

and domestic implements which have been found in the lakes. A long period of occupation is also established by the differences shown in the architecture of these lake dwellings, by which we know that these people were progressive, each generation, perhaps, exhibiting new development by the aid of new invention.

From the relics that have been discovered, the character of these lake-dwellings is easily understood. They were built upon piles, driven by some powerful machinery into the bed of the lake. These piles were connected by cross-beams on which a flooring was laid, fastened with thongs, and on this the circular superstructure was reared tall enough inside to allow a man to stand up straight; the roof was peaked to a common center, and thatched so as to turn rain.

The reason for building these edifices is analogous to that which prompts military engineers to surround their forts with moats filled with water. In those primitive times, man waged a continual war with wild beasts, such as the cave-bear, wolf-bear and larger animals, so that these lacustrine habitations proved to be strongholds which such enemies could not assault. While original man was no doubt a hunter, he was also hunted by many fierce creatures from which his intelligence alone protected him.

CURIOSITIES FOUND IN THE SWISS LAKES.

A vast quantity of relics of this extinct race have been recovered from the lakes, which possess extraordinary interest for the anthropologist. The original piles have, in many instances, been found standing, and several were drawn for the purpose of determining the depth to which they had been driven. Portions of the wattled walls of the huts have also been found, together with great numbers of stone implements made at a very early age. Great quantities of pottery have also been found, the crescent being a favorite ornament, and a number of utensils of crescentic shape have likewise been discovered.

These relics were the remains left by the earliest occupants of the lake dwellings; then, as time went on, succeeding generations of these people improved upon the earlier work of their progenitors, and substituted metal for stone, a new discovery, but the manner in which they smelted the ore is not known. Examples of their handiwork, are, however, abundant, such as axes, spears, arrow-heads, necklaces, bracelets and hairpins, and — what is strangely remarkable — there are specimens of the identical article now of nearly universal use in nurseries, *the safety-pin*.