theologico-legal nature, such as for example investiture, adds weight to his judgment in matters of doubtful interpretation; and when, as on occasion, he differs from generally accepted opinion, his verdict cannot be lightly set aside. His analysis of the development of the rite in relation to the growth of constitutional theory out of current events in the successive periods of English history is both stimulating and suggestive.

The rite, as we know it from textual evidence, is traced by the author to St. Dunstan in the tenth century, its derivation being West Frankish; but the elements of the rite, it is admitted, were of a much more ancient origin. Dr. Schramm makes the pregnant suggestion that early practice must be viewed in the light of the fact that, in the passing of possession, the Saxons made no distinction between 'public' and 'private'; while the enthronement of the heir is compared with the pagan custom of seating the one who carries on the succession on the burial mound of his predecessor as a clue to the resolution of the apparent opposition between inheritance and election. While Dr. Schamm points out that there is a magical background to the ceremonial throughout, he has barely touched on this aspect. This is the more to be regretted, as he has thereby weakened his treatment of the origins of the rite in what is otherwise an excellent study.

African Pleistocene Mammals

Wissenschaftliche Ergebnisse der Oldoway-Expedition 1913

Herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. H. Reck. Neue Folge, Heft 4. Pp. 142+8 plates. (Berlin: Dietrich Reimer, 1937.) 34 gold marks.

THE fossil remains of mammals found in the Middle Pleistocene freshwater deposits at Oldoway in Tanganyika Territory are interesting because they include several survivors from the Pliocene period, mingled with a typical modern African fauna. Primitive elephants, such as *Dinotherium* and *Mastodon*, and three-toed horses, which became extinct in Europe before the Pleistocene period, lived in east Africa until towards the end of this period, and were associated with numerous mammals which are only varieties of those still existing on the same continent. We therefore welcome another instalment of Dr. H. Reck's valuable volume on the collection of these fossil mammals which he made in 1913, and look forward to the early publication of a similar report on the second collection made in 1931 by Dr. Leakey's expedition, in which Dr. Reck also took part.

The new instalment of the German report begins with an exhaustive description of the remains of antelopes by Dr. Ernst Schwarz. For this work Dr. Schwarz found it necessary to study and compare the skeletons of the existing African antelopes more closely than they had been studied and compared before; and his observations suggest some changes in the generally accepted classification, which he discusses and tabulates. Among the fossils he recognizes only fourteen species, which are very few compared with the number of species now living round Oldoway. He also notes that some of the fossils belong to species which at present exist only farther north in Africa. With rare exceptions the fossil forms must be regarded as merely varieties of the existing species, but they are sometimes of smaller size with less developed horns. A variety of the brindled gnu is so common that it seems to have lived on the spot in large herds, and a considerable proportion of the remains belong to young individuals.

In the next two chapters Dr. W. O. Dietrich describes some fragmentary remains of pigs and giraffes, among which two teeth and a metacarpal bone of *Sivatherium* are the most interesting. The teeth were at first referred by Schlosser to *Helladotherium*, but the later discoveries by the Leakey expedition suggest that the new determination is more likely to be correct.

In another chapter Dr. A. T. Hopwood describes the remains of horses, among which the distal half of the associated three metatarsals belongs to a three-toed form like *Hipparion*. The teeth, which probably represent the same species, seem to be referable to *Stylohipparion*; this occurs fossil in the Orange Free State. With these fragments have also been found teeth and bones of ordinary one-toed horses, among which the well-preserved lower jaw of an apparently new species of zebra is noteworthy.

In a concluding chapter Dr. Reck himself describes the frontlet with horn-cores of a remarkable antelope, which seems to belong to a new extinct genus. He is to be congratulated on having thus completed the task of making known the Oldoway fossil mammals which he and his colleagues began more than twenty years ago. There now remains only the geological report, which will complete the work. A. S. W.