

striking is the hinder part of the carapace of a gigantic tortoise, together with some detached plates and a bone of the same species. By way of contrast is the fossilized bone of a diminutive species of tortoise. There are also shown part of the tooth of an elephant—the first identification of an elephant in Palestine was from this site—the upper cheek-teeth of a rhinoceros and evidence of a very small form of horse, new to the fauna of Bethlehem. Although there has not yet been opportunity to identify the species with certainty, the indications point to a probably Lower Pleistocene horizon, or even possibly Pliocene. With the animal remains are shown flints selected from a larger number which were found in the bone beds and associated with the fossil fauna. Of these, one is apparently a core, while the others are of characteristic Eolithic or pre-Palæolithic forms. Both the character of the flaking and the forms would seem to place their human origin beyond question. Their association with the animal remains in a definite geological horizon constitutes them the earliest evidence of man's existence yet discovered in Palestine. The exhibition will close on August 7.

#### "Caves and Caving"

THE British Speleological Association, which met for its second annual conference at Bristol on July 23-26, may now be regarded as fully established. It has acquired Cragdale House, Settle, Yorks, for its headquarters—a 'shilling fund' to raise £500 has been initiated for its equipment by the women members—and it has issued the first number of a publication under the title "Caves and Caving" (1s., annual subscription 4s. 6d.), in which speleological studies will be treated scientifically, but in popular form. The first issue opens with Sir Arthur Keith's presidential address "History from Caves", delivered at Buxton last year, fronted by an excellent portrait of the author; Prof. L. S. Palmer follows with an account of the objects of the Association and its work up to the present, the latest undertaking to which he refers being the systematic study of the aquatic fauna, to be found in cave streams; Mr. E. Simpson reviews the life-work in speleology of the veteran, M. E. A. Martel, honorary member of the British Speleological Association, and honorary president of the Spéléo Club de France at its foundation in 1930. Mr. A. Leslie Armstrong counsels caution in "Cave Exploration as a Science"; and Dr. Franco Anelli gives an account of the recent descent into La Preta Cavern in the Lessini Mountains of the Veronese, Italy, the deepest known cave in the world, when a depth of 637 metres (approximately 2,090 ft.) was reached. At the recent field meeting of the British Speleological Association at Gaping Ghyll Hole, Ingleborough, Yorks, 356 descents were made and half a mile of new passages were explored. This is Britain's largest cave. The history of its exploration is reviewed by Mr. E. Simpson in a contribution, to be continued. Among other articles is a first instalment of the extremely valuable record of cave finds, arranged under caves, which is being compiled through inquiry by Dr. Wilfrid Jackson.

It will, when complete, show the present location, museum or other, of all animal remains and artefacts of archaeological interest found in British caves, so far as can be ascertained.

#### New Penguin-breeding Record at Edinburgh

THE Scottish National Zoological Park at Edinburgh has long been famous for its penguins—not only for their number and variety and fine condition but also for the manner in which they have bred there. The king penguin bred first in the Park eighteen years ago, and since that time fifteen king penguin chicks have been bred and reared. The ringed penguin and the rockhopper penguin both bred in the Park two years ago. These were the first occasions on which these three species have bred in Britain, and probably the first time they have bred in captivity anywhere. The latest achievement of this kind is the breeding of the gentoo penguin. The gentoo penguin comes next in size to the king penguin. While the king penguin makes no nest but holds its single egg on its feet during incubation, and the rockhopper penguin and ringed penguin make a rough nest of a heap of pebbles, the gentoo penguin prefers something softer, and collects dead grass, twigs and small sticks which it shapes into a symmetrical nest. It was nearly two months after the beginning of the nest building that the first egg was laid, and a second egg was laid five days after the first. Both parents shared in the work of incubation, and took their turns fairly regularly. The first egg hatched after an incubation period of five weeks and four days, but the second was infertile. The chick has a nestling coat of pale grey on the back and white underneath, and it was observed to feed on the day it hatched. It feeds, as do all 'baby' penguins, by taking partially digested fish from the throat of the parent bird.

#### Acquisitions at the British Museum (Natural History)

MR. J. L. CHAWORTH-MUSTERS has presented to the Department of Zoology 82 birds belonging to 31 species, and a few field mice, which he collected in the High Atlas Mountains, above Marakesh, in the early part of the year. Included among the birds are examples of the rare crimson-winged finch, an alpine accentor, and local forms of the dipper and shore lark. The Entomological Department has received a welcome gift in the letter-book of Dru Drury, a famous collector and describer of insects (1725-1803). He was a goldsmith living in London who had correspondents in Asia, Africa, America, and Australia. This book contains copies, in his own hand, of letters written by him to his friends, his collectors, and his business connexions during the years 1761-1780, and gives a valuable insight into entomological proceedings during that period. Accompanying this volume, and similarly presented by Mr. Charles Dru Drury, are a copy of the auctioneer's catalogue of Dru Drury's collection (1801), and a small collection of letters addressed to him by Carl Linné the younger, by A. R. Lewin (from Australia), and by other well-known contemporary naturalists.