

November
TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

MANCHESTER

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

EDITED BY

THE HONORARY SECRETARIES.

VOLUME FIFTEENTH,

PARTS I.—XVIII.



MANCHESTER:

SOLD AT THE ROOMS OF THE SOCIETY,

36, GEORGE STREET, MANCHESTER.

1880.

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ON A TOOTH OF *RHINOCEROS TICHORHINUS*
FOUND AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE PEAK
CAVERN, CASTLETON, DERBYSHIRE.

BY MR. ROOKE PENNINGTON, F.G.S.

The stream which issues from the mouth of the Devil's Cavern (now better known as the Peak Cavern,) at Castleton, receives two important tributaries before it leaves the deep gorge into which the cave opens. One of these affluents is the powerful spring known as the Russet Well; the other is an intermittent brook flowing from the west and appearing in daylight from beneath the embankment along which the road to the cavern is conducted. The Peak river, as it emerges from the cavern, is a combination of two main streams, one of which is identical with that seen in the Speedwell Mine; the course of the other is not accurately known, but it, doubtless, like the Speedwell brook, comes from the depression between Rushup Edge and Elden Hill, that is between the roads to Buxton and to Chapel-en-le-frith, a depression from which there is no surface outlet, and from which many rivulets seek escape by means of underground channels. The intermittent brook I have referred to, in all probability, flows from the same neighbourhood. Although water-less in dry weather, a rainy day or two gives rise to a considerable flow and as each rush subsides, its bed (which is artificially confined by banks) is encumbered with limestone fragments, calc-spar sand (such as comes from lead mines) splinters of bone, and fragments of blue-john spar.

During last Spring, a child (the place is a favourite resort of the village children,) found in the then dry bed, two or three pieces of fluor spar, and what it thought was a curious stone. The curious stone was the tooth of a woolly rhinoceros, and was at once recognised on being brought to me. On carefully examining the place, I found such *debris*

as above described, but neither then, or on subsequent visits, any other tooth or bone that could be specifically identified.

I have no doubt that the tooth has either been washed out from some of the numerous fissures in the limestone which contain mammalian remains, or from some cave, where, possibly, its owner was eaten by hyænas. So far as local experience goes, the former is the more likely. I do not know that any hyæna-den has yet been discovered in the mountain limestone district of Derbyshire, nor has any trace of the hyæna itself been found in that area, unless it be in a recent "find" at Matlock. I am glad to find that a history of this discovery is to be given us to-day.

This Peak cavern instance is probably one of those where the animal died on the surface, its remains being carried by flood or stream to a resting-place in a fissure, till the destruction of the walls of the fissure by the chemical and mechanical action of water once more disturbs the sepulchre, and the bones and teeth are washed out to lower levels, or, as in this case, into daylight again. No inference as to the Peak cavern having been a dwelling-place of either man or beast can be drawn.

This is by no means a solitary instance of the finding of rhinoceros remain in the district, but it affords one additional proof of the residence of this animal in central England during recent geological times.

ON BONES OF PLEISTOCENE ANIMALS FOUND IN A BROKEN-UP CAVE IN A QUARRY NEAR MATLOCK, DERBYSHIRE.

BY MR. ROBERT LAW.

In July last I went on an excursion for the day to Matlock Bath, accompanied by two friends. With a view of collecting fossils, we visited Boden's Quarry, where we accidentally