

the question, with which of the later tertiary animals were the first men contemporary? In so far as Western Europe is concerned, there seems to be evidence that several great mammals have become extinct since man appeared on the stage, as, for example, the megaceros, or great Irish stag, the cave bear, and, perhaps, the mammoth and tichorhine rhinoceros. I believe, however, after a careful study of the accounts given of the several deposits in caves and elsewhere, in which these evidences are found, and after personal examination of the celebrated gravel-pits near Amiens, that any inference as to the absolute antiquity of man is altogether premature; and, indeed, the question as to which of the extinct quadrupeds of the later tertiary were contemporaneous with man, is far from being settled. One of the most interesting documents, relating to this subject, presented to the Association, was the report by Mr. Pengelly on the exploration of the cave near Torquay, called Kent's Hole, for which exploration a grant had been given by the Association. This cave presents on its floor four layers of different antiquity. 1. Blocks of stone fallen from the roof; 2. Black loam; 3. Stalagmite or calcareous matter, formed by the dripping of water, and mixed with stones; 4. Red clay or loam. In the upper layers are found modern objects—from the porter bottles thrown away by pleasure parties, to old bronze implements perhaps 2000 years old. In the stalagmite and clay are found a few stone implements, and the bones of animals, many of them now extinct. Much yet remains to be done in this cave, but it seems to have been proved that the flint weapons must be as old as the time when the extinct cave bear lived in England. The mode of exploration pursued is very careful. The interior of the cave is divided into sections, and in each of these the loam is carefully removed, and the objects found in each layer and in each section of the layer are placed in separate labelled boxes, so that every specimen can be referred to the exact spot and depth from which it is obtained. In this way it is hoped that a series of indisputable facts relating to the animals which may have been contemporary with the primitive men of the stone age in England, may be obtained.

Another subject of discussion, belonging to the later tertiary period, is the agency of glaciers and icebergs in distributing the materials of the post-pliocene drift, and in excavating the basins of lakes. Prof. Ramsay, the great advocate of the theory of continental glaciers, was, unfortunately, absent; and most of the