Commenced my holiday from home, on a cruise of Fiji and Tonga and left the “Arcadia” at Auckland. Went North to “Te Kapuru” my birth place and have stayed with friends and relatives at various places, all the way down both islands, to the Bluff. The cameras have been working overtime. Glorious views down South. Travelled by jeep to top of Blue Mountains on East coast, and the view took in Stewart Island 60 miles away.

Otago Harbour is a gem, surrounded by extinct volcanoes, but I have an idea you have been here, so you would know.

Must away now. Have lots more to write today — stamp friends — seeing it is first day of Issue. Cherio for now. Regards to all.

Sincerely,
ELSA JOHANSON.

WELCOME TO EMILY:

At the April meeting the suggested plan for the projected extension of the Museum was a centre of interest.

This plan was prepared by Mrs. Evans’s architect daughter, Helen (Mrs. Neil Oates). However, most people were not aware that after finishing the plan, Mrs. Oates completed a most important project in the birth of her first child, Emily.

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

— A. P. F.

LITTLE MILTON, SMITH STREET, WOLLONGONG:

(The following notes are based on material collected by the late Mrs. E. Mackreth. Any additional information will be welcomed by Mrs. M. Evans, or Miss M. McDonald (Wollongong Public Library).

It seems probable that Little Milton was built in the early 1860’s. A map of Wollongong c 1855-7, which shows the buildings in the town, has nothing marked on the site, and the house does not seem to be in von Guerard’s view of Wollongong dated December 1859.

Miss Lee said that her father, Dr. Timothy Lee, purchased it about 1885 from a Mr. Carter, a Methodist minister, and that it was about thirty years old then. Dr. Lee named it “Little Milton”, and a year or so later added the brick wing, with a surgery door opening on to the footpath.

There is no Carter in the Municipal Rolls about this time, but the Rev. George Charter, the Congregational minister who came to Wollongong in 1855, lived in Smith Street in 1885. He has evidently been there for some time — on 9th June, 1863 he gave notice of his intention to appeal against the assessment of his property in Smith and Corrimal Streets, and in Market Street. In the earliest available assessment rolls (1868-9, 1869-70, and 1870-71) he is shown as owning land on the corner of Smith and Corrimal Streets, and a house (which he occupied) next to it in Smith Street. The adjoining house was occupied by C. Fairs, and the next owned and occupied by the Rev. T. C. Ewing — presumably Cormiston).

The Municipal Roll for 1885-6 shows the Rev. G. Charter still owning and occupying a house, allotments, and paddock in Smith Street, and Dr. Lee occupying a house in Market Square. The following year the Rev.
G. Charter has disappeared from the roll, and Dr. Timothy Lee is owner and occupier of a house and land in Smith Street.

The Rev. Mr. Charter preached his farewell sermon on 27th September 1885, and was leaving in retirement at Croydon a week or so later ("Illawarra Mercury," 29th September, 1885). Dr. Lee’s removal from Market Square to Smith Street, corner of Corrimal Street, is reported in the "Wollongong Argus", 6th January, 1886. A Congregational manse was erected in 1886.

After Dr. Lee’s death in 1919 Little Milton became a boarding house conducted by his three daughters. Miss Isobel Lee, the last surviving daughter, died in 1970, and the proceeds of the sale of the property, which is now in the hands of trustees, will go to charity.

— M. McD.

T. H. HUXLEY AND ILLAWARRA — A Note upon a Non-event:

The more romantic a story, it seems, the less do some historians like to discard it. The legend of T. H. Huxley’s visit to Jamberoo has recently been innocently repeated in our Bulletin.

The earliest account one can find of this is in, of all places, James Jervis’s “Illawarra: A Century of History, 1788-1888” (Journal R.A.H.S. Vol. 28, p. 156). There he narrates how Huxley went to Jamberoo, adding the circumstantial detail of travelling on a buckboard buggy; the young man is supposed to have stayed at the inn, and there met Henrietta Heathorn, his future bride (and what, one may ask, was an early Victorian miss of undoubted respectability doing in such a place at such a time, hard by her own home?).

Anyhow, they fell in love, allegedly met again in Sydney at a dance at Dawes Point, and later married. Yet despite the corroborative detail of the buggy and the Dawes Point dance, perhaps intended, to adapt Gilbertian phraseology, to give an air of artistic verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative, the story is simply not true. One would like to know its origin, because that model of reliability, the late James Jervis, quotes no authority for his statement. And of course he would be the last person to invent it.

On the other hand, we have it on the best of authorities, Mrs. Huxley herself, that she had left Jamberoo years before she met her future husband. In her charming article, “Pictures of Australian Life 1843-44” (Cornhill Magazine 1911, pp. 770-781) she describes her arrival in Sydney, her journey to Jamberoo (where her father was manager of the Woodstock mills and brewery), her life there, and her return to Sydney. Two years later, when Henrietta was a confirmed Sydneyite, H.M.S. Rattlesnake put in at Sydney on her exploring voyage under Captain Owen Stanley, numbering amongst her personnel the dark, brooding but often merry young scientist who, as “Darwin’s bulldog”, was later to revolutionize biological science. It was in Sydney, according to each party, that he met Henrietta, there being no evidence that Huxley ever went to Jamberoo or even that he had any opportunity to do so. But the rest of the story is true enough, how they became engaged and married in England, after a separation of eight years, thereby founding that brilliant family that has added so much to modern science and art.