

East Africa, on the other hand, *Hipparion* remains are well known from Pleistocene deposits, and have been recorded from Oldoway, Beds I-IV, from Kaiso and from Lake Rudolf.

The Bethlehem *Rhinoceros* has been compared with *R. etruscus*, since some of the upper cheek teeth appear to be similar; the height of the crowns is, if anything, slightly less in the Palestine specimens. In this connexion it is of interest to remember that the late Dr. W. D. Matthew compared the Indian *Dicerorhinus platyrhinus* with *R. etruscus*.

The discovery of the *Stegodon* remains is of outstanding moment. This is essentially an Asiatic genus, though Dr. A. T. Hopwood allows me to mention that its occurrence in African deposits is now known and will shortly be published. India during the Pliocene appears to have been the great centre for the adaptive radiation of the *Stegodon* group. Here the genus lingered on into the Middle Pleistocene; in Java it is known from an even later horizon. As might be expected, the *Elephas* from Bethlehem is represented by a primitive form with low-crowned cheek-teeth.

The gigantic tortoise is known from a considerable number of plates from the bony carapace and plastron. Most of these were collected early this year and have not yet been examined critically. It will be remembered that remains of a gigantic tortoise were discovered by Dr. Leakey in East Africa in 1935.

Many of the animal remains have been subjected to pressure, and this corroborates the geological evidence that movements must have taken place after their inclusion in the deposit. Frequently it has seemed evident that complete carcasses have been embedded in the deposit, notably in the case of the elephant quoted above by Miss Gardner. Likewise it may be mentioned that so far the animal remains have given no indication of a difference of fauna from different parts of the excavation.

Unfortunately, owing to local conditions, specimens are generally very fragile, and always difficult to extract. It is hoped, however, that further work next spring may result in the acquisition of still larger collections, which will enable us to extend our knowledge of this new fauna.

In conclusion, it is suggested for the Bethlehem fauna that its origin is Asiatic, and that its age is not later than Early Pleistocene, using this term palæontologically as indicating the time of arrival of true *Bos*, *Elephas*, and *Equus*. The fauna also indicate a warm climate, with a more liberal supply of permanent water than is found in the country at the present day. Further, it is claimed for this fauna that it will provide a faunistic link for this period between Asia and East Africa, enabling a better understanding to be reached regarding the migrations and centres of dispersal of various mammalian groups.

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The Lake District as a National Park

THE question of the afforestation projects which are being carried out by the Forestry Commissioners has been the subject of considerable controversy and alarm among residents of the Lake District and those who have an admiration for this beautiful piece of England.

The Friends of the Lake District have recently published a pamphlet entitled "Make the Lake District a National Park" (Ambleside: Friends of the Lake District. Sec., 2 Midland Bank Chambers, 1937), which is, in effect, an appeal to all lovers of the Lake District based on a new method of treating and preserving this unique region without involving any of the upset to local agricultural methods which is one of the strong objections offered to the Forestry Commission's activities. The pamphlet opens with the sentence, "Regions of great natural beauty have a lasting value for the refreshment and inspiration of man." The object of the proposal to create the area a national park is to preserve for the future the outward aspect of the district as at present seen "with the grand and the beautiful in splendid harmony". The formation of a national park does not necessarily entail the nationalization of ownership. "The policy has no quarrel with the essentials of the present system of land holding, or with the enjoyment of private property as such. It can be achieved inside the traditional framework."

One of the great objections to the afforestation proposals of the Forestry Commission has been the disturbance involved to local methods of agriculture, and especially to the famous strain of Herdwick sheep. The fells of the Lake District are rough grazing, occupied by Herdwick sheep; and, since

there is no conflict of interest between sheep and the pedestrian, the local agricultural system and free access, it is said, are good partners.

The valley bottoms are not arable, but grass land with a generous lay-out of footpaths on the 'inside land'; the meadows do not run far up into the dale-heads, nor do the 'intakes' run far up on to the hill-sides. The whole configuration and covering of the land is, given moderately free access, ideal for the formation of a national park. The tourist industry, second in importance only to the sheep, will greatly benefit and thus assist the local hardy inhabitants to enjoy a greater prosperity.

The Lake District extends over parts of the three counties of Lancashire, Westmorland and Cumberland. There are seven planning authorities in the Lake District and half a dozen highway authorities, while the Forestry Commission possesses full powers overriding most of these. In order to secure uniformity, the proposal made by the Friends of the Lake District is that a National Park Commission should be appointed by the Government with statutory powers for protective purposes to override other bodies; that the Commission should receive a grant from the taxpayers' money and that it would be responsible to Parliament only. In return for the outlay the public, by arrangement with the land-owners and commoners, would acquire a right to utilize all paths, etc., which have for long been frequented by the courteous permission of such proprietors and commoners. Any other national parks created in the country would be placed under the general control of the National Park Commissioners.