



**Grand Central Coffee Palace.**

WELLINGTON STREET,  
A. J. ELLIS, MANAGER.  
TELEPHONE, 200.

Perth, ..... 1905-

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

April 23/05

Myself & P. C. Manning & C. McCharty  
left Mullegeine this afternoon to  
visit a natives camp in search of  
weapons when we arrived at the  
camp we saw all the natives in  
warpaint & one of the boys who  
could speak english came forward  
& told us they were about to  
circumcise a boy so P. C. Manning  
insisted on us seeing the ceremony.  
After a long consultation they decided  
we could see it.

All the men left the camp & took  
the boy to a piece of ground that  
had been prepared for the purpose  
about a mile away from the main  
camp none of the women were allowed  
to come near them or any of the  
lads only the men who had  
already been through the rite  
when we got to the place we found a





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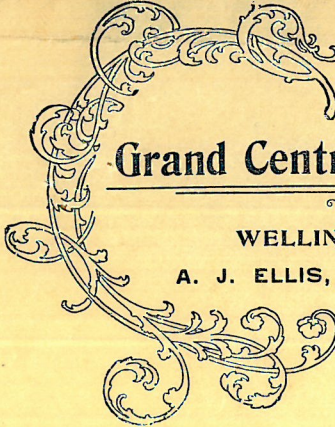
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piece of ground cleared about 15 feet long & 3 feet wide with little heaps of ~~the~~ sand piled up about 2 ft apart. The lad who was to be operated on was placed at the top of the cleared space with a man on each side of him who kept singing & beating time with a couple of Boonacrang's. Then one of the lads appeared to appoint himself director of ceremonies & he picked out 5 ~~assistants~~ <sup>others</sup> to assist him. The ~~the~~ old men <sup>then</sup> held a conference & picked out one of the number to operate on the boy who by his appearance was about 17 years of age. All being in readiness the members of the lads tribe were all placed behind him partly lying down with their heads resting on their left hand & a bunch of leaves held over their face. The visitors were all placed in front. Then the MC started to dance on the cleared space getting





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nearer to the boy with each step & as he passed the small heaps of sand picking up a little & throwing it over the boy. Each of his assistants going through the same performance which was repeated 4 times & as each one got near the boy he pulled aside the piece of rag which covered his penis & exposed it to the boy at the same time telling him that was how he would be when they were finished with him.

That part being finished the M.C. ran out to the visiting black & bringing one of their number on to the cleared space threw him down on his back & pretended to be having sexual intercourse with him at the same time explaining to the boy that he could do that to the girls when they made a man of him each of the assistants went through the same performance.

That being finished the boy was taken away a few yards & then a human





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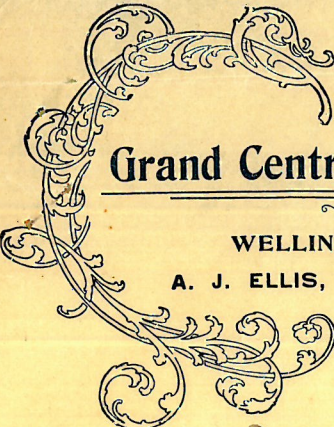
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operating table was formed two throwing sticks being stuck in the ground & two men getting down with one hand grasping the stick & the other resting on the ground they were shoulder to shoulder then two more got under them on their hands & knees thus acting as a support for the first two the lad was then brought back & laid on the backs of the two another man jumping across his chest with his back turned to his face so that he could not see who was performing the operation then two more came up & placed a throwing stick in the boys mouth holding each end. Then the old man got between his legs & commenced the operation first ~~making~~ cutting a line round the penis with a piece of stone near the Testicles he then commenced to skin the penis down to the head he then made another circle round & pulled the pieces of skin off the operation lasted about





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3 minutes during that time the lad never uttered a cry or could I see any movements of his hands or feet which were left free he was then taken away by a couple of men I was told only the other natives he would not be allowed to see a woman for three weeks after that he would be considered a man & fit to get married

The other natives also told me that the one who performs the ceremony is responsible for the boys life. If he dies the old man is also killed by a member of the tribe