

Report for the Eighteen Months ending Sept., 1921.

The Committee are pleased to say that a most successful eighteen months have been passed. The Society looks forward to its winter session with renewed vigour and interest after the season's field work.

During the winter session 1920—1921, a series of lectures were given by several eminent authorities, and by some of the student members on subjects relating to Spelæology. To these our best thanks are due for their interesting and instructive papers, which have so ably supplemented the summer's field work.

The usual camps at Easter and August have been held in both 1920 and 1921. The field work throughout 1920 was unfortunately severely hampered by consistent bad weather, but 1921 has given the Society more than a sufficiency of fine weather for its operations.

The Spelæological Club has passed a successful year. The Club is housed in the former O.T.C. ammunition store which has been converted by the students themselves into a comfortably furnished Club room.

The room contains the Society's Museum and Library, and has proved a very useful meeting place after the evening lectures. Four new specimen-cases which have been added to the Museum are now completely filled, necessitating the construction of additional ones. The total exhibition area is now slightly over 60 square feet.

We take this opportunity of acknowledging and expressing our thanks to Miss H. P. Wills for presenting to the Library a copy of "Prehistory," by M. C. Burkitt, M.A., of Cambridge, to Miss M. Rowell for "Pre-Paleolithic Man in Britain," by Reid Moir; to L'Abbé Breuil for a series of thirty-four publications, to Mr. J. H. Savory for Professor Buckland's "Reliquiæ Diluvianæ" and "Stanton Drew," by Dymond; to Dr. L. S. Palmer for MAN, 1921, and to Professor Buckmaster for a piece of the stalagmite floor of Kent's Cavern, Torquay. A full list of additions to the Library by loan or purchase is appended.

The Society has been affiliated to the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland from June 28th last.

The publication of the first number of the Proceedings of the Society in the Spring of 1920 was only made possible by a grant of £50 from the Colston Research Society, the grant of £15 from the Guild of Undergraduates being totally inadequate to meet the necessary heavy expenses of work of this nature. Even with these funds the members who have participated in the work in the caves have willingly gone to considerable personal expense.

The Guild of Undergraduates has made the Society a grant of £10 towards the cost of publication of these Proceedings.

It has been a pleasure to us to welcome at some of our meetings members of the Bristol Philosophical Society and other friends interested in Spelæology.

E. K. TRATMAN,
Hon. Sec.

SESSIONAL MEETINGS.

Professor G. Elliot Smith gave a lecture on "Migrations of peoples," on Friday, October 15th, 1920. With the aid of numerous maps, which were largely his own work, he shewed how the prehistoric peoples had settled where there was gold, and then during their migrations went from one gold-bearing area to another. When, however, the migrating peoples came to the sea they followed the islands forming the connecting chain between south-east India and Australia, and thence to South America. In these islands gold was not found, but pearls abounded, and so were adopted instead of gold. Turning then to Great Britain and Ireland he shewed how when neither gold nor sea pearls were available, the peoples settled along the rivers in which fresh water pearls were, and are still, to be found.

Why the prehistoric peoples should have migrated on these lines was hard to say, but it was interesting to note that through the ages gold had been endowed with miraculous powers of many descriptions, while in the times under consideration it was even endowed with life giving properties. The suggestion as to the pearls

was that the medicine men or wizards of that day not being able to find gold took pearls as the next best thing.

On November 10th, 1920, a joint meeting was held with the Medico-Chirurgical Society, when Professor E. Fawcett, M.D., and Dr. L. S. Palmer gave illustrated accounts of the work done by the Society in Aveline's Hole and the Keltic Cavern; both addresses dealt very largely with the anthropological aspect of the work and its results.

The late Miss M. A. Czaplicka lectured to the Society on November 26th, 1920, on "The Caves of Eastern Europe." Miss Czaplicka brought out very clearly the interruption in the Aurignacian-Magdalenian sequence by the interposition of the Solutrean culture.

This culture is found over the greater part of Europe, but in the West there are no human remains associated with the Solutrean culture layer of the various cave deposits. There seems to be little doubt that the culture came from the East, very probably from Asia, and that the people who made this type of implement penetrated about as far West as the Eastern borders of Germany, but though the people only penetrated this far their culture was carried well into France by contact with other moving peoples. Thus the importance of the caves of Eastern Europe and Asia also cannot be overrated as it is there we must look in order to determine how this culture developed, and its true relation to the other cultural periods of the Palæolithic epoch. Finally the evidence of the present day points to Asia as being the birth place of the nations, and if, as we go East, we investigate the various cave deposits, we shall very probably find the same sequence as in Western Europe, but at each stage further East each culture will become more primitive.

Professor W. J. Sollas in a lecture to the Society on December 3rd, 1920, dealt first with the question of Eoliths as shewing the antiquity of man. He said that since the question of Eoliths had first been mooted he had considerably modified his original opinion, and was now prepared to admit that the flint implements from the Pliocene Crag of Ipswich, and the Miocene deposits of

Central France, were very possibly fashioned by man. By man he did not mean *homo sapiens*, but rather a tool-making animal, man-like in habit, but of a different genus and species from that from which *homo sapiens* was evolved.

