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**DR. MARSH'S
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**LINDSAY GORDON'S
COTTAGE**

OPENING TO-DAY.

INTERESTING RELICS.

"Let me slumber in the hollow where
The wattle blossoms wave
With never stone or rail to fence my
bed.
Should the sturdy station children pull
The bush flowers on my grave
I may chance to hear them romping
overhead."
("The Sick Stockrider.")

Thanks to the enthusiasm, plus the pertinacity, of a small band of Adam Lindsay Gordon's admirers, there has been rescued from its obscurity as a sample room in the courtyard of Craig's Hotel the cottage that he occupied in 1867-68, when he had charge of Walter Craig's horses, and also ran a livery stable.

The Australian poet has a strong following in Ballarat, and though his works have not the vogue they possessed a half-century ago, there are still Gordon societies in existence, especially in Melbourne, and still pilgrimages to his grave at Brighton.

In Ballarat in the years mentioned he was well-known. The late Mr. John Ross and Mr. William Coghlan were contemporaries of his who often accompanied him in his cross-country rides, and the former was wont to tell how on one occasion they rode from Mounter's farm, near Mount Rowan, straight across to Ballarat, taking every fence in their stride.

The Gordon Home on Wendouree Parade is still occupied, and there are quite a many pioneer residents of the city who can remember the long, lean form of the poet, and the much more beautiful figures of his wife and daughter.

The cottage that was once the sample room at Craig's was originally Gordon's residence in the city, and there are still those, Mrs. A. W. Bennett, for instance, who can recall it when it had a narrow verandah in front half covered with climbing pink geraniums. The committee responsible for rescuing the cottage from oblivion has replaced the verandah, and the building in its new setting at the Botanic Gardens is likely to prove a very real attraction to tourists. One can but express the hope that whoever is to be in charge will be someone thoroughly well acquainted with the life and poems of A.L.G., else the place will be devoid of interest, and become merely a haunt of the ignorant and curious.

The committee, which, under the leadership of Mr. F. J. Martell, as president, and Mr. F. L. Marxsen as secretary, has been to such pains and expense to preserve the Ballarat home of the poet, deserve the thanks of all, not only those interested in the poet and his works, but in keeping for Ballarat this most intriguing personal memento of one of Australia's greatest writers, and the opening ceremony to-day will be invested with a very real interest.

Apart from the cottage itself the committee has got together a most historic collection of Gordon relics, which will attract attention from everyone interested in the poet and his adventurous life and tragic death. Amongst these are the table and chair which Gordon used at his home on Wendouree Parade (or rather just off it). The table has been lent, and the chair presented by the Misses Williams, who oc-

**Commercial Egg Producers'
Association of Victoria**

BALLARAT BRANCH.

(Conducted by "Ager.")

EGG EXPORT SEASON OPENED.

A special meeting was held at the egg-floor on 8th inst. to receive the report of the committee deputed to consider the offers received for the Association's export pack. Some eight proposals were submitted, contract and commission basis, and after an interesting discussion it was unanimously decided to accept the terms submitted by Messrs J. E. Handbury and Son Pty. Ltd, 33-35 King street, Melbourne. This firm handled the entire export pack of the Ballarat Association last year, and 80 per cent. of the eggs since last December. The recent visit of Mr P. N. Flyger, representing Handburys, did much to consolidate the candid and friendly trading relations already established.

Mr W. Humphreys presided, and said that the members should feel relieved to know that their exportable eggs were placed until 31st October, when a further contract to cover the rest of the season will be considered. The price was, in his opinion, quite a good one, and the top price was such that there was ample incentive to producers to take care of their eggs. "It would," added the chairman, "be as well to make it clear that the prices offered to members and accepted, represented a definite class of egg, and whilst there was no favored farm, there would certainly be a penalty reduction where the eggs did not measure up to the specifications." "This is where misunderstanding occurred during the last two years," added the speaker, "and might arise again if members are lax." The Association cannot dictate to the buyer, but can certainly insist that quality be recognised. Selling as individuals this advantage is doubtful.

