



The University of Sydney

SYDNEY, N.S.W.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE :

West Point

28th January

Dear Grote,

Thanks for your letter. We are now in the process of taking shell samples, and also filling in the holes that we have dug, with 60 tons of soil, this is no mean effort! I shall endeavor to leave some of it, so that you can have a look at a section.

A land rover (25H 391) will come out to Marawah about 5.00 - 6.00 on Friday (29th), and I hope to see you then. If not, the track is good, with dry conditions all the way. (In fact we have a water shortage!) Our tents are excellent, and there is plenty of room for you to camp with us if you wish. There is a shortage of food either.

we have found two real cremation pits since

my last letter, one at a depth of 4 feet, and
the other at the level of 7 feet. The
bottom one had badly chipped and distorted bone
fragments, but the top one had quite good preservation.
In the top one ~~was~~^{we} large fragments of cranium, and
we probably have most of the jaws, base of skull, base
of face, occipitals, and the lower ~~rough~~ ridges,
and forehead missing. We cannot explain however,

a gift from the gods was the discovery of over
30 small periwinkle shells and 2 large "Turbo"
shells, all with small circular holes drilled in them.

I interpret this as a necklace, or amulet etc, and
its presence in a cremation pit is of course quite
fascinating. Please keep this to yourself, because
if the Marwaris hear of it, they will be down here
in their thousands with picks and shovels!

Look forward to seeing you,

R. H. S.