

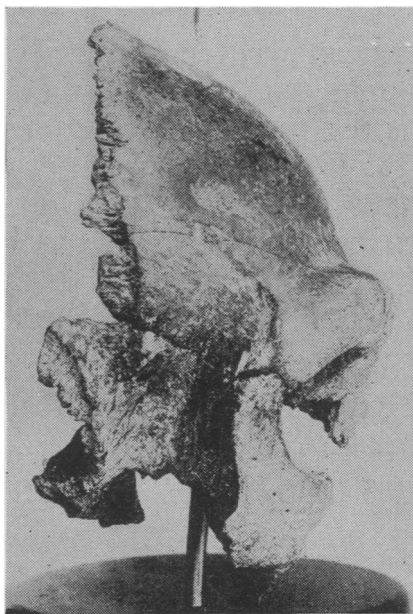
Palestine: 20,000 B. C.

Archæology

By FRANK THONE

Abraham the Patriarch, who emigrated to Palestine about 2000 B. C., has long rated as an oldest inhabitant with most of us. Soundly enough, too, for the Bible, supplemented by the cuneiform inscriptions on the bricks and monuments of the Mesopotamian civilizations on which he turned his back, has been until very recently our sole source of information about the early days of man in this part of the world.

But new chapters in the history of man in ancient Palestine are now being opened up, and they are demonstrating that after all Abraham was comparatively a newcomer in the land which was promised to him and his seed forever. The unlettered but eloquent documents that are written in bones and stones buried under strata of earth in ancient caves are widening the horizon of human occupation of the Holy Land until now it runs back to at least 20,000 B. C.—ten times the span of Abraham's days before the beginning of the Christian era. Bones like those of the famous Neandertal race of Europe, stone implements and weapons such as those used by the Cro-Magnon hunters in Southern France and Spain, are being dug out of the floors of caves known to David when he was a fugitive from the insane jealousy of King Saul, and later inhabited by the prophets of Israel in the days of the evil successors of Solomon. Scriptural history and stone-age pre-history are entwined in a most fascinating fashion in the localities where the spades of archaeologists and anthropologists are now busily furl-



THE GALILEE SKULL, photographed from the right side to show the profile. (Courtesy Illustrated London News)

ing back the dusty curtains of the forgetful past.

To add to the intensity of the interest of these very new discoveries of very ancient human stories, we have the circumstance that the major part of the work has been conducted by a woman. Miss Dorothy Garrod, daughter of a prominent English family, endowed with plenty of intelligence and energy, has chosen the laborious but exciting profession of anthropologist, and spends back-aching days seeking in the rubbish of millenia for clues carelessly dropped by the men and women of long-for-

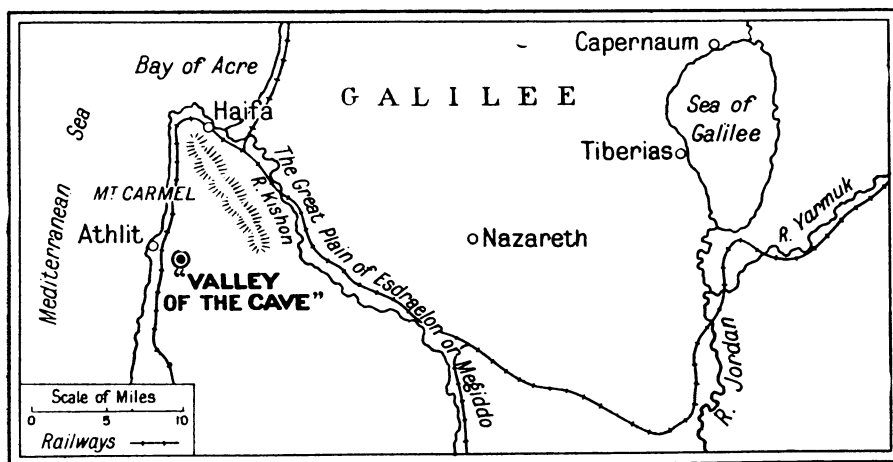
gotten tribes, unintended fragmentary documents that, painfully pieced together, will tell of how they lived, of the wars they fought, of the gods they worshipped. Miss Garrod served a scientific apprenticeship under the famous Abbé Breuil, who has done more than any other living man to unravel the history of the magnificent old Stone Age race we call the Cro-Magnon, and thus equipped herself especially well to meet the opportunities which her finds in Palestinian caves now offer her.

