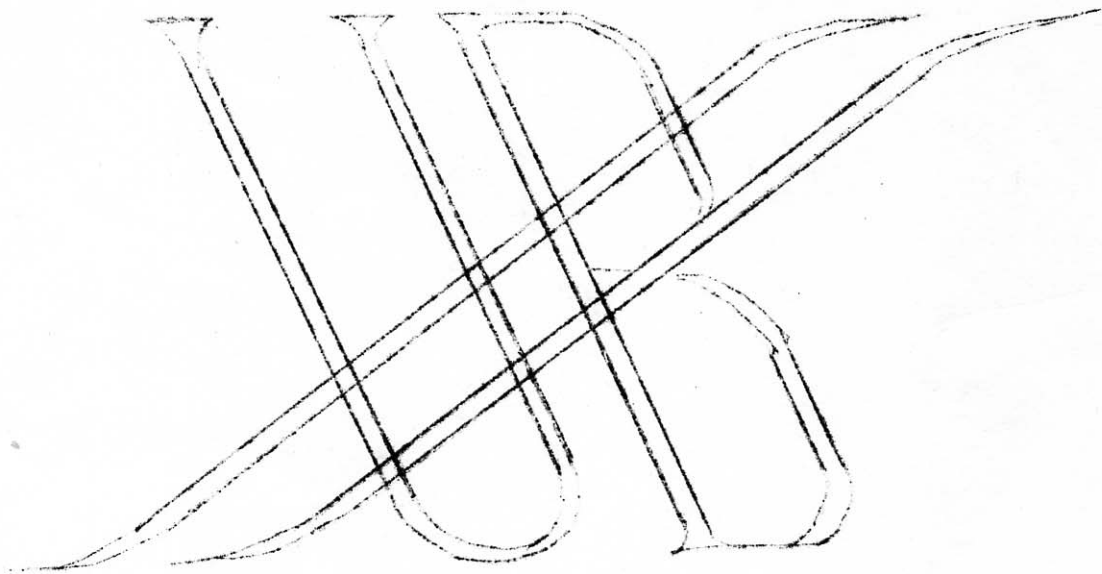


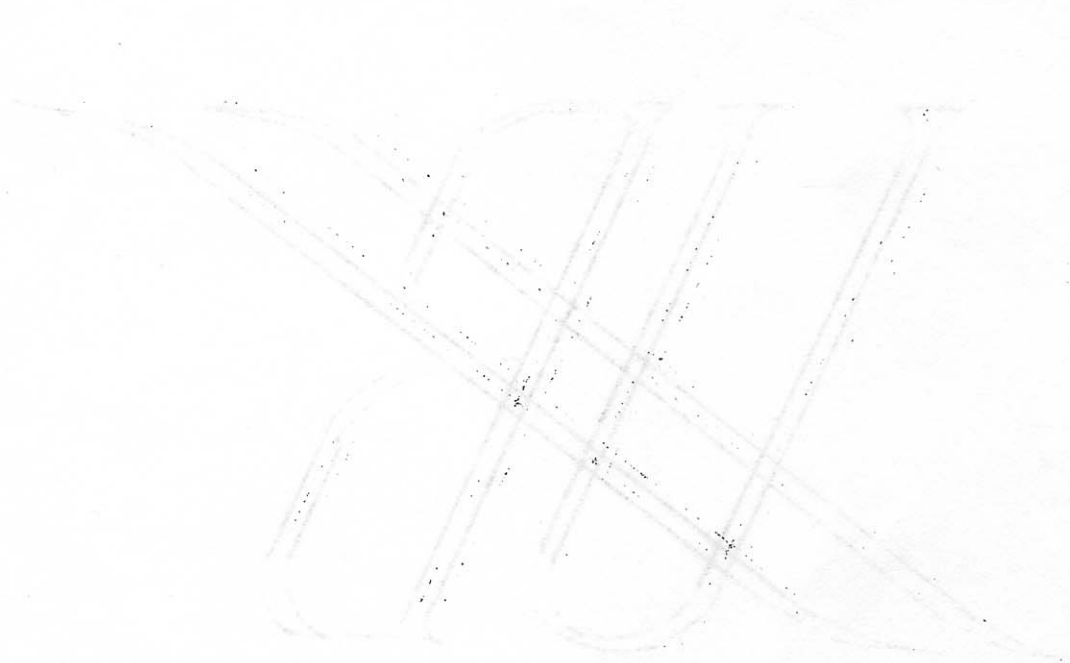
University of Bristol Spelaeological Society

Newsletter 1974 No. 4



University of British Columbia

Newspaper 1974 No. 1



## SECRETARYS' REPORT 1973

### Vice-Presidents.

In October 1973 our senior Vice-President Dr.B.A.Crook Died. He was one of our founder members.An obituary has already been published in Proc.13.2.

