WELLS IN WOLLONGONG

In reply to the enquiry in the July Bulletin, Mr. Arthur Brown (Member) has sent us a sketch plan showing the positions of four wells within a short distance of each other, near his home in Marr Street on the southern slope of Smith's Hill. The plan has been passed on to the original enquirers.

Mr. Brown adds a note that these wells were about six feet in diameter and twenty-five feet deep, with brick walls, board tops and cast-iron hand pumps. All have been filled in with earth.

Marshall Mount's Water Supply

Our member Mr. George McDonald, the present owner of the historic Marshall Mount House, reports possession of a type of water-supply which, though not truly a well, is unusual and interesting.

It should probably be described as a cistern—an excavation about sixteen feet square and fourteen feet deep, lined with brick plastered or cemented, with the sides rising about eighteen inches above ground level. It appears to be at least as old as the house, which seems to have been built around it. It collects roof water like the more familiar galvanised-iron tanks. Mathematical enthusiasts may be able to work out how many thousand gallons it would hold—it is not one of those school-arithmetic-book cisterns which leaked three gallons for every two that went in.

It was originally fitted with a hand pump—pumping up the household's daily requirements must have been a solid job. It was covered with a wooden deck. It was cleaned out during the 1939 drought, and is now fitted with a small pressure pump used to pump water to the dairy.