

## *Notes and Queries*

*Miss L.E. Dudley*

On the 24th May 1983 the Natal Society Council held a function to honour Miss Dudley's remarkable accomplishment of 60 years service with the Natal Society and to mark her retirement.

She joined the staff in January 1923. Here is her own account:

Once upon a time at the end of the day's duties, one rather shy pig-tailed teenager would be dismissed with the words, "Run along, Kiddie".

A few years later the Deputy Librarian, who later became a well-known journalist and broadcaster, would say in his broad 'Lancasheer' accent, "Run along, little one!" He once enquired of me, in the days when we enjoyed a half day's holiday for the Show, 'Are you going to the show to see the pretty bulls and cows?'



Miss L.E. Dudley

(Photograph: Mrs F.J. Lancaster)

But whether she went to the show or not she stayed with the Natal Society full-time until March 1973. Not content with 50 glorious years she returned part-time until her final retirement at the end of May 1983.

Miss Dudley is a lady of many parts. We gather she could sing before she could talk and is well known for her participation in Philharmonic concerts and as a soloist in the Methodist Church. She has also sung at many staff weddings.

Miss Dudley was a keen tennis player and walked undeterred from the library after a Saturday morning's work to Alexandra Road to play.

A great number of Pietermaritzburg people will remember Miss Dudley accepting them as members of the Natal Society and the pleasant welcome she unfailingly gave them.

Many soldiers during World War II had occasion to be grateful to the Natal Society for Books for the Troops. Miss Dudley played a large part in organizing this service. These books were sorted in rented premises in Theatre Lane now occupied by an outfitter. The library was of course where PADCA is now. Most people know the present double storey building but when Miss Dudley joined the staff it was a single storey structure with a garden in front. She ended her part-time job in the new four-storeyed library building behind the City Hall in May 1983.

The length of her service is certainly a record unequalled in the Natal Society and we wish her a happy and busy retirement.



### *The Bird Papers*

A note received from Mr V.S. Harris contains information about some interesting archival material on which work is at present being done.

In 1896 Kit Bird, then Principal Under-Secretary, was commissioned by the Natal Government to collect and prepare for publication material relating to the early settlers of Natal. Like his father John Bird, author of *Annals of Natal*, Kit Bird was well-known for his interest in Natal history. He was in demand as a speaker, particularly by the Natal Society (of which he was a lifelong member), and from 1885 he had published many articles on Natal history in the *Natal Witness*.

He embarked on the project by advertising it in newspapers within and outside Natal, and by sending questionnaires to prominent early settlers. Response varied from lengthy reminiscences to brief notes scribbled on the questionnaire. And while some respondents were able to throw new light on important events and on the experience of the early settlers, others provided 'only' genealogical data or bare autobiographical or biographical detail. One respondent used the questionnaire as an opportunity to press his claim to compensation for unfair treatment meted out to him in the past by the Government. Bird added to this material his own notes (including lecture notes) on various aspects of early colonial Natal, ranging from biographical sketches to an examination of Natal's postal service.

But Bird failed to fulfil the commission, his collection of material remaining in his private possession until his death in 1922. The

executor of his estate donated the collection to the Natal Society, which in turn handed it over to the Natal Archives Depot (N.A.D.) for safekeeping in 1926. When the Society asked for its return in 1955, the N.A.D. persuaded the Society that it was properly the property of the Government and that it should not have been donated to the Society in the first place. In the following year the Society officially acceded to the N.A.D.'s request to retain possession of what the latter had labelled the 'Bird Papers'.

While the collection is an extremely valuable source of research as it stands, its value to historians is greatly diminished in its present form. The editing and publication of the collection is an essential task if this problem is to be overcome. It is worth noting that Professor A.F. Hattersley, author of many books on Natal history, was of the same opinion. In the 1930s he took preliminary steps towards editing the collection himself.

Together with Avenal Finlayson, I am presently engaged in attempting to complete what Hattersley began. The final product should command wide interest, including as it does valuable primary source material for specialist researchers as well as a wealth of fascinating and often humorous comment on early Natal for the general reader.



