University, Melbourne, Sept 7 06.

Professor Phipps,

Dear Sir,

My friend Dr. Toomey has shown me a letter in which you refer to the belief held by the Amata and other Central Australian tribes, and also by tribes on the Eastern Coast, that children are the reincarnations of old ancestors and that the intercourse of the sexes has nothing to do, save in a very subsidiary way, with the appearance of children. You also mention the very interesting and suggestive fact that, in original fairy tales, it is common to find that all of the fairies are women.

Though some writers, such as Mr. Andrew Lang, attempt to throw ridicule upon the Central Australian
belief yet it is a fact that
this spirit, no matter how
mixed up amongst all the tribes in
the Centre of Australia, is always
constantly in the mind of the
care of our ancestors.

We know of the present day, that
men + women in the Arabara tribe
take each of whom sacred or secret
names is that of an old ancestor.

We know also, that when an
individual bears that name, because he
do not criterion to be the mansion
of that special ancestor.

With our present day knowledge of
physiology, it is very difficult for us
to class ourselves in the mental attitude
of a primitive man who had no
knowledge whatever of physiological
processes, or where everything was really
a matter of magic.

We are very well aware that

I feel no need to quote any

William Charles Chuter.