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SCIENCE.

Ancient Men in Wurtemberg.

The following paper is taken from the *Archives des Sciences*. It gives an account of recent discoveries of the remains of human industry in Wurtemberg as described by Professor Fraas.

In 1866, a mason of Schussenried, in Wurtemberg, was obliged to dig a long and deep channel to carry off some water that had been diverted by the drainage of an adjacent swamp. This work led to the discovery of a large quantity of fragments of bone and reindeer horn, and of implements wrought in flint and bone. Dr. Fraas had special diggings made to explore this deposit, and examined the result with great care. The ground cut through in these diggings showed the following succession, beginning at the bottom—a bed of erratic gravel, a layer of tuff containing terrestrial and fluviatile shells, identical with living species, and lastly, a thick bed of turf, forming the existing surface. The bones and wrought objects were discovered in a sort of excavation, or pocket, dug in the gravel and filled with moss and sand. The moss, which formed a thick layer between the gravel and the tuff, was in a state of such perfect preservation, that the species could be exactly determined by M. Schimper. They were *Hypnum sarmmentosum* (Wahl.), *Hypnum aduncum*, var. *Gracilidicum* (Hedwig), and *Hypnum fluitans*, var. *tenuissimum*. These mosses now live either in high latitudes or at considerable elevations above the sea-level, usually near the snow, or the nearly frozen water running from it. They belong to a very northern flora—about 70°—and the *Hypnum sarmmentosum* in particular,

to the limits of perpetual snow. The lower gravel is evidently erratic, and the marshy plain which the cutting traverses rests against a gravel-hill, which is nothing but an ancient moraine, and M. Desor states that in the vicinity of glaciers, hollows are found similar to this one containing various objects, and believed by Dr. Fraas to have been the rubbish hole of an ancient people, living at the time when the reindeer inhabited the neighbourhood.

All the bones found in the moss, which is kept wet by numerous springs, are completely preserved, while those in the gravel are entirely decomposed. The recent diggings exposed a prodigious quantity of bones and reindeer horns. The bones are all broken, having been split to extract their marrow; the horns were in great number, some whole, and belonging to young animals, others had been put to divers uses, and rejected as worn out. It is curious that the teeth had been carefully extracted from the jaws, for what purpose is unknown. Except some fragments belonging to a species of ox, no bones of other ruminants were found, but there were some remains of the horse. The presence of the glutton, of a bear, differing from that of the caverns, and resembling the arctic bear, of the wolf, the polar fox, and the swan, and the absence of the dog, appears made out.

The fauna, like the flora, thus testifies to a northern climate, being composed of animals not fearing cold, and presenting no trace of that mixture observed elsewhere of northern animals with others belonging to temperate or southern regions. The remains of human industry consist principally of wrought flints (600 pieces), lance-points, arrow-heads, etc.; (no hatchets) some blocks (*nucleus*) together with needles, hooks, etc., of reindeer horn. Besides these, some rolled flints, had evidently been used as hammers. Some flat stones, bearing traces of fire, and bits of charcoal testified also to the presence of man. There was no trace of pottery, nor of human bones. Nothing good, nothing whole, was thrown into this ditch; it was simply a receptacle for rubbish.

The fauna and the flora had, as we have seen, a peculiarly northern character; much more so than those of other stations of the reindeer epoch—that of Languedoc, for example. This remarkable fact gives importance to the discovery of Dr. Fraas. Must we conclude from it that the station of Schussenried belonged to a more ancient period? This is probable, but requires to be confirmed by farther investigation. We must notice the apparent inferior civilization of the people to whom these relics