#### *More news about Mr Botha*

Robin Lamplough of Kearsney College who wrote 'In Search of Mr Botha' in *Natalia* 12, has unearthed some more information:

Some readers may be interested in a few additional snippets about Cornelis Botha of Botha's Hill (*Natalia* No. 12, p. 27). When the original article was written there existed a gap between the failure of Botha's Pietermaritzburg hotel in 1844 and his move in 1847 to what would come to be called Botha's Hill. That a son was born to him in Pietermaritzburg in 1845 suggested, but did not prove, that in the interim (or part of it) he had remained in the capital. The additional information places him beyond reasonable doubt in Pietermaritzburg at the beginning of 1846 and may reveal how he occupied himself during the 'silent period'.

The material comes from the journal of the unknown traveller, published in *Natalia* No. 5, p. 7. The relevant entry is dated Thursday 22nd January, 1846 and reads as follows: 'Went over to Landsberg's to get supper but he said he did not keep an inn and referred me to Botha. Went to his place, far on the west side of town. He said he did not keep an inn, only a billiard room. However, we got a tolerable supper.'

There is no direct evidence that the man running the billiard room was Cornelis Botha. When we consider, however, that Cornelis Botha had until a little while before been an hotel proprietor in the town and

that the traveller was directed simply to 'Botha', it seems a reasonable inference that the same man was meant. One imagines that if there had been another Botha running the billiard room Landsberg might have found it necessary to distinguish him from Botha the innkeeper. Furthermore, Landsberg's words as reported by the traveller: "He did not keep an inn and referred me to Botha" seem to carry the implication that Botha *did* keep an inn, which had been true of Cornelis Botha in the past even if it was not true then. It seems likely, therefore, that after his unhappy foray into the victualling trade in 1844 Cornelis Botha made a living looking after a billiard room on the edge of Pietermaritzburg. Some would doubtless find in this occupation indications of a nautical rather than a Voortrekker background and certainly that would fit what we know of the past of this one-time ship's captain. Of course, if Cornelis Botha had by that time left Pietermaritzburg and the billiard room was being run by a different Botha altogether that would provide an even simpler explanation of Landsberg's words!

Finally, there is in the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, a photograph entitled 'Botha's Hotel, Botha's Hill, 1850'. It shows a nondescript single-storeyed thatched building largely obscured by the members of a travelling group and their conveyance in the foreground. The photograph is reproduced in Brian Kearney's *Architecture in Natal*, page 106. The date falls within the period when Cornelis Botha was himself in charge of the inn, before he handed over to J.F. Smith.

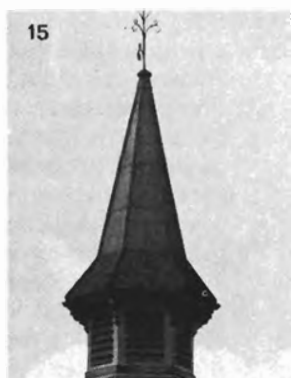
*Post scriptum.* Even as this note lay in draft upon my desk there came a telephone call late on the night of October 2, 1983, to tell me that the old oak tree near Padley's Crossing, Hillcrest, had fallen. So the last indication of the site of Botha's Halfway House has gone. I have written to the local Town Board asking them to consider marking the spot in some suitable way. Otherwise another link with old Natal will have disappeared for ever.



### *Dreaming spires*

The older buildings of Pietermaritzburg have a remarkable variety of turrets, spires, belfries, lanterns and other unclassifiable protuberances. It was A.F. Hattersley in *Portrait of a City* (p. 107) who referred to the 'strange trio of glorified bowler-hats' on the roof of the Natal Government Railways offices in Loop Street (now the police station). Our Editor, forsaking awhile the pen for the Pentax and lifting up his eyes unto the rooftops, has compiled the collection appearing on pp. 96-97. For the benefit of those who know the city and may wish to test their powers of observation, captions have not been placed with the photographs, but will be found at the end of *Notes and Queries*.





*Gandhi and the Train Incident at Pietermaritzburg*

The screening of the film *Gandhi* during the year brought Maritzburg some notoriety as the place where the Mahatma was forcibly ejected from a Natal Government Railways train in 1893.

