

FIELD WORK

By D. C. PROWSE.

Owing to the large number of papers dealing with special sections of the Society's work, not very much remains to be reported in this article.

The usual camps have been held at Burrington during the past year, and the many week-end working-parties have been well attended.

From time to time, the slopes of Burrington Combe have been searched for entrances to possible new cave systems, and a number of likely places have received attention from the pick and shovel in consequence, but nothing of importance has been discovered. Just over 8 tons of earth and rock were removed from a site near Fox's Hole, and a small rift exposed, which appeared to run in a northerly direction. The floor of Whitcomb's Hole was examined and yielded one fragment of flint and several of bone. A stalagmite floor exists varying in thickness from 1 to 3 inches, and beneath this 2 feet of earth. A small cave on the opposite side to Aveline's Hole was also excavated, 2 tons being removed, but without any tangible results. A stalagmite floor was also found here. About 35 cwt. of earth and stone were removed from a cave on the Goat-church Bluff, when bed-rock was encountered and operations abandoned. A vertical shaft exists near the West end of the North arm of Longwood; it descends to a depth of 25 feet, when further progress is prevented by a choke of earth and stone. It might repay further work.

On 23rd December, 1923, a party visited Swildon's Hole. Activities were confined to the upper series of passages, no attempt being made on the lower series. The party was underground for many hours, and a number of photographs were successfully taken.

On two occasions, expeditions for photographic purposes have been made to the Great Rift Cavern, Cheddar; and on another trip Flint Jack's Cave, above Pavey's Hotel, was visited. Considerable quantities of flints are said to have been removed from this cave at various times, and sent to museums in the country round about. It has been suggested that an effort should be made to unite these scattered specimens into one collection. Human long-bones, and pottery of Bronze and Early Iron Age date have also been found in this cave.

On 1st August, 1923, a large number of members and friends assembled at the village of Wookey. Wookey Hole was visited, special attention being paid to the new parts. Several photographs were taken. Ebbor Gorge also received a visit, the upper parts of which afford a good example of a collapsed cave-system.

During the last week in August 1923, the Bristol and Gloucester Archæological Society undertook some excavation at the Roman site at Sea Mills on the new Avonmouth low-level road. The work was carried out under the supervision of a member of this Society. The finds which include walling, pottery, bricks and tiles, are to be handed over to the Bristol Museum.

Bedminster Down has yielded evidences of Roman occupation. Fragments of tiles, pottery, etc., have been found at the edge of a disused quarry 150 yards to the south of the Bridgwater Road, at a point about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile S.W. of its junction with the Bishopsworth Road. The area covered by the remains appears to be extensive, and would repay considerable investigation. It may be noted here that some Roman fragments were found close to the Bridgwater road in this locality in 1921.

Archæological Note.

BRISTOL, DURDHAM DOWNS.

About 400 yards north of the Reservoir on this Down is a group of fir trees known locally as the "Seven Sisters," though their number is now reduced to six. These trees are growing on a tumulus and are situated on a very minor ridge of the Down plateau. The tumulus is probably a barrow of the bowl type, being flat topped, about sixty feet in diameter, and about two feet high. It is surrounded by a ditch which can still be traced completely round it. The ditch is at present about three feet wide, making a gross width for the tumulus of approximately seventy feet. It is hoped to obtain permission to excavate here.

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