

few years, which may perhaps have been peculiarly unfavourable. On the contrary, the extensive, rounded, polished, and grooved border of land, which almost everywhere separates the inland ice from the extreme coast, shows plainly that the inland ice has in many places during the last geological period retired several miles. That this border-land has been uncovered later even than that at Spitzbergen is evidenced, by this fact, among others, viz. that not one of the numberless small sea-basins in North Greenland, in spite of the suitability of the locality for moss-vegetation, has yet become filled with turf, even to the depth of a few feet, which indicates that the slip of ice-free land is but a child of yesterday. It is true that "turf" is the Greenlander's principal winter fuel, but what he means by that name is, in almost all instances, merely an earth consisting of rotten moss, grass-roots, and guano and refuse, which to the depth of a few inches is soon formed on the skerries and islands in the sea, and serves the sea-fowls as places of incubation. The greatest part of the Greenlander's turf-beds are situated on gulls' hillocks ("maagetuer"), and have, therefore, geologically speaking, nothing in common with what we mean by turf layers. It was accordingly impossible for me to collect, as I had desired, by an examination of the older turf-beds, materials for determining the latest Post-tertiary changes of climate that have taken place in Greenland. But instead, we find here many other deposits, which serve at least to give an indication of the changes that the animal world has undergone during the Glacial period.

(To be continued in our next.)

NOTICES OF MEMOIRS.

THE FOSSIL MAN OF MENTONE.¹

Abstracted from the *Comptes Rendus*, No. 26, p. 1597, June 24, 1872.

A SECOND communication on this subject has been presented by M. E. Rivière to the Academy of Sciences, containing an account of the measurements of different parts of the skeleton, and of the associated fossil fauna found in the Baoussé-roussé cavern, and of which a notice appeared in this MAGAZINE for June. The skeleton is of large size and nearly complete; some of the bones of the feet are wanting, as also the lower extremity of the left tibia, and the posterior extremity of the calcaneum of the same side, which were broken during the excavation. From the fractured state of the skull it was scarcely possible to take the exact dimensions; it was elongate, very dolicocephalous, less large than the skull No. 1 (*crâne de vieillard*), found at Cro-Magnon in 1868, with which it offers the greatest analogy, and specially with the orbit, which presents, as in that skull, a very extended transverse diameter, and a very reduced vertical one; the superior orbital margin is thin and sharp, less so, however, than that of the skull No. 1 of Cro-Magnon, and the inferior margin is also less thick than in the latter.

¹ See the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE for June last, p. 272. *With an engraving.*

The different species of animals found near the skeleton, in the determination of which M. Rivière has been assisted by Dr. Sénéchal, are—CARNIVORES.—*Felis spelæa*, *Ursus spelæus*, *Ursus*, probably *U. arctos*, *Canis lupus*, *Erinaceus*. PACHYDERMS.—*Rhinoceros*, *Equus*, *Sus scrofa*. RUMINANTS.—*Bos primigenius*, *Cervus alces*, *C. Canadensis*, a *Cervus* smaller than *C. elaphus*, and which may be that of Corsica, *C. capreolus*, *Capra primigenia*? (Gervais), *Antilope rupicapra*, or Chamois. RODENTS.—*Lepus*, a lower jaw with teeth. Among the animals above enumerated, three by their presence around the skeleton and above it—the great *Felis*, *Ursus spelæus*, and *Rhinoceros*, and which had been found previous to the human skeleton—indicate, M. Rivière thinks, the epoch at which the fossil man of Baoussé-roussé had lived. The Reindeer has not been found in the caves of Mentone, and its remains appear to be equally wanting in the other caverns of Italy. Among the principal objects found near the skeleton were two flint knives, a bone pin worked from the radius of a stag, shells (*Nassa neritea*), twenty-two perforated canines of the Stag, all these objects having the red colour of the other parts of the skeleton and chiefly of the head. This colour is due to peroxide of iron, formed by the hydration of oligist iron, of which the surface of the body had been covered after death, showing the interment of the fossil man. This interment had taken place without any disturbance, on a soil formed of cinders, charcoal, and calcined stones, and among the remains of the life of the period.¹

J. M.

REVIEWS.

REVIEW OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO FOSSIL BOTANY PUBLISHED IN BRITAIN IN 1871.

By WILLIAM CARRUTHERS, F.R.S.

THE following papers have been published:—

BAILY, W. H. Figures of Characteristic British Fossils. Part iii. pl. 28.

The author devotes this plate to representations of four plants from the Devonian measures of Ireland and Scotland, namely, *Palæopteris hibernica*, Schimp.; *Knorria Bailyana*, Schimp.; *Cyclostigma Kiltorkense*, Haught.; and *Lepidodendron utohum*, Ung.

BINNEY, E. W. Observations on the Structure of Fossil Plants found in the Carboniferous Strata. Part ii. *Lepidostrobus* and some allied cones. Palæont. Soc., Mon., pp. 33–62, pl. vii.–xii.

The author figures two cones, which, from the similarity in the structure of their axis respectively to *Lepidodendron Harcourtii*, With., and *L. vasculare*, Binney, he believes to be the fruits of these species. Nine cones, belonging to the same group as that to which the name *Flemingites* was given, are figured, and named as eight new species of *Lepidostrobus*. The most important observation in regard to these cones is the discovery, according to the author, of microspores in the sporangia of the upper portion of one of the cones, and the existence in all of them of sporangia enclosing the macrospores (Binney) or sporangia (Carruthers). (See further on, under EQUISETACEÆ, *Lepidostrobus ambiguus*.) Under the name *Bowmanites Cambrensis* gen. and sp. nov., Mr. Binney figures a Calamitean cone, in which several sporangia were borne in a linear series on each scale. It is to be regretted that the author gives

¹ For a further account of this interesting discovery, see the article by Professor Morris in the July number of the *Popular Science Review*.