





We have received several complaints and criticism of the December issue of the journal. We would like to thank all those who took the trouble to let us have their views, and inform them that their suggestions have been noted and will be borne in mind for future issues.

The journals sub-committee's apologies to Denis Warburton for the exclusion of his name from the 1954/55 committee list, and to Ian Dear for listing him as a committee member. There is an amusing side to these mistakes; the journal committee very carefully 'vetted' the composite report of the A.G.M. and Dinner, so much so that the actual 'scribe' refused to have his name attached to the article. The use of the prefix 'Mr' and degrees was discussed, and the initials of the people concerned checked, but no one seemed to have thought of reading the names of the committee. Could it have been that the subcommittee was a little too clever?

Denis Warburton has nearly completed his survey of Hillier's Cave, and copies of it will be made available to members. He is planning to survey, or re-survey other Mendip caves, and we hope to publish the results of his work in future issues of this journal.

Good progress is being made with the work on the Hillgrove Hut. Unfortunately (and we must add, 'as usual') the response of the appeal for help made in the December issue was very poor. The hut warden managed to get some of the Bath schoolboys to come along one weekend and give a hand, and Phil Davies was more than useful, but the progress so far made is due in no small measure to the work of the Gear Curator, Jim Swithenbank. (We must anticipate any complaints of delay in the publication of this issue of the journal, by pointing out that there are only 52 weekends in the year, and that the writer of this foreword has of late to turn his attention and energy to this work on H.Q.). Our thanks are due to Mr. Candy for his help in obtaining materials for the work, and although at the moment of writing, we have not received the account for the wood, etc, re know he is helping us to obtain this as cheaply as possible. Unfortunately, even with this help we expect to have to pay a fair size bill, and would again remind members of the desirability of

all making full use of the hut when staying on Mendip. When the present work is completed, we are hoping that the place will be much improved and suitable not only for weekends but also for longer visits. So if you are thinking of spending some of your annual holiday on Mendip, perhaps you would consider staying at the Club's H.Q.

If any member finds things not quite to his liking, or any of the fittings not in working order, particularly the lighting and cooking facilities, would he please get in touch with, or write to the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible. It is most annoying to learn that items of equipment have been out of order for some time, when a little routine maintenance is all that is necessary to put things into a usable condition. In the past, particularly when we had our H.Q.'s at Beechbarrow, it was the practice to keep paraffin in a five gallon drum, fitted with a tap, but of late people have been purchasing it in small quantities from the garage at Green Ore, but this can be a nuisance when one arrives late at night at the hut, so it is intended to return to the 'bulk purchase' idea.

Particulars of how to obtain carbide at a cost of 8d a pound will be found in the Hillgrove hut.

Congratulations to the B.E.C. members who have broken into a cave near the Hunter's Lodge. This discovery will be of interest to members of the Club in view of the fact that this was at one time a dig of Peter Harvey, and members of the Cambridge University C.C. also worked in this area.

Oliver Wells (who must be congratulated on his work in reducing the Eastwater survey to a size suitable for inclusion in this issue), is again planning to try to reopen Cuckoo Cleaves.

We hope to run the usual club trip to Yorkshire over the Easter Holidays, and members interested in the event should write to the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible. Over the same period the Craven Pothole Club will be visiting Mendip, and will be staying at the Club's H.Q.s. Any member of the Wessex who would like to join them at the hut or on their caving trips, should also get in touch with the Hon. Sec.

David Willis reports that an examination of the list of members suggests that the number of active Wessex cavers in the London district is not very large at the present time. He invites any such member to get in touch with him and he will be pleased to hear from any caver (or others) who would be interested in a visit to Mendip with the London Group of the Wessex Cave Club.

The Chairman, George Williams, has asked us to express his thanks to the members who so kindly wrote to him during his recent illness and who sent him cards at Christmas. George is much better and we hope to welcome him to his first committee meeting of 1954/55. Speaking as Treasurer, he is rather concerned about the length of the list of members who have not paid subscriptions for the current year. He appeals to all those who have not paid to send the subscription to him as soon as possible.

On the other hand, it would be appreciated if any member who decided not to continue his or her membership, would inform the Hon. Sec. of this fact.

