

The Upper Palæolithic Age in Britain.

By D. A. E. GARROD.

The Upper Palæolithic series is poorly represented in Britain, and has so far received little attention from prehistorians. It is interesting, nevertheless as showing certain variations from the classical Upper Palæolithic industries of Western Europe.

It follows from the northerly position of this country that it was very seriously affected by the successive Pleistocene glaciations, and in late Upper Palæolithic times the great increase of cold to which the fauna of Magdalenian deposits on the Continent bears witness, was here marked by a return to severe arctic conditions. The caves of Ffynnon Beuno in the Vale of Clwyd were choked with boulder-clay after the deposition of a cave-earth containing Aurignacian and proto-Solutrean implements; at Ponder's End in the Lea Valley, and Barnwell station pit near Cambridge, Mr. Hazzledine Warren and Professor Marr have discovered arctic beds apparently belonging to the very latest stage of the Pleistocene; in the Thames valley the Trail, which covers the deposits of the High and Middle terraces and merges into the gravels of the Low Terrace, would appear to belong to the same period. This evidence seems to confirm the observations of Soergel and Kozłowski in Central and Eastern Europe in tending to demonstrate a second maximum of the Würmian glaciation corresponding with the late Upper Palæolithic, and explains the poverty of the Magdalenian industry in this country.

The distribution of Upper Palæolithic industries in England is as follows. The Middle Aurignacian is abundantly represented at Paviland, and differs in no important respect from that of the Continent, although M. Breuil has drawn attention to one or two local peculiarities, such as a tendency to inverse retouch and the presence of a peculiar form of rostrate scraper. The collection from the cave-earth of Kent's Hole contains a few Middle Aurignacian implements, including a well-made and very typical bone pin. Two implements from Ffynnon Beuno, a beaked graver, and a beautifully-made end-scraper, may also be Middle Aurignacian.

The Upper Aurignacian is more widely distributed. The cave of Langwith in Derbyshire belongs to the La Gravette level, and it is interesting to find already developed a peculiar trapezoidal form of the La Gravette point which is very characteristic of Final Aurignacian and Magdalenian deposits in this country. The Font-Robert level shows a special development. It is represented in Robin Hood's Cave (Creswell Crags); Ffynnon Beuno; Paviland and two

smaller caves of the Gower peninsula, Cat's Hole and Nettle Tor; Bench Cavern, Brixham; Kent's Hole; Wookey Hole; Hyaena Den and Uphill Cave in the Mendips. In most of these sites the typical form is a long blade with Solutrean retouch on the bulbar surface. The flaking is usually confined to one or both ends of the blade, and this is the form characteristic of the Font-Robert level in France and Belgium, but in a few English specimens it extends over the whole of the bulbar face.

The tanged Font-Robert point has been found in Kent's Hole, Paviland and the Cat's Hole, but there are only four specimens in all, and three are badly broken. In Kent's Hole and Wookey Hole a very primitive form of laurel-leaf, not unlike a small *coup-de-poing*, has been found, and there is every reason to suppose that it belongs to the proto-Solutrean level.

Fragments of two perfectly typical Solutrean laurel-leaves were found in Robin Hood's Cave, and certain beautifully-worked blades found on the surface, and in undated gravels in East Anglia may provisionally be regarded as Solutrean. Apart from these few examples typical implements of this period are wanting in English deposits, and it is probable that in the South-West and West at any rate it was replaced by the rather special Font-Robert industry already described.

Well-dated Magdalenian remains are very scanty. The Church Hole, Creswell Crags, excavated by Mr. Mello and Sir William Boyd Dawkins, yielded a series of objects in bone and reindeer antler which clearly belong to a poorly-developed Magdalenian of fairly ancient type, probably M.3—4. The drawing of a horse on bone found by the same investigators in Robin Hood's Cave may well be of the same age. In the Pin Hole, Creswell Crags, Mr. Armstrong has recently discovered the base of an ivory javelin-head of M.5—6 type, bearing a conventionalized design already well-known on javelin-heads from La Madeleine. With this was associated a shouldered point in flint which unmistakably recalled the Upper Aurignacian, and in the terrace of the neighbouring cave of Mother Grundy's Parlour similar shouldered points were found as part of an industry showing a mixture of Upper Aurignacian and late Magdalenian characters, which passed directly upward into an Azilio-Tardenoisian level.

At Kent's Hole a poorer industry of the same type was associated with uniserial and biserial harpoons referable to M.5—6*a*, and at Aveline's Hole, in the Mendips, a biserial harpoon of M.6*b* type was found with flint implements strikingly like those of Mother Grundy's Parlour.

A few very poor stations, such as Gough's Cave, Cheddar, Hoyle's Mouth, Tenby; and King Arthur's Cave, Monmouthshire, certainly belong to some phase of the late Upper Palæolithic, but have furnished no implements in bone or antler sufficiently characteristic for purposes of more exact dating.

It is clear that the Magdalenian of this country is of a provincial type, with very important survivals from the Upper Aurignacian, such as the ordinary La Gravette point, the shouldered point and the Noailles graver (found at Creswell). Special forms are the trapezoidal point, almost unknown in Continental deposits, and a number of small semi-geometrical points and blades similar to those found at Martinrive, a late Upper Palæolithic station of doubtful affinities, near Liège. Finally the scarcity of typical graters is in striking contrast with their abundance in classical Magdalenian sites.

Although I do not agree with Mr. Burkitt that this industry should be regarded as a completely independent local development of the Upper Aurignacian, similar to that seen in the Grimaldi caves, all Magdalenian intrusions being ascribed to a somewhat vaguely-defined "culture-drift," I would claim that it does seem to represent a local and semi-independent facies of the Magdalenian sufficiently well-characterised to deserve a name of its own, and I would suggest, tentatively, "Creswellian," since Creswell Crags is the station where it is found in greatest abundance and variety.

All the stations described above are in caves; no open-air site which can quite confidently be assigned to the Upper Palæolithic is yet known in this country, although a few isolated finds from the surface and from undated deposits are certainly Upper Palæolithic, and probably Aurignacian.
