

passages are almost identical. The floors and walls have asymmetrical scallops. It is noticeable that undercutting at meanders is on the inside of the bend and the tendency is for the stream to straighten its route.

H. M. K. TOMS.

*Cullaun V Stream Passage.*—This is the passage running north from the junction beyond the First Pitch (Jenkins, 1955, p. 105). In 1955 the C.R.G. grade 4-5 survey of this passage was completed as far as the point at which it divides into three small passages (*op. cit.*, p. 107). The survey shows that the stalactite block mentioned in the 1955 account is the one encountered at about 100 yards from the VA entrance (Acke, 1954, Fig. 1). Fluorescein tests have shown that the stream at the head of the Stream Passage is the VA stream, which ties in nicely with the findings for the two passages above the VB entrance (*see* Toms, p. 180).

E. K. TRATMAN.

*Cullaun V. The Red Carpet Passage.*—This takes its name from the flooring of soft calcite, light red in colour and about 2 ft. wide, which was found in the loop mentioned below.

The account by Jenkins (1955) of this cave states that "At section 30 the streamway turns south-east though there is an ox-bow continuing in the general direction of the cave". In 1955 this so-called ox-bow was entered in an attempt to by-pass the third bedding plane, but it was found that it was not an ox-bow but an entirely different passage which continued in the general direction of the cave for about 600 ft. The first part is a very twisting, dry passage which, in one part, performs an almost complete loop. Shortly before the loop a stream enters from the west, but it carries less water than in the main stream left at section 30. However, it could not be this stream which flows through the third bedding plane as this stream goes down a pitch, the bottom of which is lower than the level of the Red Carpet Passage. The stream does not flow through the loop, which contains the "red carpet", but goes off to the right just before it and reappears just before the lower end.

The passage has a gentle gradient similar to that of most of the main cave; near the lower end there is a 15-ft. waterfall beyond which the cave ends in a sump 10 by 5 ft. and more than 5 ft. deep. Downstream from the loop, and above the waterfall, the passage is crossed and recrossed by ox-bows which were dry when seen but contain silt and obviously take water in flood conditions. The level of the entrance to this passage where it leaves the present main route is such that under flood conditions part of the main cave waters will go down this passage, though this has not actually been observed.

The survey was made to a standard deemed to be Cave Research Group grade 4-5 (Butcher, 1950).

The fact that the passage continues in the general south-south-west direction of the cave suggests that the resurgence of the cave waters is at St. Brendan's Well.

C. INESON.

*Faunarooska.*—The entrance to this cave is an active swallet almost on the south edge of the townland, on the north-west side of Slieve Elva. The cave was discovered and explored by Bartlett (1938) and has since been visited by many spelæologists. The R.A.F. group have made an accurate survey of part of the main cave. Members of this Society have examined the main passage of the cave and made a C.R.G. grade 2 survey in order to relate Faunarooska to other caves in the area. It is hoped that the following account will soon be superseded when the R.A.F. group publish their observations.

The cave is very tortuous, and it is difficult to assess general direction without an accurate survey, but the grade 2 survey indicates a roughly west-north-west general direction for the main passage. The cave starts with 30 ft. of steeply descending canyon passage, which enters the main streamway. The main part of the cave is 1300 yards of high narrow canyon passage, with many tight meanders and changes of direction. There are small pots and little waterfalls, sometimes in groups to form cataracts, and the descent is much steeper than is usual in caves of this area. Formations, including stalagmite barriers, occur occasionally all along the passage but are commonest towards the bottom end. Formations are sometimes so low as to necessitate crawling, but usually the passages are very high rifts, although only 2 ft. wide. Asymmetrical scalloping of the walls and floor is common, but near the entrance vertical fluting is more obvious.

At 1300 yards from the entrance is a small collapsed chamber and the water flows under a bedding plane. There is a small dry route leading on, which soon picks up the water again. At 1400 yards from the entrance the cave becomes different in character, after a small waterfall and a pool neck-deep in places. From here onwards the passages have a greater width relative to height, and have large scalloping on the walls and roof. This part of the cave appears to be of largely phreatic origin.

At 1500 yards a dry passage comes in on the left, and was obviously once occupied by a tributary to the present stream. It contains many fallen blocks and a flowstone "waterfall" which indicates a former direction of flow. There is a thick deposit of grey mud in this passage, of which only 60 ft. were explored.

The active stream goes down a 20-ft. pitch, after which there are several other pitches in quick succession until a sump is reached. It is estimated that the total descent from the entrance to the top of the 20-ft. pitch is 100 ft.

The lower part of Faunarooska is quite exceptional amongst the caves of North-west Clare, and is believed to be phreatic in origin. It must have developed below the water table when the sump was at the point 1400 yards from the entrance, where the well-marked change of form occurs. Upstream from this point the form of the cave is clearly vadose, similar in this respect to other caves of the area. Why, and when, the lower part of the cave became dry after its long period of phreatic development is not known.

C. D. OLLIER.

*Pollapooka.*—This pothole is on the north-west side of Slieve Elva on the limestone shelf, about 75 yards from the limestone/shale junction. Several accounts have appeared of this pot, which has a sheer pitch of 90 ft. There is no way on at the bottom.

About 600 yards north-east of Faunarooska a watershed on the limestone shelf separates two dry valleys. One runs south-west past Faunarooska towards Polldubh and thence to the Coolagh River Cave. The other runs north-east, diverging from the limestone/shale junction for about 400 yards. Then it turns abruptly east and after a steepening, sinuous course plunges abruptly into the Pollapooka depression. At the turn the original dry valley is continued on its old line for some distance, so the piece leading to Pollapooka seems to be the result of a beheading of the original valley. A second short, steep, dry valley leads into the depression from the north-east but cannot be followed far. The depression has the features of an old swallet.

From Faunarooska, past Pollapooka and round the north of Slieve Elva the limestone/shale junction is marked by the usual series of small swallets and shake-holes. These extend to the head of Pollnagollum. About 200 yards east of Pollapooka,