AUGUST MEETING:

At the August meeting of the Society Mr. K. Davies, M.A., M.Ed. (Member) spoke on “Childhood in the Nineteenth Century”, with special reference to the educational system (or lack of it) of the day.

Until well on in the century many children almost entirely escaped education, but life was not all marbles or fishing. For most of them work began early, and, especially on the small selections, life was hard and conditions primitive.

Mr. Davies supported his arguments with many graphic illustrations, both verbal and pictorial, drawn from his researches into the history of schools, mainly in the Riverina district. The Society is indebted to Mr. Davies for a lively and entertaining address which held the interest of the audience throughout.

INFORMATION SOUGHT:

Dr. Bruce Thom, of the Department of Biogeography and Geomorphology, A.N.U., Canberra, seeks information on coastal storms and their effect on beaches, inlets and destruction of wharves and ships, and when such events occurred.

Mr. C. E. H. Smith, of 9 Inverloch Avenue, Torrens Park, S.A. 5062, is seeking information on his great-grandparents James and Mary Smith. James Smith was born at Glasgow in 1810, married in Dublin and came to Australia as a soldier in 1835. Their eldest child was born at “Stockade, Wollongong” on 14 January 1836. Can anyone say definitely which regiment then had a detachment at the Stockade, and whether the Stockade was still at Cross Roads or had been moved to Figtree?

MORE ON “OLD BEDAD”:

Mr. Ian Young’s article on James Armstrong (“Old Bedad”) in the August Bulletin has prompted another descendant, Dr. A. Cameron Armstrong, to add a few details. He has in his possession a photograph of “Old Bedad” aged 100 (but not looking a day over 80) astride his 20-year-old mare Black Bess; and incidentally, at the age of 80 the tough old patriarch, having taken to himself a second wife, became the father of a bouncing baby girl.

One letter, Dr. Armstrong says, should be corrected — Robert Armstrong, James’s father, was a tailor, not a sailor, illegible handwriting in the shipping records making confusion easy.

Edward Graham, the manager of the American Creek Pioneer Cement Works, was one of James Armstrong’s sons-in-law. By coincidence, an advertisement signed by him appeared in the July Bulletin, in which we first raised the ghost of “Old Bedad” — whose nickname, by the way, came from his favourite, though pretty innocuous, expletive.

Dr. Armstrong has been trying to locate the alleged Irish Mangerton, so far without success; but he has enquiries in progress which he hopes will establish definitely whether such a place exists.