In moving that the contract prices be accepted, Mr R. G. Lumsden said that the local floor was a boon to all producers, but of wonderful value to the small man. "The small man," added the speaker, "can market his eggs as many times in the week as he liked, and in this way secure the premium for freshness. If he had to pay freight and wait for the return of his cases, naturally the marketing would not be as frequently done. Mr Lumsden said that a misunderstanding was likely when considering Ballarat's net return and prospective city prices. He (the speaker) knew of a case in which 1/ dozen was the quote for export eggs received from a city floor when the same eggs were 10d net Ballarat. A trial case of eggs was sent to this city floor and the return worked out at 9d dozen. He would be fair and say that the freight on one case would be greater than when bulk was involved, but, always there was the unknown quantity—the grade percentage.

Mr J. R. Rowland, sen., who has had a considerable London experience in the dairy produce trade, in seconding the motion, said that the class of eggs exported from this district would beat the best he had seen, allowing for improvement in the interim since he left London, and it was satisfactory to know that every case of eggs sent from Ballarat would this season bear the case mark, "Ballarat Eggs," and he suggested that a slip should be enclosed in each case identifying the floor.

Mr W. Hodgkiss moved: "That inquiry be made to learn the terms under which J. E. Handbury would agree to handle a proportion of the pack on a

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**Comprising Cloth, 5
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BED SPRE

**Single Bed Size. Su
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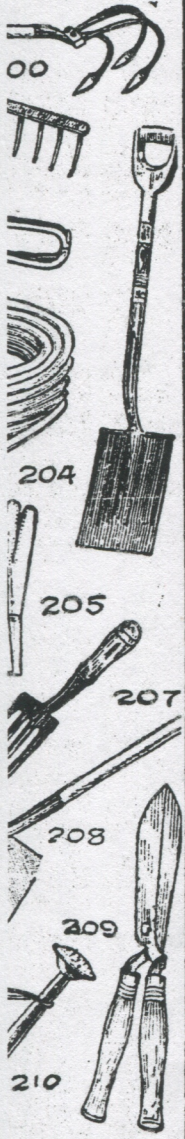
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sent by the Misses Williams, who occupied the old home.

There are many photographs of Gordon and people and events associated with him hanging in the cottage. Amongst them is a fine one of himself, his wife and family.

There is also a picture of Edward Bright, "Ned" of the "Sick Stockrider," which was contributed to the collection by the Mayor of Maryborough, and a fine enlarged photograph of the bust of Gordon recently unveiled in Westminster Abbey by the Duke of York, sent out by Mr J. J. Griffith, who is on tour in the Old Country. Mr Tom Blackett is another who has made a donation to the cottage.

Those who remember the fine poem, "The Ride From the Wreck," will be interested in an old-time print of that wrecked ship, the Admella, which was cast ashore miles away from Dingley Dell, near Port MacDonnell (S.A.); and into which famous ride Gordon put all his soul, even as he did later into its description. The sister of Ned Bright, Miss Elizabeth Ann Bright, a very close friend of Gordon, made an artistic replica of the Dingley Dell home of the poet, ornamented with shells from the reef on which the Admella crashed. This became the property of Mrs Mathew, widow of the late Rev. Dr. Mathew, of Maldon, who has presented it to the collection, and also a sampler made after the death of Gordon, by Mrs Launder (Elizabeth Bright).

Included in the collection of relics are many pictures by Charles Hammond, including one illustrating "The Sick Stockrider." There are also some fine pictures of the Blue Lake, Mount Gambier, with the Gordon Monument and the famous leap, painted by Mr Lindsay Gordon Montgomery, of Ballarat. Yet another intriguing one is the coat of arms and table of "descent" of Gordon, which traces his lineage back to the fourteenth century, the line ending in Dr. John R. Heath, of Melbourne, who is the great grandson of Gordon's sister, Ignez, and who, by the way, will be present to-day. There is another interesting picture, that of the unveiling ceremony in the Abbey on 11th May, sent by Mr Chas. R. Long.