Members of the Editorial Committee were struck by several inaccuracies in the portrayal of the incident:

- (i) the correct setting would have been the present Maritzburg station which had been completed the previous year;
- (ii) the official who ejected Gandhi would probably have been Scots, not Dutch or Afrikaans;
- (iii) the tender engine which drew the train was grossly anachronistic; Gandhi's train would have been hauled by a Dubs tank engine;
- (iv) the train was labelled as belonging to the South African Railways, but it only came into existence seventeen years later with Union in 1910.

Such errors notwithstanding, the young lawyer's experience on this occasion is rightly regarded as very significant in the development of his life and thought and Ms Uma S. Mesthrie of the University of Durban-Westville, a grand-daughter of the Mahatma, was invited to contribute a note on the incident.

Richard Attenborough's film *Gandhi* has brought ignominious fame to Pietermaritzburg as millions of viewers around the globe were recently treated to a dramatic scene where the young Gandhi becomes a victim of colour prejudice and is thrown off a Charlestown-bound train at Pietermaritzburg station. One might ask the question as to how significant this episode was in Gandhi's life in view of its inclusion in the few minutes of the film devoted to his South African experiences.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi disembarked at Durban in May 1893, an untried, unconfident barrister not yet 24 years old, to sort out the business wrangles between a Durban merchant Dada Abdulla Sheth and his Pretoria relative. What was to be a brief sojourn in southern Africa turned into a 21-year experience during which Gandhi was set on the road to becoming a Mahatma and to the acquisition of an international reputation as a leader with a tested political weapon — *satyagraha*.

The South African experiences singled out for attention with some consistency by his biographers<sup>1</sup> are: the train incident at Pietermaritzburg in 1893, the founding of the Natal Indian Congress in 1894, the Durban Point Demonstration against Gandhi's return from India in 1896, the formation of the Indian Ambulance Corp during the South African War, the founding of *Indian Opinion* in 1903, the experiments in communal living, diets and nature cures at Phoenix Settlement and Tolstoy Farm, the *brahmacharya* (celibacy) vow in 1906 and the meaning and implementation of *satyagraha* from 1906 until the Gandhi-Smuts agreement of 1914. It is clearly evident that a conglomeration of experiences shaped the Mahatma.

The importance attached by Gandhi's biographers to the train incident is due to the fact that Gandhi himself singled out the episode as the "most creative experience" of his life<sup>2</sup> and related it in some detail in his autobiographical account.<sup>3</sup> In order to deal with Dada

Abdulla's case Gandhi had to go to Pretoria; a journey which had to be made in stages — the railway line linking Durban to Johannesburg being completed only in 1895. At the end of his very first week in Durban, Gandhi purchased a first class train ticket. The train had just reached Pietermaritzburg at 9 p.m. when a white passenger entered Gandhi's compartment and subsequently sought the assistance of the officials to have Gandhi transferred to another compartment. Gandhi obdurately refused to move and was summarily pushed off the train together with his luggage. He spent the rest of the night in the waiting room, shivering in the cold, too afraid, lest he be abused again, to ask the railway official for his luggage, which included his overcoat. "I began to think of my duty. Should I fight for my rights or go back to India, or should I go on to Pretoria without minding the insults, and return to India after finishing the case? It would be cowardice to run back to India without fulfilling my obligation. The hardship to which I was subjected was superficial — only a symptom of the deep disease of colour prejudice. I should try, if possible, to root out the disease and suffer hardships in the process. Redress for wrongs I should seek only to the extent that would be necessary for the removal of the colour prejudice".<sup>4</sup> He thus continued the next day on the journey to Pretoria, by train to Charlestown and then by stage coach to Johannesburg.

