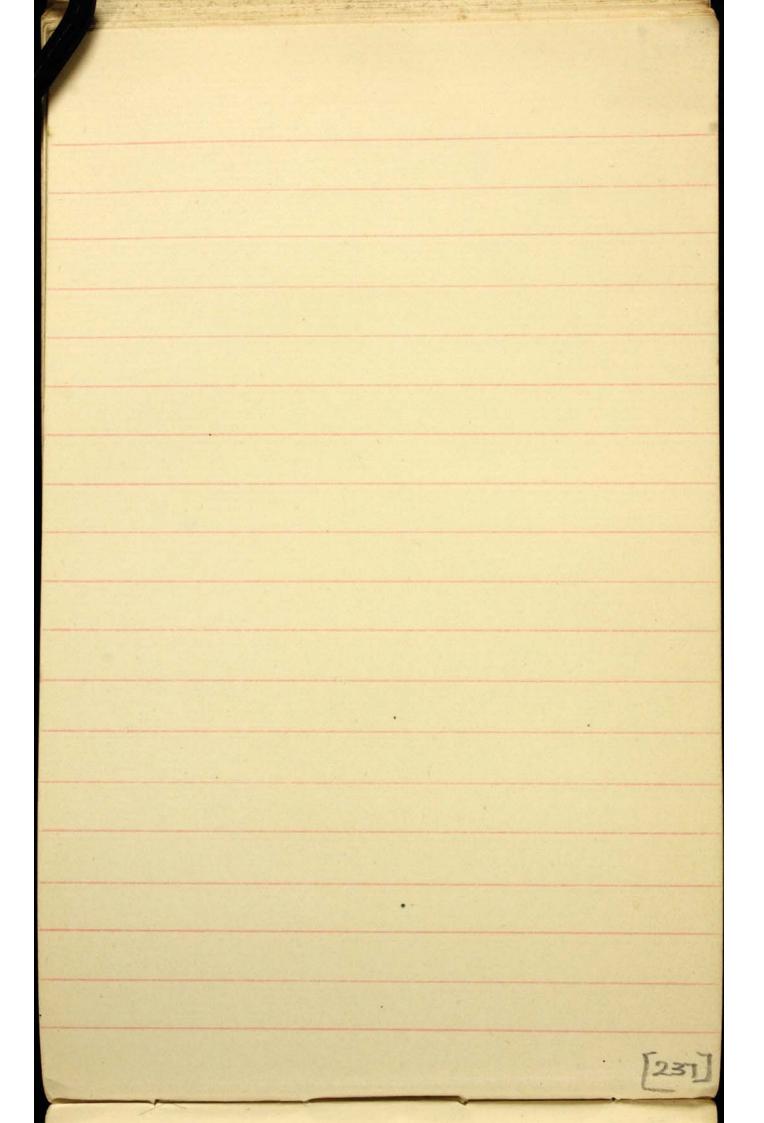




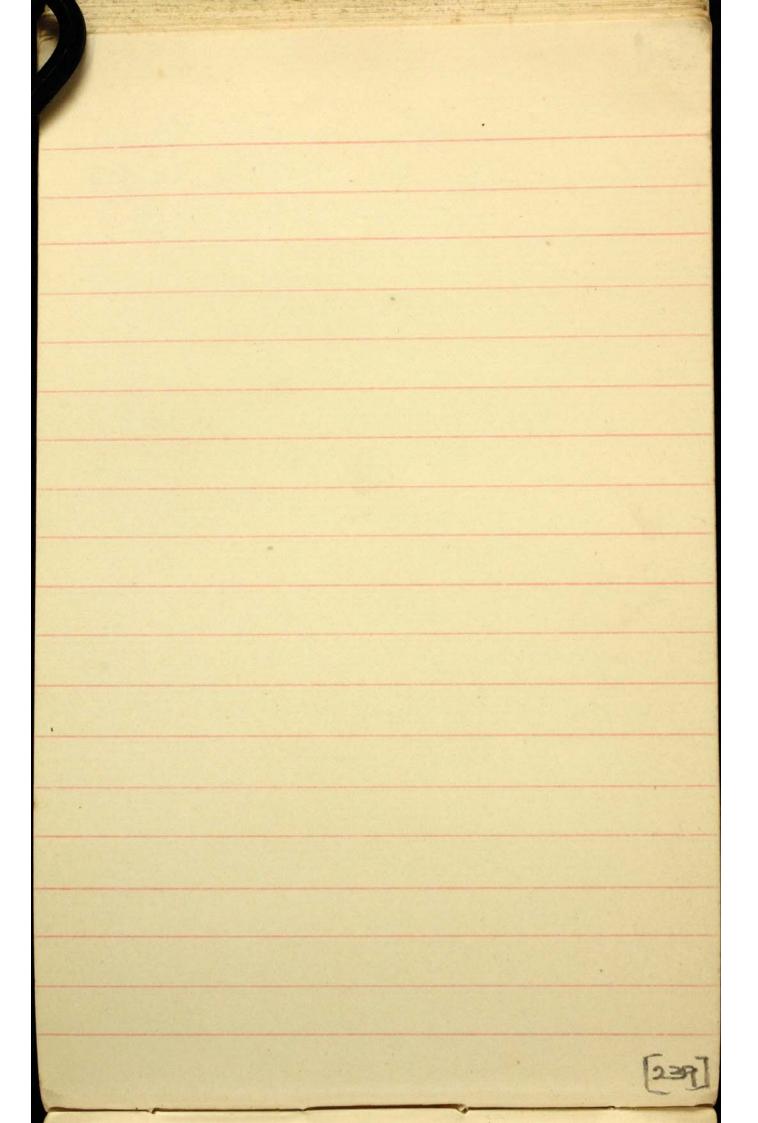


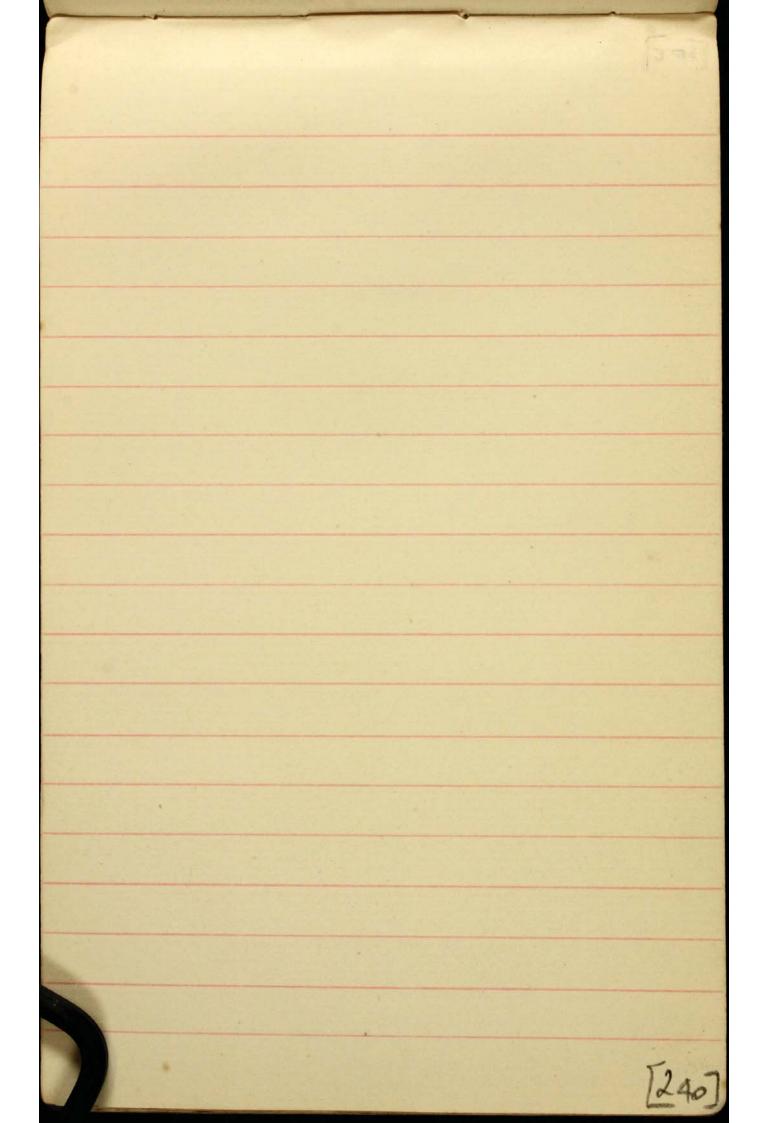
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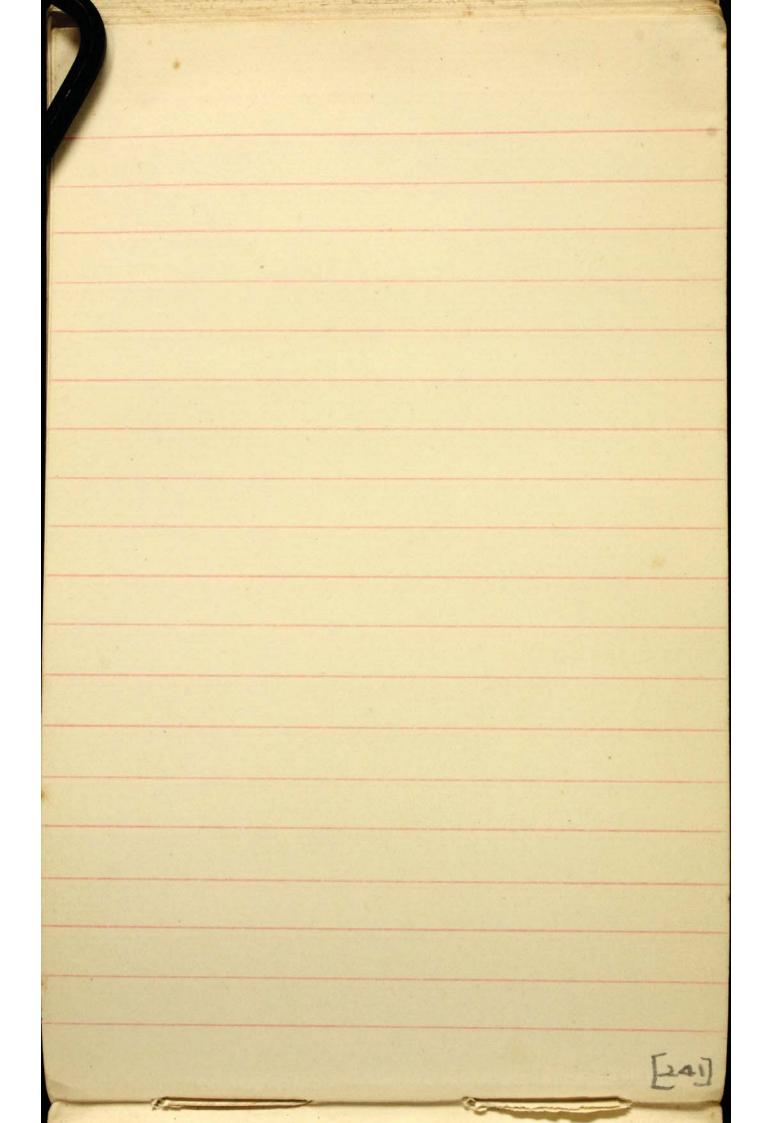


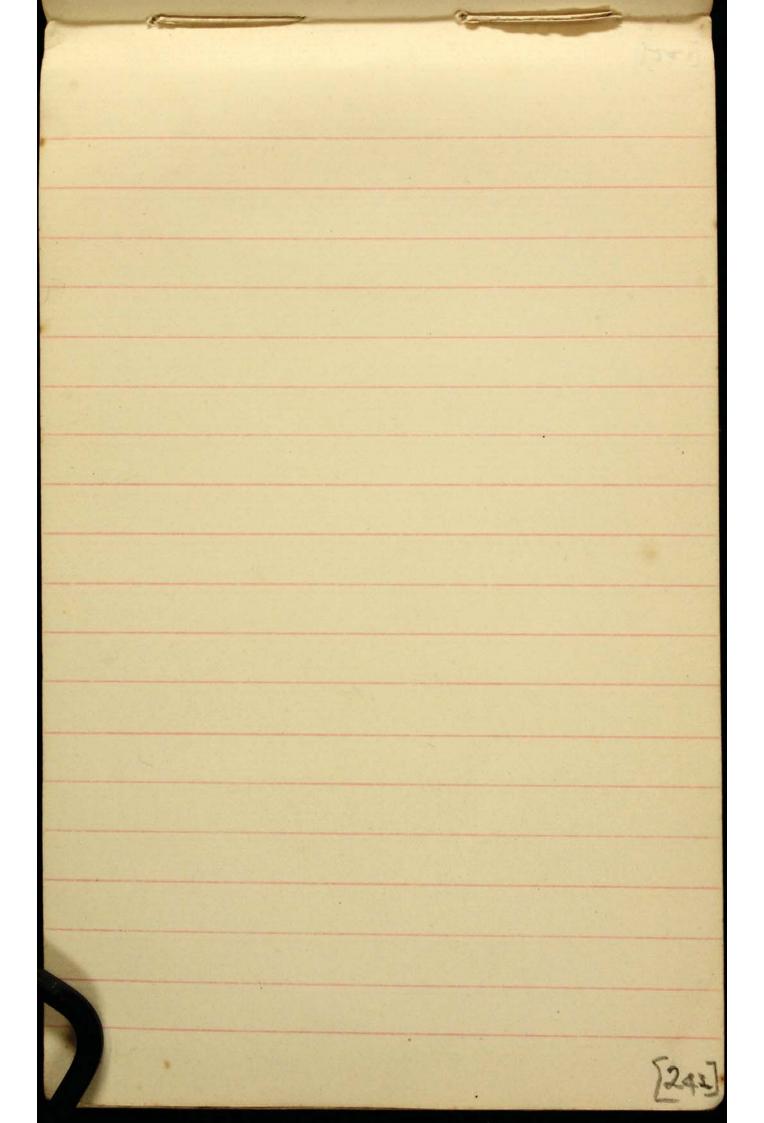


