

## ANTIQUITY

Of course our cemetery, on the dating of its excavators, only takes us back to the period of the Royal Tombs of Naqadeh in Egypt; but behind cemetery "A" lies a long past represented by earlier buildings at the same site, by the painted pottery of Jemdet Nazr and the still earlier wares of Tell el Obeid. When this is remembered, a comparison of the pottery and metal work from Kish with those of Europe, shows that pan-Babylonianism may still be a serious rival to pan-Egyptianism. Let us take a few instances.

The pottery is all made on the wheel, a device not introduced into any part of Europe till a thousand years later, but it has curious analogies with barbaric wares used in various parts of our continent Europe, not to mention India. Almost every grave was furnished with a "brazier," an open dish standing on a high hollow pedestal that is generally perforated. Dishes on a high hollow pedestal also perforated were typical grave-goods at Lengyel in Hungary and recur in many contemporary cemeteries and settlements in the Danube Valley and Transylvania; the so-called "vase-supports" found in megalithic tombs in France and the Channel Islands have a similar structure and again exhibit the curious perforations in the base.

No less general at Kish were large handled jars with a female bust modelled in high relief on the handles. We see the same idea at work on the well-known anthropomorphic vases of Troy and the middle Danube.

The implements and ornaments of copper buried in the graves by the citizens of Kish are peculiarly instructive for the history of metallurgy. The battle-axes bring us near to the origin of the modern shaft-hole type of axe-head. The hole for the shaft was here made simply by bending the butt of the axe back upon itself so as to form a loop. A reminiscence of this method of manufacture may be seen in the imitations of rivet-heads ornamenting the body of an axe from a Copper Age tomb at Tsarevskaya, north of the Caucasus.

At Kish again we meet the earliest examples of the eyelet pin that was destined to become typical of the European Middle Bronze Age. One specimen in which the neck has been hammered out flat bears an engraved pattern almost identical with that found on the round swollen necks of the European pins.

Again the spiral ear-rings with their flattened ends take back an additional thousand years a type familiar to European archaeologists from the hoards of Troy II and the Early Bronze Age graves of Central Europe.

Every student of prehistory will therefore do well to study minutely Mr Mackay's admirable work and will have every reason to be grateful for the prompt publication of his important results. We hope his example will be followed by other excavators. At the same time we may express the wish that the metal objects should be analysed and that the excavator's statement that the daggers and axe blades have been "cut out of sheet copper" should be tested by microscopic examination. V. GORDON CHILDE.

DOWNLAND MAN. By H. J. MASSINGHAM. London: Jonathan Cape. 1926.  
8vo, pp. 422. 21s.

One result of the work of General Pitt-Rivers was that archaeology from being a hobby became a science. Now the alpha and omega of science is accuracy: accurate observation, accurate comparison and logical deduction. To jump with insufficient evidence to conclusions indicates that there is a preconceived theory around which must be gathered at all costs some scraps of supporting evidence. This is unscientific and has

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been unkindly dubbed feminine ; but whereas women are said to jump invariably to the right conclusions by the aid of inherent powers of intuition, Mr Massingham's leaps are usually wide of the mark. A person who thus jumps to conclusions should not complain if, on consulting a doctor for indigestion due to an indiscretion of diet, he has his appendix removed forthwith.

Mr Massingham fights a good fight for the forlorn cause of the Egyptian theory of the origin of megalithic building. His most formidable weapon, for which we must give him full credit, is his undoubted literary ability, and as he wields his able pen he sings a hymn of hate against archaeologists in general, and then rushes in to attack a selected few ; but it must be admitted that the views of all those he attacks are not accepted by every prehistorian.