#### Future Events

G.B. Guest Days. (Members' attention is drawn to the conditions laid down by the U.B.S.S., given in the December journal).

Sunday 6th March. Meet 2.0 pm. at Cave.

Monday 11th April. Meet 2.0 pm. at Cave.

Saturday 11th June. Meet 2.0 pm. at Cave.

Easter. 1955. Club visit to Yorkshire. Names to Hon. Secretary. Craven Pothole Club's visit to Mendip. Leader D. Willis.

Secretary, Frank Frost, 22 Wolseley Road, Bishopston, Bristol 7. Phone Bristol 44221.

Asst. Sec. D. Thomson. 4 St. Joseph Road, Weston-super-Mare

Treasurer. G. Williams. 1 Redhill Drive, Fishponds, Bristol.

Sec. London Group. D. Willis, 129, Broxholm Rd, West Norwood, London S.E. 27

Phone (After 7.p.m.) Gypsy Hill. 1332.

The following members have not paid their subscriptions for 1954-55.

H.C. Attwood, H.W.W. Ashworth, E.H. Batten, Miss V. Boarland, R.E. Buckingham, B.R. Chamberlain, A.J. Cordell, D.B. Cooke, Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Cornelius, Lt. G.R. Darwall, J.M. Davies, G. Dawes, G.J. Denning, G.A. Dicker, L.S. Dingle, P. Gass, M.P. Glenister, Brig. E.A. Glennie, R.R. Glover, A.R. Griffin, Miss P. Hardwidge, D.H. Hodges, Mr. & Mrs. J.H.D. Hooper, Miss M. Jarman, D. Hutchings, H. Jelley, I.M. Joiner, J.D. Leslie, Mrs. H. Murrell, J. O'Brien, N. Paddock, P.J. Price, R.W. Rix, C.H. Sandford, G.W. Stocker, E.H. Swale, A.R. Thomas, G.M. Thomson, J.H. Tomkins, Mr. & Mrs. G. Tudgay, J. Tupman, W. Vawdrey, Mr. & Mrs. C. Vowles, Mrs. G.A. Walker, C.B. Weekes, G.H. White, J.G. Woodhouse, R. Wooley, A.M. Wring.

Rule 8 states:-

"Any member whose subscription has become more than three months overdue shall be named in the next circular, and if within one month the subscription has not been paid, the member's name shall be removed from the list of Members and notice to this effect shall be sent to the member."

This is indeed a formidable list, and includes the names of many who have been members from the early years of the Club's existence, so the Hon. Treasurer, G. Williams, 1 Redhill Drive, Fishponds, Bristol, will be pleased to receive your subscription - 10/- full membership or 12/6 family membership. PLEASE SEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

We welcome the following new members.

T. Austin, 44 Setchell Rd, London. S.E.1.

D.S. Thorpe, 71 The Dell, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

Change of address.

C.H. Kenney. 20 Mary Road, Wells, Somerset

Dr. W.I. Stanton, E.C.A. Caixa Portal 14, Maquela de Zambo, Angola, Portuguese West Africa.

Congratulations to H. Kenney on his engagement to Miss E. Baker of Bath.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. H.E. Balch. We offer our deepest sympathy to our President in his great loss.

A letter has been received from Prof. E.K. Tratman who is acting as the local secretary of Section "H" at the annual meeting of the British Association to be held this year in Bristol from August 31st to Sept. 7th. He requests that caving clubs do not run trips to Reads Cavern on Saturday Sept. 3rd, and that individual cavers refrain from going to the cave as the Section "H" have arranged a visit on that date. He adds that any members of the Club who are also members of the B.A. will be entitled to go to this or any other excursion arranged.

### Mendip Water Survey.

David Willis is planning to begin a survey of the underground waters of the Mendip area. This has been a pipe dream of his for some years past, but due to his commitments in other directions, such as acting as hut warden of the club, he has not been able to find time to begin this work. Members who are interested in this side of caving should get in touch with him as soon as possible.

### Balch Testimonial Fund.

Glowing tributes were paid to the life work of our President at the annual meeting of the Wells Natural History and Archaeological Society by the Bishop of Wells and other speakers. Unfortunately, owing to the death of his wife, Balch was unable to attend the meeting, and the presentation of a cheque for £150 was made to him privately.