The lecturer then turned to the question of the origin of the Esquimaux and Red Indians, and shewed what an interesting problem it would be to trace their migrations from their former homes in Eastern Asia.

On December 16th, 1920, Mr. H. Taylor gave a paper on Stonehenge, giving an account of the structure of the place as well as the varying theories as to its origin and uses, describing also its topographical relationship with neighbouring earth works.

On February 5th, 1921, Dr. R. R. Marett of Oxford gave an interesting address on "The Mousterian and Neolithic Ages in Jersey."

He said that Jersey in common with the remainder of the Channel Islands has passed through periods of elevation and depression relatively to its present height above sea level. These negative movements of the land or rather positive movements of the sea are well shewn by the presence of a number of ancient sea beaches at various heights above the present sea-level, and by the existence off the coast of submerged forests, which are sometimes exposed by tidal action.

Concerning the Early Palæolithic Period nothing very definite can be said. A few so-called Eoliths have been collected by enthusiasts.

In a cave in St. Brelade's Bay Mousterian deposits of an average thickness of ten feet were found. These were covered by a varying thickness, twenty-five to forty feet, of surface material.

The various layers of the deposit had been much disturbed in places by the fall of boulders from the roof, but in a recess undercutting the east wall to a depth of fourteen feet, the layers were found entirely undisturbed. At the base of the deposits the earliest types of Mousterian flint implements were found. The animal remains shewed the contemporary presence of a fauna similar to that associated with Mousterian remains over the whole of

the West and South Europe. Mammoth remains occurred at the top of the deposit; and at the very bottom a molar tooth of an earlier elephant was found, namely *Elephas trogontherii*.

As the layers of the deposit approached the top so the character of the implements changed. These gradually became more elongated in type, but even in the very topmost layers the type of implement was still definitely Mousterian, though approaching early Aurignacian in their general form. The human remains comprised a number of teeth which are, with the exception of those of the Pilt-Down "man," larger than any of prehistoric man yet found. These teeth exhibit the characteristic dental features of the Neanderthal race, of which the tendency of the molar roots to fuse, and to form one bulbous root alone need be mentioned. In addition to the teeth, skull fragments were found belonging to a child, presumably one of the Neanderthal race, and it is interesting to note that they shewed traces of the action of fire.

The numerous cairns and cists on Jersey have yielded very valuable Neolithic remains. The types of pottery and instruments found are such as are found associated with the earliest Neolithic peoples. The burials point to the same conclusion, and were of the crouching type, that is with knees drawn up to the chin, and the upper limbs also flexed.

Thus Jersey has been inhabited at least twice in prehistoric times, once in the Palæolithic Age, during the period called Mousterian, and once during the Neolithic Age.

Sporadic finds have also been attributed to the earliest and latest parts of the Palæolithic period, but the interpretation of this evidence is less certain.

Mrs. D. P. Dobson, B.A., lectured to the Society on "Earthworks," on February 17th, 1921.

Earthworks are not found associated with civilization earlier than Neolithic, and those dealt with in this paper are only of that and the succeeding bronze age period.

The best examples occur in the *ora maritima*, because of the closer connection of that region with the continent. The finest examples occur away from forests, and in the open Down country,

which would support a comparatively dense population, *e.g.* Avebury. The race of its inhabitants cannot be determined by a camp, or artifacts found in it, because camps were adopted by the conquerors from the conquered.

The chief types are promontory fortresses, contour and plateau fortresses, and rectangular or other enclosures.

CONSTRUCTION.

The labour involved is greatest on level ground, therefore earthworks are generally found on slopes. They usually consist of a fosse and vallum, the fosse without the vallum, and often bounded by a parapet. Where several valla exist they are generally parallel.

The nature of the soil influenced fortifications. Stony soil was not often excavated, but generally fortified by deep dykes. The simplest form of this was heaping of stones, but the erection was generally improved by retaining walls, by a formation of coursed stones, or a wall with an inward batter backed by earth and stone.

The so-called vitrefaction sometimes found was probably due to fires in the wall, which turned the calcined lime into rough mortar, and so bound and cemented the stones together.

Gates are an important characteristic of camps, and are fortified in various ingenious ways.

Special features of Promontory forts are illustrated by Clifton Down, Burgh Walls, Stoke Leigh, and Dyke Hills, Dorchester.

Contour forts are exemplified by Old Sarum, Battlesbury, Scratchbury, Bratton Castle; and plateau forts by Burrington, Dolebury, Dinghurst and Worlebury. The connection between the forts of Somerset and Wilts is well shewn by ancient roads.

Mr. E. K. Tratman read a paper to the Society on "The Caves of Grimaldi," on March 4th. He gave a summary of the results of the excavations carried out in this region bearing on the relationship of the varying faunas to the various cultural divisions of the deposits. The question of the two races, the Ne-groid and the Cro-Magnon, was also dealt with, as well as that of the presence of the large mammals in the caves.