Charlotta Waler
26th Decr. 95

Dear Professor,

Your letter with catalogue, lizard plates, and the Kundascha notes received, but not the notes on Kotyschev.

Many thanks for the catalogue which I can see gives much fuller descriptions than Lydekker's, though it is rather technical in places and will have to trust to inspiration for the meaning of some of the terms used.

The plates are splendid and the blacks were delighted when they saw them. They identified everything at once, and during the next week brought me in Varanus Gillievi (A-Panna), V. Grunicus (Er-Punda), A. Maculatus (Arta-Kotila) 20 Winnickii (Pungalitnino).
and they are now prowling round after 6. days, which looks very unlikely in this hot weather.

I quite agree with what you say on the Kurduiche note about the natives being afraid to touch the Kurduiche if they choose. In fact I am very sceptical about most of their superstitions and beliefs and I very sincerely doubt that their most cherished secrets and belongings can be purchased for large sums; provided that the deal can be made freely.

While I was here I had a chat with them about the Kurduiche lizard, and he was of opinion that the idea was never carried out but existed only in the imagination of the blacks, and he also said that the lizard mentioned by them was not a reptile, but a long, lashed, long-legged, prehistoric creature. I think the description given me by the old man was too circumstantial to be purely imaginary, and I think the blacks strongly maintain that no custom was in vogue until some years ago - when men made enquiries amongst them and found that the lizard, and not a snake, was used. Later than the old man had informed me that three kinds of lizards are used. When I heard that word, it was our kind of lizard was named. It is probable that there was one for each clan, but the old men say no. This lizard which was most frequently used was called 'colamille' and reminded a little of the 'kangaroo' (Hypocheii?), and a slender, longitudinally-striped lizard found on the 'forest.' I am sending you the Colamiller and 'kangaroo' —

I am glad that you are gradually coming round to your own way of thinking about the toads, but you must be patient, for I have been trying to explain the toad family to them. When it is finished and the cold has set in, the work is done. Otherwise we will try to make

acquainted of his Simulated indifference. Anyhow he should be. And if he is at all wise he will drop the introductory Chapter Your Mission to Adelaide Must have been a particularly delicate one, and I hoped late to have been an unseen witness of the Machiavellian manner in which you strike the Amanu propit of both Parties, and yet maintained Peace when you and Fate met Munich.

Never writing you as have had a very heavy hurricane which filled all the waterholes and made the Country for three or four miles around the station both new and green. Unfortunately it did not extend as far as the Turf, and I was utterly disappointed when the news had started out after rains returned with the news that there had been no rain. The turf was so favorable
For setting them with young that it was especially disappointing. If no luck this season we must have a big try for them when you come up next year. We will also train Penitremag—so out to the eastward of the Firths into the Opeka and Lecwura Country after Lecwura and that yellow fat-tailed rat that I have been looking for so long. If Lecwura is anywhere in the vicinity, he is in the Sandhills to the eastward. I'm not altogether certain that the summer is the best season for collecting. No doubt reptiles and insects are then more numerous, but judging from this year's results Winter appears to be the best time for them. The band, the avocets, the blackbirds have to overwinter...
Teacher in the hot weather...
around and frightening people when they really mean nothing.

To have a very quiet Ymas and to myself, but it will be a much pleasant one than I expected.

Before the rain the Country cooked wretched and our water supply had rather more trouble and I dare say was necessary, now there is a coat of green over that not to expose to the S.W. and I am fitting the boat ready to launch.

There are hundreds of turkeys and ducks about the Bilabong Do we are all certain of a good dinner at any rate, and the blacks with the assistance of your Tobacco, and an indescribable stuff which I have made for them annually, should hold their peace.

With best wishes for the new Year.

Yours very sincerely,

P.M. Repin

Prof. W. Baldwin Spencer