

## Secretaries' Report, 1946-1948.

It is now possible to state that the activities of the Society have resumed their pre-war level.

The return of old members from overseas and distant parts of Britain, together with a flood of new students and the continued keenness of our present members, have combined to produce the results which are reported upon in this number of *Proceedings*.

Twice in the past year we have been enabled to work with Professor E. K. Tratman while home on leave from Singapore. We understand that he will soon be returning to stay, and we are looking forward to greeting him.

### Caving and Excavations.

1946. BURREINGTON COMBE. Since March of this year members of the Society have shifted a further ten tons of material from the rift which lies round the bluff from Foxe's Hole, Burrington. Over fifty tons have now been removed.

RHINO RIFT. In October of this year work was recommenced within the vertical rift, which is situated close to the junction of the two arms of Long Wood Valley, Charterhouse.

READS CAVERN "Z ALLEY". In December of this year two members of the Society endeavoured to pass the narrow vertical slot which was the termination of this passage. Although several hours were spent in carefully stemming the rift, very little progress was made.

BATH SWALLET. In the previous number of *Proceedings* (Vol. 5, No. 3) reference was made to the entry into a cave system in this depression. At present the cave consists of a narrow vertical descent among boulders to a depth of 40 ft. Work is continuing at the site.

1947. AUGUST HOLE. During August of this year two members of the Society opened a further cave system beneath the Long Wood Valley, Charterhouse. The cave is of considerable extent and possesses fine dripstone formations. A full report is given in this issue.

LAMB LEER QUARRY. With the kind permission of the District Council excavation was commenced in a choked rift at this site, in August of this year, under the guidance of

Professor E. K. Tratman. On his departure work at the site was discontinued. It is hoped to recommence operations on his return.

#### **Geophysical Investigations.**

During August of this year Professor L. S. Palmer organized a camp to investigate various sites in the neighbourhood of Tynning's Farm, Charterhouse, with the Geophysical Megger Earth Tester. A full report is given in this issue.

Following these investigations, an excavation was commenced at a site in a field to the south of the farm. It is hoped to continue at this site in the near future.

DRUNKARDS' HOLE. In November of this year work was commenced in the depression adjoining Drunkards' Hole. The site shows promise and it is hoped to enter the system below Drunkards' Hole from here. Over five tons of material here have already been moved from the excavation.

#### **Geophysical Investigations.**

1948. A further camp was held in April of this year to determine the position of G.B. Cave with the Geophysical Megger Earth Tester. A report will be published in a later number of *Proceedings*.

G.B. CAVE. Over August of this year members of the Society opened a previously blocked communication between the first grotto and the main gorge. This route provides for easy access to the gorge and by-passes many of the difficulties of the cave.

Frequent visits have been made to all the Mendip caves, including the newly discovered extension to the Stoke Lane Swallet.

Members have also visited well-known caves in Yorkshire, Wales, Ireland, and France during the past two years.

#### **Archæological Investigations.**

1947. Over the course of this year members of the Society have taken part in field excursions to sites of archæological interest in the neighbourhood, including the famous Banwell Bone Cave.

RHINO RIFT. In October of this year an archæological excavation was commenced in the outer part of this rift. A full report will be given in the next number.

1948. CHARTERHOUSE. Trial trenches have been commenced in a field at Charterhouse-on-Mendip in which unidentified markings have been found (*see* p. 81).

### **Field Headquarters.**

Certain radical improvements in the structure of this building have lately been effected. Some further purchases of equipment have been made.

### **Museum.**

A full report upon the work proceeding in the museum is given by the Curator later in this issue.

### **Library.**

The library has been recatalogued 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: B. Adams; R. A. Bendall; G. C. Boon; J. C. Coleman; M. Cosyns; J. H. Crickmay; B. A. and K. M. Crook; J. F. and D. P. Dobson; D. T. Donovan; I. H. Ford; D. A. E. Garrod; B. Gullick; M. Gummer; M. Hall; B. Lanza; M. Louben; National Museum of Wales; G. Morris; L. S. Palmer; G. Platten; R. D. Stride; H. Taylor; E. K. Tratman; L. Willesley.

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M. GUMMER  
R. D. STRIDE

*Joint Hon. Secretaries.*