

MUSEUM REPORT

No change has taken place in the Society's premises or equipment since the last Report was published, except that two small flat-topped showcases, one with drawers under, have been acquired. The installation of gas in the Cellar has been approved by the University.

The archaeological material remaining in our possession since the destruction of the Museum in 1940 has now been completely re-examined, and the bulk of it re-catalogued in as much detail as necessary. A new catalogue of pottery from Gorsey Bigbury is appended to a separate paper in this issue by Mr. ApSimon (p. 186), and an appendix to this report shows the position regarding finds from other sites excavated by the Society before the 1939 war.

The principal acquisition to be recorded is that of the Pleistocene portion of the collection of the Rev. Benjamin Oriel, which was transferred from the Geology Department to which the collection had been given in May, 1949. Oriel collected mammalian bones from the Avon 100 foot gravels at Twerton, Bath, and published a paper on the subject in 1904 (*Proc. Bristol Nat. Soc. new. ser. vol. 10, pp. 228-240*). Most of the specimens cited in the paper can be recognised in the collection, including a number of teeth of mammoth and rhinoceros, and one of *Elephas antiquus*. Accompanying the local finds were a number of palaeoliths, most of which were unfortunately unlabelled. We are indebted to Mr. A. D. Lacaille for examining these and other palaeoliths in our collection and making many useful comments which have been embodied in the catalogue.

By courtesy of Dr. F. S. Wallis, the Director, some material from Read's Cavern and from Mendip barrows was exhibited in the City Museum as the Feature of the Month for February, 1950. The position regarding permanent exhibition space remains unchanged.

APPENDIX

A large part of the finds salvaged from the Society's Museum was listed in 1943 (*Proceedings*, vol. 5, pp. 138-40). Some material also escaped destruction through having been in the cellar at the time, but much of this was unimportant. Additions to the salvage list, and other comments, are given below.

A VELINE'S HOLE

The following objects were also salvaged:

Ammonite body-chambers: Vol. II, p. 108, pl. VII, fig. 1, all except centre one of top row.

Fossil gastropod: Vol. II, pp. 10, 12, pl. I, fig. 2, and pl. VII, fig. 1.

Some human skeletal remains survive but nothing is known about them. The bone harpoon (Vol. I, fig. 10, no. 1) is lost, but plaster casts of it exist. The Upper Palaeolithic flints are destroyed except for the few already listed in 1943.

AVON GRAVELS, SHIREHAMPTON

All the palaeoliths figured by Davies and Fry (*Proceedings*, vol. 4, p. 162) are destroyed, except the original of fig. 1, no. 6. A few other specimens are in our collection.

BACKWELL CAVE (M6)

The two "fairly complete skulls," M6. 11/1 and 2 (vol. 5, p. 62) were presumably in the Museum and have not been recognised. Much human material, probably the bulk of that found, remains in the cellar. The flints (vol. 5, fig. 24, p. 63) were destroyed.

BURY HILL

The following potsherds, illustrated in the report, have been recognised in addition to those in the 1943 list: nos. 2, 15, 21, 23, 25, 27, 42.

In the cellar collection were many sherds of Early Iron Age B and Roman ware, described in vol. 3, pp. 22-24.

CORSTON CYSTS

No. 1. A probable hone and two flints were salvaged: (vol. 4, fig. 16, nos. 1, 2, 5).

No. 2. Part of an oval knife salvaged: (vol. 5, p. 143).

KILGREANY, EIRE

The flint hollow scraper and quartz steep-end scraper (vol. 3, pp. 123, 124, fig. 4, nos. 1, 2) survived in the cellar collection.

KING ARTHUR'S CAVE, WYE VALLEY

All the salvaged objects were recorded in 1943. Some pleistocene mammal bones have been received which were in Dr. H. Taylor's possession at the time of the destruction of the Museum.

LITTLE SOLISBURY, BATH

Nothing has been recognised additional to the list published in 1943.

MERLIN'S CAVE, WYE VALLEY

A few objects remain, not yet catalogued.

ROWBERROW CAVERN

Nothing has been recognised additional to the 1943 list.

SUN HOLE

No more salvage has been recognised. Pleistocene and post-pleistocene bones survived in the cellar.

BARROWS:

T.1. Human bone, flint and Iron Age A pottery (vol. 2, p. 76) are in our possession.

T.2, 3, 4. Iron Age A sherds remain in the cellar collection, and sherds of Hallstatt cinerary urn from T.3 (vol. 2, p. 241, fig. 3).

T.5 ("Blackdown no. 1"). Calcined human bone from the cist (vol. 3, p. 211), parts of secondary urn, and part of a hone were in the cellar and survived.

T.6. Nothing was salvaged. The flint knife (vol. 2, p. 70) is lost.

T.7. Cordoned cinerary urn (vol. 2, pp. 71-2, fig. 18) and pigmy cup (vol. 2, p. 72, pl. 5, no. 3) were salvaged.

T.19. Some objects remain in the cellar collection. There was no salvage.

WORSHIP'S FARM, REDHILL

Some mediaeval pottery (vol. 4, p. 179) remains.

It will be obvious from the above list that our collection now is only a fraction of its former self. All categories of objects suffered, though damage was perhaps least in the case of metal finds, whereas a great number of the flints were shattered by the heat and the human skulls which were in the Museum were an almost complete loss. The process of replenishing the Museum from our own excavations is a slow one which cannot be hurried, and we shall therefore also welcome gifts of any authenticated local material which may be in private possession. A good regional collection should be a useful adjunct to the University and we hope that one may be built up in time.

D. T. DONOVAN,

Hon. Curator.
