

DR. ELLIS, BOTANIST

[Miss Annette Onslow (Member), writes that she has discovered a letter from William Macarthur to his sister-in-law Emily (Mrs. James Macarthur), dated 1st September, 1854, which makes further reference to "the accomplished medico."]

William Macarthur writes about the rain-forest brush near Wollongong and Jamberoo, where he was identifying and collecting plants, and says: "I have not got on so fast as I might have done for want of 'Dr. Ellis' who has been ill, or is ill, and has not joined me."

He goes on to write of one particular brush where he had been on an earlier expedition with George Macleay when, after collecting twenty-three species of plants, they thought they had exhausted it. "This time," he says, "with the aid of an opera glass, I have been able to find 12 fresh species not before got . . . besides these we have got much finer specimens of a good many we had before—but I sadly miss 'Dr. Ellis' who could give me the aboriginal names for almost every tree."

[Dr. Ellis has figured in the Bulletin before (in May 1976, and, less favourably, in October 1981). Major E. H. Weston in his reminiscences said "Dr. Ellis, a pure-blooded aboriginal . . . had received a good education, and was the most intelligent and polished native I ever met."]