### MENDIP FLOODS.

Torrential rain on the afternoon of the 24th November 1954, caused extensive flooding and traffic dislocation in all parts of Mid-Somerset, and in many Mendip villages the rainfall was said to be the worst in living memory. At Priddy, water stood where it has never been seen before; the Green was temporarily an expanse of water, the cavities in the limestone being quite unable to absorb the torrent from the skies. The St. Swithins stream (still called such by at least one Priddy farmer) must have been a startling sight, for it washed away most of the watercress in the ill-fated trout pond near the cave entrance, and judging by weed in the bushes, the water was for a while 3 to 4 feet above the level of the grating. I understand that some small changes are noticeable

in the cave, and that the lower passage in the Water Rift above the 40' has been partially cleared of its gradual accumulation of gravel, thus improving the passage for those who have dined too well, and dare not risk the acrobatic feat of passing through the upper hole. (I still expect to fall on my head, there, one of these days!). I imagine that floods such as these must have been responsible for the scattered bones and pieces of medieval pottery in the connecting passage between the Pretty and Wet ways.

The shaft at Eastwater Swallet had also taken a considerable volume of water. Have any members noted facts about other caves?

In Wells the floods were the worst since 1926, when the streets resembled raging rivers. This time, water rushing down from the hills overloaded the drains, and water swept through the streets flooding private houses and shop premises. On the moors, hundreds of acres were flooded and cattle had to be rescued. Many roads were blocked, and at Draycott 12 tons of rubble ? was washed down from the Mendips onto the Wells-Cheddar road. Perhaps the worst affected was Wookey Hole, where all the approach roads were impassable for a time due to flooding and landslides.

Mr. Devenish and I were able to enter Wookey Hole Caves in the evening. The water was lapping round the Witch's feet, (poor soul), and the concrete path through to the third chamber was nearly waist deep in water. We took photos and during the 1½ hours we were there the water rose 8". Later the third chamber was flooded to the roof and the rowing boat kept there was smashed. Several inches of mud had to be cleared after the water subsided.

C.H. Kenney.

Note by Phil Davies.

The floor at the junction between the wet way and the dry way was scoured out to a depth of 4 to 5ft (?), as was the floor of the 40ft. pot. 'Quite unexpected hazards' according to Derek Thorpe who went down the cave before Christmas, he remarked in his letter of the "milky and muddy" appearance of the water in the bottom of the 40ft pot.

### CAVE PAINTINGS FOR SALE?.

It is not often that a case concerning caving comes before the Court. Some months ago, however, Andre Breton, a surrealist author, appeared in court (dressed in a red shirt and waterproof

jacket) at Cahors, South -West France , accused of rubbing out a mammoth's trunk. The incident occurred in a cave at Cabrerets, near Cahors, named "Our Chapel of the Mammoths" and it is claimed by the owner to have "one of the largest assemblages of neolithic and palaeolithic art".

Breton's counsel, however, did not seem to be so impressed with the cave, and described it as follows:-

"In the first cave the guide shows visitors a footprint in the clay.

"He explains it was the foot of a one-legged woman weighing about 110 pounds and 5 ft. 10in tall, carrying a child on her left shoulder, who was attacked at this precise spot by a bear.

"Then you pass successively before some mammoths and bison. After that comes a sort of alms box on which you can read 'Don't forget the guide.'

"When you come out there is a bar on the left and public conveniences - for which a charge is made - on the right.

"You can also purchase picture postcards - in fact, you are invited to. All this goes on to the sound of light music from an amplifier."

Andre Breton was fined £5 and damages for the destruction of one prehistoric painted mammoth's trunk. The damage was assessed at £20!

C.H. Kenney.

#### OBITUARY – Mr. Albert Victor Painter.

Members will learn with regret of the passing of Mr. Painter at the age of 67. He was the chief guide at Gough's Cave from 1900 until his retirement last year and he has welcomed millions of visitors, including Royalty and many distinguished celebrities, to the cave.

