"GROWING UP IN THE ILLAWARRA"

Continued from December 1984

A few minor inaccuracies were detected in Chapter 1. On the whole the text avoids the current solacism of speaking of the Illawarra, ungrammatical as it is (do you live in the Wollongong or Kiama ?), and an insult to the integrity of the genuine Aboriginal place-name, which should not be contaminated by bad English. It is regrettable that a lapse was permitted in the title, although this is known to have been a deliberate choice.

But one feels mean to mention pinpricks when there is so much of general excellence. And perhaps it is unnecessary to add that, for all that excellence and fullness, much remains to be done. As an instance, the subject of juvenile delinquency is only touched upon. Experience shows that such cases derive in high proportion from broken homes, homes broken by death, desertion, divorce, neglect, conscious rejection of the family as a basic social unit - one could go on. So it follows that further studies of growing up in Illawarra - as elsewhere - must overflow into the lives of adults. To complete the picture we need books on being grown up, and growing old, in Illawarra. Moreover, it must be a continuing process which must largely fall into the hands of academic historians and their research workers. But let them please write up their findings as Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Sherington have done, keeping the reader turning the pages out of unflagging interest. We need a lot more much books.

E.B.

OBITUARY – MR. A. F. JONES

The Society has just been informed of the death in late 1982 of our member Mr. Alban Fraser Jones, of Wollongong. Though a member of whom we saw very little, his interest in the Society was very real; his grandfathers were Jacob Carlos Jones, prominent in mining circles in Illawarra, and Captain Fraser, for many years harbour master at Wollongong. Mr. Jones remembered the Society in his will, bequeathing to it a sum of $100.00 and an old enlarged picture of the lighthouse and harbour. We extend gratitude to his memory and sympathy to his relatives.