for, it was otherwise a highly successful occasion — culminating (after the guests had gone) in the President and a couple of officials causing a nuisance and annoyance to adjoining or neighbouring occupiers by rolling the grandmother of all mangles over every bump in Market Street, to the accompaniment of a noise to wake the dead. (We owe this imposing piece of heavy machinery to the generosity of Mr W. R. Purcell). Now all we need is one of those period signs: 'Respectable widow wants washing. Mangling done here', or words to that effect.

OBITUARY:

We regret to record the death of Mr R. H. Clarke, a former Councillor of the R.A.H.S. and an old friend of this Society, who in past years delivered a number of addresses to the Society and acted as a guide on excursions to the Sydney city area, on whose history he was an authority. The sympathy of the Society is extended to his relatives.

BANJO PATERSON ON BILL BEACH

(The following extract from "On the River", a script written by A. B. Paterson for the A.B.C. in 1935, is reprinted by permission of Angus & Robertson Limited, publishers of "The World of Banjo Paterson", a selection of Paterson's prose writings edited by Clement Semmler. The River is the Parramatta, which Paterson knew well when he lived at his grandmother's home at Gladesville while attending Sydney Grammar School and while serving his articles in a Sydney solicitor's office):

It became a matter of national importance that we should find a man to beat this Canadian (Hanlan). The river scullers were tried, also the men from the North Coast but none stood the test. Then Dr Fortescue, a leading surgeon in Sydney, was asked to examine a blacksmith named Beach who hailed from the South Coast. This Beach — sometimes know as Gipsy Beach — was an Englishman by birth, but had come out here at an early age. His face was the face of Bismarck, the man of blood and iron; his frame was knotted with muscles built up by years of swinging the sledge hammer; but he knew next to nothing about wager boat-rowing. Consider the colossal confidence of trying to beat the champion of the world with this novice sculler! Except that Dr Fortescue lived on the Parramatta River, he had little or no claim to know anything about race-rowing; but he said that of all the thousands of men whom he had examined in his life none could compare with Beach, and he was prepared to back him against Hanlan or any other small man. Friends argued with him and expostulated with him, but he said: "No, there never was a man like this. He'll beat Hanlon."

So now they had the man and the money and it is a matter of history how Beach beat him, not once only, but every time that they met — and these matches started such an orgy of sculling as never was seen in the world before.

Postscript — In his biography of Paterson, "The Banjo of the Bush", Mr Semmler quotes a letter from Paterson to George Robertson (28th November, 1901):

"These English . . . are quite in the dark about us and our ideas. Their one idea is that the visit of the Duke of York marked an epoch in the history of Australia. I longed to say, 'Yes, he got nearly as big a reception as Bill Beach the sculler . . . .'."

(The Duke of York, afterwards King George V, had opened the first Commonwealth Parliament earlier in the year. The souvenir flags in the Museum were among the by-products of his visit. — Ed.)

THE PIONEER KEROSENE WORKS:

Our old friend, Rev. Bro. J. P. O'Malley, a former Research Secretary of the Society, writes from Goulburn apropos of the publication of Mr Fleming's booklet on this subject: "Congratulations to him, and to the Society for its enterprise".

Incidentally, the price of the booklet (as we should have mentioned last month) is 40 cents, and it is obtainable at Society meetings, at the Museum, or from the Secretary, Box 249 P.O., Wollongong (postage 8 cents).