

NEW ISSUES AND DISCOVERIES

Papua.—Mr. Courtenay Smith acquaints us that all the surcharged Papuans are sold out at the head office, Por: Moresby, but we have not yet received the 2/6 permanent type, which the Chief Postmaster promised to send us as soon as they were available.

Mr. Brettschneider has sent us for inspection the 2d. permanent type, perf. 12½, punctured with the Victorian type of O.S. (the stamps are printed in Melbourne). The same gentleman informs us that he has seen the 1d., 2d., 6d., and 1/, perf. 11, and the 4d., perf. 11½, permanent type, and the 2/6 with the thin surcharge all similarly punctured, and he has also seen some of these stamps with double puncture and O.S. reversed, but he does not describe them.

Punctured O.S.

* Perf. 11.	Perf. 12½.
1d. carmine and black.	2d. violet and black
2d. violet " "	4d. brown " "
6d. green " "	
1/ orange " "	
2/6 brown and black, thin surcharge, perf. 14.	

Tasmania.—The ½d. on Crown and A paper has come along perf. 12½, as well as 11, which was chronicled in January. The 9d. has also come along in both perfs., and we have likewise seen the latter value in a variety of compound perfs. (on three machines) of 11, 12, and 12½, as well as some stamps with a badly perforated line pasted over and the stamp re-perforated. These are known as mixed perfs. It would appear that these stamps had been perforated on the 11 machine in Melbourne, and that subsequently it was discovered that some lines were missed, mostly marginal lines, and the defect was remedied on the 12½ machine. On arrival in Hobart it would appear that some rows were still overlooked, and the use of the 12 machine in that office was brought into requisition. A few of our friends in Hobart are very keen collectors, and apparently there is not much that misses them. We shall, however, be very pleased when all these "various varieties" become a thing of the past.

½d. green, wmk. Cr. and A., perf. 12½	
9d. blue " " " "	11
9d. " " " "	12½
9d. " " " "	11 three sides x 12
9d. " " " "	11 three sides x 12½
9d. " " " "	11 three sides x 12½ x 12 horizontally

New Hebrides.—A mild excitement seems to have been caused by the appearance of the Fijian and New Caledonian stamps surcharged New Hebrides. The Fijians have been surcharged "Condominium," but the New Caledonias have not.

In "Le Journal des Philatelistes" for December some interesting particulars have been given of the various attempts of local private companies to establish a post; it also contains a short descriptive history of the islands, and intimates the probability of both of these series of stamps being withdrawn, primarily by the possibility of the cession of the French protectorate of the New Hebrides to England in exchange for Sierra Leone, and secondly because the two series are contrary to the clause of the agreement made by the two nations in 1907, which definitely specified the creation of a special series of stamps of an Anglo-French character.

Our confrere, in giving the number of the islands as 37, has no doubt included a number of barren islets or rocks, as the principal islands number sixteen only, of which fifteen are inhabited by Europeans. Some of these islands have as few as three or four whites only; there are, how-