

Secretary's Report, 1955-1956

The active student membership has increased to the extent that the facilities at the Burrington Field Headquarters are only just adequate. An extension to serve as a kitchen was built in the summer and additional washing facilities provided. These make it possible to cope with larger numbers than before.

Meetings.

The sessional meetings have been well attended, the numbers being fairly constant at about 40. The tutorial lectures on prehistoric archæology to have been given by Mr. A. ApSimon had to be cancelled owing to an accident to the lecturer, but we are glad to record that he has now recovered.

Caving.

The dig at the bottom of the Gorge in G.B. Cave has been pushed forward to beyond the accumulations of silt that had filled the end since the cave was first opened. The stream has been diverted down a side passage. Work has continued at Rhino Rift in Longwood, where an overhead cable bucket way has been made to facilitate the removal of spoil. An attempt is being made to open up the streamway entrance to August Hole.

A small cave, Porch's Pot (N.G.R. ST481590), in the garden of a house on Burrington Ham was investigated. It was found while the owner was digging a flower bed. The survey gave 40 ft. of rift passage with no possibility of extension by digging.

The Society again sent an expedition to County Clare, Eire, in the summer of 1955. Favourable weather enabled the work in hand to be completed. Papers appear in this issue.

Archæology.

Dr. Taylor has completed the excavation of Barrow T.5. Work has been continued at Gough's Old Cave at Cheddar and at Brean Down. A camp was held in September at Little Solsbury Hill Fort, which was surveyed and a small area near the ramparts was excavated. The finds are still being examined.

Museum.

The museum was opened by the Vice-Chancellor on 4th May, 1955, when many senior members of the University staff attended.

U.B.S.S. Bat Ringing Scheme.

Mr. P. F. Bird reports : "The study, begun in 1949, of the cave-dwelling bats of Somerset and Bristol has been continued. A preliminary report has been published.* Further results are given by Hooper.† By the end of 1954 310 Greater Horseshoe, 628 Lesser Horseshoe and 49 Long Eared bats had been ringed using rings marked either U.B.S.S., U.B.S., or P.F.B. During 1955 about 80 more bats were ringed. The longest movements for both Greater and Lesser Horseshoe was $19\frac{1}{2}$ miles for each. The former movement occurred during the winter months of November to March inclusive. In this work the Society has been most fortunate in the considerable aid given by members of other caving clubs on Mendip."

Acknowledgements.

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STRUAN ROBERTSON,
Hon. Secretary.

* BIRD, P. F., 1951, "The U.B.S.S. Bat-Ringing Scheme", *Proc. U.B.S.S.*, Vol. 6, No. 2, 205.

† HOOPER, W. M., and HOOPER, J. H. D., 1953, "Cave Dwelling Bats", *British Caving*, Vol. 10, 284.