

best was 3.8 meters (10 feet 5 inches) in length. Then there were represented the rhinoceros, the hippopotamus, numerous antelopes and gazelles, as well as pigs, rodents, and beasts of prey.

It was frequently difficult to obtain the bones. Not only was there a dearth of water and a blazing sun, but wild animals would arrive unexpectedly and disturb the diggers. Rhinoceroses, in particular, chased the men from time to time, sending them running through the trees and holding them prisoners for hours. The crumbling walls of the pit provided another obstacle. A precious relic would be seen in about the middle of the 50-foot wall, and those seeking it would have to be lowered by ropes, or rude ladders would have to be made, and so set that the "find" could be reached. When, by good fortune, a place was found upon which a man could stand, the task was easier, for the natural "platform" could be enlarged by the pick.

One day brought with it a great surprise. On the steep incline of the "pit," the excavators found signs of a human skeleton, which was soon laid bare and protected by a straw roof. The discovery was seen to be of extreme age, and in a remarkably fine condition. The stratum about it was undisturbed, proof that it owed its position not to having been buried at the bottom of a hole dug down through several strata, but to having been contemporaneous with the stratum in which it rested. And that stratum is so old geologically that the skeleton must date at least from the Diluvial Period of Africa, which, it may be noted, synchronizes with the Ice Period of Northern Europe. No more precise date can be assigned to it until it has been compared with fossils found during the same excavations. It is typically negroid, and the first fossil human form found at Oldoway. The skull is highly developed, narrow and long; the head is set deep in the shoulders; the chest is massive. The position of the skeleton calls for notice. The legs were drawn up sharply, and obviously in a natural manner. This is additional argument in favor of the belief that the body was not buried; and must be taken in conjunction also with the facts that there are no traces of entombment, and that the contorted attitude is unknown in any case of burial by man. It would seem that the man was driven into the lake, which was once above the spot on which his remains were found, or met with an accident on it, and was drowned. The body would be quickly covered with the mud at the bottom of the water and tufa, and so be protected from disturbing influences.—*Scientific American*.