While Gandhi was jolted by the Pietermaritzburg incident into experiencing the reality of prejudice against the Indians, he was to have an even more traumatic journey by stage coach, not being allowed to sit inside the coach, being called "Sami" by the leader of the coach and then being boxed on the ears by the man. By the time he reached Pretoria he had a fair idea as to the treatment meted out to Indians. The young man, who, out of shyness, could not confidently defend a client in a Bombay court now addressed a meeting of Pretoria Indians in his first major public speech, appealing to them to take steps to ameliorate their position. A leader was in the making. A cold, miserable night in a waiting room in the station at Pietermaritzburg was to be the beginning of much rumination and subsequent action. In Gandhi's words: "My active non-violence began from that date".<sup>5</sup> Attenborough may have erred in minor detail in his presentation of the incident, but its inclusion in the film was fully warranted.

#### REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> See for example, G. Ashe: *Gandhi: A Study in Revolution* (New York, 1968); C.D.S. Devanesen: *The Making of the Mahatma* (Madras, 1969); L. Fischer: *The Life of Mahatma Gandhi* (London, 1982); P.S. Joshi: *Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa* (Rajkot, 1980); B.R. Nanda: *Mahatma Gandhi: a Biography* (London, 1958); R. Payne: *The Life and Death of Mahatma Gandhi* (London, 1969); Pyarelal: *Mahatma Gandhi, Vol. I, The Early Phase* (Ahmedabad, 1965).
- <sup>2</sup> Pyarelal: *Mahatma Gandhi*, p. 298.
- <sup>3</sup> M.K. Gandhi: *An Autobiography or the Story of My Experiments with Truth* (Ahmedabad, Second Edition, 1940), pp. 81-83; M.K. Gandhi: *Satyagraha in South Africa* (Ahmedabad, Second Edition, 1950), pp. 38-39.
- <sup>4</sup> Gandhi: *An Autobiography*, p. 82.
- <sup>5</sup> Pyarelal: *Mahatma Gandhi*, p. 298.





*War Graves*

The South African War Graves Board has recently been amalgamated with the National Monuments Council, and two committees now operate under the auspices of the Council. They are the British Graves Committee under the chairmanship of Mr George Chadwick, and the Burger Graves Committee under Brigadier W. Otto. The legal position regarding the proclamation of war grave sites as national monuments is problematical, but the Council and its committees are taking steps to obtain clarity on various points.

*Letters from Boarding School*

On pp. 14-21 of this issue is a reprint of an account of a visit to Bishop Colenso's mission, Ekukhanyeni, in 1857. As a sort of addendum, and not included with the reprint, were some translations of letters written home by some of the Zulu boys who had been pupils at the mission for about a year. Their western education had progressed enough for them to write their own language, though one wonders whether the parents at the other end had any means of having their sons' messages read to them! While the stilted Victorian style of the English translations is amusing, the evident indoctrination against their own people, customs and beliefs, though understandable in the religious context of the day, seems reprehensible. Skelemu, aged 12, son of Magwaza, seems well on the way to alienation from his people:

But white men are very clever, inasmuch as they build a house with stones; they build it well. They work every day. They surpass black people in working . . . . White men know very many works; they know all books . . . . The works of white men are excellent, all of them. But the works of black men are not excellent, they are all dark . . . (the men) are not clever. . . . You see . . . how great the darkness has become among your people. It is all darkness; they know nothing that is good.

Repeating his well-learnt lesson dutifully, Mankenjane (aged 11) writes:

The black people do not know how to make beautiful things. But the white people know how to make them, because they work very much, they don't sit down, for they work at all times . . . . Among the whites the men work. They, the white men, don't beat their wives. The white men are good for they don't love fighting. Nay, they don't begin quarrelling with one another because they listen to the word of God.

The recurrence of the same statements and claims in several of the letters shows quite clearly that the hapless umfaans must have been heavily primed in the carrying out of this propaganda exercise, probably by Mr Baugh, who was mainly responsible for the education of the Zulu boys. There was an almost Jesuitical determination to secure the minds and souls of the boys — though no doubt the good Bishop would have been shocked to hear it so described!

The Zulu phrase for homesickness is *ukukhumbula ekhaya*. How often must it have been heard in the dormitory at Ekukhanyeni a hundred and thirty years ago!