Mr. Painter was more than a guide, and those spelaeologists who had the good fortune to know him, will long remember his tales and reminiscences of the Gorge and its caves. He was at his happiest sitting over a cup of tea in the guide room, or better still leaning on the bar at one of the locals, with keen young cavers around him passing on stories (sometimes a little elaborated) of the Cheddar Caves and holes from his almost unrivalled knowledge of the subject.

His home was a museum, not only articles of caving interest, for all his life he collected antiques ranging from grandfather clocks

to small articles of jewellery.

He leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter. One of the sons is carrying on the tradition and is a guide at Gough's Cave.

Before the funeral, the cortege and mourners proceeded up the Gorge and halted in silence for two minutes outside the cave - a fitting finish to the life of one of our cave pioneers.

C.H. Kenney.

### MENDIP NOTES

The main streamway in Swildons was examined recently between the Forty Foot Pot and Sump 1, looking for possible maypole pitches. Several places could be tried but there does not seem to be anywhere really promising. Perhaps the best place is above the 20' Pot where a trickle of water can be seen to flow out of a slot perhaps two feet wide by four inches high. Either scaling ladder or maypole could be used but blasting would be necessary.

The light used was a 36 watt spotlight run from a six volt accumulator in a haversack. The three batteries, bought surplus at five shillings each, were rated at 8 AH and the light was quite strong enough for the biggest places. We hope to take the outfit into Eastwater soon.

The 'Muddy Sump' mentioned by Stanton in 44, (Jan.'54) page 13 does not offer much prospects as the thing can be felt to close up to less than six inches within a couple of feet. It would be possible to bale it out and then start digging but this would be a major operation.

About a year ago a party of enthusiasts started to dig in a high level passage about a hundred yards beyond Barnes Loop. After a couple of hours they were able to wriggle through into a beautifully decorated grotto and set off to explore. Gradually their surroundings became familiar, however, and two sadder-but-wiser cavers returned to the surface having recognised their discovery as Tratman's Temple.

Carbide lamp strikers sometimes fail to work because the flint

assembly is mounted the wrong way round. The wheel has teeth like those on a hacksaw blade and it won't work backwards.

The sump in Hilliers cave is said to be impassable. According to someone who swam in it the passage can be felt to close up. No room for divers.

Dallimores Cave is open again. The farmer tipped some stuff into it a while ago but didn't object to it being dug open again. This cave (the nearest to the HQ hut) contains about 250' of passages and according to the survey is just 93' deep. There is one place where a maypole might reveal something new.

The large boulders poised at the top of the Dolphin ladder pitch in Eastwater have arrived from above since the original exploration. Looking upwards with a 36 watt spotlight the rift continues to a bend about twenty feet up, where the passage measures perhaps five feet by two. A trickle of water flows down the wall. It could be reached with a twenty foot Maypole but the loose stuff on either side looks most unsafe.

Oliver Wells.

## EASTWATER CAVERN

### Part 1 History of Discovery.

Eastwater Cavern was first entered by a party under the leadership of H.E. Balch in April 1902. This was shortly after the opening of Swildon's hole by the same party, and at the time it was assumed that the two caves were part of a common system. The shaft that is used at the present was the first one to be dug, but it was temporarily abandoned in favour of one some yards to the east. It was found necessary to use this second shaft for the burial of a cow, which had broken its neck, and work was then resumed at the original spot. After much work, the way was cleared and the Boulder Ruckle entered. In the early stages of the exploration only the 380 foot way was known, but after several trips the main part of the cave was opened by Balch & Wilcox. Hearing a stream flowing beyond a boulder choke they prised open a way into the Boulder Chamber, and discovered much of the remainder of the cave.

The early history of Eastwater is rather obscure, and no detailed records of the exploration appear to exist. A certain amount of information is available in books by H.E. Balch & E.A Baker (Refs 1-4). It appears that the two Verticals route was open as far as the bottom of the Pots, the Terminal Rift being disclosed by the washing away of a choke during the floods of 1903. The first Rift Chamber was open, and the second Rift Chamber dug out along the low connecting passage by Balch in Oct. 1906. The Traverse was also known in the early stages of exploration, from the 380 foot way to Kentish's Cairn, and down to the letterbox now known as the Hallelujah Hole. It was partly explored from its lower end in the Rift Chamber by Baker, and there is a mention in "Netherworld of Mendip", of several parties having made the full traverse from the Rift Chamber to the 380 foot way.

