

WAISTED HAMMERSTONES FROM THE MACKAY DISTRICT, QUEENSLAND.

By FREDERICK D. MCCARTHY, Dip.Anthr. (Syd.).
Curator of Anthropology, The Australian Museum.

(Plate vii.)

Waisted hammerstones and pounders are rare in Australia, and the excellent series of twenty-five specimens herein described constitutes the only large group collected in one locality in the whole of the continent. They were kindly submitted to me for description by Mr. J. H. Williams, of Mackay, who collected most of them. The first two examples were ploughed up on Mr. P. Furlong's farm at Mt. Jukes, one being found by Mr. Furlong and the other by Mr. B. Woodyard. The series is numbered 3 to 8, 12, 14 to 30, and E.52062, of which Nos. 16-17, 23, and 52062 are now in the Australian Museum and the balance in the Mackay Museum. Nos. 1-2, 9 to 11, and 13 are not hammerstones.

Mt. Jukes, a volcanic neck sixteen miles (25.75 kilom.) east of the main range, is almost surrounded by a crescentic and hilly valley with fertile flats along the creeks. In this valley Nos. 23 to 24 and E.52062 were found. Sir Alec Macartney, whose father owned the original grazing property and farm in the valley, informed Mr. Williams that the area was a favourite hunting ground of the Mackay aborigines whose territory extended southward to St. Lawrence. The valley has three outlets. One is Jordan's Gap, where Nos. 6 to 8, 16-22, and 29 were found; it is a col with a scrub-covered spur on one side and an open-forest covered spur on the other side and the hammerstones were collected on an oval-shaped camp-site about eighty feet (24 metres) long which extends into the Gap. The second outlet is Tecon's Gap, where No. 26 was found, about half a mile (804 metres) to the west. The third outlet is a gorge through which Milson's Creek flows, about one mile (1.609 kilom.) south of Jordan's Gap, which yielded No. 27. Mr. Williams made a thorough search of these outlets because he thought that natives travelling through them might have left implements in such situations for intermittent use.

Nos. 12, 14 to 15, and 25 were collected along Devereaux Creek, near the base of Mt. de Moleyns, eight miles (12.87 kilom.) south-south-west of Mt. Jukes, on the northern arm of the coastal plain; some of these were found by Mr. G. Gaudry. Nos. 3 to 5 came from Seaview, the only coastal site, eight miles (12.87 kilom.) north-west of Mackay and thirteen miles (20.92 kilom.) east of Mt. Jukes. They were ploughed up by Mr. J. A. Edwards on his farm. There is an old camp-site at Seaview in the dunes fringing the beach, on which there are large numbers of water-worn pebbles and lumps of stone.

Description.—The twenty-five specimens are described in five groups to show their range of type and method of workmanship.

1. *Trimmed Blanks.*

Three examples, No. 4 (Pl. vii, fig. 1) from Seaview, and Nos. 16 and 18 from Jordan's Gap, are rectangular flat blocks of grey porphyry, grey and pink granite, with cortex surfaces on their straight sides and ends. One set of flake-scars is present along the top and bottom edges of the lateral margins on both surfaces, but these margins show