

26 April 1902 11

[beached somewhere
off Prince Charlotte Bay.]

My dear Spencer

I see there are one or
two matters in your last letter
that I omitted to discuss,

Re menstrual flow and soiled
grass stuck up in a tree. This of
course is only ^{one of the} superstitions according
to which the women at Cardwell
declare their menses can be
stopped: as however these cannot
ever be stopped except physiologically
(at pregnancy and the climacteric),
and as they know full well
that the men would touch nothing
that pained from them ~~while~~ etc.,
they are quite safe in making the
assertion in question. However, many
thanks for drawing my attention
to the matter - I will make it
clearer in my final MSS.

Now with regard to my
statement re the intelligence being

Situate in the east, see also for
further proofs of this ^{in other books} my Bulletin
No. 2 p. 7 bottom of right hand
column, as well as p. 8 under
MILKA, the east. The parallel

"He ~~left~~ that hath ears etc" was
given me by Bishop White, who
assured me that this referred not
to the acoustic properties of the
persons addressed but to their
sense of intelligence: this idea I
subsequently got confirmed by
two other clergymen.

While at Cape Bedford
last week, I came across certain
spirits who after making men
and women of adult size, can
cause them to shrink smaller
and smaller, and so ^{finally} get them
within ~~the~~ a woman who now
becomes pregnant. Schwarz
will get me the fullest particulars
he can about this matter.

I shall have the com-

plete MSS. of my Superstition
Bulletin ~~com~~ ready in about a
month, but as I want to insert
some illustrations - photographs of
some charms etc in my collection,
which I cannot possibly get
hold of until next November
when I return to Brisbane,
things will have to wait until
then. In the meantime, I
am putting together my notes on
Domestic Implements and utensils,
including wood-shell and bone.
work: so that if all is well, I
hope to have two bulletins out by
Xmas.

By the by, has it ever struck you
how many names of ideas etc are
all based upon names of parts of
the human body. The body apparently
appears to have been specialised
- so far as names of its different parts
are concerned - at a very early age.
One cannot help noticing this way

markedly in my Vocabulary
(2nd Bulletin) of portions of the human
frame. I wonder if the same
thing holds good in other tribes.

To return to matters non-scientific
~~By the by~~. Mrs Roth says she has
written two or three times to your
wife, but having received no reply
is anxious about them having
got astray. We saw as much
as we could of young D. O'Brien
- what a nice gentlemanly fellow
he is - and have given him intro-
ductions to all the nicest people
we know there in Brisbane.

With love from the wife to Mrs
Speeces and the children, and
kindest remembrances from
myself. Always sincerely yours
Walter E. Roth.

As soon as they arrive, I will send you
one of my ~~new~~^{last} Annual Reports - I want
to convince you that the Mission Stations
in ^{North} Queensland are not psalm-singing "dolee far
mente" institutions !!!