After the initial period of exploration there appears to have been a gap of many years, for it was not until 1933 that Harris' passage was entered from the waterfall passage at the head of the Pots. How far it was explored is not clear, but it was probably to the aven at the top, passing the foot of the 35 foot pitch.

Just after this period parties led by H. Murrell made several

attempts to open the far end of the Primrose Path (which was not given that name until later). How much of this passage had been discovered in the early days is not known. Miss Johnstone (now Mrs. Murrell) passed the final squeeze to the head of the big pitch and the entrance to the Weaver-Bowen extension. The way down the pitch was quite impossible at that time.

In passing, I should point out that the Weaver-Bower Extension was so marked on the survey because of a reference to it in "British Caver" under those names. I believe that the first person to explore the rift was Mrs. Murrell, at the time that the squeeze was first forced.

The next exploration took place just after the war, when the second major way down the cave - the Dolphin Pot route - was discovered. This route, requiring only one ladder, has now become the standard way to descend.

In 1946 work on the Primrose Path squeeze was started by Low, Dolphin & Paddock. The way on was a slot only four inches high, and even to reach this it was necessary to pass the very tight squeeze that had been forced by Miss Johnstone. This squeeze was blasted away first (in spite of this it is still a floor crawl) and much blasting was done at the slot. Thermite was tried as well as high explosive, but the only result was to fill the cave with smoke, which in from an unexpected direction. Work was continued on and off for three years, the Wessex alone making some twenty working trips there in that period. Eventually Howard Kenney was able to get through, and a series of trips followed. The first proved the existence of a negotiable pitch; the second, with 50 feet of ladder allowed Kenney to descend the 32 foot pitch and part way down the next. The third trip was made with 150 feet of alloy tackle, this amount caused many sarcastic remarks by those who said that Mendip pitches could not possibly be that big. To everyone's consternation the 150 feet proved too little, the result being that Kenney & Simpson had to be content with a view of the bottom. More tackle had to be obtained, and a fourth trip was made with 210 feet. This at last allowed Kenney to reach the bottom, and the lowest point of the cave. The trip was in April, 1950, and fuller details can be found in Circulars 20 and 22.

In 1951, J. Ifold of the B.E.C. entered the series bearing his name at the head of Harris's passage. He cleared many boulders

from the bedding plane approach, but the series is still rather unsafe.

In 1954, during the closing stages of the survey of the cave several Wessex parties investigated a number of minor passages. The first of these was the climb of the aven above the Dolphin Pot, very tight and difficult. It was necessary for Davies to remove most of his clothes, and then use my head as a jumping off point for some minutes. The way led, as we expected, to the large aven above the Bell Chamber, which is climbable about half the way, if one is prepared to risk loose holds and a hail of falling boulders.

The second discovery was also open, Davies' Detour from the 2nd Vertical to the Muddy Oxbow. It called for the forcing of three squeezes, each one tighter than its predecessor, and an extremely unpleasant pitch, at an angle of 60° down an inclined rift, holdless, and very difficult without a ladder. The party consisted of P. Davies, O.C. Lloyd, O.C. Wells and myself, and the extension was fully surveyed to prime survey points while the exploration was being made.

A little later, in August, in an attempt to extend the surveyed limits of Jack Brownsey's passage near the end of the cave, another Wessex party including D. Ford, D.A. Willis and myself laddered the very steep rift which joins that passage beyond the constriction. From the bottom of the ladder (not essential but very desirable) Ford noticed an opening across the rift, which he was able to enter, well lifelined. This was the entrance to the Mud Escalator, a very tight rift, smooth walled & coated with mud. A very pronounced hazard was the peeling off of large slabs of this mud, one of which nearby caused a casualty. No attempt has yet been made to accurately survey the place in view of its extreme difficulty, but this may be necessary in the near future. Ford, together with J. Candy and others have continued the exploration of this series, and more is to be expected there.

