

Secretary's Report, 1944-1946

WITH the lifting of many war-time restrictions, it has been found possible for the Society to regain its feet by the renewal of many activities that were severely curtailed throughout the period of hostilities.

In the last number of Proceedings (Vol. 5, No. 2) we reported that, owing to the loss of many active members, some branches of our work had been somewhat neglected. Now, however, we can report that with a steadily increasing membership, and with greatly improved transport facilities, we shall soon have regained our normal status.

It has been with very much pleasure that we have noticed an increasing interest in our work from persons both within and without the University.

During these years we have been able to welcome students and friends from many other Universities and Colleges, and show them some of our interests.

Caving and Excavations

1944. ROD'S POT. Discovered. (See separate article.)

LONGWOOD SWALLET. Discovered by Stride brothers. (See separate article.)

In August of this year digging was begun in a depression in a field adjoining St. Cuthbert's Lead Works, Priddy. A water-worn passage has been excavated, that was previously almost totally blocked by detritus, and has been followed for over 50 ft.

1945. On May 6th of this year, three members of the Society investigated a "hole" which had suddenly appeared in a field at Winsley. On descending they entered a series of fissures in the lias caused by tilting of the rock toward the neighbouring valley due to the washing out of underlying clay beds.

1946. On January the 1st of this year a dig was begun in a vertical rift lower down the combe and round the bluff from Foxes' Hole, Burrington. Over 40 tons of detritus have already been shifted.

READ'S CAVERN. "Z Alley." In February of this year a series of passages known as Z Alley was surveyed by members of the Society. (See separate article.)

BATH HOLE. During April, a dig was begun in the side of a depression in the swallet where the bath is situated. Owing to difficulties encountered, work at this site ceased.

On Saturday, 24th August, two members began a further dig, within the same swallet hole. On 8th September, after three afternoons of work, a cave system was entered. A full account will appear in the next issue of *Proceedings*.

AXBRIDGE OCHRE CAVE. Surveyed. (See Survey, Plate 8.)

Frequent visits to all the main Mendip Caves have been made and parties were taken over Wookey Hole Caves during Union Week festivities. In the Easter vacation we took caving more than 60 members of the National Union of Students.

Archæological Excavations

1945. KELSTON COFFIN. In October of this year Dr. Bryan Adams and other members of the Society investigated a Roman Coffin containing a skeleton at Kelston, near Bath. The Bones have been examined, and the coffin given to Bristol Museum. (See separate article.)

1946. (Barrows recorded by Professor E. K. Tratman) :—

T.5.B. Som.* 6" Sheet XVIII N.W. Mound.

lat. $51^{\circ} 19' 16''$; long. $2^{\circ} 45' 16''$

T.5.C. Som.* 6" Sheet XVIII N.W. Tumulus, simple bowl.

lat. $51^{\circ} 19' 12''$; long. $2^{\circ} 45' 1''$

T.5.D. Som.* 6" Sheet XVIII N.W. Tumulus, simple bowl.

lat. $51^{\circ} 19' 11''$; long. $2^{\circ} 45' 2''$

T. 295. Som.* 6" Sheet XXVIII N.W. Long barrow.

lat. $51^{\circ} 16' 10''$; long. $2^{\circ} 39' 7''$

Long axis approx. : E.—W. with west end wider and higher.
Length 70'.

Width 44' at 27' from W. end.

Max. height about 3' to 3' 6" at 27'—30' from west end.

THE CAVE ASSOCIATION OF WALES MEET, 1946.

Several members attended the foundation meetings of the C.A.W. held at the Gwyn Arms, Swansea Valley, at Easter. Expeditions were made to several caves and cave-diving was demonstrated.

BRITISH SPELÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION MEET, 1946.

This meet was held at Gaping Ghyll hole, Yorkshire, in June and members were enabled to renew their acquaintance with the cave.

FIELD HEADQUARTERS.

Many improvements have been effected, including the rebuilding of the bath and rustic seat and the painting of the hut. Many necessities for cooking and bedding, which have been unobtainable for some time past, have been purchased.

MUSEUM.

Through the kindness of Professor Baker, of the Chemistry Department, it has been possible for us to purchase a large showcase which is at present in our library. As soon as we obtain a larger room we hope to restart our Museum.

LIBRARY.

The Library has been re-catalogued, and all members are requested to return any books which may still be in their possession.

We should like to thank the following for gifts to the library : Mr. A. C. Rees ; Dr. F. B. A. Welch ; Dr. A. Bulleid ; Dr. D. B. Prowse ; Prof. E. K. Tratman ; Prof. A. M. Tyndall ; Dr. J. F. Blacket ; Wells Museum ; Mr. F. M. Arman.

We acknowledge with thanks the gift to the Society of a surveyor's level, stand, and accessories by Dr. A. Bulleid.

We should like to acknowledge with gratitude the financial aid from the Union and the Colston Research Society, and also to thank the Bursar for auditing the accounts of the Society each year.

In October of 1945 we were able to greet Professor E. K. Tratman, one of our oldest members, who has been held in captivity by the Japanese throughout the war. He returned to the East in April, together with our good wishes.

R. D. STRIDE,
Hon. Secretary.