

NOTICES OF MEMOIRS.

I.—THE ART OF TREPHINING AMONG PREHISTORIC AND PRIMITIVE PEOPLES. By T. WILSON PARRY, M.D., F.G.S. Journ. British Archæological Association, pp. 39, with 11 figs., March, 1916.

DR. PARRY has long made a detailed study of the art of trephining the human skull, and now publishes an interesting summary of the whole subject. Skulls of the Neolithic period undoubtedly trephined during life have been discovered several times in France, but only one example possibly of so old a date has hitherto been met with in Britain. This is reported to have been found with remains of the Irish deer in peat at Port Talbot, South Wales. Two specimens which certainly belong to the Bronze Age have been examined by Dr. Parry, one from a cist at Mountstuart, in the Isle of Bute, the other from a long barrow near Bisley, Gloucestershire. Two other trephined skulls, one from Hunsbury Camp, near Northampton, and the second from the Thames, near Hammersmith, are probably of later date. These are the only examples of trephining hitherto found in Britain. It may be added that the Hammersmith skull has now been placed in the London Museum, where it is exhibited with an explanatory collection arranged by Dr. Parry.

II.—RECORD OF A PREHISTORIC INDUSTRY IN TABULAR FLINT AT BRAMBRIDGE AND HIGHFIELD, NEAR SOUTHAMPTON. By R. E. NICHOLAS, F.L.S., F.G.S. pp. 92, pls. xli, text-figs. 8. Southampton: Toogood & Sons, 1916.

THIS beautifully illustrated little work by the Hon. Curator of the Tudor House Museum, Southampton, is a series of notes on a large collection of flints which the author has made at two localities near Southampton. The two sites are described, with explanatory diagrams, and the chief characteristics of each specimen are briefly enumerated. Dr. Robert Munro appends two pages of "Explanatory Notes", expressing the opinion that the working of the flints dates back to the transition period between the Palæolithic and Neolithic civilizations, which is already known by discoveries of similar flints at Cissbury, in the Oban caves, and in other localities.

III.—UPPER DEVONIAN FISH REMAINS FROM ELLESMERE LAND, WITH REMARKS ON *DREPANASPIS*. By JOHAN KIÆR. Report of the Second Norwegian Arctic Expedition in the *Fram*, 1898–1902, No. 33 (pp. 72, pls. viii, text-figs. 8), 1915.

THE fragmentary Upper Devonian fish-remains discovered by the late Per Schei in Goose Fiord, Ellesmere Land, have been exhaustively studied at Christiania by Dr. Johan Kiær, who describes them in this well-illustrated report. Only one specimen was obtained from the truly marine beds at the base of the series—a head-shield of a small new species of *Macropetalichthys*, named after its discoverer.

Numerous remains of the ordinary Upper Devonian fishes occur in the typical Old Red at the top of the series in association with fossil plants which have already been described by Professor A. G. Nathorst. Fragments of dermal armour of two new species of *Psammosteus* exhibit well the microscopical structure, of which fine illustrations are given. Dr. Kiær also describes for the first time the microscopical structure of the plates of *Drepanaspis*, which he shows to be closely similar to that of *Psammosteus*. He agrees with Bashford Dean that the dorsal and ventral surfaces of *Drepanaspis* are wrongly identified by Traquair, the one being mistaken for the other. A CoccoSTEAN fragment and typical remains of *Bothriolepis* are described, and several large scales are referred to a new species of *Holoptychius*. Dendrodont and Rhizodont teeth also occur. The illustrative plates, by a photographic process, are especially beautiful.

IV.—ON THE GENERIC POSITION OF "*ASTEROLEPIS ORNATA*, VAR. *AUSTRALIS*", MCCOY; WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW VARIETY. By FREDERICK CHAPMAN, A.L.S. Proc. Roy. Soc. Victoria, N.S., vol. xxviii, pp. 211–15, pls. xx, xxi, 1916.

MR. CHAPMAN shows that the so-called Asterolepid fish from the Devonian of Gippsland, Victoria, described in 1876 by McCoy, is really a CoccoSTEAN. A new specimen from the same locality seems to prove that it belongs to *Phlyctenaspis* or to a closely related genus. Other specimens represent a new variety in which the ornament is very dense, with smaller and more prominent tubercles.

V.—NOTICE SUR LA NATURE DE L'ORGANE HÉLICOÏDAL DU *HELICOPRION*. By A. KARPINSKY. Bull. Soc. Ouralienne Sci. Nat. Ekaterinebourg, vol. xxxv, pp. 117–45, pl. i, 1915.

HELICOPRION CLERCI, N.SP. By A. KARPINSKY. Bull. Acad. Imp. Sci. Petrograd, pp. 701–8, text-figs. 5, 1916. [In Russian.]

DR. KARPINSKY, who first described the remarkable spiral of Elasmobranch teeth, *Helicoprion*, from the Permo-Carboniferous of Russia in 1899, is still making valuable contributions to our knowledge of this fossil. He now describes new specimens from Krasnoufmsk, one of them not less than 350 mm. in diameter. He refers to Hay's discovery of *Edestus* in direct association with the cartilages of the jaw, and concludes that there cannot any longer be doubt as to the true nature of *Helicoprion*. The inner part of one new spiral seems to have been broken during life, Dr. Karpinsky thinks through shock. The teeth in the new species, *H. Clerci*, are thicker than usual, and exhibit a slight crimping or plication at the base. They are therefore interesting for comparison with those of the new English species of *Edestus* described by Dr. Smith Woodward at the last meeting of the Geological Society of London.¹

¹ See Reports and Proceedings Geol. Soc., *infra*, p. 381.