



To-day's Topics



Observations on the flying saucer reports of January 21 have come from Mr. Mark Howarth, of Grange Mount Observatory, Mayfield. Collating the information received by the University of Sydney, he says: "There would appear to be no doubt that it was an exceptionally large meteor, moving at a great height. It was seen at the same time at points more than 200 miles apart, Sydney and Werris Creek. I would judge it had just entered the upper layers of the earth's atmosphere, probably 100 miles up when seen. A meteor commences as a solid body, which is wholly, or partially, reduced to a gaseous condition by the friction of the earth's atmosphere. Small ones—popularly known as shooting stars—burn completely out and fall as cosmic dust. This particular one may not have been completely consumed, and as it appeared to be moving west, may have fallen in our interior as a considerable meteorite."

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Stress and strain will be well catered for at the Newcastle Show this year. The usual single headache bar has been increased to three. For the harassed parents who need a headache powder on the way out, one of the bars will be placed at an exit. Still not catered for are those

Still not catered for are those tired feet. The Show Society Secretary (Miss E. S. Towler) said yesterday that there was room for a chiropodist at the ground.

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Newcastle Conservatorium is pleased it has a tutor for brass instruments this year, but the new classes will pose a problem. The soundproofing of the studios will not withstand the blasts of sound from trombones and trumpets. If the brass instrument classes are held in any of the existing studios the sound will be heard all over the building. This is not likely to please those studying singing, the piano or violin. The Principal (Mr. H. F. Lobb) proposes therefore to put the trombone and trumpet players in the cleaner's room at the front of the building. This room is the most distant from the studios. "We confidently expect the result will be some strong clarion calls echoing around Wheeler Place before very long," he said.

The last five or six presidents of the New South Wales Methodist Conference have all had some associations with Newcastle, Rev. W. S. Pidgeon, Minister of Merewether Methodist Circuit, said last night. Mr. Pidgeon said Rev. A. G. Manerfield, who will be installed on Tuesday as 1954 President, spent his

as 1954 President, spent his early life at Wallsend. The 1953 president, Rev. W. C. Francis, and 1950 president, Rev. C. L. Connor, both served terms at Mayfield. Dr. F. H. Rayward, the 1952 president, and Rev. A. M. Sanders, 1951 president, served at Newcastle Central Methodist Mission. Mr. Pidgeon added that he was "almost certain" the 1949 president, Rev. R. B. Lew, came from Newcastle.

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The Railways Department will resume its one-day tours to Newcastle from Sydney on February 28. The one-day trips were successful last year. The Lord Mayor (Ald. Purdue) will be asked to join the train at Cardiff, as he did for the previous Sunday tours, and welcome the visitors to the city.

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An unsolicited testimonial for Merewether Beach came from a visitor this week. On holiday from Melbourne, he could not resist telling a fellow swimmer how impressed he was with beach and baths. He said he was "dragged reluctantly to Newcastle," but was glad when he got here. He spotted Merewether Beach when driving along Memorial Drive and decided it was at least as good as Bondi or any other of the publicised beaches. He was equally delighted with Merewether Baths. "The water is so clean, you could almost drink it," he said.