

We agree wholeheartedly with their activities, but you will, I am sure, agree that the craft aspect, including as it does hobbies and allied pursuits, together with the provision for cultural activities is essential if an attempt is to be made to capture the interest and provide for the aptitudes, aspirations and yearnings of the young people.

Questions, such as provision of material, supervision and control would, of course, have to be solved.

Note.—At this stage mention the activities and goals of bodies such as —

THE LIBRARY AND CRAFT MOVEMENT under the guidance of Mrs. M. Matheson, at Phillip Park, Clovelly; Erskineville and Bradfield Park, etc., and extend invitation to visit various centres.

POLICE BOYS' CLUB.

CHURCH AND YOUTH ORGANISATIONS.

Value of Motion Pictures, Socials, Dances, Reading Rooms.

Library Facilities and possibly Television.

Talk about the provision of Swimming Baths.

What Council activity can be aroused ?

There is no suggestion that the young folk should be penned up at La Perouse continuously—let them by all means mix and fraternise with the outside communities, but it is felt desirable that there should be a happy, well conducted and well directed focal point of social interest within easy access, where youthful enjoyment of leisure is real, and is conducive to good living.

So much for the adolescent.

What of the parent and the adult ?

Employment has been mentioned, and remarks already made largely suffice. There should be no obstacles in the way of each wage earner being able, with or without assistance, to obtain employment.

Housing needs careful consideration. The general standard of homes is NOT adequate. There are insufficient amenities in the home. The question of provision of *baths, showers, refrigeration, sanitation*, MUST be followed up.

The Aborigine Welfare Board has been purchasing homes apart from those in the Mission, and has been encouraging families to purchase them on a rental basis. This is an excellent start. Those who live in Government provided dwellings, do not necessarily show much interest in the care and condition of their homes. This is a problem which is not restricted to the aborigines alone, but thought and guidance from outside influences might do a lot to correct it.

We are given to the idea that until such times as the homes reflect some pride of ownership or occupancy, and until such times as they contain reasonable amenities and living space, then the proper assimilation of these people with their claims to responsible citizenship will be delayed.

The health requirements must also be considered. The School Doctor and the Dentist periodically visit the school and necessary treatment is available at the hospital and clinics.

Could these facilities be extended to cover the needs of the aborigine folk in general ?



What a boon a *Baby Health Centre* would prove to be. There would be no reluctance or hesitancy on the part of mothers and those ill to visit a centre established in their midst. The periodical attendance of a doctor and regular visits of the travelling dental clinic would be an untold blessing.

We mentioned earlier that the children have an aptitude for sport. They have frequently represented the State at Football, Softball and Basket Ball, yet not one adult has appeared in a Grade Team ? Why this strange anomaly ?

The answer is that the sport needs to be organised. Somebody is needed to guide them, to help form their clubs—to see that they participate in the executive side of their sport. Patience is needed, but unless something is done to assist them, then the present wastage of talent will continue.

RELIGIOUS GUIDANCE.—This is dangerous ground and we refrain from being critical.

There has been no Minister of religion stationed at La Perouse Mission for many months. To my way of thinking this is tragic.

I feel that the choice of a religious *Counsellor, guide and friend* with high ideals, sympathy and broad tolerance is needed for these folk. A man, not easily daunted by irregularities of conduct, by seeming indifference or by apparent apathy, would do more than any other single person to build a community, guided and held together by Christian morals and precepts.

In conclusion, we cannot over emphasise the need for the community at large to provide men and women whose own lives would serve as examples, and to whom these people would be able to look for support and guidance in their development as citizens of this great country of ours.

PEN FRIENDS WANTED.

It's not much fun being in hospital, especially when you have to stay there for a long time, for it gets very lonely.

Some good pen friends can help a lot to cheer you up and that's just what Francis Cruse needs.

Francis Cruse is 19 years of age and his address is Ward 4, the Sanatorium, Waterfall, and he has been there over a year. So, how about a lot of pen friends now for this very lonely person.