

	PAGE
Kookaburras in Haystacks .....	188
Parrot. The Rare Ground—J. A. Kershaw .....	196, 211
Rainbow-bird as a Bee-eater—A.H.C. ....	15
Sparrows in 1865 .....	26
Owen Stanley Range. Across the—C. C. Simpson .....	98
<b>Personal—</b>	
Cooper, L. W. (portrait) .....	opp. 100
FitzG. or Fitzg.?—Pearl R. Messner .....	152, 177, 209
Fleay, David, and the Natural History Medallion .....	48
Gould. Further Notes on Charles—F. Chapman .....	194, 212
Meissner or Meisner?—J. H. Willis .....	212
Morrison, P. C. (portrait) .....	opp. 100
Rogers. Death of Dr. R. S.—E. E. Pescott .....	20
Teale, Sir Edmund—(Letter) .....	114
Vidler, E. A.—F. Chapman .....	180
Reminiscences—C. French .....	178, 191
Sydenham Inlet in Autumn—Miss M. L. Wigan .....	49
Tropics. Notes from the—C. C. Ralph .....	131
Vegetable Foods of the Wimmera and Mallee—P. F. Morris .....	167
Verse. "At Sherbrooke"—W.L.W. ....	132
<b>Zoological—</b>	
Crab-Mussel Association—M. E. Freame .....	156
Dingo as a Poultry Thief—Harry Burrell .....	91
Eels. Notes on Australian—F. Lewis .....	65
Eyes of the Bush. The—Dr. Kevin O'Day .....	141
Kangaroos. Killing of .....	69
Numbat in Victoria. The (illd.)—David Fleay .....	3
Palolo Worms at Altona—M. E. Freame .....	112
Phalangers. The Flying (illd.)—B. E. Carthew .....	119
Pipefishes—M. E. Freame .....	107
Platypus at Badger Creek (illd.)—David Fleay .....	185
Seals. Australian—F. Lewis .....	24
Snake. The Brown (illd.)—David Fleay .....	147

DEATH OF MR. A. S. KENYON

Australia lost a notable and highly useful citizen when Mr. A. S. Kenyon died, after a lengthy illness, at his home at Heidelberg, Melbourne, on May 14, 1943.

Alfred Stephen Kenyon was born on December 7, 1867, at Homebush, near Maryborough (Vic.), where his father, Alfred Henderson Kenyon, had for some time a general store. Afterwards (in 1869) the father established chain stores at Beaufort, Ararat, Stawell and Horsham. In 1875 he went in for farming at Bulgana for several years, until the exceptional drought which culminated in 1881, and the educational needs of his family directed him to Melbourne, where he started in business as book-seller, stationer, etc., at Bridge Road, Richmond.

A. S. Kenyon attended St. Stephen's Grammar School, Richmond, and after matriculating commenced the course for civil engineering at the Melbourne University; but, accepting the opportunity of obtaining practical experience, in 1887 he entered the Public Works Department under Messrs. Checchi and Catani. Next year he transferred as draftsman to the Victorian Water Supply Department, and in 1898 was Assistant Engineer and in 1901 Engineer-in-Charge of Town Supplies and New Proposals. In 1906 Dr. Cherry, Director of Agriculture, induced him to join his Department as Engineer of Agriculture, in which active capacity he was employed in the important task of developing the Central Mallee district, with its difficult problems of water supply and reclamation, clearing and cultivation by traction power. In addition, lectures were given in all the agricultural districts, and informative articles published in the *Journal of Agriculture*.

At the re-organization of the Department in 1911, Mr. Kenyon was appointed as senior engineer to the State Rivers and Water Commission, for which his varied experience was invaluable. In 1932 followed appointment as Acting Commissioner, and shortly after as Commissioner.

Retirement from the Public Service (in 1935) directed his abundant energy elsewhere. Having for some years been honorary Numismatist at the Public Library, he was appointed to take charge of the collection permanently and later to be Keeper of Antiquities. The present excellent condition of these departments shows his thorough knowledge of the subjects, painstaking ability, and capacity for organization. His series of lectures on both subjects were appreciated for their lucidity and wealth of information.

In the subject of Ethnology Mr. Kenyon was an undoubted expert, having through his outdoor work over so extensive an area in forest, plain, and desert, met and studied the aborigines and the remains of the Stone Age in Australia closely and intelligently, and with an intuition that was remarkable. In the comparison and relation of stone artefacts from all parts of the world, and in all ages to the present, his arrangement is most illuminating. In this subject also he gave many striking lectures and wrote informative articles.

His knowledge of the physiography, geography and natural features of Victoria was comprehensive, especially so in regard to the Mallee and the Murray River and its affluents, his keen observation being shown in his knowledge of the geology, flora and fauna of the country, on which he could always give first-hand information as a field naturalist.

As a member of the Historical Society of Victoria for more than 30 years, he devoted much time to the study and compilation of the history of Victoria, more particularly of the pastoral period from 1834 to 1860, of which he made a comprehensive survey. With Mr. R. V. Billis he published *Pastures New* (1930) and *Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip* (1932), whilst



*The Story of the Mallee* (1914-15) vividly and completely presents that remarkable area. In these works is a reliable and enduring record of the pastoral pioneers. For some years Mr. Kenyon, alternatively with Mr. C. Daley, gave monthly lectures on Australian history at the Melbourne Public Library.

