

## Secretary's Report, 1956-1957

We are sorry to report that the increase in active members that had been going on over the past few years has not been in evidence this year. However, at the time of writing, there is an increasing interest in the Society's affairs.

### Meetings.

The sessional meetings have all been well attended, the average number at each meeting being over 40. A series of four tutorial classes under the general title of "An Introduction to Prehistory" was given by Mr. A. M. ApSimon in the Society's rooms, and was well attended.

### Caving.

There have been many caving activities during the year. Such activities have since been restricted by petrol rationing. A lot of work has been done in both the G. B. Cave Terminal Passage dig and in the Manor Farm Swallet. Both have suffered from a surplus of water. Digging was continued at the terminal sink of the Longwood surface stream. A narrow rift at about 20 ft. from the surface takes the stream south. The society has also taken its share in the work of again opening the cave of Pen Park Hole. At Loxton cave the presence of a Pleistocene deposit containing the bones of horse, ox and deer was confirmed. The deposit lies at a very steep angle and is too dangerous to explore further from inside the cave. The content of the deposit is so scanty that exposing it from the surface is not warranted.

In the summer a large party went to County Leitrim, Eire, where virgin territory in the Dartry Hills was explored. Although many potholes, some of them deep, were found, no caves of any length were discovered. Reports appear in this issue. When this work was finished some of the party went on to County Clare to do some work there. About 2½ miles of additional cave passages were explored. An away meet was held in Yorkshire to enable members to see something of the Gaping Gill system.

### Archæology.

Work has continued at Gough's Old Cave, Cheddar. The Pleistocene levels were reached in a narrow fissure in the rock. A report will appear in another issue of *Proceedings*. Brean Down was visited on a number of occasions and good work done on the Pleistocene and later deposits. A

Roman building was found on the top of the hill and a major excavation is planned for August, 1957. Further work during a summer camp at Little Solsbury Hill Camp was seriously impeded by bad weather. Quite extensive excavations have been made in one of the Priddy Circles. Dr. H. Taylor directed an excavation at the supposed Bagpath burial circle, Gloucestershire. The structure is not of prehistoric origin. The excavation of barrow T5 has been continued and an archæological investigation of *Bos Swallet* has been begun.

#### **Museum.**

Progress has been made with the cataloguing and arrangement of the material available. Additions have been made of finds from excavations.

#### **Library.**

Mr. Trevor R. Shaw reports :—The library has expanded steadily throughout the year. Purchases have continued and many gifts of books have been received as well as pamphlets, offprints and periodicals. The collection of press cuttings, dormant for many years, has been revived and contains much information not published elsewhere. The Society's collection of caving periodicals is one of the finest in the country and attention has been given to its proper housing. Many of the past issues have been bound and the more recent are easily accessible in spring folders. Exchanges of publications have been arranged with a further nine bodies, bringing the total to twenty-five.

#### **Photography.**

Dr. O. C. Lloyd reports :—In 1955 the dark room was equipped with an enlarger and all the necessary accessories. It has been in frequent use. During 1956 the collection of 2 × 2 inch lantern slides was started and well over a hundred have been added to it.

#### **Acknowledgements.**

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CHRISTOPHER INESON,  
*Hon. Secretary.*