

THE NARELLAN METEORITE: A NEW CHONDRITE FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.

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(Plate xxvi.)

This stone fell on the night of April 8, 1928, and was found by the son of Mr. G. J. Richardson on the following morning. Unfortunately Mr. Richardson was taken seriously ill just after the finding of the stone, and in consequence its existence was not made known until some nine months later. After such a lapse of time it was impossible to obtain any reliable information from other observers. Mr. Richardson has supplied the following notes, which appeared in the *Sydney Sun* of January 1, 1929:

"I was standing at the door of my cottage at about 7.15 p.m. on April 8 [1928], and the purring noise overhead like rushing wind and aeroplane engines led me to believe that a 'plane was flying overhead on the Sydney to Melbourne route. I walked out into a paddock to try to get a view of what I believed to be a 'plane when suddenly the air began to vibrate and I thought I felt a slight concussion. Simultaneously a pony grazing near me tossed up her head and galloped away. I remember a heavy thud and a slight tremble in the ground as I stumbled back into the house.'

"Mr. Richardson explained that he was called outside by some children to see the illuminations in the sky. He arrived too late to see the display but stood at the door for a while. Fully ten minutes elapsed between the time he was called out until the weird sounds began overhead.

". . . In the morning he (Mr. Richardson's son) found the meteorite. It was buried about six inches into the rocky ground within eight feet of the spot where his father was standing the previous night."

In an official letter from Mr. Richardson he further stated that "the light display was seen by many people, and some of my friends had a fine view of it at Port Kembla, but I did not see any light given off by this piece when it struck the earth."

No report of a "falling star" was received from Sydney, which is about thirty-eight miles north of Narellan, the only reports being received from the south coast. Port Kembla is about thirty-one miles S. 20° E. from the spot where the stone fell. From this evidence it would appear that the stone travelled from the S.S.E.

The locality is latitude 34° 3' South, longitude 150° 41' 20" East.

The weight of the stone was 367.5 grammes. It was cut into two portions weighing 189.2 grammes and 146.8 grammes, the remaining 31.7 grammes being used in making micro-slides and chemical analyses, or lost through cutting. The specific gravity is 3.45.

The outer skin is black tinged with vandyke brown, and the lustre is almost dull. There is a distinct line of demarcation between the skin and the unaltered