many authors have suggested; the fact that the first occupants of Illawarra were graziers who had brought stock to the district to escape the effects of drought and plagues of caterpillars is evidence that there must have been some fairly extensive areas of open woodland west and south of Lake Illawarra. Dr. Perry then described some of the early history of the district, commenting on the knowledge of it that had been accumulated by explorers and shipwrecked sailors making their way along the coast to Sydney, on the droughts in the Appin-Liverpool districts that caused its first occupation, and on the district's fairly complete pastoral occupation by 1830. He suggested that prior to 1830 much of the land was held by absentee proprietors using the district as an annexe to properties nearer Sydney. Illawarra is unique among the coastal districts of New South Wales because it was occupied so much earlier, but its real development, like that of other coastal districts, did not come until the cream separator, refrigeration and the railway made intensive dairying possible.

OCTOBER MEETING:

There was an attendance of 30 to hear a talk by Mr. A. P. Fleming (Councillor) on some history of The Albert Memorial Hospital, Wollongong, the first hospital in the Illawarra.

The speaker described the events leading up to the foundation and the subsequent history of the institution until the name was changed to The Wollongong District Hospital in May, 1908. The talk concluded with a brief reference to the present hospitals in the district and the showing of a number of slides.

Included in the audience were Sister I. Cox, Deputy Matron, and Mr. A. E. Knowles, Secretary and Chief Executive Officer respectively of the Wollongong Hospital. Mr. Knowles contributed to the evening by detailing the plans in progress and for the future which the hospital authorities have in mind to cater for the district's population medical needs.

A number of copies of the Hospital's magnificent Centenary Report were made available to the Society, the historical matter itself being of considerable interest.

An impromptu collection for the hospital funds raised the sum of £4 and the Society's cheque has gone forward for this amount.

EXCURSION TO BOWRAL — SUNDAY, 11/10/64:

Twenty-two comprised the party, and as usual a cold and blustery day. We travelled up Mount Keira to Picton, then to Bowral via the Hume Highway. Our first visit was to "Toorale", Miss K. M. Robinson, Mysitis Street, winner of the "Full-time Gardener, No Restriction on Area" Section, then to Corbett Gardens and to Bradman Oval for lunch. (Incidentally, one of our members, Mrs. Prosser, who came on the trip, is a cousin of the famous Sir Don.)

During lunch we were formally welcomed to Bowral by Mr. A. V. J. Parry, Deputy Town Clerk and President Berrima District Historical Society. Mr. McDonald then gave a brief talk on the history of the district.

We then visited "Barkfold", Aitken Road, winner of the "Part-time Gardener, Over 66' Frontage" Section, Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Duff; after which we joined the many hundreds who were inspecting the extensive gardens and grounds of "Milton Park", the property of King Ranch (Australia) Pty. Ltd., and formerly in the possession of the Hordern family.

A stop for afternoon tea was made at Robertson, where the President