#### References.

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1). Wookey Hole, its Caves & Cave Dwellers. | - H.E. Balch.              |
| 2). The Mendip Caves.                       | - H.E. Balch.              |
| 3). Netherworld of Mendip.                  | - H.E. Balch & E.A. Baker. |
| 4). Caving.                                 | - E. A. Baker.             |

## Part II Possible Extensions

Many digs have been started from time to time in Eastwater, and a study of the survey shows that some of these digs have strong possibilities. One of these is at the lowest point in the Boulder chamber, where the water from numerous drips collects and sinks. In very wet weather this flow becomes quite heavy. This water apparently reappears in the easternmost stream passage of Ifold's Series, issuing from an impassable rift. Forcing a way through here would be a very quick way into the lower series, and might conceivably eliminate the need for tackle. In 1951, a party headed by A.J. Surrall did several days work here, and removed a large number of boulders. Eventually, a very tight rift was opened, which I was able to penetrate for 10 or 12 feet, after which further progress was impracticable. Owing to the difficulty of getting working parties together, this dig was later abandoned, and some fill in has since occurred, but with an adequate party and suitable tackle, it should be easy to reopen it. As a cave dig it has in its favour its proximity to the surface, its relative dryness in good weather, and above all, the entire absence of mud!!

The bottom of the Primrose Pot should also be fairly easy to reach by digging in a steeply sloping passage in Sand Chamber, off the Terminal Rift. The passage, which slopes steeply in a southerly direction, probably intersects the Pot not far above the foot of the main pitch, or possibly a sloping aven just to the west of this. This passage is of interest in several ways. On the occasion of the first descent of the Primrose Pot by Howard Kenney in 1950, he remarked on the south rift "...covered by globules of wet mud, which suggests that the passage is occasionally flooded." Also there is a scree and gravel slope on the north (inlet) side, quite large, which appears to be water deposited. Those features were rather difficult to explain, as even under flood conditions the Primrose Path can take little water, and before the blasting at the top of the Pot, the amount which could have penetrated through the slot could not have caused flooding of the rift, especially as at least two alternative stream sinks are available.

Turning now to the Terminal Rift of the old cave, this is known to flood at times, probably because of a very restricted and silted up exit beyond the farthest accessible point. Flood debris can in fact, be noticed at times up the whole rift as far as the bottom of the Pots. The extensive mud at the entrance to Jack

Brownsey's Passage seems to indicate that flood water might reach also to the foot of the Muddy Oxbow. If a flood level of this height is visualised, it will be seen that most of Sand Chamber would be flooded to a depth of several feet, and the new outlet for the water would be the passage mentioned above. This flood water, coming down the Pots, would carry a large amount of sediment, more especially as it would only be operative in really exceptional conditions. It could thus account for Kenney's observations, the scree pile at the foot of the Pot, and also the fact that there is a large amount of silt in the main outlet of the Pot. The receding of the water after each flood of this magnitude would account for the extensive piling up of silt in Sand Chamber. This theory, of course, pre-supposes the complete accuracy of the survey. The route to the Terminal Rift is well checked by closed traverses, the difficult route down the Primrose Path and the big pitch has no checks. As a point of interest, if this dig were successful it would close an outer traverse of 1400 feet with over 100 legs.

The third dig which appears to hold out promise is the true continuation of the Canyon. This old water channel takes no flow at any time nowadays: even under the heaviest flood conditions there is only drip; but from its size it was evidently the main stream passage at some time in the cave's history. Just before the S-bend there is a fork in the passage, the Canyon veering off to the right while the joint determined Lower Tunnel is to the left. This Lower Tunnel, the S-bend and the entrance to the First Rift Chamber show practically no modification by vadose waters, and the stream cannot have flowed here under normal conditions. Some 30 feet down the passage from the Junction is a sand and stone choke which appears to lie around a double bend and a flattening of the passage. It is possible that this was a true sump of the original system. The obstruction is fairly easy to dig, and unless of great length should not present much difficulty. It is leading into "unknown" regions, and is unlikely to communicate with any part of the known cave unless it travels far enough south to join the Primrose Pot, or else develops into a vertical system joining the lower series near the end of the cave.

