NOTES ON AN EXHIBIT OF A SMALL ABORIGINAL "CAMP" COLLECTION FROM NEAR BUNDABERG.

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It has long been felt that our knowledge of the Stone Implements of the Queensland Aboriginals is very meagre, and we have almost made ourselves believe that, beyond the proverbial stone axe, stone knife, stone millers and things of that kind and an occasional chipped flake, there is little to be found in our day, especially in those places where the natives have died out. Mr. A. S. Kenyon, of Melbourne, has, with his unique opportunities as a civil engineer, assisted by Messrs. D. J. Mahoney and S. F. Mann, subjected some of the most important places in his districts to a thorough scrutiny, and many interesting stone implements have as a consequence been brought to light. No one has as yet attempted a similar, thorough and systematic investigation of the camping-grounds in Queensland, and as a consequence many have thought that some of these crude implements found in the south are non-existent here, but from various cursory examinations of such places whenever an opportunity for field work has presented itself, I am convinced that there is yet an enormous field for investigation right throughout Queensland. Only a short time ago, through the kindness of Mr. Lionel C. Ball, of the Queensland Geological Survey, I had an opportunity of examining a number of flakes and chips collected by him in the sand dunes to the south-east of Sand Hills, near
Bundaberg. One, if not two, of these, made of jasperoid, show unmistakable secondary chipping. Snatching the opportunity of a visit to Bundaberg almost immediately after, I made a special visit to Sand Hills in company with Alderman L. H. Maynard as guide. Less than half a mile from the railway station, officially termed Bargara, we came across our first feeding-ground. The sand dunes rise immediately behind the beach and within a hundred yards reach elevations of 30 to 50 feet. They are backed by low swampy ground, and this locality, judging by the many aboriginal relics of a similar rock which have been picked up from time to time and shown to me, appears to have been a favourite camping-ground. The flakes, chips, and other cutting implements found, were almost without exception accompanied by large quantities of molluses. Through the kindness of Dr. Shirley, who indentified the specimens for me, I am able to state that these heaps of shell fish consisted of the following species:—Brachyodonites hirsutus Lamk, Meleagrina vulgaris Sehn., Nerita chameleon L., and a species of oyster. So that the camp collection which we made on the spot consisted of these shells, together with one blank (unfinished) axe of silicified sandstone, two primitive stone tools also made of the same material, a large quantity of flakes, chips, scrapers, drills and gouges made of silicified sandstone, jasperoid, petrified wood, quartz, etc., and a basalt hammer. The latter implement has most distinct finger marks, and although it was made of basalt, an unusual material for an implement of this kind, a definite weathered surface of that portion used in hammering testifies, I think, to its one time use. The country rock here is of vesicular basalt which, as Mr. Ball has pointed out, was evidently considered unsuitable for tool making. He considers that the Burrum coal measures presumably underlie the basalt, but they do not appear on the surface in this locality, so we may presume that the silicified rocks used by the aboriginals as here described, had evidently been brought some distance by them for this purpose.

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