### Sessional Meetings.

Four were held during the year,covering a variety of subjects. Attendance was reasonable.

### Caving.

Ireland. The small resurgence cave in Td.Formoyle East,Clare, was fully explored and a survey made.At Easter the cave,known from its original explorer as McGann's Cave,was located with his help, reports appear in this issue of proceedings.

Yugoslavia. A small expedition went back there in the summer. Unfortunately the new security regulations severely hampered exploration. The effect of the new regulations is that visiting cavers may only go on conducted tours of the recognised show caves.

Mendip. Manor Farm Cave was through the choke in September 1973. The cave descends very steeply and runs to some 3000 ft.A report appears in this issue of Proceedings.

G.D.Cave. Some limited progress has been made with the dig at the far end of bat passage by blasting.Further collapses in doline 3 has let in large quantities of mud.The LadderDig is now regularly flooded after heavy rain and water rises into Bat Passage.

Keys are now held by Charterhouse Caving Committee clubs.

Yorkshire. Several trips have been undertaken during the past year.

South Wales. Interest continues to be centered around the diving extensions in the Little Neath River Cave.Sump 7 reported to be 60m.long and continuing in Proc. 13.1 has been passed, and is 70m long.This leads to L.N.R.C 8 which is the final section of open passage in the cave.It is about 200m.long,has a total drop of 1m. bringing the final level to that of the resurgence.The passage ends at sump 8 in the grit/ limestone fault,the sump closes down after 15m and further prospects do not seem good,although further efforts will be made in the near future.

### Archaeology.

Excavations have been concentrated at the Pleistocene site of Rhinoceros Hole (Wookey Hole).Good progress has been made.The Westbury -sub-mendip bone fissure continues to demand frequent visits to collect material.An interim report appears in this issue of Proceedings. More material has been collected from the Pleistocene Bone Fissure in the Lime Kiln Hill quarry at Mells.

### Museum.

The curator and his helpers have made considerable progress with the re-arrangement of some of the exhibits.The reserve collections have been looked over and improvements made in the storage arrangements Cataloguing of material has taken up much time.During the year Dr.H.Taylor handed over the whole of his collection of negatives and prints to the society. The collection contains many valuable records of the society's activities especially of the earlier years.We are very grateful for this gift.

The corridor display has been extensively re-organised and improved by C.A.Ssif.Many new exhibits have been included on cave formations.

## Proceedings

There was an exceptional delay in the production of the 1973 issue. The delay was not due to our side. Eventually delivery was made just before Christmas. This involved a still further delay in sending out copies to members and subscribers because of the December vacation.

## Library.

There have been large sales of the Little Neath River Cave paper. It has been reprinted with an addendum on the recent diving extensions. Two new filing cabinets now store all offprints. The library has kept well up to date with recent publications. Prof. Tratman has donated a large amount of relevant literature including informal material from the 1973 International congress.

## Acknowledgements.

Our thanks are due to the University of Bristol for grants towards the cost of publishing Proceedings. These include a substitute for the former Colston research Society grant.

The University of Bristol Union continues to make available grants for equipment and travelling expenses, for these we are grateful.

Secretaries; S.E.C.Warr, R.A.Baldock.

## Annual General Meeting

The 57th. A.G.M. of the society was held in the Geography Lecture Theatre at 7.45 pm. on Monday, March 6th.

The minutes of the A.G.M. were read and accepted.

The Treasurer delivered his report which was accepted with thanks.

The Hon. secretary delivered the secretaries report which was accepted with thanks. There was a vote of thanks to Stephen Warr the retiring secretary.