Not the least reminiscent of the exhibits is a copy of the Ballarat "Star" of April, 1868, describing an accident at Minersrest, when Gordon's mount, Bolingbroke, fell with him and badly injured his face. Inserted in the old-time news-sheet is a photo. of Gordon, and the Ballarat Hospital of that day, where he was treated.

There are many other such interesting relics in the cottage, and they will serve to awaken a long-slumbering interest in the poet and his writings, which though tinged with the melancholia that imbued all his life, yet contain some of the most exquisite pictures of the Australian bush ever written.

There are really two ceremonies to-day, for prior to the main one at the Gardens at noon, there will be unveiled in the foyer of Craig's Hotel a beautiful Wedgewood plaque, which was sent out from England by Mrs Isabel Buckley (formerly of Buckley and Nunn), and herself a Ballarat native, who was a very great admirer of the poet, and presented the plaque to mark the fact that Gordon was so closely connected with Craig's. The inscription reads: "The poet, Adam Lindsay Gordon, conducted the livery stables here—1867-68."

Mr T. McManamny has had the plaque placed in an excellent position, and prepared the foyer with a wreath of pot plants and flowers for the little ceremony. After the other one at the Gardens, lunch is to be held at Craig's at which among others present will be members of the Gordon Lovers' Society of Melbourne, including the president, Mr C. R. Long, Dr. J. R. Heath, the descendant of the poet's sister; Messrs J. H. Jennings, J. Haughton, J. R. Moir, Newton Warniss, P. and E. Blake, whose work of love it is to tend Gordon's grave at Brighton Cemetery; the Mayor of Brighton (Cr H. E. Hall) and the town clerk, Mr J. W. Taylor, Mr S. H. Watson, and Mr Julius Grant. The local committee has made complete arrangements for the day's ceremony at the Gardens, which will be performed by His Excellency the State Governor, Lord Huntingfield.

handle a proportion of the pack on a consignment basis." He (the speaker) gathered from Mr Flyger's address at the annual meeting that the late firm was prepared to do this service on commission. The time will come when consignment selling will be the rule, and this branch should be prepared to take risks to learn the result.

Eloquent tributes to the work of the secretary (Mr L. J. Romey) were voiced in absentia by the president (Mr Humphreys), Messrs H. J. Leigh, O. Seidel, C. Bowman, and R. Jenkins. The general opinion was the secretary brought unflinching and intelligent services to the aid of the infant association 14 months ago, since when over 100 members' fees were regularly collected and several thousands of pounds sterling had passed through his hands. "Though we may not appreciate our secretary as much as he deserves," added the president, "we do so as much as he desires, and the best thanks we may give is to each do his bit and see that more strength is given to the Association."

Before the meeting closed the president wired up the first case of eggs packed for the season. Over 100 30-dozen cases were despatched last week, and word was received yesterday "that every egg in every case was passed and appearance O.K." In 1932 packing began 15th August, in 1933 14th August, 1934 8th August. The present volume of eggs is steady and daily increasing.

INBREEDING; SOME CONSIDERATIONS.

It is true that no great advance has ever been made in the improvement of type in domesticated stock without inbreeding of the selected foundation animals, but there are serious dangers attaching to this method of fixing type, especially if the inbreeding is followed out without any definite method or aim. The danger is particularly great with laying stock. To advise generally how to inbreed, when to inbreed, and when not to inbreed, as a means of promoting or maintaining heavy egg-production without being familiar with the stock and their surrounding conditions is an absolute impossibility.

In the first place it is necessary to study the bird to be bred from. Both sexes must conform to desired shape, and some definite knowledge must be possessed of pedigree and egg performance, together with the relationship of the birds to be mated, in order to have some guarantee that the type aimed at will be secured. Many troubles being experienced to-day in the way of weedy stock, high first-year mortality, heavy rearing losses, disease, parasitism, production of small eggs, are related to inbreeding of immature stock, not so much from the inbreeding deliberately done with "set" stock of which the true history is known, but from that inbreeding arising from a want of knowledge of the stock being handled. Quite often this ignorance regarding the breeding birds is not the fault of the breeder, but is the result of some specialist breeders who designedly or unknowingly do not possess an accurate knowledge of the strains with which they are working or sending out for breeding purposes.