The stream sink at the end of the 380 foot way sets one of the most interesting of the many problems of the cave. It develops into an impassable bedding plane, some 12 inches wide and no more than 5 or 6 inches high, the entrance to which is around an awkward double bend. Digging is completely impossible as the passage is in

solid rock, and even blasting appears out of the question, However, a possible way on is found in Morton's Pot, at the end of the rift beyond the stream sink. In the roof of the passage, and opening south-wards, is a fairly tall but very narrow rift. Originally the entrance to this rift was only a few inches wide, but an attempt was made to widen this by A.J. Surrall, D.A. Willis and myself. We spent some time stemming the pot to make the rift rather more accessible, and then attacked the rift with explosives. A large amount of debris was removed to the floor of the pot, but owing to lack of time and equipment we had to abandon the project after two week-end's work. At present it is possible to throw stones an estimated 30 feet along the rift, which slopes downwards with an abrupt drop at the end, but much more blasting will be needed. An encouraging feature is that there is at times a very strong draught blowing out of the rift. As the stream sink is nearly 300 feet above the lowest point, and the passage is well away from the rest of the cave, if the obstacle could be passed it is possible that an extensive new series would be opened.

Apart from these four important digs there are many others that hold out possibilities. The Second Rift Chamber was itself dug out, by H. Balch in 1906, and there are two possibilities here namely: the pot at the lower end, 14 feet deep and partly filled with stalagmite; and the inlet passage which joins the top of this pot. In the latter case a number of formations (a rare sight in Eastwater!) bar the way in a very tight passage and progress could only be made by destroying those.

Some digging has been done recently at the far end of the 1st Rift Chamber by the B.C.S.S. section of the Wessex Cave Club. Unfortunately a very low bedding plane was encountered which made further progress impossible, but aural connection was established between the dig and the Weaver-Bowen extension.

The choked bottom of the 1st Vertical is on the survey, almost touching the rift in Davies' Detour above the ladder pitch, and this, while of no practical use as a dig, might be of interest in explaining the formation of the cave. (This point was partly cleared up by Davies & Ford in Oct, 1954. A firework dropped down the First Vertical was heard distinctly at the top of Davies' Detour, but the smoke did not come down the rift, instead it appeared lower down the ladder pitch. It seems that the connection is by means of a parallel rift which joins the extension at a lower level).

Many other possibilities are apparent in Eastwater, and it is certain that as yet nothing like the full extent of the cave is known. With the present enthusiasm of cavers it will be very surprising if the survey is not soon made very incomplete.

### Eastwater Survey (Simplified Version).

Denis Warburton's survey of Eastwater Cavern is altogether too detailed to squeeze into a copy of this Journal and although copies are available of the complete and unabbreviated edition, it was felt that it might be a good idea to include a version of some sort. This version will, I hope, be sufficient to give a general idea of the cave and allow Denis' description of its discovery, exploration, and survey to be followed.

Since the original two sheets (28" by 40") are more than thirty times those of the journal, certain liberties had to be taken. These include the omission of much of the passage detail and all of the passage cross sections. In the projected section the only actual omissions are the Weaver-Bowen Extension, the Lower Traverse, and the Fourteen Potholes (these are also omitted in Denis' version). The Boulder Ruckle has been shown diagrammatically but this had to be done, and, particularly in the plan view, it shows the way in which the route folds back on itself.

In the high level plan several minor choked passages have been cut short to avoid overlapping, particularly near the Lower Traverse. The passage hanging out of the page is such an example and should by rights extend another quarter inch or so to an impenetrable squeeze. In the plan the Primrose Pot has been drawn as a single pitch whereas in fact it is more complicated. (see section).

These simplifications should be kept in mind when reading the survey and in case of doubt reference should be made to the original. If this is done serious error should be avoided. The reduction was carried out using a pantograph and the fair copy was drawn on ordinary drawing paper from which a wax stencil was prepared by Messrs. Roneo Ltd. (This method has been used for several recent surveys in the Journal.

Having spent several hours poring over Denis' survey (not to mention the odd hour underground as stooge) I am all too aware of the shortcomings of this version and definitely recommend members to obtain a copy of the original. I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating him and his co-workers on a magnificent piece of work.

Oliver Wells.