Officers and committee for the next year were elected as follows;

President.	Professor R.F.Peel
Vice-Presidents.	Dr's ApSimon, Donovan, and Taylor
	Professor E.K.Tratman.
Senior Treasurer.	Dr. O.C.Lloyd.
Student Treasurer.	Richard Willis.
Hon.Secretaries.	Richard Baldock, Cathy Sullivan.
Committee.	Dave Nuttal.
	Ian Cassely.
	Graham Mullan.
	John Watts.
	Gary Jones.
	Tim Lyons.

The meeting was closed at 9.00 pm.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Mountain Rescue Post No.34 is in danger of losing its equipment store and a large sum of money is required to purchase the property which has recently changed ownership. This is a very valuable Rescue post and has a high incident report. Donations would be gratefully received and should sent to;

Hon. Secretary Brian Boardman, 8, Yealand Avenue, Giggleswick, Settle, Yorkshire.



## Recent Caving

Caving has been up to its usual high standard of course, Adraán Wilkins has at last managed his figure of eight trip in Swildons and Bridge Cave sump has been free dived by Dick Willis, Chris Smart, and Dick Baldock.

Thrupe Lane Swallet, the new Mendip cave, has been visited by PGW and CCS. CCS found 60 ft of new passage bypassing the (first sump and reaching the second. The 130 ft wet pitch quoted seemed only to be a 20ft and a 50ft with a hairy traverse.

## Future Meets.

The only weekend of this term remaining is to be a Yorkshire weekend (June 15/16), staying at the "Barn". Probably a Gaping Gill trip.

## Archaeology

### 1) Westbury-Sub-Mendip Quarry

This contains a pure Cromerian fauna and a limited number of which have been examined by Dr. K.P. Oakley and declared to be indubitably of human origin and workmanship.

### 2) Rhinoceros Hole (Wookey Hole)

This has now produced its first Mousterian flint tool.

### 3) Museum

The storage of the greater part of the reserve collections has been reorganised on modern lines. Material from the UBSS excavations at Charterhouse on Mendip in 1960-67 has been studied and a report prepared which will appear in the next issue of Proceedings.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Aerial Caving? by Dave Nuttal.

The UBSS is a university society and as such has fairly easy access to scientific equipment, I thought it might be good idea to utilise some of this for cave hunting.

This idea was originally sparked off by someone mentioning that cave systems had been detected by infra-red (IR) photography. In theory the temperature difference between the cave and the surrounding ground should be detectable using IR sensing apparatus, and hopefully cave entrances and systems very near the surface may have a strong enough "fingerprint" to show on film. The nice thing about this type of work is that it can be done from the air and it is quick and accurate. Although an aircraft is available it has not been possible yet to track an IR camera (an ordinary camera will do with an IR film but a long exposure is required and so a blurred picture would be obtained from an aircraft).

So once again I am on the scrounge. If anybody knows of the whereabouts of an IR camera, or if they have any interest/information/views on the subject, please contact me.

Other methods being considered if the IR work makes no progress are resistivity\* and seismic surveys, but these involve a lot more plodding about and careful positioning of instruments and so don't produce quick results, spare time for this type of work is hard to find.

## Easter 1974

As is a long standing tradition, UBSS once again visited Co. Clare, Eire, to taste the guinness and explore the caves. Tradition was further maintained by the discovery of some new cave, notably in Coolagh and Polnagollum.

Accommodation was provided by Keanes of Lisdoonvarna, EKT residing at Keanes Hotel and the others roughing it in the derelict hotel opposite.

March 23rd.

1st party arrived in Lisdoonvarna via Heysham and Belfast.

Julian Walford	JDW
Carol Thomas	CMT
Mick Roberts	MGR
Alison Roberts	APR

They installed themselves into the old hotel and visited O'Connors and O'Donahues.

March 24th.

The party visited Polnagollum. JDW and MGR tried to find the top of Branil Passage East and in doing so they extended the known cave by by some 800ft over well decorated floor formations, with many stals. and flows. JDW was enticed through a very tight squeeze by MGR who was kneeling down and describing huge cave passages.

March 25th.

Second party arrived from Bristol via Fishgaud and Rosslare.

E.K. Tratman	EKT
Dick Willis	RGW
Chris Smart	CCS
Ian Cassely	IHC
Marriane Godfrey	DMG

After sandwiches and Guinness provided by Keanes, EKT retired to Keanes Hotel. IHC and CCS had a clandestine trip to Cullaun 1, all the others went to bed in the disused hotel.