Mr. Kenyon also published short histories or annals of places, such as *The Story of Melbourne*, *The Story of Australia*, *Heidelberg*, *the City of Streams*, also of Swan Hill, Kowree, etc. He also, as one of the Historical Sub-committee for the Centenary Celebrations, collaborated with Messrs. A. W. Greig, C. R. Long and C. Daley in writing *Victoria, the First Century*, the official history in 1934. Mr. Kenyon was on the Committee of the Historical Society for many years, and occupied for two years each the positions respectively of President, Hon. Secretary, and Editor.

Besides the works above mentioned he contributed many articles, historical, scientific, engineering and general, to the Press and magazines, and lectured to societies and clubs on various subjects.

Mr. Kenyon was a member of many societies and clubs of cultural character, in all of which he gave some official service and help. Of these may be mentioned the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, the Anthropological Society, the Institute of Engineers (Aust.), of each of which he was ex-President. Other societies in which he took part were the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, the Society of Genealogists, the Royal Society of Victoria, the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, with many kindred societies in the other States and in America—a widespread connection.

Mr. Kenyon in 1895 married Miss Alexandrina Leontine Délépine, who died in 1905. Their daughter, Justine (Mrs. O. C. Tyrer), the devoted help-mate of her father, survives the double loss.

In Mr. Kenyon's notable career in the Public Service of Victoria, as well as in his honorary association with useful societies and institutions, his work, official or otherwise, was invariably characterized by full knowledge, mature judgment, purpose, method, precision, and efficiency, ensuring its success. Versatile and resourceful, he was dismayed by no difficulty. Gifted with a very retentive memory, tinged with a keen sense of humour, from a wisely garnered store of varied knowledge, almost encyclopedic in character, Mr. Kenyon always derived pleasure in supplying with facilities and readiness useful and accurate information to enquirers over a wide range of thought. A clear and logical thinker, his considered opinions on matters of moment always carried great weight.

Genial and open-hearted in nature, easily approachable and responsive, a good raconteur, with a broad, tolerant, and understanding outlook on men and manners, Mr. Kenyon retained a wide circle of friends who appreciated his distinct and attractive personality, valued his acquaintance, and now sincerely mourn his loss to the community.

The funeral took place on May 15, to the Heidelberg Cemetery, where a service was conducted by the Rev. C. Harland (Presbyterian) in the presence of a large number of mourners. Representatives of the F.N.C. included the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Editor, and other members.

C. DALEY.

Members of the F.N.C. will sympathize warmly with Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Nicholls, whose daughter Doris (Mrs. Paulet) died on May 19, after an illness of several months, at the age of 21 years. Mrs. Paulet (whose husband is in the A.I.F.) had been married less than one year.

## POISONING BY EUCALYPTS

Considerable attention is now being directed to the presence of hydrocyanic acid (HCN) in poisonous amounts in various plants. Many species of both wild and cultivated plants in Australia are capable in certain circumstances of developing hydrocyanic acid, also called prussic acid, which is highly poisonous.

The quantity of poison that can be formed in plants may vary considerably with the stage of growth, climatic conditions, and soil. In general, mature plants contain a much smaller percentage of potential acid than do young plants. James F. Couch, an American chemist, has shown that sorghums grown in the warmer Southern States of America have not poisoned live stock so much as those grown farther north. The reason for the difference, he states, is probably climatic; but little is known about the exact causes of the formation of the poisonous acid in this case.

*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*, F.v.M. (Sugar Gum) has often been the cause of many deaths in all classes of stock, especially when the trees are lopped for windbreaks. Both juvenile and mature leaves have been found to be toxic. As in most cyanogenetic plants, the young leaves contain the highest percentage of HCN. The Poison Plants Committee of N.S.W. gives the results of extensive experimental and practical work on the subject. Finnemore, Reichard and Large have isolated a glucoside which they identified as a prunasin previously found in other plants. Fresh suckers yielded 0.59% HCN.

*Eucalyptus viminalis*, Lab. (Manna Gum), has been suspected by me as the cause of deaths in Koalas, especially after fire and other periods of quick growth when HCN is likely to develop. Finnemore, Reichard and Large tested leaves collected from Braidwood, N.S.W., and got a negative reaction. Other samples of adult and juvenile leaves from the different localities gave positive reaction and yielded 0.09% HCN.

In my opinion the chief causes and periods of development of HCN are: (1) after fire, (2) after drought followed by rain, (3) after a very cold snap, (4) worked-out soil, (5) soils deficient in lime, (6) plants that have been injured.

The timber of *Eucalyptus hemiphloia* (Grey Box) and *E. maculata* (spotted Gum) are suspected of causing skin irritation in bushworkers and sawmillers.

P. F. MORRIS, National Herbarium.

The note in last month's issue enquiring whether the foliage of the Sugar Gum is injurious to goats reminds me that this gum, *Eucalyptus cladocalyx*, is definitely classed as a poison tree—young and old foliage alike carrying HCN. Fatalities are more common among stock during drought.

The earliest record goes back to 1908. In 1929 at Alleena, in New South Wales, a horse and a cow were poisoned. In Deniliquin in 1935 sheep and cattle were killed after eating the lopped foliage. In 1936 a flock of sheep suffered severely at Narrandera and 80 of the animals died.

Records of the Poison Plants Committee of New South Wales show poisoning of sheep, cattle and horses, but goats are not mentioned. From May to July seems to be the danger period.

Other Eucalypts are known at times to contain poison in the foliage. For instance, the aborigines would throw branches of the Coolabah (*Eucalyptus microtheca*) into water in order to poison fish.

E. E. PESCONT.