

IN considering the findings of the committees, it must be borne in mind that the geological evidence, more especially in its stratigraphical aspect, is crucial. Several members of the geological committee have visited the sites personally and concur with Dr. Leakey in his view that after the Kanjera and Kanam deposits had been laid down there was great local tilting and volcanic activity. The committee "does not believe that the [skeletal] fragments can have been introduced into the calcareous deposit at a later date . . . the two fragments said to be found *in situ* belong in fact to the original deposit". The palaeontological committee finds that the fragment of human jaw from Kanam was associated with a fossil fauna which justifies its reference to the lower Pleistocene, while the Kanjera fauna "cannot be later than the middle Pleistocene". Thus from these two findings it appears that the human remains are referable on both geological and palaeontological grounds to lower and middle Pleistocene dates. As to the character of the human remains, the report of the anatomical committee is not unfavourable to their high antiquity, so far as can be determined by their condition, points out the absence of Neanderthaloid characters, and, while adverting to the abnormal thickness of one of the skulls, sees no feature inconsistent with their inclusion in the type of *Homo sapiens*. On the archaeological evidence, the human skeletal remains, thus regarded as within the category of 'modern man', are associated with what for this purpose may be termed a pre-Chellean, and a Chellean industry, which are equated with the cultures of Europe of like character through the Oldoway series. The latter are said to be of equal or somewhat greater antiquity than those with which they are comparable in Western Europe. It is to be noted that, archaeologically, the association of the Kanam jaw fragment with a pebble industry assigns it to Oldoway I, a stage earlier than that with which Oldoway man was originally associated—the later phase of Oldoway II.

Control of the Tsetse Fly

ONE of the most terrible scourges of Africa is the disease known as sleeping sickness, which is caused by a trypanosome, a blood-parasite, carried and spread by two species of tsetse fly. Hence there was a large gathering of the fellows at the meeting of the Zoological Society on March 21 to see the film exhibited by Mr. R. W. Harris, who showed what is being done by the Government entomologists to mitigate, if not terminate, the ravages of this insect. Since this war of extermination has to be carried on over millions of square miles, any such campaign might seem hopeless. But it was made manifest that, in so far as Rhodesia is concerned, a considerable measure of success has been attained. This has been done by the use of an ingenious trap devised by Mr. Harris's father, Mr. R. H. T. P. Harris. The trap is made of canvas; box-like in form, and much wider at the top, it is mounted on four legs, keeping it well off the ground. In bulk it is roughly of the size of, say, a small antelope. The flies are not very

discriminating, and on sighting this canvas 'stalking-horse' alight on it, and crawl down according to their habit, to reach the shaded under-side, there to suck the blood of their prospective victim. Their exploration is thorough, but fruitless. But presently, they find a long slit through which daylight appears, entering from a special cage at the top. They at once pass through, and upwards, into what they take to be the daylight and freedom beyond. Passing into this light-filled cage they are unable to escape. Enormous heaps of flies were shown which had been taken from this trap. Yet another trap was shown designed to induce the flies to deposit their larvae therein. Millions of pupæ are taken in this way.

DR. BEVAN joined with Major Austen, who forcefully reviewed the main results of this work at the end of the paper, by deploring the efforts which have been made to control the tsetse fly by killing off big game animals. More than 15,000 head of game in one year were slaughtered to this end. This takes no account of the numbers which died from wounds, owing to the lack of skill of the natives armed for this purpose. This state of affairs has fortunately been stopped, for a period at least, owing to the need for financial economy. It is the more deplorable because, as Major Austen and others have shown, if the very last of the big game animals of Africa was wiped out, sleeping sickness would still remain, since there are numerous small animals which also act as hosts for the trypanosome concerned. Even now, considerable misapprehension exists as to tsetse flies. Commonly one hears of *the* tsetse fly. As a matter of fact there are twenty species, all of which feed on blood. Only some of these depend for their food on game animals. *Glossina palpalis*, carrying *Trypanosoma gambiense* and *G. morsitans*, carrying *Trypanosoma rhodesiense*, are the most formidable of sleeping sickness disseminators. But, as Duke and Swinnerton have shown, in certain circumstances, *G. swynnertoni*, closely allied to *G. morsitans*, may also cause human trypanosomiasis, or sleeping sickness. Dr. Bevan gave a most helpful and interesting summary of what is being done in the suppression of this scourge, and the methods adopted towards that end. It is devoutly to be hoped that his protest against the wholesale slaughter of game, as a means to that end, will now cease, since all the highest authorities agree that even if successful, it would be a futile measure. More than that, as evidence has already shown, it might lead to an aggravation of the evil.

The Kea Parrot

WHETHER or not we may be able to boast 'home-bred' keas depends on an experiment about to be made at the Gardens of the Zoological Society of London. An artificial cave is to be made in the parrot-house to induce, if possible, a pair of these birds to breed, and it may well be successful. The kea parrot of New Zealand was years ago to be found in large numbers. Then, unfortunately, it took to attacking sheep, tearing holes in the back to get at the flesh, with fatal results to the sheep. It