March 26th.

EKT did some field work in the Calerloggaun area.

RGW, CCS & IHC attempted to find Cullaun 3 but because of recent aforestation the entrance could not be found and Cullaun 5 was visited instead. In the boulder chamber at the end CCS explored some small tortous passage to find a possible extension.

APR, MGR, CMT, JDW, DMG entered Fergus River Cave with intention of climbing NO Mercy Aven but were thwarted by the fact that the last squeeze just before section 5 on the survey was flooded.

March 27th.

RGW, IHC entered St. Catherines and exited from Fisherstreet, dye was placed in a small swallet and water collected from Lille 1&2 but the samples were visually negative.

DMG, PFG, CMT entered Faunarooska for a tourist trip.

MGR, APR, JDW removed some debris from B12 A then gave up and tried digging B12. Admired view from O'Donohue's before picking up Faunarooska party

CCS, EKT walked over the Ailloie mountain hoping to take some photographs but misty conditions prevented this.

Presidential through trip cont.  
and all descended Poulelva via an awkward route and Pollnagollun ascended. This was the first time that the president has done the trip and at the age of 75 he must surely be the holder of the age record for the trip. The record was well celebrated at O'Connors.

March 29th.

IHC, RGW, CCS managed to find the entrance to Cullaun 3 with assistance from EKT, it is thought not to be the same entrance as prior to the reforestation. The endless gravel was passed and the magnificent speleothems studied. A few low grovels were pushed at Rotunda but were very unpromising. EKT slept off the trip of the 28th of March.

APR, MGR, CMT, JDW surveyed their extensions to Branil passage gallery East of Pollnagollun.

March 30th.

APR, MGR, CMT, JDW returned to Leicester Coolagh "exchange". RGW, DMG, PMG entered via Polldonough South and kindly left lifeline for climb up to gour passage. CCS, IHC, Paddy O'Reilly entered via Polldonough, looked up at the vertical rift just before the terminal sump but found only mud. Then we pushed up mud passage towards the 'end', it closes down into a gravel filled bedding-plane. CCS grovelled up into a higher level and despite unsurmountable difficulties (light failure etc.) pushed back the frontiers..... passages in all directions, led inevitably towards the Last Great Frontier. (little did we know but the decrepid chamber pot should have warned us). Attempts were made to fill up the small blind chamber from below - result daylight tantalisingly showing through a 2" hole in a very unstable boulder choke.

Emergenced and attempted to locate hole on surface but when pints of Guinness were offered as to which was the correct hole IHC&CCS nobly redescended Polldonough South and shouted through. The connection was quickly made in Polclabber (EKT won the Guinness from Paddy O'Reilly) and was rapidly renamed Pollcrapper on discovering certain evidence, the new entrance is very unstable but open.

March 31st.

RGW and Paddy O'Reilly climbing on Black Cliff.

IHC, CCS descended Formoyle East to check end of tributary and to collect pebbles for dating. An unpleasant sharp cave with a nice location.

Doolin through trip attended by most people, CCS entered 14.59 and exited 15.40 thus taking 4 minutes off the previous record, how will this record stand?

250 gms of pyranine were placed in B4 and after 40 minutes it was obvious at Aille 2 thus Aille 2 is misnamed as it does not come from the Aille.

1st April.

CCS, PG, DMG, EKT did some levelling and walking, noted many phreatic cave remnants along the cliffs.

RGW, IHC, DD, AT, PD went to Gort looking for caves and were informed that there were caves in Derbyshire. None were found in the Gort area.

2nd April.

IHC, CCS, DD, AT, PD and a German visitor descended Pollcrapper and exited from Polldonough South. CCS explored a roof passage and boulder choke, possibly B9 in the field



with lerrund passage on the right-hand side of the stream looking downstream.

The last evening was spent happily at O'Connor's.

3rd. April.

The car was packed and a farewell drink was had at O'Connor's, lunch at Keanes Hotel. Despite protests from the engine driven hard back to Rosslare embarked ferry at 00.15hrs April 5th. The car reached the waterfront before the dynamo packed in. Set out again at 05.30hrs. thanks to the AA and reached Bristol during the rush hour.

