

THE GEOLOGY OF LIMEKILNS, BATHURST DISTRICT.

By W. J. CLUNIES ROSS, B.Sc.

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[With Plate XLII.]

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THE locality known as Limekilns is situated about sixteen miles north-east of Bathurst. The existence of beds of limestone there has long been known, and, as the name of the place indicates, the stone was formerly used for lime burning, although at present little, if any, is quarried for that purpose. One of the limestone beds contains some small caves, which are occasionally visited, and a short list of fossils from the place is given by Rev. J. M. Curran, in his paper on the Geology of Bathurst.* A few months ago attention was drawn in the daily papers to the occurrence of a variegated marble at a place called "Fernbrook," which is close to Limekilns. The discovery of this ornamental stone, or at any rate the recognition of its suitability for decorative work, is due to my friend Mr. W. Roberts, Government Clerk of Works for the Western District, who carefully examined all the limestones in the Bathurst district, with a view to the utilisation of some of them in Government buildings. The favourable opinion which he formed of the Fernbrook stone has been fully endorsed by all who have seen polished specimens, and it is generally admitted to be equal in beauty to any imported stone. As it is obtainable in good sized blocks and easily polished, there is considerable probability that it will be extensively used in the near future. Geologically speaking, it is not a true marble, if we confine that term to limestones which have undergone complete metamorphism, accompanied by the obliteration of all fossils. True saccharine

* 'A Contribution to the Geology and Petrography of Bathurst, New South Wales.'—*Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W.*, Ser. 2, Vol. vi., p. 173 - 234.



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