*Road Name Honours Natal Historian*

We note with pleasure that in the new residential layout off Hesketh Drive in Pietermaritzburg, a road has been named after the late Professor A.F. Hattersley, President (1930-33) and Fellow (1970) of The Natal Society. Very appropriately, Hattersley Road is situated in an area well-known to the professor. From the 1920s to the 1950s he was active in the Scout movement, and many of the outdoor activities he arranged were in the Hay Paddock and Broadleaze area, in those days well beyond the advancing line of suburbia.

*Urban Conservation*

In our last issue mention was made of the failure to prevent architecturally incongruous property development in Leighton Street in Pietermaritzburg. This year it is pleasing to report a victory for the forces of conservation in the city. The proposal to erect another huge shopping centre in the suburb of Scottsville, on the block bounded by St Patrick's, Durban and Coronation roads, was, after much public and council debate, turned down by the municipality. Not only does this decision check the development of the Scottsville hillslope into a sort of lesser Hillbrow, but it means the reprieve of some aesthetically pleasing older dwelling houses which would have been demolished to make way for the proposed new buildings. Two of them, we understand, were designed by Collingwood Tully, architect of the original Natal University College building further up the hill, and an associate of Sir Herbert Baker.

Continued vigilance is necessary, however. Although the threat of the shopping centre is removed, there is still a possibility that plans for flats or duplexes may in the future again threaten the houses in this block.

*Sad Centenary, Strange Coincidence*

Mrs S. Henderson writes of events, a hundred years apart, of 6th June 1983 and 1883 at Hlobane Mountain, near Vryheid.

Mrs Hedwig Schütte, a stalwart septuagenarian of German missionary stock, some months ago contacted the Talana Hill Museum, Dundee, with regard to a lost grave. By strange coincidence, the Museum chose to take Mrs Schütte to search for the grave on the 6th June. Incredibly the chance date was the centenary of the death of the man whose grave they were seeking.

The Rev. H. Schröder, born in Rheinsdorf, Hanover, was thirty-three years old when he came out under the auspices of the Hermannsburg Mission Society to start a mission at Tshoba, under the great Hlobane Mountain. For nine and a half months he laboured with a few African helpers, building a simple thatched home, leading an irrigation furrow from the Tshoba stream to water the orchard and vegetable garden he had planted. Life was hard, lonely and stressful, for in the winter of 1883 the Zulu clans were on the rampage as the followers of Dinuzulu and Zibhebhu fought out their bitter dynastic quarrels. One thought cheered the missionary: his beloved was on the high seas and soon the lonely mission would see a family founded and the work of the Lord go forward.

He was sitting reading his Bible at his crude handmade table on the evening of 6th June 1883 when the door burst open. An impi of Abaqulusi fell upon him and before he could stand and face them he slid to the floor, blood pouring from eleven assegai wounds in the back, his hands dragging the Bible down to fall between his knees. The Abaqulusi swept through the humble dwelling, smashing and plundering. The body lay on the floor for two days before the Rev. Mr Weber and his son from Emyati mission dared venture over to bury it. In fear of their lives Weber and his son pushed the pathetic remains into a makeshift box and hastily interred them near the ruined homestead. They took the bloodstained Bible with them.

Weeks later a Hollander from the Utrecht district, hearing of the tragedy, rode over to see what he could salvage. Through him the diary of the Rev. Mr Schröder as well as other papers were saved and eventually returned to the Hermannsburg Society. Mrs Schütte has translated part of the diary which gives a vivid and poignant picture of a missionary pioneer.

The ruined mission at Tshoba was never restored. The only sign of the Rev. Schröder's martyrdom is a great rusting iron cross enclosed by railings. Erected on the 50th anniversary of Schröder's death and sunk into a heavy slab of concrete, the guard-fence is a pathetic reminder of the vulnerability of these isolated graves.

Vandals have excavated the ground beneath the slab. No trace of the missionary's remains is left. In time the slab must subside and the cross and railings be smashed. As Mrs Hedwig Schütte stood in the winter sunshine following the tragic story and reading from the poignant diary, a great sadness swept over her companions at society's apparent neglect of and disrespect for its early pioneers.



### *Proclaimed National Monuments in Natal*

The Report of the National Monuments Council for the year ending 31st March 1982 records the proclamation of the following buildings and sites in Natal.

