

CONCLUSIONS.

It would appear from the examination of the remains that the discoveries are probably Celtic in phase. The tibiae show the platycnemic change so typical of the Neolithic skeleton. Some of the human remains from the Keltic Cavern have been compared with these, and very little difference, if any, can be found between the anatomical features.

The presence of charcoal (and pottery) in the dark layer rather suggests occupation, but it is hoped that further finds will help to establish some definite basis for an opinion as regards date and other details.

FIELD WORK.

By E. K. TRATMAN.

This paper has for its object the recording of work carried out, and expeditions made in addition to the work carried out, at the three caves which are dealt with in detail elsewhere. The amount of work accomplished has only been made possible by holding camps at Easter, and in August, in both 1920 and 1921, in addition to the numerous Saturday and week-end parties.

Several expeditions to caves in other parts of the Mendips were made in 1920. On April 7th a visit was paid to Wookey Hole, and an enjoyable day spent in exploring it thoroughly under the guidance of Mr. H. E. Balch. This cave may be conveniently divided into two levels, though the river which flows through parts of it has occupied no less than five distinct levels.

The *Axe* flows through the lower of the two divisions, which consists of three great chambers. The upper division consists of two series of passages. One lot almost bare of stalactitic formation, but shewing up the conglomerate of which the cave is formed, in a remarkable manner, and the other with many beautiful stalactites and stalagmites.

On April 10th a cycle tour was made to Hutton and Loxton caves. The entrance of the Hutton cave was unfortunately found to be filled in, a small depression being the sole external sign of the existing cave. At Loxton there is a small three chambered

cave from which nearly all the stalactites have been removed. It is a typical limestone water-course with a chimney open to the surface, and communicating with the top of the vault of the middle chamber.

August 1st saw an expedition to Eastwater Swallet at Priddy. This swallet was thoroughly explored as far as the bottom of the second vertical drop. It was unfortunately a very wet exploration owing to the wetness of the weather. For this expedition, and for a pleasant afternoon's investigation of the various small caves and rock shelters of Ebbor Gorge, and of the Hyena Den, Wookey Hole, we were indebted to Mr. Balch.

During the summer of 1921 another visit was paid to Wookey Hole, and on August 1st a party of five explored, in conjunction with Mr. H. E. Balch and his party, the new parts of Swildon's Hole. The time taken for this exploration was over 14 hours, but the beauty and grandeur of the new parts prevented this from seeming long. Other parties to the number of three have materially assisted Mr. Balch in the various items of work he is undertaking in both the old and new parts.

In both 1920 and 1921 several visits have been paid to some swallets in a cut down wood, close to Tynning's Farm on the south side of Blackdown. The swallets are about 500 yards east of the farm, and 200 yards south of the Roman road, and are five in number, all lying within an acre of ground. There is a sixth belonging to the same series on the side of the path to Cheddar, about 100 yards from where it leaves the Roman road. Of these six, only two are now active, and even these have been dry for several months, owing to the drought, and also probably partly to the wells sunk on the south slope of Blackdown.

The largest of the active swallets, a big circular depression, probably a sinking caused by underground water action, and another larger and older but now disused swallet are all in one straight line, the line pointing almost directly at the Black Rock of Cheddar Gorge. It is interesting to note that close to the old disused swallet is a sinking actually in progress, which indicates hollows underneath. The largest active swallet has been entered for a distance of ten feet, and should well repay further exploration.

To judge from the dip of the strata and general indications of the country, these swallets probably form one of the feeders of the Cheddar water which emerges at Gough's Caves at the foot

of the Gorge. The presence of all these swallets, and the finding of calcite formation, which could only have come from the inside of a cave, embedded in one of the calamine pits with which the area is dotted, point to there being a cave or more probably series of caves in close proximity.

In the valley forming the west arm, and near its junction with the north arm of Longwood, there is an opening of a small cave on the south side, which is much used by foxes. On the west side of the north arm about half way to its tip is a very probable rock shelter, while in the angle between the arms on open ground is a ring about three feet high and sixty feet in diameter. This may be a disc barrow, but as there seems to be a definite entrance on the north aspect, and as the centre portion is flat and only cut off from the ring by a shallow ditch from which the material was taken to build the ring, this cannot be definitely asserted.

In the field immediately east of Tynning's Farm and south of the Roman road, are three tumuli; two are about 16 feet in diameter and four feet high, and of the basin variety, while the third is apparently a disc barrow which looks as if it had been excavated.

Work has been carried out at a spot 200 yards above Aveline's Hole, and on the same side of Burrington Coombe. This place has turned out to be a water-worn rift, and should lead to something good to judge from its own and other indications in close proximity. About 5 tons of material have been removed, and progress made almost vertically downwards for 25 feet.

Close to the middle of The Link, Burrington, is a rock exposure which may, or may not be, a rock shelter. A similar place, though on a larger scale, exists high up on the south side of Rickford Combe, and about 150 yards west of the rising. This might well repay excavation, though there is ample sign that the surface material would be considerable.

On May 25th, 1921, a distinguished party visited Burrington Combe as guests of the Society. Among the guests were Mrs. H. H. Wills, Father Waggett and Professor Sollas and Dr. Marett of Oxford, as well as the late Miss Czaplicka. Professor Sollas visited all three caves, but did not descend the Keltic Cavern. Dr. Marett accompanied by Dr. Palmer was taken over the Keltic Cavern, and the positions of various finds pointed out.