

## Secretary's Report, 1958-1959

### Meetings.

Another cycle of tutorials has been started with Dr. Donovan's three lectures on the Geology of the Mendip Hills, which were given in the Society's rooms during the first term and were quite well attended. The usual number of sessional meetings has been held. Attendance at these has not been so good as last year, despite improved publicity.

### Caving.

On Mendip, work on sundry digs has continued. A tramway has been installed in East Passage in G.B. to facilitate removal of spoil; work at the bottom of G.B. is also progressing. Disposal of the spoil here is becoming a major problem and another tramway may be necessary. Some digging has been done at Rhino Rift, but weather conditions throughout the summer and autumn have prevented any significant advance at Manor Farm.

A party once again went to Co. Clare in July 1958. The survey of Faunarooska was completed. A short easy connexion between Gunman's Cave and Branch Passage Gallery of Pollnagollum (Slieve Elva) was found. Branch Passage Gallery survey was completed and a line survey of the main cave from Pollnagollum downstream to the High and Low Road was done as a check on an older survey and both High and Low Road passages were surveyed.

Away meets were held in Devon and in South Wales, where the recently discovered parts of Agen Allwedd were visited.

### Archæology.

A fortnight was spent at Little Solsbury Hill Camp where work was badly hampered by rain and only part of the task was completed. The major work of the year was the excavation of the Roman Temple at Brean Down. The Temple itself was found to have been systematically robbed in Roman times. The excavation was attended by many volunteers from all over Britain, and visitors came from many universities to see the excavation. At Priddy Circles not much was done but the East side of the entrance of the South circle was completely excavated and many details of the structure elucidated. A large pit on the edge of the causeway contained burnt material which is being investigated. No datable material has been found.

**Photography.**

A start has been made with the general classification of the Society's negatives and slides. These are to be brought into the scheme of classification by sites as far as possible. We wish to express our thanks to Dr. H. Taylor for his further gift of 2 in. by 2 in. slides, with catalogue.

**Equipment.**

The permanent ladder at the bottom of East Passage, G.B., has been replaced, so also have several of the chains in the cave. A new 40 ft. wire rope ladder has been made by the 'resin method', and so far this seems reasonably satisfactory in use.

**Museum.**

Cataloguing has continued, the flint collection now being fully catalogued. Recent acquisitions include the 1958 Little Solsbury finds and a polished stone axe-head, found on Rowberrow Warren.

**Library.**

The library has progressed steadily during the year, and we are gradually building up our journals by exchanges of our Proceedings. We have had a particularly large number of enquiries from abroad this year, including several from 'Iron Curtain' countries. The collection of caving journals is probably one of the best in Britain.

**Acknowledgements.**

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D. PRESTON,  
*Hon. Secretary.*