

Two small, nearly perfect, earthenware vessels were also found, similar to those known to have been made by the Arawáks. One of these *sappooras* is oval in shape, 7 inches in length and 2 inches high, with a rude handle at each end; the other is round, with a small ledge below the upper margin. Along with these were fragments of pottery belonging to a much larger specimen.

The cave was discovered by the Rev. W. W. Rumsey on the Halberstadt estate belonging to Mr. Gossett. It is in a wild rocky part of the Port Royal Mountains, at a height of about 2000 feet above the sea. The narrow entrance in the face of the hillside was blocked by boulders of limestone. On removing these, a cavern with waterworn sides, partially covered with stalactitic deposits, was displayed, penetrating into the rock for a distance of about 20 feet, and in some places two or three feet high. The floor is covered with a deposit about 12 inches thick, of a fine, light yellowish dust, but the remains were superficial.

The size of the cave is not such as could possibly contain the whole of the individuals when alive, so that it is probable that it must have been used at one time as a burial-place; while the presence of the canoe, mortar, earthenware, coney bones, marine shells, and a flint implement, is suggestive that some of the people may have lived or fled there for safety, and perhaps been immured by their destroyers, the Spaniards. Whatever may be the explanation of their occurrence, the acquisition of the remains, which have been presented to the Museum, will be a great addition to the archaeology of Jamaica.

Museum, Jamaica, May 28.

J. E. DUERDEN.

The Antiquity of the Medical Profession.

WITH reference to Mr. H. Spencer's article on the evolution of the medical profession, in the *Contemporary Review* for June, it may be inferred that his remarks should only apply to its historical state in Britain, and not to that in European countries.

It may be pointed out that the profession had existed many centuries before that epoch in the Roman and Grecian nations, as may be seen by any one in looking over Lemprière's Dictionaries.

We have their medical works handed down to us in Celsus (14 A.D.) and Hippocrates (422 B.C.); likewise the Greek army at Troy (1184 B.C.) had military surgeons (Machaon); and Prof. Simpson had discoursed on those in the Roman armies—papers indicated 1856.

See also Dr. Smith's Dictionary, "Greek and Roman Antiquities," for articles on the subjects under:—Art. Medicus, art. Medicina, art. Chirurgia, art. Physiologia.

The art of medicine seems to have been ushered off the stage in the Dark Ages, and to have been consigned to the care of the monasteries and monks for a long period.

It would seem then, from history, that the medical profession is quite as old as either that of theology or law.

Edinburgh, June 17.

W. G. BLACK.

A History of British Earthquakes.

ON two or three occasions you have allowed me to ask the readers of NATURE for aid in studying recent British earthquakes, and I have gratefully to acknowledge the valuable assistance which I have thus obtained.

If I might trespass once more upon your space, I should be glad to mention that I am now preparing a history of British earthquakes during the nineteenth century, and would thankfully receive notices of any shocks, either past or future, which your readers may be able and willing to send me. Extracts from provincial newspapers, from private diaries, or from any other trustworthy source, would be most useful.

With a view to aiding in the more careful observation of earthquakes in the future, I have drawn up a short paper of suggestions, and this I shall be happy to send to any one who may wish for it on receipt of his name and address. Those who desire to examine accounts of recent earthquakes in this country, I may refer to the *Proceedings* of the Royal Society for 1894, the *Quarterly Journal* of the Geological Society for 1891, and the *Geological Magazine* for 1891-1893.

CHARLES DAVISON.
373, Gillott Road, Birmingham, June 17.

TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT.

IT would have been expected that the various terms of imprisonment awarded by judges should fall into a continuous series. Such, however, is not the case, as is shown by Table I., which is derived from a Parliamentary Blue-book recently published under the title of "Part I.—Criminal Statistics," p. 215. The original has been considerably reduced in size; first, by limiting the extracted data to sentences passed on male prisoners without the option of a fine, and, secondly, by entering the number of sentences to the nearest tenth or hundredth, as stated in the headings to the columns. The material dealt with is thereby more homogeneous than in the original, and its significance is more easily seen. The number of cases is amply sufficient to afford a solid base for broad conclusions, there being in round numbers 830 sentences for various terms of years, 10,540 for various terms of months, and 43,300 for various terms of weeks. The diagram drawn from Table I. gives a still clearer view of the distribution of these sentences:—

TABLE I.—Distribution of Sentences.

Length of sentence.	One tenth (to nearest integer) of the number of sentences.		Length of sentence.	One tenth (to nearest integer) of the number of sentences.		Length of sentence.	One tenth (to nearest integer) of the number of sentences.		Length of sentence.	One hundredth (to nearest integer) of the number of sentences.	
	Recorded.	Smoothed.		Recorded.	Smoothed.		Recorded.	Smoothed.		Recorded.	Smoothed.
Years.			Months.			Months.			Weeks.		
16—	0		24—	5	1	10—	9	34	11—	0	0
15—	1		23—	0	2	9—	59	40	10—	1	5
14—	1		22—	1	2	8—	21	47	9—	33	9
13—	0		21—	2	3	7—	13	56	8—	10	14
12—	1		20—	3	4	6—	185	65	7—	2	21
11—	0	1	19—	2	5	5—	26	81	6—	23	30
10—	3	1	18—	30	6	4—	112	102	5—	77	40
9—	0	2	17—	0	9	3—	480	480	4—	35	52
8—	1	3	16—	3	12				3—	37	67
7—	8	4	15—	16	14				2—	118	85
6—	2	7	14—	3	17				1—	97	110
5—	24	10	13—	4	20						
4—	6	19	12—	79	25						
3—	36	36	11—	1	29						
	83	83		149	149		905	905		433	433

NOTE.—In reading the table, "16—" means "16 and above 15"; "15—" means "15 and above 14"; &c. The number of these intermediate cases are presumably insignificant; they are not noticed in the diagram, where all cases are referred to the upper of their limiting values.