LOCAL HISTORY IN AUSTRALIA — A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS:

The Society has received from the Royal Australian Historical Society two copies of "Local History in Australia — A Guide for Beginners" by Philip. A booklet "very carefully compiled and written as a general guide to anyone who wishes to engage in historical research". The historical researcher could not have a better guide to the various sources of information available and their uses, or to the manner in which a line of inquiry can be followed up from one source to another — even though the prospective historian will probably be appalled at the number of avenues which he must explore if he is to have no worm unturned and no skeleton unraveled in his efforts to cover thoroughly the history of one small district. In spite of (or because of) this, the opinion of the Council of R.A.H.S. that it will be of great value to the researcher's work in all Societies is fully justified. Copies of the booklet are available from the Royal Australian Historical Society Office, History House, 8 Young Street, Sydney, at $1.00 each.

THE PIONEER KEROSENE WORKS . . .

by A. P. Fleming (Past President and Councillor).

An attractive and valuable addition to the society's publications appears in Mr. Fleming's latest booklet under the long title "The Pioneer Kerosene Works at American Creek (Mount Kembla, N.S.W.) with a Brief Reference to the Succeeding Companies".

As an attractive publication it ranks as one of the society's best. The shiny white Kromcote cover bears a large illustration of the works as they appeared about 200 yards down from the present Nebo Colliery, drawn from a contemporary picture.

Details are built up as the tests are made; equipment secured; the works established and the oil marketed; several companies being formed to operate the works from time to time. Homes, business premises, churches and public buildings glowed with the light of the Illawarra product.

However, as with other oil projects at Hartley, Joadja, Newnes and in more recent times Glen Davis, the business folded up.

Better still was the success of the succeeding companies which found coal mining a lucrative industry almost on the site where the oil production failed at continuance.

It is to the author's credit that tables of production, prices and tests have been pieced together as a result of careful research.

The printing of the booklet is particularly clear and it provided a record of another aspect of Illawarra which would have remained unrecorded but for the efforts of Mr. Fleming.

—— W.A.B

VALE — ARTHUR RHY'S JONES:

As this Bulletin was being prepared we learned with regret of the decease of Mr. A. R. Jones at his home in the Newcastle suburb of Bar Beach, on July 19, in his 80th year.

Our late member was a Foundation Vice-President and truly a Foundation Member in that he was one of the Committee appointed by the Illawarra Discussion Group to investigate ways and means of forming an Historical Society. At a meeting of the Illawarra Discussion Group in the latter half of 1944 the idea of an Historical Society was first suggested.

On the official inauguration Mr. Jones was elected to the Provisional Committee and subsequently one of the two Foundation Vice-Presidents, resigning from the office at the end of 1948 owing to pressure of other commitments. He maintained a keen interest until his removal to Bar Beach after retirement from business.

He conducted a general store in West Wollongong and when telephones and transport were at a greater premium that even today his facilities were always cheerfully available.

An enthusiastic Rotarian, he served faithfully all its projects for the betterment of the city and its people.

However, he is also remembered as a sporting personality, being a foremost exponent of Soccer football. As an inside forward he played for the old Corrimal Club when it was a power, the South Coast and N.S.W. which he captained at the age of 20. In the game he was associated with his brother Cadben ("Cob"), also a star, and Foundation Member of I.H.S.

Those who had the privilege of working with him in the early days of the Society found him to be a kindly, tolerant gentleman and friend. — A.P.F.