

# ALONG THE MAIL ROUTE

## GENEROUS DONATIONS BY SYDNEY SCHOOL GIRLS

The Board is very pleased to receive from three of the Sydney Metropolitan Girls' Schools amounts collected amongst themselves to be used for the benefit of some aboriginal child or children.

The Board deeply appreciates that thought of the children and the amount received will be apportioned as special cases arise.

The donations were :

Campsie Girls' School, £3 3s.  
Strathfield Girls' High School, £30  
Brighton College, Manly, (Intermediate Class),  
£1 10s.

THANK YOU GIRLS.

## TRANSFER OF OFFICERS

The following appointments have been effected since 23rd July, 1957 :—

*Kempsey* : Miss D. M. O'Brien—Female Welfare Officer.

*Cootamundra* : Mrs. M. J. McPherson—Assistant Matron.

## Aborigines in C.M.F.

Four full-blood N.T. aborigines are now serving in the C.M.F., the first N.T. natives to voluntarily enlist for military service. They are fine specimens and have the making of first class soldiers, and all are initiated tribesmen. They are Jimmy Havelock of the Wagaitj tribe, Wilfred Rubijirima of the Tewis, Andrew Henda of the Mudgras, and Harold Phillips of the Warramungas. The boys are serving as gunners in 121 Medium Coast Battery, at Darwin. The C.O. of N.T. Command, Lieutenant-Colonel C. P. West, said he hoped the example of these boys would inspire other natives to enlist in the Australian Army.

## Aboriginal Surgery.

Aboriginal surgery in their primitive days was drastic but apparently effective. My maternal grandfather who was cane farming at Hambleton, in the Cairns district in 1912, told me that a young aboriginal was bitten on the heel by a black snake. Two other aboriginals held the victim's leg firmly above and below the knee. The wizened old "surgeon" placed the

blade of a steel tomahawk into the fire, and then gashed the heel with a piece of glass bottle. When the blade of the tomahawk was red hot it was thrust into the open wound, and held there by main force for a full minute. Apart from having to walk on the ball of the afflicted foot until the ugly wound healed, the patient suffered no ill effects.—C.L.

(With acknowledgements to the "North Australian Monthly".)

## MISS D. O'BRIEN NEW WELFARE OFFICER

Sister D. O'Brien, formerly Sister-in-charge of the Kempsey Chest Clinic, began duty yesterday in her new appointment as Aborigine Welfare Officer. She will be looking after the welfare of Aborigines on the North Coast.

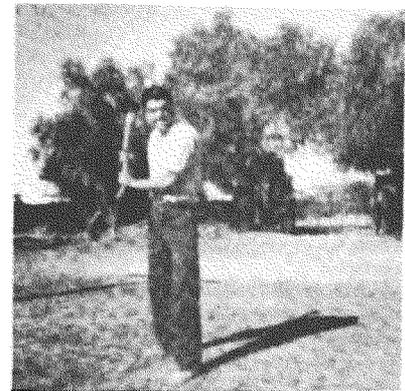
Sister O'Brien will be working in conjunction with Mr. A. Norton and Mr. E. J. Morgan, Aborigine Welfare Officers in the districts which comprise the area.

She will be responsible for formulating a programme to control worm infestation, and is now working with Dr. L. Dunn, District Health Officer from Maitland and will ultimately open clinics at Burnt Bridge, Greenhills and other centres, for worm treatments.

In addition, she will instruct Aboriginal mothers in home management, domestic hygiene and infant and maternal welfare. Hers is the first country appointment in this sphere of welfare.

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Congratulations to G. Connelly, of Yass, on the birth of a baby daughter, Doris Rose.



A game of cricket to while away the time.