

## SECRETARIES' REPORT, 1977

The year 1977 brought no great discoveries to the Spelaeological Society but no rescues or personal accidents either. Despite poor weather during the spring and autumn University terms the Club meets held in Yorkshire and on Mendip were usually well supported and private parties also visited Mendip and South Wales caves. During the autumn term regular Thursday night trips to dig the terminal rift in G.B. Cavern were instituted with considerable effect. Three trips to Ireland were held: in April, July and October, and during the summer vacation Club members in separate groups visited caves in France, Austria and Switzerland.

Cave exploration has been limited by the difficulty of finding anything new locally; however a small cave, Shipham Gorge Quarry Cave, was explored by U.B.S.S. members, and digging in the mud-choked rift in G.B. Cavern has now progressed sixty feet beyond the breakdown chamber at the end of Bat Passage, over half of this being dug in recent trips. In Ireland some minor sites were examined and a length survey carried out of Poll-Cahermaan (C6); however no new major site was found.

The Seventh International Congress of Spelaeology was convened in September in Sheffield and Prof. Tratman was Honorary President. Post-Congress Symposia on Hydrology and Archaeology were held in Bristol and following these the Club received many international spelaeologists in the Society's Rooms for an informal gathering. Much work had been done on the museum displays in preparation and these were examined and admired. Other renowned guests have addressed the Society at the Sessional Meetings and Club members, Prof. Tratman, Mark Tringham and Phil Chapman have spoken on Archaeology and caving at home and abroad. The standard of all the speeches was high and the slide shows were spectacular.

Lastly but certainly not leastly an official Club pub night has been agreed as Tuesday night in the Upper Lounge of Crockers in Cotham Hill. On behalf of the Club I extend an invitation to all members and friends and look forward to hearing of Club successes in 1978 over pints of foaming ale.

Kirsten I. Hopkins  
*Hon. Secretary*