

Aboriginal Axe Factory.

SIR,—Whilst engaged in a geological reconnaissance of the Maitland district some time ago, Dr. G. D. Osborne, of the Department of Geology, discovered a place used for the fashioning of stone axes. It is in the bed of the Greenwattle Creek, on Portion 58, Parish of Butterwick, County of Northumberland.

The creek, a tributary of the Paterson River, flows over beds of Lower Marine sandstones which are suitable grinding material. Within an area of less than two hundred square yards we counted one hundred and sixty places where axes had been ground, and the spots must have been used for that purpose over a long period of time, as the rock around some spots that had been so used was now worn down to the level reached in the grinding when it had been abandoned for another.

On the north side of the Woodville-Paterson road, near the bridge over the Paterson River between Tocal and Paterson, he found another similar but smaller site. Apart from these two the one on Leconfield Creek, near Greta, close to the Greta-Dalwood road, is the only other place of a like kind I have seen in this district.

West Maitland.

W. J. ENRIGHT.