

## Report on "Z Alley", Read's Cavern, Burrington

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THE Survey (Plate I) is a reproduction of that produced by the Society in Vol. I, No. 1 of *Proceedings* for the year 1919—1920, together with certain additions and alterations.

Since that year, exploration by members has resulted in the prolongation of a series of passages at the south-eastern end of the chamber (lettered I in 1919—1920 Survey) known as "Z Alley."

The entrance to "Z Alley" may be found at the south-west corner of Pipe Cavern (B in both surveys)—by slipping feet-first under an awkward boulder, a steeply descending passage-way among boulders, may be entered and followed. A platform is reached, from which there branch off three other passages. Two of these are choked, but the third one may be followed on down to a point where it ends at a lip of rock, in a small tunnel. By gently lowering the feet first, and finding some foothold, a boulder-maze of considerable size may be entered (L in the new survey)—one hole between the boulders may be followed for a short distance to the Waterfall Chamber (M in the new survey). This is a bedding plane in otherwise solid rock. From the roof, water falls and flows away in a northerly direction into a choke in the floor. At the far side of the chamber a small passage and drop leads to a mud-sump (N in the new survey).

A second hole in the floor of the boulder-maze leads by several small chambers and passages to the head of a 15 ft.-pitch (O in the new survey). This and what lies beyond is in solid rock. By means of a rope the descent may be made and a tight passage followed to the head of another pitch (P in new survey) which is easily climbed. At the bottom is a small and now almost dry sump (Q in the new survey), followed by a low bedding plane some 35 ft. in length. At the far end it changes to a vertical fault (S in the new survey) which, up to date, has not been passed. A few feet away may be heard the sound of falling waters—very probably the water of the active swallet some 200 ft. above.

It is interesting to note that from the boulder-maze downwards the passages are in solid rock, while above, the passages are only spaces between boulders. When the stream, which can be heard at the lowest point (S in the new survey) is reached, it is more than probable that it will be possible to follow it to within an appreciably short distance of Langford Rising, although it is to be expected that a good deal of the passages will be totally submerged.

