

ANTIQUITY

hope, I am glad to say, was at once fulfilled. In the following issue of the *Illustrated London News* appeared a letter from Professor Sayce pointing out the close resemblance between these objects from the Indus Valley, and certain Sumerian antiquities from southern Mesopotamia; and a week later appeared in the same journal a longer article from the pens of Messrs. Gadd and Sidney Smith giving a more detailed comparison of the pictographic scripts and other antiquities found in the two countries." The result showed that "the Punjab and Sind antiquities are closely connected and roughly contemporary with the Sumerian antiquities of Mesopotamia dating from the 3rd or 4th millennium before Christ."

Sir John Marshall is most wisely proceeding slowly and has postponed detailed publication of results "until the excavations have progressed further and we can feel our way with relative certainty in this new and unexplored field." A fuller and detailed report is promised after the season 1925-6. It is good news that an American archaeologist with experience in Mesopotamia, Dr Mackay, went to India last year to help in the excavation of these 'Indo-Sumerian' sites.

The association of great rivers and ancient civilizations is a well-known fact. Hitherto the Indus has been an exception. Now that here too the expected evidence has been found we may hopefully look to the valleys of the other great rivers of the World; what has the Ganges in store, and the great rivers of Further India and China?

THE STONE AGE IN RHODESIA. By NEVILLE JONES. Oxford University Press, 1926. 120 pages, 40 illustrations. 12s. 6d.

The problem of prehistoric Africa and the correlation of its cultures with those of Western Europe in palaeolithic times has long intrigued prehistorians; so also has the question, "is Africa to be considered as a cradle or a museum of many of our early cultures?"

In the present volume the author's intentions are modest; but he is to be congratulated on a notable piece of work. He is not intending to deal with the prehistory of Africa, or even to enunciate strange theories: he describes industries and sites in Southern Rhodesia—for the most part studied by himself personally. Evidence of every kind—deduced from stratigraphy, typology, state of preservation of the objects, etc.—is collected and clearly tabulated, with the result that the reader accepts readily the statements made. In the latter part of the book the Bushman race and art come under review and here too is shown a clear grasp of details and their importance.

After a foreword by Sir Arthur Keith and an introduction to the subject with accounts of previous work, there are two short chapters on the Geological and Archaeological classifications used. In the latter a table of West European palaeolithic cultures is given and later a probable correlation with South African industries. One is perhaps a little sceptical of this attempt to correlate our upper palaeolithic, culture by culture, with African equivalents. It is a legacy from the past when prehistorians seem to have assumed that Western European cultures were necessarily world-wide in their distribution. The introduction of Solutreans—essentially a small north European culture—under the hideous designation Solutric (not an invention, of course, of our author) is surely a pity? A technique in flint-knapping somewhat resembling that used by the Solutreans (and indeed by other unconnected folk in other periods) in Europe may occur in South Africa, but why therefore must the Solutrean culture itself be dragged so far south from its probable cradle in Hungary? No, both Europe and large parts of Africa were at one time peopled by upper palaeolithic (neoanthropic) folk, but there were

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rapid developments on different lines in various areas. Even in Europe different developments are not all quite similar!

A chapter on the evidence of human fossils follows, and then an account of the lower palaeolithic cultures which is exceedingly interesting. Here much geological evidence is brought forward. Two series of gravels are demonstrated, the older containing rough (Chellean) tools, the later, fine implements recalling our Acheulean. The author, by the way, disagrees with Codrington and considers the Victoria Falls coups-de-poing as of the same age as the gravels containing them. The existence of a Mousterian industry at Taungs in another gravel of slightly later date than those mentioned above is also stated. Taungs, however, is of course outside the area under review. Most of the upper palaeolithic industries are surface finds and they are not much discussed. The account of the Bushman art is largely descriptive, but the fact is noted that whereas further south a more developed art with complicated scenes is depicted, the more northern examples in southern Rhodesia are simpler without elaborate scenes. A careful study of the superposition of techniques in certain Bushman painted caves (as can be clearly seen in Miss Tongue's well-known book) reveals several distinct ages, for the sequence of the techniques is always the same. Comparisons with the Rhodesian Bushman drawings on these lines might lead to interesting results. The author agrees with the opinion that the Bushman culture is to be connected with the same basal culture which spread over Western Europe at the beginning of upper palaeolithic times. Like environment, etc., may produce similar, though unconnected, industries, as it produces, to a large extent, similar needs. But environment can have little influence in the formation of an art technique, and the Bushman art and that found in rock shelters of late palaeolithic date in eastern Spain are too similar for the fact to be a mere coincidence.

"The Stone Age in Rhodesia" fills a real gap. The author has collected many facts within his area: as he himself says it will be for a later generation of pre-historians to generalize when all the information from other districts has been similarly published.
M. C. BURKITT.

OUR EARLY ANCESTORS. By M. C. BURKITT, M.A., F.S.A., F.G.S. 8vo, pp. xii, 243. Cambridge: at the University Press. 1926. 10s. 6d.

Our increasing knowledge of details of the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods has called for a concise and authoritative textbook on the subject, and for this reason the present volume is opportune. The author intends it to be an introductory textbook for the student without going into "any kind of detail," and it must be confessed that it admirably fulfills its purpose. It deals chiefly with the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods and touches upon the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Ages. The absence of detail emphasizes the salient facts, and for the first time the student can readily grasp the relative chronology and connexion, and probable origin of the various Mesolithic cultures. The contemporary Azilian and Tardenoisean industries rose from the old Aurignacian stock, as can be seen at the Grotte des Enfants near Mentone where the Aurignacian culture, undisturbed by Magdalenian and Solutrean influences, developed independently into the true Azilio-Tardenoisean. The Asturian and Kitchen Midden cultures, although dissimilar and unrelated, were contemporary and later than the Azilio-Tardenoisean and Maglemosean—the Kitchen Midden being a development from the last. The Campignian is closely connected with the Kitchen Midden but is not allied to the Asturian. The author treats separately of the eastern, northern, western and Mediterranean areas of Neolithic Europe, and describes the characteristics of the peoples, pottery and implements