

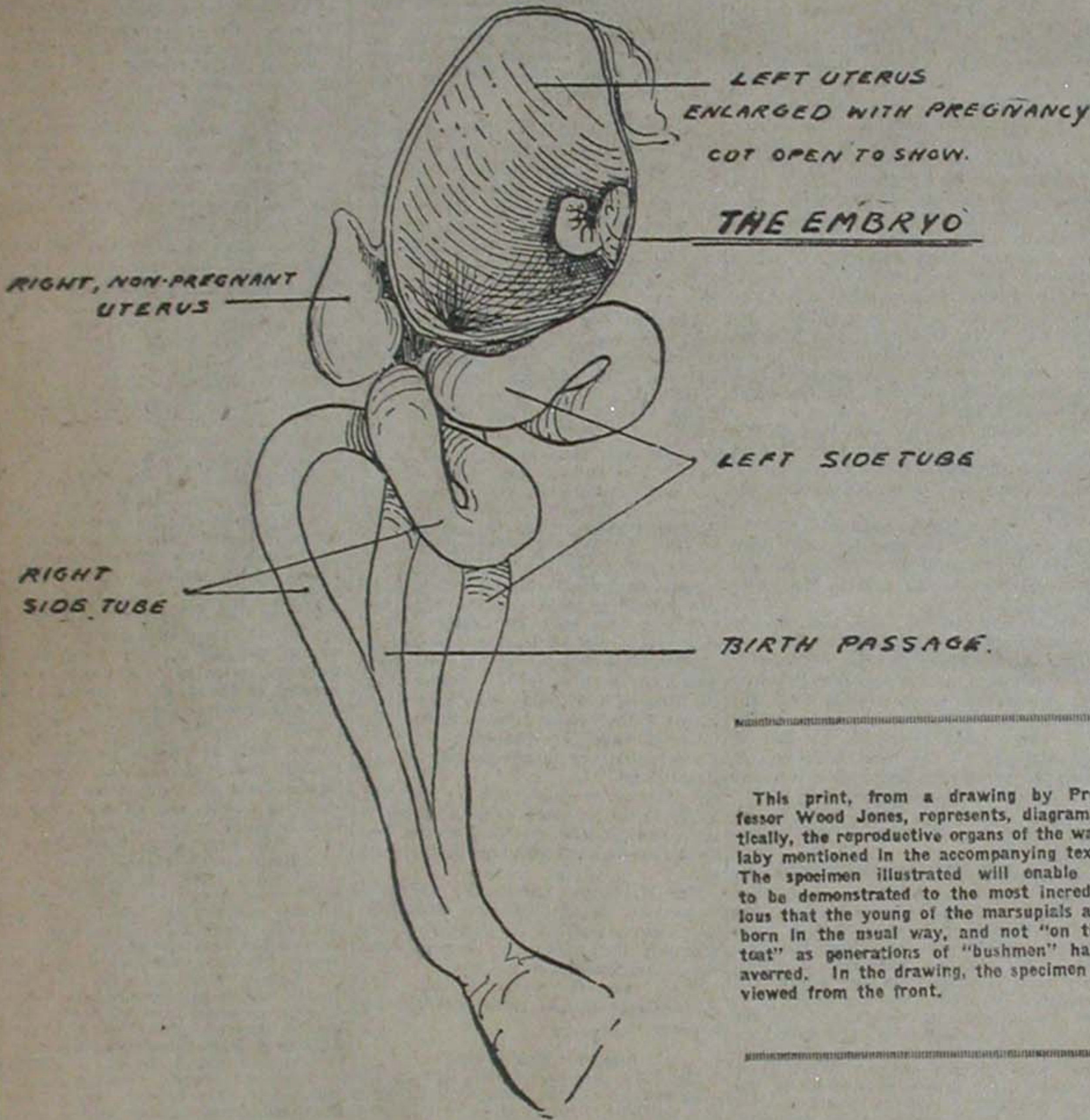
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# MARSUPIAL BIRTH.

## EXHIBIT TO CONVINCING INCREDULITY.

### PROFESSOR WOOD JONES TRIUMPHANT.

Although the processes of marsupial birth have been something of a scientific commonplace for many years, the majority of "bushmen" have refused to be convinced that the young kangaroo or wallaby is born in the ordinary course of nature, and have adhered to the "born on the teat" theory. Professor Wood Jones, of the Adelaide University, has repeatedly been appealed to on this subject, and his demonstrations of the anatomical facts involved in marsupial reproduction have been decisive in the case of unprejudiced enquirers. The more obstinate "bushmen," however, have always demanded to be shown an embryo in the uterus of a marsupial. Their demand could not be met—until now, when Professor Wood Jones is in possession of specimens which must end the controversy once for all.



This print, from a drawing by Professor Wood Jones, represents, diagrammatically, the reproductive organs of the wallaby mentioned in the accompanying text. The specimen illustrated will enable it to be demonstrated to the most incredulous that the young of the marsupials are born in the usual way, and not "on the teat" as generations of "bushmen" have averred. In the drawing, the specimen is viewed from the front.

