

THE *ELOUERA* INDUSTRY OF SINGLETON, HUNTER RIVER, NEW SOUTH WALES.

By FREDERICK D. MCCARTHY,
The Australian Museum,

AND

F. A. DAVIDSON.

(Figures 1-135.)

In 1941, one of us (F.A.D.) discovered a workshop and camp-site at Gowrie, three miles west of Singleton, on the northern bank of the Hunter River, and in the territory of the Wonarua horde of the Kamilaroi tribe. Since that date he has visited the site regularly, and this paper is an analysis of the specimens that he has collected, and of those gathered by both of us during a week spent in the area in June, 1943. The collection, totalling 2,451 specimens, has been presented to the Australian Museum. This study is the third of a series analysing New South Wales industries.

The implements occur on a terrace about two hundred feet above the river and adjacent alluvial flats. They are embedded in the top six-inch layer, which consists of a fine silt and is lying upon a coarse gritty clay of great depth; at the base of the terrace is a thick layer of water-worn pebbles. On the northern side of the valley the implements are particularly abundant on a tongue of land enclosed by a bend of the river at Gowrie, and their occurrence was traced for about ten miles along the terrace and is probably more extensive. Visits have been made to two parts of the terrace on the southern side of the valley, one six and the other six and a half miles east of Singleton, and to another section opposite Gowrie, about four miles across the valley, and in each locality the implements were found.

Mitchell (1838, II, 14) described the Hunter valley as being thinly wooded and bearing in most parts a good crop of grass. This description still applies to the terrace, but it has been cleared of trees where necessary for the grazing of cattle. It is eroded by numerous natural drainage gullies running from its highest points to the flats and river, and its margin consists of rounded hills and creek beds, plateaus round which the river flows, and high alluvial cliffs into which the river is cutting in the great bends, as at Gowrie.

Materials.

The predominant material is chert of all shades of colour from cream to red, grey being scarce. Other materials commonly used are jasper, quartzite, porphyry, and conglomerate. Igneous rocks occur among the river gravels at the base of the terrace, and this deposit formed the source of the materials.

Technique.

The use of fine-grained stones such as those mentioned above did not cause the makers of these implements to diverge from their traditional types, as might be expected from a comparison of their excellent materials with the poor quality, refractory rocks used on the south coast of New South Wales (McCarthy, 1943, 129-30). Although the techniques appear to have been the same in both areas, they are more specialized and are more clearly demonstrated by the artefacts at Singleton, where prismatic cores bearing convergent flaking predominate and flakes and blades with faceted butts are commonly found. It might be mentioned that the faceted butt technique was employed mainly for the production of blades, and it appears frequently among the *bondi* points