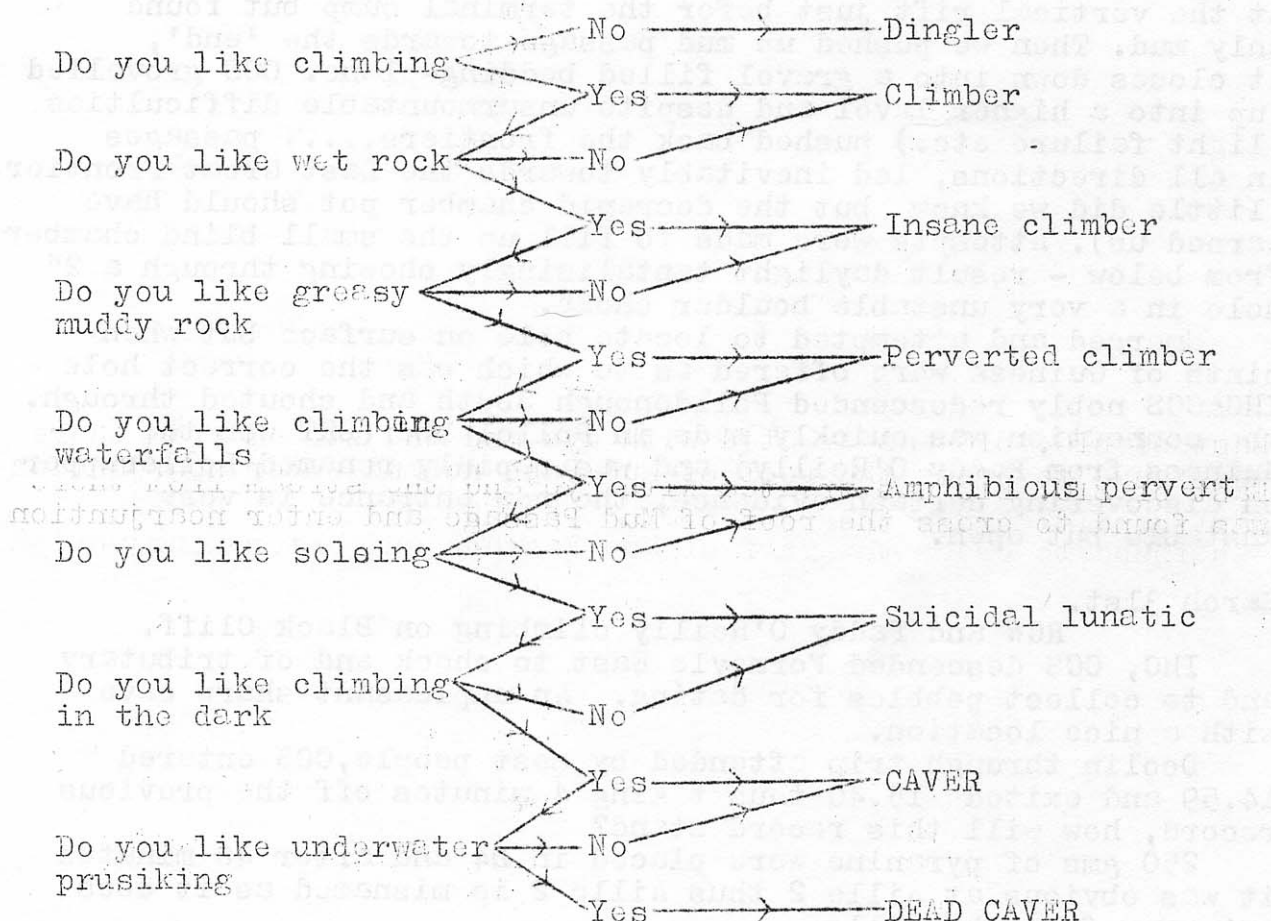
Acknowledgements.

Our thanks to EKT for organising the trip. Also to Keanes for keeping EKT comfortable and permitting us the use of their old hotel.

Ian Cassely

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### Evolution of a Spelaeologist?



The end.

\* \* \* \* \*



## Review

University of Bristol Speleological Society Yugoslavian Expedition 1973.

By Edgar Kitchener (alias "The President") Tratman OBE? MD. MDS, FSA, after a report submitted by Charles Antony (alias "Arbthnott") Self BSc. published in UBSS Proceedings 13.3.

