

Supplement # to ABM. June 12, 1927 Vol. 14 #3 iii

- extract from "Dances in Papua"

- Two notes on tapa cloth & Wai-o-an - might be worth a p.c.

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AMBROSE DARRA

Melanesian Teacher, New Guinea Mission.

God has called another of our Melanesian teachers to his rest. The band of faithful workers is getting smaller and smaller on earth. Ambrose Darra who died at Uiahu on May 5th, 1927, came to us from Queensland in 1907, so that he had completed twenty years of service on the staff of the mission. It has been a very faithful service - never has there been the slightest failure. For many years he has been at Uiahu, one of the most difficult posts in the mission, and, while not what is commonly called a forceful character, he has done wonders in keeping things together there. He had not been in good health for some years, and we were not surprised that the end came when it did. There was an affection of the throat which sometimes made it impossible to speak above a whisper; but he never complained, and was always bright and cheerful, while the reality of his spiritual life was always a strong force. He was very anxious that a priest should be found for Uiahu, for he knew that he could not do all that was necessary, and also that a stronger hand than his was needed there.

He seemed to have a premonition that the end of his work was near at hand, as when some changes were made in April, a new Papuan teacher being sent to help him in the work, he handed over the school to him. Then on the Sunday he told the people in church that his work was finished, and they went listen to and obey the teacher who had been sent to them. He was laid up for about a week, and on the last day of his life on earth he managed to get out to the verandah of his house to have a last look round the station, and at the church which he had built mostly with his own hands. He got back into his house and died peacefully. Few of us have our hearts more in our work than Ambrose had. May he rest in peace and may his life still speak to those he worked for so faithfully.

H.N.G. " (Henry Newton).