

Australian Abo: Neglected In Literature.

The "Jacky" or the "Binghi" of comic writers and cartoonists may have spoiled the blackfellow as a subject for serious imaginative writing, said Mr. James Devaney, speaking, the Canberra University College last night in the first of two lectures sponsored by the commonwealth Literary Fund.

Developing his subject-"The Aboriginal in Australian Literature," Mr. Devaney said the aboriginal and his background had been neglected by creative writers but in late years there had been a notable turning to this theme in Australian writing.

Earlier, sustained poems, such as George Gordon McCrae's "Mamba" failed because of false atmosphere and false dialogue. We cannot appropriately make primitive man orate like sophisticated heroes of old, In high-flown English," he said. Terms like "piccaninnies," "chiefs," and "warriors," were not Australian, and too many Australian writers romanticised the blacks.

Mr. Devaney continued that the poets, in particular, put into, the (mouths of the blacks a diction centuries beyond the stone-age man and thus created a false atmosphere.

Mr. Devaney paid a tribute to the (work done by some of the modern writers in prose and verse, and dealt with the latest development of "aboriginalism" - the Jindyworobak Movement in poetry. These young poets have received more-ridicule than genuine criticism, but are trying to make Australian poetry less an imported thing and more distinctively Australian.

"They overdid 'aboriginalism,' but they made it a touchstone of Australianism, and we should wish them well," he concluded.