SHORTER ACCOUNTS OF CAVES

The entrance seems too large to correspond with the small cave explored but may have been enlarged by waterfall retreat. In the former case there may be a larger undiscovered cave; in the latter, the cave described may be the only one. It would be interesting to see the height to which the water rises in these passages during wet weather as we only observed them under exceptionally dry conditions.

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O. C. LLOYD.

Ballymahoney.—Near Ballymurphy House a blind valley slopes gently westward carrying a tongue of limestone into the surrounding shales. There are several tiny impassable sinks in the flat floor of the valley which lies mainly in the townland of Ballymahoney, and at the steep, blind, western end a stream runs down from the north, turns east as it reaches the valley bottom, and sinks to form Ballymahoney Cave (Plate 6, A, G 5).

The stream disappears over a 3-ft.-high fall into a canyon passage about 6 ft. high. For the first few yards the cave turns back beneath the surface stream and its approximate direction is west. It then turns south and continues in that direction for about 100 yards, to the head of a small pot. The stream leaves the main passage shortly before the pot and is next seen falling down the far side of it. The connecting streamway is too low to follow. It is clear, though, from the abundance of flood debris, that the stream follows the main passage in time of flood.

The pot is about 25 ft. deep and can easily be climbed with the aid of a rope. At the bottom the stream goes off in a southerly direction in a passage about 3 ft. wide by 4 ft. high. This gradually becomes lower, and ends after 50 yards in a 6-ft.-wide bedding plane, which becomes too low to follow, and which is plentifully strewn with stones. There are eels in the surface stream and a small one was seen at the bottom of the cave.

C. A. WATKINS.

Noughaval Swallets and Dry Valleys.—This is the series associated with the shale/limestone junction south of the Lisdoonvarna-Ballyvaughan road southwards to beyond Noughaval. The junction is marked by the usual many minute swallets and a few larger ones. No cave system has been entered along this line but by analogy with Gragan West Cave the drainage is likely to be south close to the shale edge. In the absence of any major rising the drainage is perhaps sectional turning off east along the lines of the dry valleys. If it all continues south, under joint control, it would ultimately, presumably, feed the turlough just south of the area mapped. If so it crosses under the dry valleys, which have sharply defined margins and no glacial fill. Details of these are in the records.

At G I a short length of canyon passage about 8 ft. deep and 18 in. wide is partially unroofed. Poulawillin, G 2, is described by Balister below. G 9 is a large swallet and an entry to a cave might be gained here. Its length is likely to be short as 400 yards south is a dry valley, which soon becomes one with an intermittent stream. These swallets and the limestone area to the south and east may repay further investigation.

E. K. TRATMAN.

Poulateillin.—This cave was first described by Bartlett (1938) and its location is shown on *Plate* 6, A (G 2). The main swallet near the road is blocked by boulders and rubbish and entry is not possible there. About 50 yards to the west, however, a subsidiary active swallet, hidden by bushes, leads straight into a canyon-type passage about 6 ft. high and 2 ft. wide in its upper part, the lower part being much narrower. The passage meanders for about 200 yards in a southerly direction, and then the stream disappears through a small opening at floor level on the left. The continuing dry passage is mud floored and soon becomes impassable.

To follow the stream 10 ft. of ladder has to be lowered through the small opening. There is a belay point round a rock spur. The climb leads to a small pool and the stream runs off down another vertical of 25 ft. A 20-ft.-high canyon passage runs across the bottom of the second vertical in a north-south direction and, under the exceptionally dry conditions of 1955, carried only a very small stream, the main surface swallet being almost dry. The passage runs downstream in a southerly direction, as does the cave above the verticals, and presumably connects upstream with the swallet by the road. Progress in both directions was soon halted by the narrowness of the passage. No suggestions as to the possible resurgence of the cave waters can be made because of the short length of passage that can be followed.

M. BALISTER.

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Cullaun Zero and Zero I.—Since Acke (1953) gave his account of these caves, further examination has been made of the surface features in the area. From Zero running approximately north is a line of shakeholes inside the shale boundary. These are interrupted by a col, which carries the road (Acke, 1954, Fig. 1). Beyond the col lies the depression with Zero I. Further north still is another col, with a blind valley beyond, in which are numerous small shakeholes, and finally two small surface streams on the shale at the extreme north end of the shale on Poulacapple ridge.

The general direction of the whole series is along the 196° dominant joint direction (Ollier and Tratman, p. 151), as with the other caves of the Cullaun series. It is reasonable to conclude that the northern extension, Cullaun Zero I and Zero are all parts of the same cave, which would account for the presence of the stream heard in Zero with no obvious surface feeder nearby.

E. K. TRATMAN.

Cullaun V Upper Direct and Loop Ways.—The published survey of Cullaun V (Jenkins, 1955) stops at the VB entrance. The survey has now been continued north, and the passages are shown in *Plate* 6, *A*. The Direct Way is the main stream route and runs approximately from north to south from north of entrance Vc, past V (known locally as Pollycoe), by the roadside to VB. An approximately parallel passage, the Loop Way, runs to the east from a point about 150 yards north of entrance V and enters the Direct Way again about 50 yards north of VB.

The stream passing Vc is the combined waters of Cullaun IV and a surface tributary. Most of the water flows down the Direct Way but when the stream is high enough, as it usually is, some of the water flows down the Loop Way. This accounts for the colouring of the water noted in both passages recorded by Jenkins when fluorescein was put in Cullaun IV. The streams reunite at the junction and the water disappears down a low bedding plane passage a few yards short of VB entrance and flows to the Stream Passage further east.

The Direct Way from Vc down to V is a T-shaped meandering passage about 2 ft. wide and 4 ft. high. At V entrance the passage contracts and the explorer has to crawl. The floor soon drops first one bed and then another and the passage is once more a T-shaped canyon 2 ft. wide and 5 ft. high, with the usual meanders. There is considerable variation in the proportion of the horizontal component of the T to the vertical. The Loop Way starts as a crawl and continues so till about level with the first step down in the Direct Way. Thereafter the characters of the two