He suggests that the Neolithic was the Bronze Age and the Bronze Age the Neolithic ; and after turning this academic somersault he proceeds to stir the whole mass up together into a hotch-potch which he would have us term the archaic or megalithic. He believes that the Bronze Age (whether his or ours he does not say) developed exclusively from the Neolithic and was not influenced from without, and he laughs at those who state that the beaker came from the Rhine. He lays great stress on the fact that beakers have been found with Neolithic pottery. The many examples of this association only go to suggest that the so-called Neolithic pottery was made very late in that period, and many prehistorians at the present day doubt if there was any pottery in Britain much earlier than the beaker. But to return to our book. The author argues that Neolithic man knew bronze and all the other materials which he terms "givers of life" and that they did not use it themselves, but unselfishly acted as miners and collectors for their masters, the Children of the Sun. In the intervals of their labours these simple-hearted slaves rushed from East Anglia, the Mendips, Sussex and other ends of Britain along the high level trackways to participate in the religious and social functions at Avebury. In return they were supplied with corn from the Wiltshire terraces. This corn was apparently stored in the great earthworks of the south when the motor lorry broke an axle or the transport union went on strike. The author ridicules the idea that Yarnborough was a defensive camp. It was not only a granary but also a religious structure, and owes its position to aesthetic reasons alone. Yarnborough has deep ditches, Avebury has a deep ditch : therefore Yarnborough is contemporary with Avebury. Q.E.D. It is all so very simple. He suggests that the shape of some of the long barrows of Wilts and Dorset are "remarkably like an overturned ship." To suggest that they are remarkably like the shape of a small boy after a Christmas dinner would be as illuminating. He complains that archaeologists who have excavated pit villages in Wiltshire have dated them as Early Iron Age because the objects found in them have belonged to that period alone. The author knows that his archaic peoples must have lived somewhere, and "the obvious deduction warranted by plenty of evidence as to the Celtic occupation of sites inhabited centuries before the Celtic day" would lead him to date them all as megalithic.

There are some startling statements in this book. He tells us "I have never seen a single Iberian tool that can quite definitely be called a weapon of war," and that "the diminutive size, careful workmanship and association of flint arrowheads with mortuary remains betray their usage for ornament and ceremony." Has he seen the leaf-shaped flint arrowheads still embedded in a human vertebrae which is preserved in the Arles Museum ? It was found in the Grotte d'Arnaud near Arles ; this is an artificial burial cave, not much if at all later in date than our British long barrows. It is common

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knowledge that the weapons of the chase were the weapons of war. Mr Massingham's long barrow at Rainscombe near Martinsell is actually the earthwork of a promontory camp. The statement that three segmented beads came "from Stonehenge itself" is incorrect. It is untrue that "there are just or almost as many sarsens in the Stonehenge district as on the Marlborough Downs," and that "man was not the pawn of geographical conditions" is contrary to general opinion. To argue that because there is a long barrow on King's Play Hill and the slopes of the hill are terraced, therefore the terraces are Neolithic, is to argue that because Salisbury Cathedral is near the gravels on Milford Hill therefore Salisbury Cathedral is early Palaeolithic.

In conclusion we may repeat, in another association, the words of Prof. Elliot Smith in his introduction to the book: "What is most needed at the present time is the elimination of learned nonsense."  
R. C. C. CLAY.

PREHISTOIRE DE LA NORVÈGE. By HAAKON SHETELIG, Oslo, 1926. Williams and Norgate, London. 280 pages, illustrations. 7s. 6d.

This excellent book offers an opportunity of studying a country, which generally speaking, archaeologists have neglected. It has been written with the object of linking Norway with the evolution of the other parts of Europe as a whole, and it enables us to gain a clear conception of the development of the prehistory of that country.

We must cease to visualize a cold and barren land, unsuited by Nature to the wants of Man, and one which only found itself inhabited from time to time under compulsion. It has been proved that the west coast of Norway during the last Ice Age remained ice-free, and therefore, was able to offer Palaeolithic man a desirable retreat. Up to the present the earliest definite evidence of man's occupation comes from a series of open-air sites along the coast between Bergen and Trondhjem. These littoral sites have been geologically equated with the Magdalenian period of Central Europe. The industry is considerably older than that of Mullerup in Denmark and consists of forms resembling Upper Palaeolithic types, including the graver; microliths, picks, axes, adzes and tranchets.

Owing to the scarcity of flint, the primitive Norwegian had to recourse to volcanic rock and schist. This expedient is well illustrated by the celts of the Nøstvet period, an industry peculiar to Norway, and marking the commencement of the Neolithic in that country. It flourished contemporaneously with the Shell Mounds of Denmark. The author continues to trace out, step by step, each succeeding cultural phase, analysing the influences which fostered it, whether spontaneous or suggested from outside. He treats at length of the rock engravings of the "Arctic period," and discusses the difficulties met with in interpreting their origin.

M. Shetelig is of the opinion that the "schist period" which thrived at the end of the Neolithic, was evolved from the epipalaeolithic cultures. It appears that examples of megalithic tombs are sparsely represented in Norway, and only appear at the very end of the Neolithic, whereas Bronze Age tumuli occur in large numbers.

Most types of Bronze Age implements in Norway are based upon foreign models, but that Norway also made use of an independent culture is proved by forms which are wholly confined to that country.

The further one travels northwards the less is stone found to have been replaced by bronze, and it is interesting to note that the Bronze Age influence ends at latitude 68 and that Early Iron Age relics do not occur north of 60 degrees, facts which seem to