ILLAWARRA HISTORICAL MUSEUM — QUESTIONNAIRE

A fine list of questions to which answers will be found in our museum was compiled by Mr. Bruce Pennay for pupils of Fairy Meadow Demonstration School when they recently visited it.

Teachers of classes planning future visits might well seek copies of this so that their pupils might have purposeful guidance at their visit.

It might be added that parties of no more than 40 pupils are most convenient and that arrangements can be made by schools with the museum committee for visits at special times during school hours when, perhaps, the museum might not be normally open.

Wollongong Teachers' College students have visited the museum also.

FREELAND'S "HORBURY HUNT" AND DAPTO CHURCH

A new book recently published on another Australian architect should prove both interesting and informative to those who were first really awakened to the importance of Australian Architecture by the books of Morton Herman. It is J. M. Freeland's "Architect Extraordinary: The Life and Work of John Horbury Hunt", (Cassell Australia, 1970), a copy of which should be secured from Wollongong City Library.

One of Hunt's designs is seen in the Church of the Good Shepherd at Kangaroo Valley, financed by Alick Osborne and opened on January 26, 1872.

However, the St. Luke's Osborne Memorial Church at Dapto is described at Hunt praised for this design in the book, an extract from which follows:

"... Hunt was most interested in another church he was asked to design at Dapto, south-west of Sydney, by the Osborne family in memory of their father and mother. Tenders were called on 10th January, 1878 but it was another two and a half years before construction actually began. The foundation stone was laid on 21st July, 1880 and the church was opened and consecrated by the Reverend William Cowper, the Dean of Sydney, in November, 1882."

"Bad blood developed between the architect and the minister during the job. The building was supposed to be finished a year before it was and as the reason was not the usual one, lack of funds, the delay was blamed on Hunt. The blame may well have been placed on the right person because Hunt could be most difficult and unco-operative when he wished. And he may have wished, for when the consecration of the finest brick church he ever built was held he did not attend.

"Before the 700 people who did attend the minister, the Reverend Stack, unburdened himself of the troubles he had been through with Hunt. After dwelling on the inordinate delay in getting to that point and saying that 'the architect, if present, could no doubt give a plausible if not satis-
factory reason for it' he said 'And talking about architects I do not know why such a race was set upon earth at all' and then added with Christian resignation 'Except it is for this—that men who have anything to do with them should have their patience severely tried.' When Hunt read the remarks he commented abruptly 'The words of a fool who has had as much to do with the work as a child.'

"The Osborne Memorial Church of St. Luke at Dapto is undoubtedly the finest of Hunt's brick churches (excluding the cathedrals). His critic of 1882 (as well as some today) disliked it because of its departures from the ecclesiastical norm. After criticizing the narrowness of the entrance the unchurch-like appearance of the tower, the excessive and unnecessary strength 'almost that of a fortress' one critic wrote in disapproval and disgust, 'Of plaster paint colouring or varnish there is not a vestige to be seen within the building, and as if to match the net-work of naked rustic-like beams and rafters overhead the aisle is floored with dull common bricks.'

"To a less jaundiced eye St. Luke's is a most handsome building. It is these very points of adverse criticism which are the source of its strengths and virtues. The ingenuity, skill and beauty of well designed and executed brickwork and timber used consistently and uninterruptedly for every part of the building are excellent. The tower, with its brick covered squat pyramid roof and its rich use of purpose-made bricks is a splendid architectural statement of function and material. [Plates 23, 24 and 25].

"St. Luke's, Dapto, is the high-point of Hunt's developing ideas on the use of materials and ecclesiastical architecture. A full-blooded, powerfully and independently-minded building, it is the epitome of the standards and values of its architect."

RAILWAY CENTENARY IN TASMANIA:

Our research officer has been complimented on his recent production in a letter from Mr. R. G. Barber, Secretary for Railways in Tasmania in which he says, "Recently our Publicity Officer, Mr. Ron Fardell, showed me a copy of your publication . . . ."

"I thought the publication a most informative historical booklet. I am desirous of obtaining a copy for retention in my office at Hobart. . . .

Mr. Bayley's son Philip got the edge on his father when his picture of a goods train being made up at Western Junction south of Launceston near midnight gained big space in "TRAILS" — the news sheet of Tasmanian Government Railways issue of June.

BEAUFÖY MERLIN AND WOLLONGONG

Beaufoy Merlin is fashionable in newsletters at present. The "Royal had him in June and July. We would be out of step to neglect him August! — or better still October! Centenary!"