factory reason for it' he said 'And talking about architects I do not know why such a race was set upon earth at all' and then added with Christian resignation 'Except it is for this—that men who have anything to do with them should have their patience severely tried.' When Hunt read the remarks he commented abruptly 'The words of a fool who has had as much to do with the work as a child.'

"The Osborne Memorial Church of St. Luke at Dapto is undoubtedly the finest of Hunt's brick churches (excluding the cathedrals). His critics of 1882 (as well as some today) disliked it because of its departures from the ecclesiastical norm. After criticizing the narrowness of the entrance, the unchurch-like appearance of the tower, the excessive and unnecessary strength 'almost that of a fortress' one critic wrote in disapproval and of his disgust, 'Of plaster paint colouring or varnish there is not a vestige to be seen within the building, and as if to match the net-work of naked rustic-like beams and rafters overhead the aisle is floored with dull colour—common bricks.'

"To a less jaundiced eye St. Luke's is a most handsome building. It is these very points of adverse criticism which are the source of its strengths and virtues. The ingenuity, skill and beauty of well designed and executed brickwork and timber used consistently and uninterrupted for every part of the building are excellent. The tower, with its brick covered squat pyramid roof and its rich use of purpose-made bricks is a splendid architectural statement of function and material. [Plates 23, 24 and 25].

"St. Luke's, Dapto, is the high-point of Hunt's developing ideas on the use of materials and ecclesiastical architecture. A full-blooded, powerful and independently-minded building, it is the epitome of the standards and values of its architect."

RAILWAY CENTENARY IN TASMANIA:

Our research officer has been complimented on his recent production in a letter from Mr. R. G. Barber, Secretary for Railways in Tasmania in which he says, "Recently our Publicity Officer, Mr. Ron Fardell, showed me a copy of your publication . . . ."

"I thought the publication a most informative historical booklet. I am desirous of obtaining a copy for retention in my office at Hobart. . . ."

Mr. Bayley's son Philip got the edge on his father when his picture of a goods train being made up at Western Junction south of Launcet near midnight gained big space in "T'RAILS" — the news sheet of Tassiean Government Railways issue of June.

BEAUFLOY MERLIN AND WOLLONGONG

Beaufoy Merlin is fashionable in newsletters at present. The "Royal had him in June and July. We would be out of step to neglect him August! — or better still October! Centenary!"
The story of his sponsorship by Holtermann from his "Nugget Money" and of his journeys in the dawning days of photography to photograph town life, emphasised by Hill End and Gulgong goldfields, has been told frequently.

Merlin included Bulli and Wollongong in his travels, visiting the former on October 24 and 25, 1871, photographing Bulli Public School and its pupils and a great many places according to the "Illawarra Mercury" report, although we have so far traced no other "carte-de-visite" photographs.

He went on to Wollongong and there continued his work. A number of his photographs on small cards are in the Wollongong library. If time permitted research, there would be several of the buildings around Market Square, the hospital and so on.

One of which we are certain is that of the Wollongong National School opened in May, 1840 on the south-eastern corner of Crown and Kembla Streets, where the library building stands today.

The little sepia card shows the right hand half of the building inscribed "PUBLIC SCHOOL" and on the next line "BOYS' DEPARTMENT". (We are indebted to Mr. Ken V. Matthews of the Wollongong Teachers' College for securing reproduction to show the wording, which can scarcely be seen on the original).

The back of the card is the normal style "Photograph by the American and Australasian Photographic Company, Sydney Office, 324 George Street, Sydney"; signed on the back in the hand of Beaufoy Merlin.

It is interesting to note that the plan and elevation of the school appears on page 198 of Morton Herman's "The Early Australian Architects". Although not labelled Wollongong, the letterpress shows that only one National School had been designed by 1838 when Wollongong was begun so that it could be none other. Designed by Mortimer Lewis, it reveals that our photograph shows exactly one half of the building, which was of Georgian design with a central door.

Our photograph depicts the boys outside the Boys' Department (which in the ground plan is shown as "Girls"), together with what appears to be the headmaster on the right and a pupil-teacher on the left, both standing away from the group. Evidently the verandah and attic window were added after the building had been in operation for some time. Probably the residence of the teacher was between the two schoolrooms 42 feet long.

NOVEMBER EXHIBITION

Perhaps we may be able to feature several Beaufoy Merlin pictures of Wollongong in our proposed November exhibition, which will coincide with the centenary of his visit to Wollongong.