1. *The property with Trevean House thereon, at 258 Wakesleigh Road, Bellair, Durban:*  
This imposing dwelling-house was designed and erected in 1882 by the well-known architects Robert Sellers Upton and Philip Dudgeon. The billiard room was added in 1898. Trevean House is probably the best example of a late-Colonial Victorian building in Natal.
2. *The Christian Science Church building, on the corner of Chapel and Loop Streets, Pietermaritzburg:*  
This imposing church building, with its Gothic and Romanesque features, was originally built in 1903-1904 as a Congregational Church. The building was designed by the architects Stott and Kirby.
3. *Overpark House, at 122 Loop Street, Pietermaritzburg:*  
Overpark House, with its beautiful cast-iron trimmings and cast-iron fireplaces, dates from 1884 and is an excellent example of a Victorian verandah house in the Natal style.

4. *The stone wall along the boundary line of the farms Glenbello and Stockton, Weenen County:*

This dolerite wall was presumably erected during the period 1870-1880 as a boundary between the farms Glenbello (formerly Tamboekies Kraal) and Stockton (formerly Zuurbraak). The wall also played an important role during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902).

5. *The property with Ryley's House, as well as the outbuildings thereon, at 79 Karel Landman Street, Dundee:*

This Victorian building complex dates from the years 1902-1903 and is an excellent example of Natal Colonial architecture from that period.

6. *The property with the dwelling thereon, at 219 Oos Street, Vryheid:*

This elegant dwelling-house, based on the Edwardian building style, was erected in 1905 and is situated on a portion of an erf granted in 1895.

7. *The property with the Carnegie Library building thereon, at Vryheid:*

This imposing Edwardian building was erected in 1908 with funds granted by the Carnegie Trust. The land on which the building stands was a gift from the Vryheid Town Council.

8. *The property with the dwelling thereon, at 58 President Street, Vryheid:*

This imposing dwelling-house, which was erected in 1920, is an excellent example of the Tudor revival style.

9. *Hilldrop House (also known as Sir Rider Haggard's House), at Newcastle:*

This imposing building was erected by Sir Melmoth Osborne, resident Magistrate of Newcastle from 1868 to 1875. Sir Rider Haggard took occupation in January 1881 and during his sojourn the Royal Commission which drew up the terms of the Pretoria Convention and which provided for the retrocession of the Transvaal after the First Anglo-Boer War (1880-1881) held its meeting here. Present on this occasion were Sir Hercules Robinson, Sir Henry de Villiers, President J.H. Brand and Sir Evelyn Wood.

As these notes were being prepared for printing, the *Natal Witness* (14 September 1983) carried front-page news that the Victorian 'gentleman's residence' at 149 Pietermaritz Street had been proclaimed. This handsome and well-preserved building has often been photographed, drawn and painted.



### *All Losses are Restored and Sorrows End*

The physical signs of the healed rift in the Anglican Church in Natal (cf. Dr Darby's article in *Natalia* no. 11, p. 43) are evident. Many items from the demolished St Saviour's Cathedral are now to be seen in Bishop Colenso's old cathedral, St Peter's, or in the new Cathedral of the Holy Nativity which stands next to it. The old St Saviour's reredos now forms a rood-screen in St Peter's, and the St Saviour's stained glass and commemorative tablets are on permanent display there. The St Saviour's organ has been rebuilt in the new cathedral, and the pews, renovated and not incongruous in their very modern architectural setting, are from both the old parishes. When on 19th June 1983 the Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Reverend Philip Russell, preached a Colenso commemorative sermon, he did so from the ornately

carved Victorian pulpit from St Saviour's; but he came as a successor in office of Archbishop Gray who excommunicated Colenso in 1866. Archbishop Russell made humorous reference to the ironies of the situation, imagining himself being accusingly asked by Gray's portrait in the library at Bishops court, 'What were you doing on Sunday?' The Archbishop's presence on this occasion was seen as symbolic of the fact that the Church of the Province of South Africa is now able to consider John William Colenso without the same heat and tension as were generated in the past. For Archbishop Russell personally there could have been no great gulf to be bridged. Before becoming archbishop, he was Bishop of Natal; and when he was ordained in the 1950s his first post was as assistant priest in the parish of St Peter's, Pietermaritzburg, whose name-boards for years proclaimed to all that it was 'The Old Cathedral'.



