

TREATMENT OF ABORIGINES.

Mrs. P. Gibbs's Outburst ADDRESS TO HOUSEWIVES.

"You white people awoke on Anniversary Day with a feeling of pride at what you had done during those 150 years, but did you think of the aborigines' broken hearts, and that for them it was a day of mourning?" asked Mrs. Pearl Gibbs, of Newtown, who is herself partly aboriginal, when she addressed members of the Housewives' Progressive Association yesterday afternoon.

"What has any white man or woman done in this country to help my people, the aborigines?" continued the speaker. "The aborigines are now taking up the matter for themselves, and asking for citizenship. It is not ridiculous or silly for them to ask for citizenship in a country that is their own."

COTTAGES CROWDED.

The Aborigines' Protection Board had the power to take aboriginal children from their parents, said Mrs. Gibbs. At the Brewarrina reserve there were aboriginal families living in one-roomed cottages which were made of galvanised iron and had cement floors, in a climate in which the heat might reach 120 degrees.

Miss Portia Geach, president of the association, said that Mrs. Gibbs was speaking to a sympathetic audience, and that the association was anxious to help the aborigines in any way that it could. She suggested that perhaps the aborigines might like huge reserves on which they could live more or less in their former style.

"There is not a place in New South Wales where such a thing as giving them huge reserves could be carried out," said Mrs. Gibbs. "Besides, what about the half-castes and quarter-castes, who have been brought up according to the method of the whites? I myself could not live as the aborigines did in the old days."

At the conclusion of Mrs. Gibbs's address, Miss Geach said that she would discuss the matter with the association, and that resolutions would be framed for the purpose of helping the aborigines.