Men who live close to Nature are invariably sceptical of revelations of scientists, and their belief that the young of marsupials, particularly the kangaroo and wallaby, are born on the teat of the mother has doggedly persisted since before 1830. Australian bushmen, having found tiny young kangaroos and wallabies apparently growing on the teat of the mother, have refused to believe that the birth occurred in any other way. However, the scientist, has long been convinced that such an occurrence as that believed in by bushmen is physically impossible. Last year Professor Wood Jones lectured on the subject at the University, his object being to convince a committee representing a sceptical bushwoman, who had offered to give £100 to the Children's Hospital if he could prove to her satisfaction that marsupials were born in the ordinary

way. The professor made out what appeared to be a convincing case, by means of diagrams and a collection of specimens. The committee, however, left unconvinced, and the Children's Hospital, so far as is known, never received the £100.

#### Complete Specimen Received.

During the last few days Professor Wood Jones has received from the ranger at Flinders Chase, on Kangaroo Island (Mr. C. J. May) a further collection of specimens taken from dead kangaroos and wallabies. Owing to the courtesy of the Flora and Fauna Board, such specimens are periodically sent Professor Wood Jones, but the recent consignment has yielded one of the most interesting and valuable of all. The specimen completely demonstrates the Nature of marsupial birth, and will sound

the deathknell of a long-cherished Australian superstition. A representative of The Register yesterday examined the specimen, which clearly shows the embryo of an inch long, the head, heart, forepaws, and hindlegs are clearly discernible. Thus the scientific fact that the young; although so small, find their way to the teat after birth is conclusively demonstrated. Another specimen received in the latest batch, although smaller, provides similar proof. The larger one was yesterday handed to the Director of the Museum, and it should attract considerable attention.

Although Professor Wood-Jones had previously received specimens which were sufficient to convince the unbiassed, never, before he obtained these examples, had he been in possession of evidence sufficient to convince the obstinate lay mind.

When passing through Perth the other day on his return from England, Professor Mitchell, who reached Adelaide on Saturday, told an interviewer that the Adelaide University would be enriched shortly by the arrival of Dr. C. S. Hicks, a brilliant New Zealander. Dr. Hicks is now at Cambridge, and is to be Lecturer on Clinical Physiology and Research Fellow on the Foundation established at the university under the wills of the late Mrs. Marks and Miss Sheridan, who left respectively bequests of £20,000 and £25,000 to the Adelaide Medical School. In passing Professor Mitchell while applauding the fine public spirit of these generous donors, said it was to be regretted that more wealthy people did not bequeath their money for research work in the cause of humanity so far as Australia was concerned. No better use could be made of money, for after all, such research work amounted practically to a national investment. In America today it was more fully realised than ever that the wealthy philanthropists of that country could not do better for their fellow-beings than pass over to the universities handsome bequests for specific and general purposes.

### THE RETURN TO GOLD.

#### POSITION REVIEWED.

In the Public Library lecture-room, at the Institute Building, last night, Dr. H. Heaton lectured before the Adelaide University Commerce Students' Association on "The Gold Standard: the Case for and Against." Mr. H. C. Bressler presided over a good attendance.

Dr. Heaton said the recent decisions of the British Empire to revert to the gold standard were apparently being received with mixed feelings. It was undoubtedly a leap in the dark. Although the Empire was going back after ten years to a currency system it had formerly used, the whole political and economic conditions had been so vitally changed since 1914 that one might well wonder whether the movement was wise or timely. The gold standard was based on the fact that gold was acceptable in every part of the world, that there was a sufficient supply of it, and that the volume could not be increased too quickly. Under a gold standard the currency unit was worth a certain weight of gold, but all forms of currency, whether metal or paper, were convertible into gold. Free minting was allowed, and most important of all, free export. Hence the currencies of gold standard countries had a definite relation to one another, and that fact kept variations of exchange rate within narrow limits, since a wide variation would be made by the shipment of gold. Further, the general price level in all countries was roughly similar, and that level moved in the same direction at the same time in different countries. The outstanding advantages of the gold standard, as seen before the war, were that people had faith in it, and they knew exactly where they stood. Although the currency was far from perfect, people were now understanding it better, and learning how to handle it more efficiently. That psychological fact of acceptability was of special importance to-day, in view of the complete chaos into which large sections of the world's monetary system were plunged when gold was abandoned. Where men could easily increase the money supply, there was an inevitable big increase in price level. At the same time gold coinage involved the wasteful use of precious metal and the purchasing power of gold varied widely from generation to generation. In short, the gold standard was not a standard. Still, after the experience of the war years, with their violent price and exchange fluctuations, people preferred the bad gold standard to any paper system.

The chief fears raised by the recent decision were whether England would be able to maintain the pre-war parity between sterling and the dollar, and whether there would be enough gold to meet requirements. Another fear was caused by Britain's narrow margin between her international debits and credits, for if the debits exceeded the credits she would be compelled to export gold. That danger had apparently been met by an arrangement for loans from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. For Australia a return to gold raised problems which had to be faced by the reorganised Commonwealth Bank. At present Australia was receiving gold rather than sending it away, but a big slump in export prices would alter the position. Meanwhile the Bank if it were wise, would endeavor to work out a policy of control, both of quantity of money and of credit facilities, and in that way it would be able to prevent the violent fluctuations between gold and bar trade, such as occurred in the period of 1910 to 1921.