### *Guided Tour*

There was a very gratifying response to the guided tour of places associated with Bishop Colenso on Sunday 5th June 1983. Led by Mr T.B. Frost (Editor of *Natalia* and Senior Lecturer in History at Natal Training College), it was one of the numerous events arranged to mark the Colenso Centenary, and attracted about a hundred people on a sunny winter's morning. After an introductory talk in St Peter's Church, where Bishop Colenso lies buried, the tour party moved across to upper Loop Street to Bishop Macrorie's house, now a Van der Stel Foundation property and a museum furnished in period style. Then there was a visit to Colenso's African Mission Church on the corner of Commercial Road and Burger Street — not unlike St Peter's in general appearance, and now the Grey's Hospital chapel. From there it was a short step to the old cemetery, where the Bishop's wife and daughters are buried, and where other interesting gravestones of the period can be seen. The procession of motor cars then drove the seven kilometres out to Bishopstowe. There, although hardly any visible remains of Ekukhanyeni exist, one could identify the site of the Bishop's house, now occupied by a farmhouse, and enjoy the view which Colenso admired so much — Emkhambathini, or Natal's 'table mountain', altar-like, bathed in afternoon sunlight. A final talk rounded off a very interesting and informative outing. After a picnic lunch one could walk about enjoying both the rural quiet and the historical dimension of the place before making the short journey back to Pietermaritzburg.



### *The Natal Museum*

Considerable structural alterations to the Ernest Warren Hall of the Natal Museum have reached an advanced stage, and when completed will provide much-needed extra floor space for new exhibits. The museum has a well-deserved reputation for the excellence of its attractive and imaginative displays, and an expert visitor recently said that one of them, in the Marine Gallery, was the best of its kind anywhere in the world. We anticipate with interest the extensions which the new floor will make possible.



*The Diary of William Robert Shaw Wilson (Indigo Wilson) (1820-1858)*

The original is in the possession of a descendant, Mr Dan Wilson, Curator of the Riversdale Museum, Cape. He loaned a photostat to Dr R.E. Gordon, and through her good offices, has now donated this photostat to the Killie Campbell Africana Library.

The diary covers the period 20 July 1851 - 31 July 1852, during most of which time Wilson resided on his farm *Glen Anil* on the Little Umhlanga river. The latter part deals with his life on a property at the mouth of the Umgeni river. Besides recording day-to-day events he entered copies of memorials and letters he had forwarded to the Government. This document has special significance in that some of the people mentioned remained in Natal only a short time, and not much is known about them.

*Brief Expectations*

At one of the Editorial Committee's meetings during 1983, when so much interest and attention centred on John William Colenso, there was great excitement when a member reported hearing about the discovery at Bishopstowe of the rusted remains of some machinery thought to be the Bishop's actual printing press. In fifteen seconds the committee had mentally accomplished the task of careful reconstruction and restoration, and of making arrangements with the cathedral authorities for a permanent exhibition of the physical *fons et origo* of so much of the published output of Ekukhanyeni. Alas! Upon investigation the relic proved to be pastoral only in the literal sense — an old chaff-cutter!

Compiled by JOHN DEANE

*Answers to 'Dreaming Spires' Quiz*

1. Main tower, City Hall
2. Christian Science Church, Loop Street
3. Publicity House
4. Former stables, Natal Training College
5. Allison's Building, upper Church Street
6. Gymnasium, Maritzburg College
7. Post Office
8. Subsidiary turret, Russell High School
9. Christian Science Church, Loop Street
10. Subsidiary turret, City Hall
11. Royal Agricultural Society Hall, Showgrounds
12. Main tower, Russell High School
13. Victoria Hall, Maritzburg College
14. Subsidiary turret, Railway Station
15. Old Boys' Model School, Loop Street
16. Natal Museum
17. Main tower, Railway Station
18. Clark House, Maritzburg College

