The skull, as it now stands, has been built up from twenty-five fragments of its frontal, parietal and occipital bones, and its original owner has been given the local name of 'Saldanha man'. The most striking feature of this skull is its massive brow-ridges and sloping forehead, which compel one at once to institute a comparison with Rhodesian man. In these respects and in the relative lowness of his cranial vault, there is no doubt that there are close affinities between the Saldanha and Rhodesian skulls. There are, however, significant differences, in that the Saldanha skull lacks the post-parietal depression or dent which the Rhodesian shares with the true Neanderthal skulls. In this respect the Saldanha skull resembles Solo man from Java, the recognized Neanderthaloid successor of *Pithecanthropus* (the ape-man of Java). Indications from the attachments of the muscles of the nape of Saldanha man's neck point to his having had the crouching posture of Neanderthal man, whereas the Rhodesian skull shows that he held his head erect like sapient man.

The walls of the Saldanha skull are extremely thick, and I estimate its capacity as in the region of 1,200–1,250 c.c.; that is to say, he had less brain matter than either the Rhodesian or the general run of Neanderthal skulls. Much more significant, however, in my opinion, is the sub-Neanderthal and most definitely sub-Rhodesian disposition of the Saldanha cerebellum in relationship to the occipital lobes of his cerebrum. On the evidence available I have come to the conclusion, therefore, that Saldanha man is anatomically a more primitive variety of the Rhodesian race.

With regard to age, I think I am justified in excluding the Still Bay implements (Middle Stone Age) from being regarded as more than a criterion of terminal dating value. This industry is found in many of the caves in South Africa, and, so far, there has been no suggestion of anything but a sapient type of man as its exponent.

The remaining possible association is with the late Stellenbosch (Chelles-Acheul) and Fauresmith (proto-Mousterian) facets of our Earlier Stone Age (lower palaeolithic). That is to say, it would seem that it was a palaeoanthropic type of man, such as the Saldanha skull undoubtedly reveals, who practised the last stages of the hand-axe culture in South Africa. This implies an association of the skull with the oldest of the fossil fauna, a view which is greatly strengthened by its equivalent heavy fluorine content, as shown by tests kindly undertaken for us by Dr. K. P. Oakley, of the British Museum (Natural History).

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OBITUARIES

Dr. Edwin P. Hubble

THE death of Dr. E. P. Hubble from a heart attack, on September 28 at the age of sixty-three, has robbed the world of astronomy of its leading authority on nebulae. Born on November 20, 1889, at Marshfield, Missouri, Hubble graduated at the University of Chicago in 1911 and proceeded to the Queen's College, Oxford, as a Rhodes Scholar. He obtained first-class honours in jurisprudence; but

his plan to follow a legal career was abandoned when he received an invitation to carry out research at the Yerkes Observatory. His first published paper was on a variable nebula—now known as Hubble's variable nebula. In the First World War he commanded a battery in the U.S. National Army, but reached France only a month before the end of the war. He then spent the best part of a year in Oxford awaiting transport to the United States and demobilization. In the Second World War he worked in the supersonic wind-tunnel laboratory of the United States.

On his return home in 1919 after the First World War, Hubble was appointed to the staff of the Mount Wilson Observatory. He soon established his position as a leading worker in the field of the nebulae. He showed that diffuse nebulae owe their illumination to stimulation by radiation from hot stars. He then turned to the classification of the spiral nebulae and showed conclusively that they are stellar systems lying outside our galaxy. He established a scale of distances from a study of the brightest stars and Cepheid variables in the nebulae. Working with Humason and the 100-in. telescope, he established the velocity-distance law from the red shifts of lines in the spectra; this increased the reliable distances to which astronomers could plumb the depths of space up to 250 million light-years. He studied the law of the red shifts in all its bearings, aiming always at cutting down the number of conflicting interpretations, and he kept always an open mind on the kinetic or other explanations of the red shifts.

One of the main items on the programme of the 200-in. telescope on Mount Palomar was to secure evidence from the outermost regions of space—up to 900 million light-years—to determine whether expansion was the right answer to the problem and, if so, to find the exact law governing the expansion. It was tragic that Hubble did not live to see this investigation carried through to the end. His last account of the stage reached up to the present was given in the George Darwin Lecture at the Royal Astronomical Society last May.

Hubble was in great demand as a lecturer. In Great Britain he gave the Halley Lecture at Oxford and a course under the Rhodes Trust which was published as "The Observational Approach to Cosmology". His other well-known book is "The Realm of the Nebulae". He received many awards and honours from learned societies and academies. In Great Britain he was made an Associate of the Royal Astronomical Society (1928) and Hon. D.Sc., Oxford (1939). He received the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society (1940) and was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Queen's College, Oxford (1949).

F. J. M. STRATTON

Prof. H. Bompas Smith

HENRY BOMPAS SMITH, professor of education in the University of Manchester from 1912 until he reached the retiring age in 1932, died recently at the age of eighty-six. He was at school at Jena before winning a scholarship at Wadham College, Oxford. After a short time as an assistant master at Shrewsbury School, he was headmaster successively of Queen Mary's School, Walsall, and the newly founded King Edward VII School, Lytham. His work at Lytham made him known at the University of Manchester, and caused the University to offer him