

Report for the twelve months ending December, 1923.

The past year has been characterised by continuous work throughout both the summer and the winter months, and this work has been well rewarded as this number of Proceedings bears testimony.

A departure has been made with regard to the size of this publication, with this present number, which is the first of a new volume. The increased size is a considerable aid to the proper arrangement of illustrations, and also enables a slight saving to be effected on the cost of publication.

The sessional meetings, on which brief notes appear on a further page, have been well attended, while the same may be said of the camps held at Easter and the New Year and in the summer.

A number of books and pamphlets have been added to the library by presentation, loan or purchase, and our thanks are due to Messrs. W. H. Acland, O. G. S. Crawford, J. A. Davies, L. W. G. Malcolm, L. S. Palmer, Dr. L. A. B. Prowse, Messrs. S. Thompson, E. K. Tratman and J. W. Tutchter for the various publications presented.

We desire to express our thanks to the Colston Research Committee of the University for a grant of £30 for continuing the activities of this Society; for without this grant, and those of former years it would be well nigh impossible to carry on the work of the Society unless other financial help was forthcoming. Even now heavy expenses are borne by all students taking part in these excavations. We desire also to express our thanks to the Guild of Undergraduates for a grant of £20 for working expenses, and one of £10 towards the cost of publishing these Proceedings.

Elsewhere in this number a brief report on a cycle tour to some Derbyshire caves is printed, and here we would express our most hearty thanks to Dr. L. S. Palmer for the time and trouble he took in arranging this tour, the first, but we hope by no means the last, of its kind to be carried out by this Society.

E. K. TRATMAN,

Hon. Sec.

SESSIONAL MEETINGS.

A meeting was held on Thursday, November 1st, 1923, at which Mr. St. George Gray lectured on "The Antiquities from Ham Hill, South Somerset." Mr. Gray described the camp as having been constructed in the prehistoric Iron Age, possibly on the site of older earthworks. The camp is very large, the three mile long ramparts enclosing an area of 10 acres. It is situated on the 400 feet contour line. The great majority of the finds belong to the later La Tène period, though latterly a few objects of the Hallstatt period have been obtained. The most important articles from this site are coins, two hub caps, and many brooches. The Romans occupied the camp probably for quite a short period, between the years 43 and 47 A.D. Their excavations can be seen quite distinct from the earlier work. They used only a portion of the camp, and it is evident that they made a quite extensive use of flint implements. The Society much appreciated the beautiful slides shewn by the lecturer.

On Thursday, November 15th, 1923, Mr. H. J. E. Peake, F.S.A. lectured on "Merchant Venturers of the Bronze Age."

Mr. Peake dealt mainly with the trade routes of early times, and illustrated his lecture with excellent maps. He considered that there was little trade in the Palæolithic period, but in Neolithic times the flint of Pressigny le Grand was carried great distances, sometimes in its uncut state. The discovery of metal soon led to extensive trade, carried on by seekers of ores. The routes of these traders may be traced by plotting the finds made of metal axes. In this way a trade connection seems to be traceable between Egypt and the Carpathians, probably *via* Crete. Later this extended to South Spain, and thence to Brittany, England and Ireland. The last place was noted for the gold to be found in the Wicklow Hills. The early route across England can be traced from Southampton through Newbury, between the Thames and Severn estuaries, to Worcester, Shrewsbury, up the Dee Valley by Corwen to Port Madoc, and thus to Dublin Bay, which was the focus of all the English routes.

On Friday, December 7th, 1923, Prof. E. Fawcett, F.R.S., gave his Presidential address on "Upper Palæolithic Man" in the course of which he described briefly the various discoveries of Cro-Magnon man that had been made. Further he compared the remains from Aveline's Hole with those from Cro-Magnon itself, and reaffirmed

his conclusions given in Volume I of the Proceedings that the remains from Aveline's Hole represented members of the Cro-Magnon race, though somewhat modified.

On Friday, January 25th, 1924, Mr. O. G. S. Crawford lectured on "Air Photographs and Earthworks."

The lecturer showed a series of photographs taken from aeroplanes, and explained their importance in the discovery and determination of earthworks, specially in chalk districts. This was illustrated by photographs of the Stonehenge district, shewing first the avenue, and afterwards barrows and hill-top camps. The Keltic and Saxon lynchet systems were described, and the variation in the sites of villages in the two periods clearly demonstrated. Finally the use of air photography in tracing Roman roads was explained.

On Thursday, February 21st, 1924, Mr. T. F. Hewer lectured on "Neolithic Britain." The lecture was illustrated by many slides.

Mr. Hewer described the general characteristics of Neolithic culture, and dealt specially with the various types of flint implements to be found, and also with the pottery. He described the main characteristics of the long barrows, and other megalithic monuments in England, dealing with their probable mode of construction and uses. He illustrated this part of the lecture with slides of Stonehenge, Avebury and Stanton Drew.

The papers read at the meetings on October 19th, 1923, February 7th, and 21st, and March 6th, 1924, are published elsewhere in this number of Proceedings.

On Thursday, March 20th, 1924, Mr. M. A. C. Hinton of the British Museum lectured to the Society. The origin of the river system of England of the present was outlined and illustrated by maps and diagrams. Then the gravel terraces of the Thames were described, and their relationships to one another, and to the great ice age was given. The lecturer pointed out that his views were not accepted by all archaeologists, but were accepted by many.

The types of remains from these terraces were illustrated by means of lantern slides, and Mr. Hinton concluded his lecture by giving a short account of some of the problems connected with the teeth of rodents, extinct and living.