

## ABORIGINAL ROCK CARVINGS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir.—As translator of the aboriginal writings on the rocks, as revealed by the colossal picturegrams at the Wellambi, I am pleased with the publicity that has been given to the paper read before the Science Congress. I think, however, that credit is due to the explorers who did the field work and who discovered them and sent the drawings to me to elucidate. It is more than a year ago that the first of the picturegrams was discovered by a party led by Mr. W. J. Enright, solicitor, of Maitland, former president of the Anthropological Society of Sydney, and well known for his work in collaboration with other scientists. With him was Mr. Roy H. Goddard, chartered accountant, an authority on Australian aboriginal artifacts, who did the drawings from which the translations have been made. Mr. Goddard is one of the delegates of the Sydney Anthropological Society at the Science Congress. The other member of the party was Mr. Carlyle Greenwell, an architect of Sydney, who is at present in London, having travelled there across the trade route through Asia and Europe, which was old in the days of the Roman Empire.

I submit that the work of these explorers—archaeologists is the proper word—has brought to light confirmation of the origin of our native race. I regret that the information did not reach London in time for Grafton Elliott Smith to find proof of his contentions that the human race came from one source, Egypt, and that part of Africa that borders on it; and that our natives are the survivors of the original race.

The discovery of what are apparently Egyptian hieroglyphics on the rocks together with the arrangement and design of the picturegrams, will bring us nearer to an approximate date of the great trek which sent these people, who belong to the tribe of food gatherers, looking for new places for their subsistence. It is not the first time that Egyptian hieroglyphics have been noted in connection with our aboriginals. Dr. Albert Churchward, the eminent authority in "Signs and Symbols of Primordial Man," deals with certain markings found in the pictures in Spencer and Gillen's book, and also those of Dr. Roth.

These markings will be submitted to Egyptologists for confirmation but so far as they are comparable the ideographs support the hieroglyphics. This is the first time that an attempt has been made to get at the meaning of the rock carvings of the aborigines, and the story they reveal is that the aborigines are following the teachings of animism, a philosophy which is a belief in, though not worship of, spirits, a belief in the existence of the soul or spirit or, as the aborigines put it, "Life goes out; life comes in (returns)." From this philosophy have been evolved during the thousands of years all the religions that from time immemorial have been brought to mankind.

I am, Sir,

**FREDERIC SLATER,**

Broughton House, Jan. 15.