

East Twin Swallet.

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Work was first commenced on this swallet by the Society in 1935.¹ Several tons of material were removed, and a shaft about 15 ft. deep was sunk. In 1936 a passage, known later as the East Passage, was entered, leading to a chamber about 30 ft. long and 6 ft. high (A) (see *Fig. 7*).

Difficulty was experienced owing to the large flow of water down this passage, which necessitated using a rotary suction pump. The stream issuing from the passage divided into two parts which disappeared in rifts in the opposite wall. The floor of the chamber, consisting of boulders and rubble, met the roof at the Northern end and effectively prevented further progress, whilst the other end of the chamber was equally solid.

Following the disappointing outcome of the excavation the cave was not visited for some months. In March, 1940, however, it was explored by a small party of members of the Society.

It was found that during this lapse of time extraordinary changes had taken place in the cave. The stream disappeared at the entrance to the East Passage and reappeared in the floor of the chamber below the other end of the passage, which was now some 10 ft. above it, so that to reach the floor a sloping plank had to be traversed. The chamber was now some 20 ft. in height, and somewhat larger than originally, and it was evident that the floor had been washed out of the chamber through the passage now opened up by water action at its Northern end. (The original floor level is shown in the elevation by a dotted line.)

This passage ran through a very loose mud-choke, in which was insecurely embedded one boulder of large size, and gave access to a chamber of considerable dimensions, previously unknown to the Society.

It was found by measurement to be 56 ft. in length, 15 ft. wide, and 25 ft. high at its largest part.

It lay in limestone, but a large part of its walls and roof consisted of boulders cemented in mud, and instability was a feature of the cave as a whole.

A small rift was found leading up from the left-hand side of the chamber for a distance of approximately 35 ft., and at the far end of

¹ University of Bristol Spelæological Society, *Proceedings*, Vol. V, No. 1, p. 1.

the chamber a small vertical hole was entered. After a descent of 6 or 7 ft. the passage became horizontal, and at a distance of 10 ft. ended in a mud and gravel choke, blocking a small hole through which another chamber could be seen beyond.

The passage was very small, and some hours of work were required to remove the choke, dislodge some projecting rocks, and clear an entrance into the further chamber (C).

This was entered and found to be of small dimensions and ending in a more formidable choke of large boulders and several feet of gravel and mud, into which the roof dipped. Its only notable feature was a

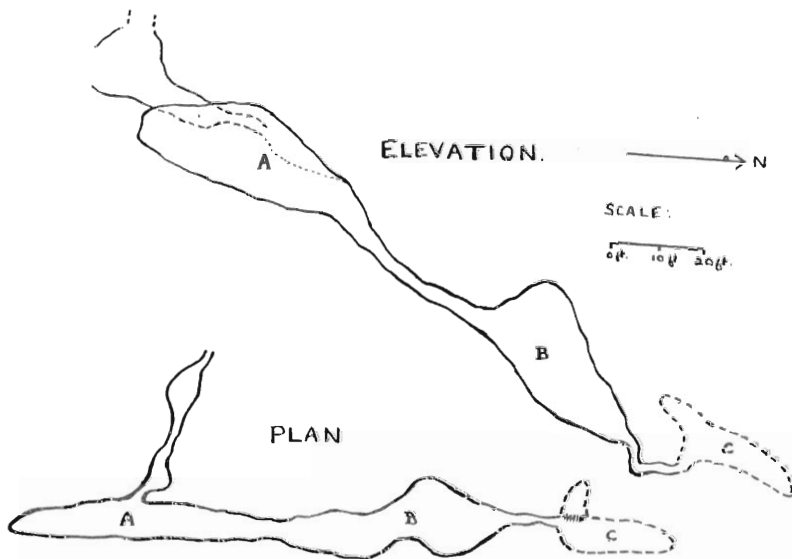


FIG. 7.—Survey of East Twin Swallet. The original floor level in the first chamber, A, is shown by the dotted line.

stalactite flow leading down from the left, ending in a grotto in which were a number of erratic stalactites, or helictites, similar to those occurring in such great profusion in G.B. Cave.

Shortly after this discovery the main system of G.B. was entered, and absorbed all the Society's energy in the task of surveying and photographing it, and it was not until several months had elapsed that it was able once again to turn its attention to the survey of East Twin.

In the meantime a party entered the cave and placed two small charges in the choke above the new passage from the first chamber with a view to bringing down the large boulder and rendering the way on more safe. This was successfully achieved, and it was found that

subsequent water action washed away much more of the choke, so that the passage was then 4 or 5 ft. high and could be traversed in comfort.

Furthermore, when the survey was undertaken, in the dry season, it was found that the stream no longer flowed through this passage, but reappeared from a crevice under the boulders on the left-hand side of the second chamber. During wet spells, however, it must attain considerable size, and find an exit by the passage at the far end of this chamber. This passage was now found to be completely blocked by debris brought down from the choke in the first chamber, and access could not be gained to the third chamber for the purposes of survey.

In view of the fact that further progress from this third chamber appeared impossible it was decided not to re-open it simply for the purpose of survey and to be content with surveying the already accessible part of the cave, which is now of sufficient extent to be worth a visit by those interested in spelæology.