The life of the domestic fowl is too short to warrant compilation of stud-books that would serve a generally useful purpose, and the purchaser must necessarily depend on the breeder's word as to the bird's breeding. This naturally tends to keep breeding methods. Judicious inbreeding is one of the chief secrets of success in advancing type when backed with knowledge necessary to its successful application. To the breeder who is aiming at an ideal type, and who has a keen eye for selecting form with special breeding power, and has suitable environment for rearing his stock, together with ability to rear and manage poultry on sound lines, close inbreeding may be resorted to as a means of improving or maintaining desired qualities in a strain—whether it be in respect to egg-production or to maintaining breed characteristics.

On the other hand, to the person who does not possess these qualifications or the conditions referred to inbreeding will, in all probability, have the effect of weakening a strain rather than advancing it. There is no theoretical cause which can be recommended to suit all cases and con-

by way of latent undesirable characteristics. Like does not always produce like, and, whatever system of breeding is resorted to, the law of variation will at times upset the best breeders.

In regard to inbreeding, especially when practised by the novice, the risk of losing size and constitutional vigor is the chief danger; as probably there is no other class of live stock where constitution is of such importance as it is in the case of the modern type of high-laying fowl, in view of the fact that the reproductive organs are put to such a severe test in producing its artificially forced egg-yield. It is one thing to attain to an ideal, but quite another thing to maintain it. For example, it would be a mistake to select a bird solely on constitutional points. These must be accompanied by the characteristics it is desired to develop. In an advancing egg-yielding capacity, however, the hens which attract the male most forcibly are invariably the best breeders, and, therefore, if a laying strain, will be the heaviest layers. It is a good sign of natural selection when certain hens in the pen monopolise the attention of the male bird. Nature, after all, is the best guide we have. Nature provides for the elimination of the unfit. The principal fault in poultry-breeding is the continual inter-breeding between birds of an age which precludes any chance to judge staying-power and matured qualities. If only fit and attractive birds over 15 months old are used the degree of relationship is less urgent.

INCUBATION AND BROODING (Part 5).

In heated brooders temperature is a very important factor. If insufficient heat is supplied the chickens crowd together. The correct heat is the only method by which this can be prevented. Over-heating is also to be avoided on account of its weakening effect and the difficulty that will be experienced in weaning from the brooders. The general comfort of the chickens is a sure index that the temperature is fairly satisfactory, and if the droppings are well distributed under and around the hen in the morning it is proof that the chickens have been fairly comfortable. The importance of heat in brooding chickens has been demonstrated by investigators at the Michigan State College. Working with chickens from diseased free stock with a range of temperature from 72 to 96 deg. during the first week of brooding they experienced mortality from 37 to 5 per cent, and with diseased stock 57 per cent to 32 per cent.

The secret of successful brooding with heated brooders is to be able to maintain sufficient heat at all times so as to prevent the chickens packing, and yet at the same time allow ample ventilation. Most of the chicken troubles are either directly or indirectly caused by the chickens crowding to get warm. This leads to sweating, which in turn causes chills, followed by sickness probably a few days later, and often the cause is unsuspected. It is better to err on the side of keeping the temperature a little too high than too low, provided more ventilation is allowed and the chickens are free to move away from the heat. It must be borne in mind, however, that to maintain a high temperature without adequate ventilation is as bad as a temperature that is too low. The nursery in the incubator should register a temperature between 90 and 95 deg., and the chicks should be allowed several hours in which to dry. The brooder should be thoroughly warmed and registering 95 deg. F. before the chicks are placed in. The temperature may rise somewhat when the chicks are

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Prolific Egg Yields for Karswood Users

Prolific egg yields are obtained by scientific feeding. Every fowl needs a tonic to maintain perfect health for active laying, and Karswood Poultry Spice is just such a tonic. It contains essential blood-enriching ingredients such as



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