MEMBERS' SLIDE NIGHT

In accordance with established tradition, the December meeting will take the form of a Members' Slide Night. Members and friends are invited to show their slides, particularly those dealing with the Society's activities or otherwise of a historical nature. To give everyone a chance, the usual quota of not more than twenty slides per member, and time limit of eight minutes per member, will be applied.

At the conclusion of the meeting you are invited to be the guests of the Society at supper.

As this will be the Society's last function for the year, the President and Council extend to all members their best wishes for an enjoyable Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The speakers at the November meeting were two of our members, Mrs E. Stewart and Mrs M. M. Evans, their subjects being respectively "Dr. Robert Menzies and Margaret Menzies", and "The Story of Sarah Osborne". A very brief summary of their addresses (both of which were illustrated by slides) appears below. Following the addresses, slides made from photographs presented to the Society by Miss Grisel Gray (grand-daughter of Lawrence Hargrave), whose continued interest in our Society is greatly appreciated by the Council and members, were shown.

Dr. Robert Menzies and Margaret Menzies.

Dr. Robert Menzies was 26, and his bride of two months, Margaret, was 21 when in August, 1838 they sailed in the "Earl Durham" for Australia. Margaret's diary records the incidents of their voyage—an unusually rapid one, for they reached Sydney on 2 January, 1839. A few weeks later Dr. Menzies bought two 300 acre blocks at Jamberoo, and they set out on horseback for Kiama leaving their belongings to follow by sea, in the 35-ton schooner "Alexander McLeay".

Margaret lived at Kiama while her husband—in the intervals of his medical practice—and their assigned servants built a temporary home at Minnamurra, Jamberoo. Then followed the building of their permanent home—Minnamurra House, where Mr. and Mrs. Stewart now live. The stone was quarried on the property, sand and shell-grit for the mortar brought by bullock-dray from the coast, lime burned on the spot, nails forged in a nearby smithy, and timber cut at the Woodstock Mills further along the valley. Some of the trees Dr. Menzies planted, including the great Jamaica, Norfolk Island and Queensland Kauri pines, are still standing.
Lady Franklin and other distinguished visitors were entertained in the house and for some time church services were held in the solid slab barn.

In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Menzies was coroner, and magistrate. Rations supplied by the government were issued to the aborigines at Minnamurra House. The rigours of medical practice under pioneer conditions—hours of riding, sleeping in wet clothes in lonely camps and long vigils with patients in the bush—culminated in Dr. Menzies' death from pneumonia in 1860. Margaret died next year, aged only 44. They were survived by four children—all daughters—of the seven born to them. They were buried in the little graveyard on the hill above the house.

The Story of Sarah Osborne.

When, in 1828, young Henry Osborne was about to leave his home in County Tyrone to join his brothers John and Alick in New South Wales, he pleaded in vain for the Rev. Benjamin Marshall's consent to his marriage with the latter's daughter Sarah. But after leaving Liverpool, Henry's ship was driven into Belfast by storm damage. Henry renewed his pleas, the viscount relented, and Sarah, provided with a trousseau in a week by the combined efforts of all the ladies of the parish, was married and sailed with Henry for Australia.

Another fortunate accident had induced Henry to turn his father's draft for £1000 into linen, blankets and cloth which he sold at a good price in Sydney. He received a grant, named "Marshall Mount" after Sarah's family, on which their first home, "Pumpkin Cottage", still stands behind the one-stately home which was completed in 1838.

Henry's interests were widespread and he was away for long periods, when in 1839 he "overlanded" a mob of cattle, horses and sheep to Adelaide. It was his responsibility for the upbringing of their thirteen children, and the management of the property, largely fell on Sarah. Even so, she found time to run her own Sunday School, and during the gold rush, when butter was bringing 8/- per lb. in Sydney, to churn thousands of pounds of butter herself.

Henry Osborne's death in 1859 was quickly followed by that of his son John. Sarah, as soon as her affairs could be settled, returned to England, where she died in 1873.

We mostly hear of our pioneer women as "Wife of So-and-so", and nothing more. Sarah Osborne was, like many others, worthy of remembrance in her own right.

MUSEUM NOTES

As this Bulletin goes to press the Handicrafts Exhibition is still in progress. The opening on 18th November was performed by Mrs. Ella Harle, wife of Mr. Harry Hartley, General Manager of E. R. & S. Ltd., in the presence of a large gathering of members and friends, who were afterwards entertained at afternoon tea by the ladies of the Society. Following the press and publicity which the opening received, the exhibition has been well-attended and has undoubtedly been the means of bringing the Museum to wider public notice.

The Society has received many compliments from visitors, particularly from ladies, on the quality of the exhibits and the manner in which they have displayed. Our appreciation and thanks are due to the donors and lenders of exhibits, the Museum Committee and all who assisted in staging the exhibition.

FOXGROUND AND KIAMA EXCURSION

A most successful excursion took place in ideal weather on Sunday, 5th November, to Foxground and Kiama. Our first objective — attained despite some misgivings about the width of the road and the strength of the bridges — was the museum established by the local boys on Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Carter's property "Glenrock," Foxground. The large and varied collection of exhibits on which the boys are extremely well informed, is a credit to their enterprise and enthusiasm. (For any members who missed the trip — regular museum hours are 2 to 5 p.m. on Sundays, and you are recommended to see it.) Morning tea was provided by Mrs. Carter.