

BULLETIN No. 18.

SOCIAL AND INDIVIDUAL NOMENCLATURE.

(Plates xxv.-xxxI.)

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1. The many variations in the physical characteristics and general contour of the country are not only recognised but expressed, amongst the generic terms thus met with being those indicative of island, sea, beach, mainland, river, swamp, forest, desert plain, precipice, mountain, etc¹. Each tract of country is specialised by the people traversing, occupying, or hunting over it, and hence, as often happens, may be called by different names. Barrow Point, for instance, is known to the local blacks as E-polin, to the Starcke River ones as Mo-yir, and to the natives of the Normanby and Deighton Rivers as Par-cham-moka. On the other hand, there are certain large tracts to which a single name is applied, but in these cases any reference to them is made by Aborigines speaking a similar language. The meaning of the actual words so applied to such an area is in many cases lost, whilst in others it is signficatory of some local peculiarity. Amongst the former may be mentioned an interesting example from a camping ground in the neighbourhood of Cape Flattery known as Yaborego, from which a present-day

¹ Both—Bull. 2—Sect. 10.