

NOTES AND NEWS

when it is suggested, by Dr Fairfield Osborn in *Nature* (7 August 1926), that the European cultures of St. Acheul, Aurignac, Le Moustier, Mas d'Azile and Campigny are all represented, one cannot help wondering upon what these conclusions are based? It is a far cry from France to Mongolia; and the latter country has yet to provide a site where stratified deposits may be investigated. Even then synchronism will be difficult to establish. The expedition is led by Dr Roy Chapman Andrews. The area is one that from an anthropological point of view is most promising. Dr Andrews has published an interesting and readable account of the work of the expedition up to 1926 (*On the Trail of Ancient Man*, Putnam's Sons, 25s.), and one is full of admiration for the ability and enthusiasm of the whole party. The bulk of the work so far has naturally been palaeontological, and has been crowned by the fullest success. There are some reasons for sharing the writer's expectation that similar good results will follow when the trail of ancient man is followed more closely; but the absence of caves is unfortunate, and one would expect, on *a priori* grounds, that really ancient human fossils will be difficult to locate. Dr Andrews' address to the Royal Geographical Society of London was published in the *Geographical Journal*, January 1927.

WOODHENGE

Mrs Cunnington's account of the excavation of the newly-discovered site near Durrington Walls appears on page 92 of this number of *ANTIQUITY*. The story of its discovery—or rather, of the discovery of what it really was—is worth recording, and we therefore quote the following account from a letter just received from Squadron Leader Insall, v.c., who is now stationed at Basrah:—"I was flying a Sopwith Snipe on 12 December 1925, at about 2000 feet, over Stonehenge, when I noticed a circle with white chalk marks in the centre near Durrington Walls. Stonehenge was visible at the same time, and the two sites looked similar from that height. I photographed it shortly afterwards; result—white chalk marks in the plough. Returning late one evening as the sun was setting I noticed there was a distinct depression inside the outer circle, and a gradually rising mound in the centre, both of which were revealed by the shadows. Having been told that it was only a 'mutilated disc-barrow,' and having looked it up in the *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine*, I watched it to see what the crops might reveal. The only mutilation visible was caused by the

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plough. In July, when the wheat was well up over the site, there was no further doubt. Five or six or perhaps even seven closely-set rings of spots appeared, and were photographed [see frontispiece]. I climbed on to a hayrick in the same field a few days later, and although a few dark patches could be seen in the standing wheat, no pattern was visible, and they would have passed unnoticed. From the air the details of the site were as clear as shown on the photograph, if not clearer."

Since Mrs Cunnington's article was set in type, an account of a not very dissimilar monument has been printed. It is situated at Har-endermolen, south-east of Gröningen and in that province, in Holland. The earliest interment belonged to the beaker period, and was surrounded by a broken ditch and two concentric circles of holes which had held wooden uprights. A full account will be found in the *Praehistorische Zeitschrift* (Berlin) vol. xv. (1924), pp. 52-61, by Dr A. E. van Giffen, of Gröningen. The significance of these facts will be apparent, but we refrain from comment until the excavation of the site is completed.

" L'AFFAIRE GLOZEL "

For some years past a number of strange objects have been found at Glozel in France, not far from Vichy. They attracted little attention over here until M. Salomon Reinach referred to them in a letter to *The Times* (27 September 1926). The objects consist of clay tablets with incised characters, stones (some in the form of axes) with engraved representations of animals and with characters like those on the tablets, and the débris of a glass-factory ! At first the whole of this heterogeneous collection was assigned to the neolithic period by its discoverer, Dr Morlet. Later, however, the glass-factory was allowed to fade into the background. M. Reinach expressed the opinion that the style of the animal-engravings was " degenerate Magdalenian ; " and on the strength of this, proposed to assign an age of five to six thousand years to the Magdalenian period. In other words he suggested that the Cave period might have continued to 3000 or 4000 B.C. ! Such a suggestion, coming from any lesser authority, would be laughed out of court ; but M. Reinach's reputation, and his official position as Director of the S. Germain Museum, compel respect, even if assent be withheld. Accordingly the Editor determined to investigate matters for himself. He went to Vichy, and saw the site of the discoveries and the objects ; some of them are in Fradin's farm at Glozel, and some in Dr Morlet's