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The General Secretary and Chief Librarian reports:-- 18  
15th January.

The attendance for July was as follows:-- Public Library 8,922  
Museum and Art Gallery 9,233. The total number of volumes in the  
Public Library at the end of the month was 1,288, of which  
105,271 were in the Reference Library and 3,024 in the Travelling  
Libraries. The increase being 1,000 in the Reference Library and 25 to  
the Travelling Libraries. During the month 16 cases, containing  
approximately 800 books were sent out through the Travelling  
Libraries system to 10 county institutes.

Sir,

When you were visiting the Museum at Perth you made

certain enquiries concerning (a) ethno-botany and (b)

bones said to be used by the natives of Western Australia  
for climbing karri trees.

Mr. Glauert, the Keeper of Ethnology, who was away  
at the time of your visit, has been communicated with

upon these points, and he reports as follows:--

(a) "The only work on ethno-botany I know is  
Maiden's "Useful Native Plants of Australia" which  
contains the native name and uses of each plant  
used for domestic and medicinal purposes.

(b) I have not heard of the emu bone implement,  
but it does not therefore follow that it was not  
used for the purpose stated. All the old accounts  
mention that in the South West the blacks used the  
double headed axe - two stones set in blackboy gum -  
with a pointed handle for climbing the trees. A  
groove was first cut in the bark and the climber  
pulled himself up the tree by jabbing the pointed  
handle into the bark in the way your enquirer  
states the emu bone was used. If you look at the  
axes from the South West you will see they are  
all two-ended with a pointed shaft. This was the  
only variety used in the South West coastal districts  
though the other type was used near Geraldton and  
further north.

Trusting this information may be of some value to you,

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

GENERAL SECRETARY &  
CHIEF LIBRARIAN.