

Secretary's Report for the Years 1936-1937

After a brief period of difficulty, we are glad to be able to report a considerable increase in the activities of the Society. The past year has been particularly successful, and many student members are taking a keen interest in the Society's work.

We regret to announce that Professor E. Fawcett, M.D., F.R.S., who was President of the Society from its foundation in 1918, has resigned his office. It would be difficult to exaggerate the Society's debt to its late President, who directed its early enterprises and took a keen interest in its work through so many years. He secured for it recognition by the University, which led to the provision of rooms for the museum, and obtained invaluable financial aid from the Colston Research Society. Recognizing in early years that the work would be much helped by having permanent headquarters at Burrington, he obtained permission from the late Sir George Wills to use the piece of land which is still the Society's Camping Ground: and it was due to his efforts that the Society obtained and erected its first hut on the present site.

The presidential addresses which he delivered year after year dealt usually with some phase of physical anthropology, and they were always original and interesting. The present volume contains a short article by Dr. Fawcett, and for this, as well as for all his work for the Society, we offer him our sincere thanks.

CAVING

Frequent descents of the Mendip caves have been made. An expedition to Gaping Ghyll was arranged by the British Spelæological Association, and a party of our members enjoyed the trip.

Lamb Leer Cave.—Under the direction of Professor Tratman, the Society has spent considerable time and trouble in producing a 600 feet ciné film of this cave. This will be shown at the 1938 B.S.A. Conference.

East Twin Swallet.—An east passage from the previous excavation was opened up, following the streamway. A considerable volume of water necessitated the installation of a semi-rotary pump, and after continued work entrance was gained into a chamber 30 feet long. The stream passes across the chamber and disappears into a rift yet to be explored.

EXCAVATIONS

Backwell Cave.—This cave has been fully excavated, and the report is published in this number of *Proceedings*.

HEADQUARTERS

Through the kindness of Prof. E. K. Tratman, the Hut at Burrington is now provided with a water supply obtained from a catchment constructed by him in the neighbouring ground.

BRITISH SPELÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Conference of 1937 was held at the University and was attended by many prominent archæologists and spelæologists. The lectures were well attended, and most of the visitors took the opportunity of examining the exhibits in the Society's museum.

MUSEUM

An addition of merit to the Society's collection is the group of beakers from Gorsey Bigbury; these have been excellently reconstructed by Mr. Grimes, of the National Museum of Wales, to whom we are deeply indebted.

Our thanks are due to Dr. Nierenstein for a collection of implements from East Africa and the West Indies; to Mr. R. Hughes for a collection of flints; to Mr. D. Yacomeni for a Coup-de-poing from Salisbury; and to Mr. C. R. Hewer for a cast of the Venus of Willendorf.

LIBRARY

The library has been re-catalogued, and all members are requested to return any borrowed books, as some are still missing.

We wish to thank the following for gifts to the library: Prof. E. K. Tratman; Kungl. Universitets Bibliotek, Uppsala; Istituto Italiano di Speleologica; Field Museum of Natural History; Liverpool Geological Society; Bristol Naturalists' Society; Torquay Natural History Society; Hauptverband Deutscher Höhlenforscher; Wiener Prähistorische Gesellschaft; Irish Naturalists' Society; and the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club.

J. F. BLENKINSOP,
Hon. Secretary.