Unfortunately, this is a very tedious paper explaining what a generally unsuccessful expedition did, liberally supplemented with excuses to explain why this is all that they did.

The original report is even worse reading, since it is almost twice as long. After discussion with the author, it would that this was intentional, his intended readership being members of the local climbing club. Sated with boring move by move accounts of ascents of obscure cliff-faces, the report was to be his soporific, revenge, for the perusal of unsuspecting bores and climbers. If published, it might have succeeded.

By way of example, the medical in the published article is included in the introductory section as :-

"Members suffered no serious illnesses or injuries during the expedition. AGW needed hospital treatment for a scorpion bite."

The original report stated:-

"The only ailment to affect all members of the expedition was the inevitable alcohol poisoning. This was usually incurred at the bar at Lage, where exact replicas of the drinks already on our table would appear at intervals of about twenty minutes, bought by the local farmers as moral blackmail to make us sing. AGW tried to stay teetotal, but became drunk on one occasion on an unpleasant mixture of milk and overripe plums. Natural processes were an efficient remedy, and orange juice was found to be beneficial.

Insects were for us less troublesome than they were to the 1972 expedition, possibly because we camped well clear of any open water. The exception to this was scorpions, which were not seen in 1972. A small (1½" long), Black scorpion was caught at the campsite at Lage. Being a very docile specimen, it was named Siegfried, and kept in a jam-jar for the duration of our stay. A similar but ill-disposed, scorpion stung AGW on the leg during the walk up to Brezno vi Gansovi Glavici. Two days later, after an arduous caving trip, his leg was badly swollen below the knee. He drove to Ljubljana hospital and was given the requisite drugs which, combined with rest, effected the cure.

The ailment known to some as "continental tummy" struck again this year, and CAS was badly affected. Kaolin and morphine proved a very efficient medicine, and a diet containing little or no fresh fruit was an effective preventative measure. Water melon is a fruit to particularly avoid.

CAS passed out in a cafe on one occasion for unknown reasons but a night of salt water did no noticeable harm."

Anon.

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## Existence of New Species of Man Substantiated by Mendip Excavations.

1. McEetake, B.Sc (Priddy) failed.

Excavations at the Penrose Cott Dig have brought to light evidence which supports the rumours of the existence of a new species of hominid designated by the author as Homo troglobius dentistii.

The deposits examined are of, geologically speaking, very recent origin. Finds include:-

- a large number of water-colour paintings of Irish origin,
- several pieces of Waterford glass,
- one thoroughly obsolete cabinet radio,
- the entire first edition of "The Caves of North West Clare, Ireland",
- numerous items of almost antique furniture,
- one dark-blue Ford Escort Estate.

These finds go some way towards substantiating the existence of this extremely rare hominid. Homo troglobius dentistii has been reported on numerous occasions in the Mendip Hills and also from many other localities including all the major caving regions of the British Isles, Ireland, Gibraltar and Czechoslovakia. There is also evidence that the species was once endemic to Singapore. The author considers, however, that the distribution of sightings is not so much a reflection of the species distribution as an indication of the temporal and physical range of only one individual. The large number of reports from the Mendips tend to suggest that this is the home area although it is believed that temporary residence is taken up at regular intervals on the West Coast of Ireland.

Observations over a long period of time by members of the UBSS has shown behavior to be remarkably consistent. Homo troglobius dentistii (Htd) whilst in Great Britain appears to have a penchant for quarries and archaeological digs. In Ireland Htd has often been observed striding around near the Goolagh River muttering "Oh yes", "It's quite incredible you know," "It's a great day for science," and rather less frequently, "Olive's right again."

Often reported in or very near a public house, Htd has never yet been known not to buy the drinks, prefixing the purchase with his characteristic enquiry "What will ~~you~~ You have?" which always seems to be addressed to each and every occupant of the room. He himself invariably consumes large quantities of draught Guinness and Bushmell's Black Label whisky.

Htd is generally considered harmless and is believed to be non-toxic. A number of authorities consider that he has latent hypnotic powers in some way linked to his undeniably unique personality. However, should he be encountered he should be approached with caution since even a short period in his company suffices to instil in the unwary a sense of well-being not unrelated to alcoholic intoxication.

Anthropological correspondent, Freemantle.

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