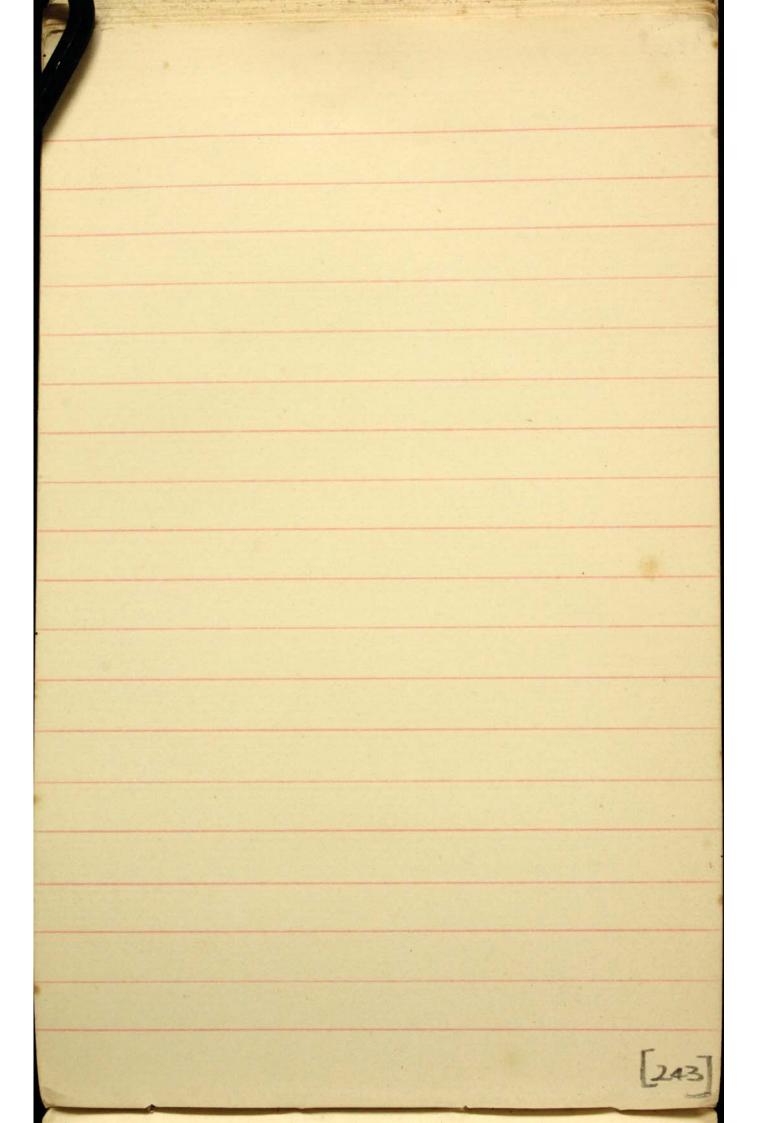
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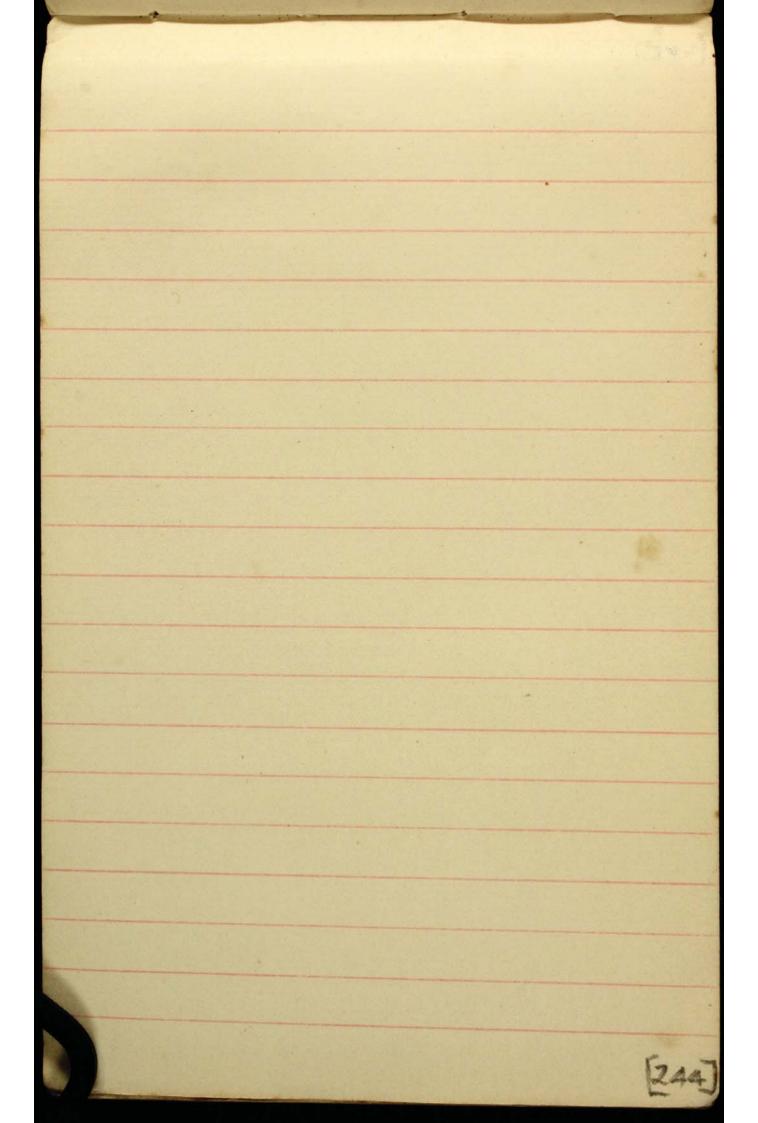


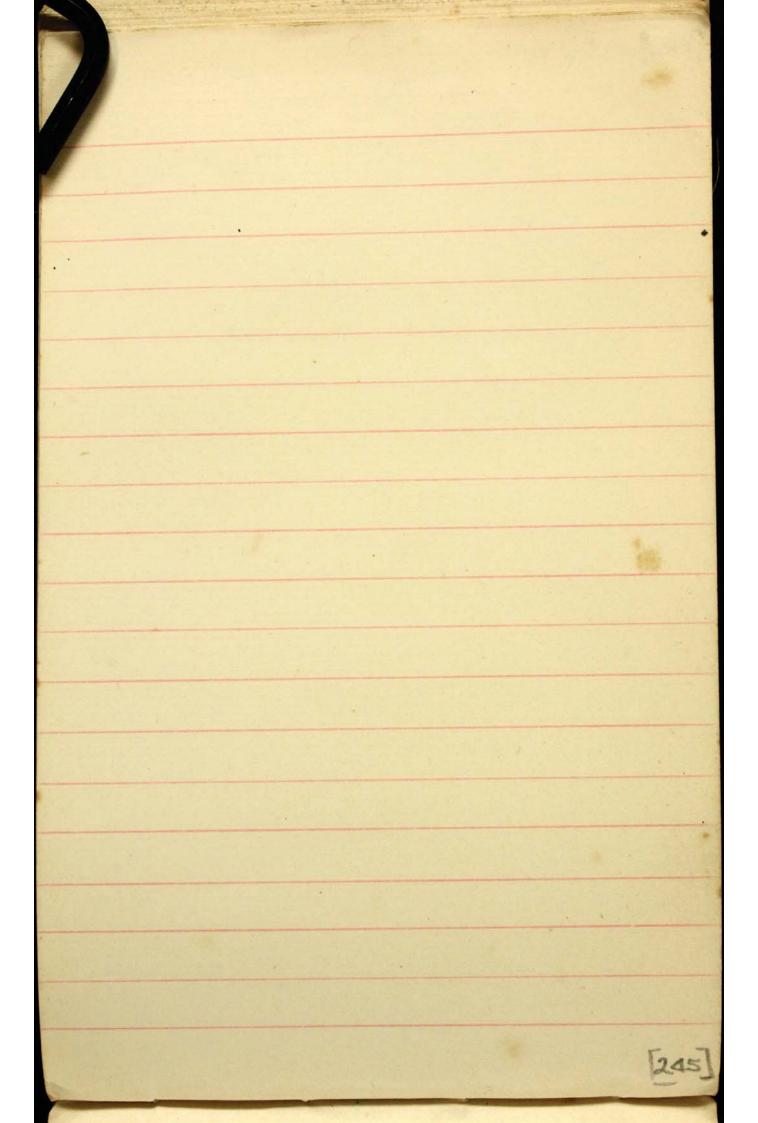




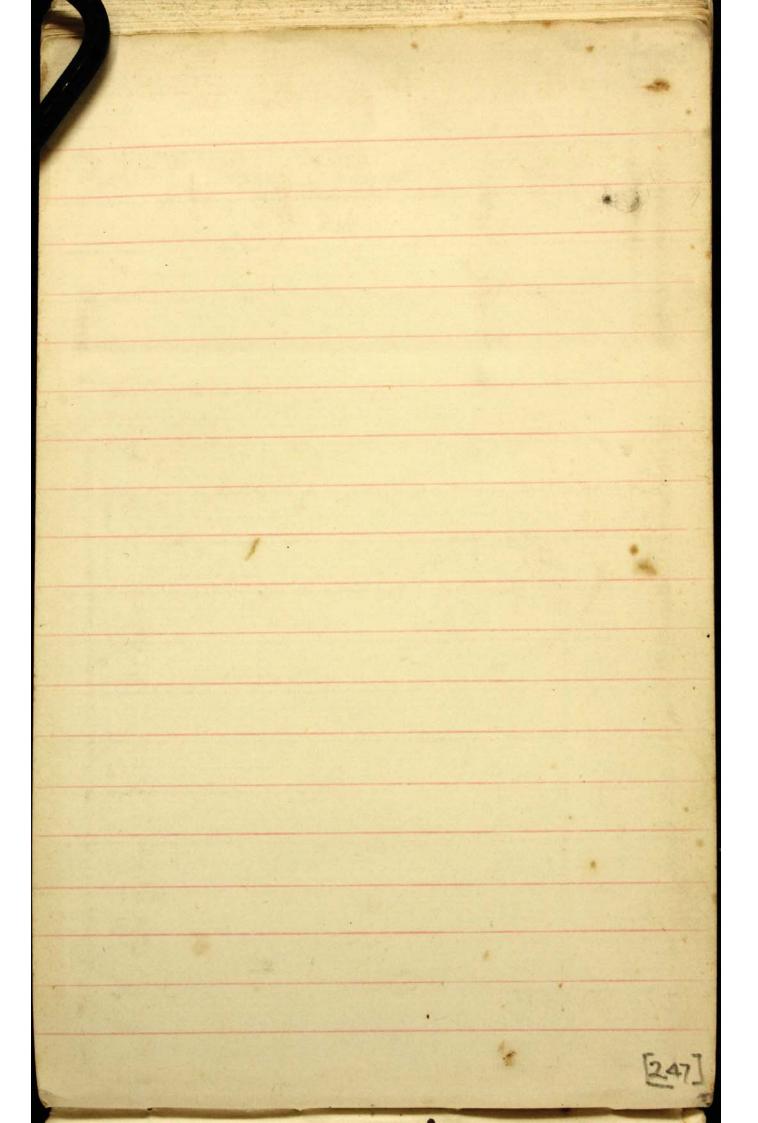








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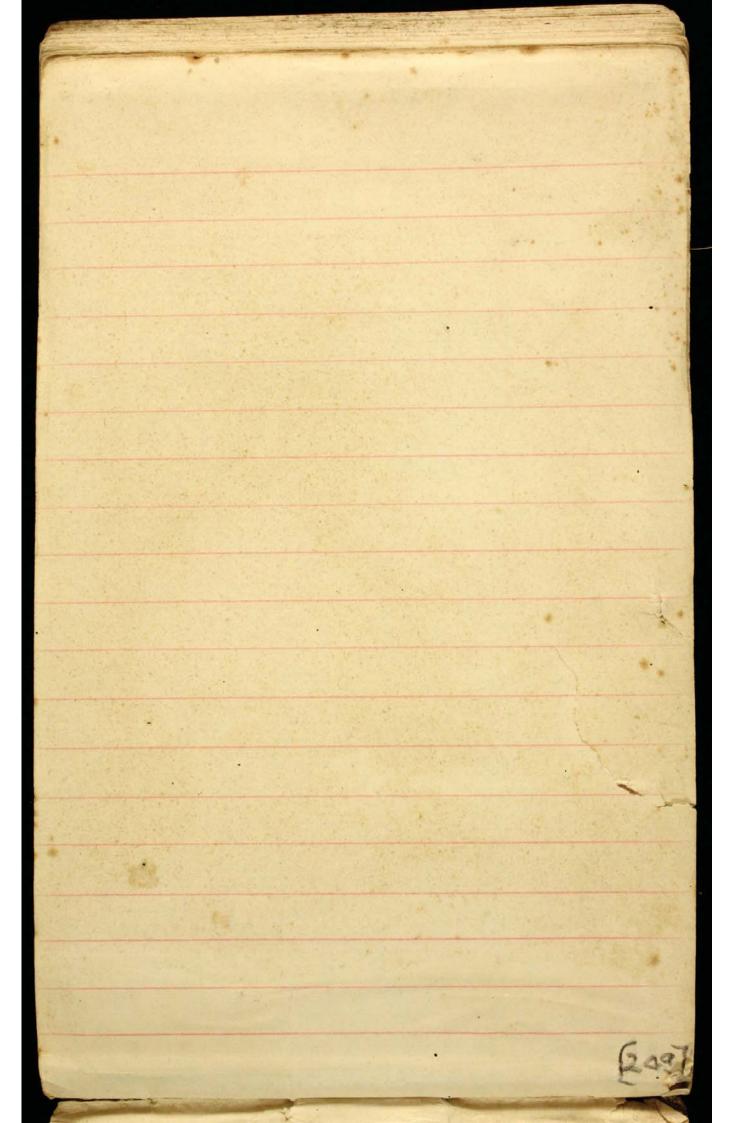
-Panent Challerong Conn. (Ince [480] I had no "feeling" in the matter, for some time before any question of my writing was mosted, Capt. White informed me that he had been approached by the "Register" with a view to his contributing articles in continuation of the two series previously issued and reprinted by that paper in book form (Into the Dead Heart, 1914, In the Far North-west, 1916) The continued arrangement therefore seems quite natural and, as it was not conceivable that a newspaper would want two contributions from different writers on the same subject, nor that I could seek to "cut out" my friend Capt. White, by afterwards approaching the "Register", I took the only other course open to me and duly informed you of the circumstances

In order to be quite sure of my facts I communicated with Capt. White this morning and I beg to submit herewith his reply which substantiates my statement. At the time fixed for the meeting of the Museum Committee this afternoon, I placed the question, raised by the President, before my chairman and, in your presence, he admitted that the Committee had been placed in possession of all the facts of the case as here submitted.

Trusting that on reviewing the circumstances/above presented the President will withdraw the charge of disloyalty preferred against me.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,



AMS 587 60



