

ABORIGINALITIES.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir.—Tuesday's "Courier" contained several very interesting articles which deserve more than ordinary attention. Amongst them are letters from Messrs. A. H. Anderson, W. Ruddle, and "Murree," dealing with aboriginal nomenclature. It is interesting to find we have so many authorities within easy range of the city, and although it is regrettable that "Murree" should elect to hide his light under a bushel, still his suggestion to open a column for discussions is an admirable one. Old colonists will appreciate it immensely, as it will put new life into them going over old-time experiences. Under the heading, "Early Mesopotamian and Egyptian Irrigation," there are lessons that should especially appeal to Queensland, which offers such unlimited scope for practical application. Marvellous records of the industry and ingenious ability of the ancients are given in the description of dams and canals. This quotation has an irresistible attraction of its own, viz.: "The oldest remaining, to this day, a dam having a core of hewn stones, is at Kosheh. It is attributed to Menes (of about 7000 years ago), who, by this means, diverted the river from its channel and made it take a more easterly course." What a field our State offers for a modern Menes to take steps to conserve our waste waters? In the next column "Preservation of archaeological remains in Egypt" strikes the eye of the reader, and interest is at once centred on those ancient temples and their modern restoration and re-erection. Amongst them may be noted "the great temple of Kalabshe, of the Roman period, dating from about 80 B.C. This has been largely rebuilt." Also, another one of the same period, "at Maharraka," has been re-erected, besides many others of earlier eras. Some of these names are not unlike our aboriginal ones, and although I am not aware of any archaeological remains to be found in Australia, still there may be much valuable information awaiting scientific investigation. Linguists of the calibre of those who deciphered the hieroglyphics of Egypt, or who are familiar with Russian, Polish, or other jaw-breaking names, would find little difficulty in acquiring the native pronunciation of even the "earliest" of our aboriginal ones. The origin of the race might be solved by comparison of language with that of other dark races. Possibly they are of a very mixed origin, as members of "the lost tribes of Israel" are even supposed to have been assimilated by New Guinea and other native races. I have read that pearls were brought from Thursday Island to enhance the greatness of the days of King Solomon. Did our aborigines first get a start from the extreme north and so work down the coast? Some of your many readers may be able to supply further particulars.

I am, Sir, &c.,
WILLIAM DEANLEY,
January 29,