With it all, she insists on remaining out of the picture personally. Very literally out of the picture, for she does not care to be interviewed and she refuses to have her photograph taken for publication. But her work speaks for itself.

Miss Garrod's first big find was made in a cave known as the Shukbah cave, on the seaward slopes of Mount Ephraim, which lies to the northwest of Jerusalem and between that city and the port of Joppa. She made a thorough-going exploration of the deposits on the floor of this shelter. In the lowest strata she found human remains of the squat, powerfully built, low-browed human species that has come to be known as Neandertal man, and with the bones were crude stone implements of the type which anthropologists call Mousterian. Both bones and tools corresponded closely with a sensational find made by a British investigator, F. Turville-Petre, in 1925 in a cave in the northern part of the country, near the Sea of Galilee.

The real find in this cave, however, was buried in the earth layer above the Neandertal remains. It consisted of the skeletons of about a score of men, women and children, together with a mass of stone and bone implements, weapons and ornaments. These latter showed a close resemblance to similar objects made in Europe at one particular level of the Cro-Magnon culture, called the Aurignacian. This was the earliest of the various stages of culture through which Cro-Magnon man passed.

But the strange thing about the skeletons that were found with these Aurignacian-like objects of human manufacture is that they are not of the Cro-Magnon-race at all. The Cro-Magnon skeleton (Turn to page 311)



NORTHERN PALESTINE, showing location of the "Valley of the Cave" where the Magdalenian relics were found, and Capernaum, home of the Galilee man, whose skull, which showed that he belonged to the Neandertal race, was found

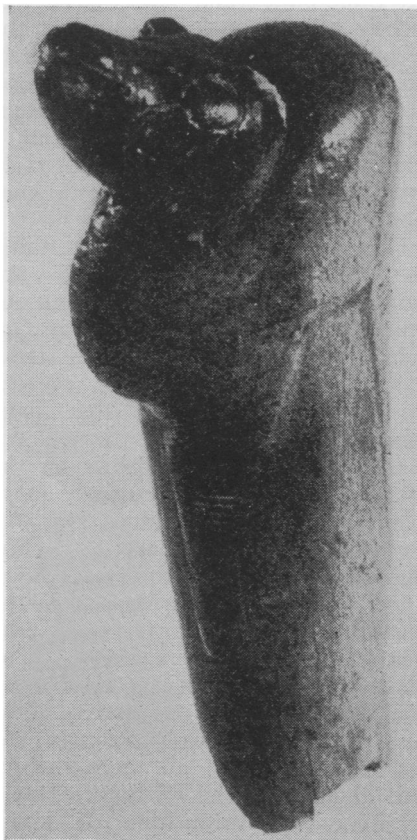
Palestine History Pushed Back—Continued

is something absolutely characteristic, quite unlike its Neandertal predecessors, and equally unlike the "modern" type that succeeded it. The Cro-Magnon man was unusually tall—six-footers are only average specimens—and he had a broad skull with high cheekbones. The skeletons which Miss Garrod found in the Skukbah cave, associated with tools and ornaments resembling those of the earliest Cro-Magnon culture, were strongly suggestive of modern man. Sir Arthur Keith, leading British anthropologist, says of them: "They had narrow, long heads, and their features were not markedly different from the earliest known representatives of the Mediterranean or South European type."

Miss Garrod had not fully completed her exploration of the cave on Mount Ephraim when she was called north to examine other relics of Old Stone Age workmanship and art found in a cave, this time on the slopes of the classic Mount Carmel. A preliminary trench had been driven here by the director of the Department of Antiquities of the Palestinian government, and out of it had come a most astonishing collection of bone and stone objects.

Besides the usual stone knives and scrapers, and the needle or awl-like piercers of bone, there was a shoulder-bone of an animal with a large hole cut through one end. Objects of this kind have been found in Cro-Magnon burials in France, and have been interpreted as "batons de commandement", or chieftains' insignia. This is the first specimen of the kind ever found outside of Europe. In the collection there is also a large bone cleverly carved on the end into the semblance of a young bull calf with its head thrown back on its shoulders.

All these objects found in the Carmel cave are of a type resembling another and later stage of the culture usually associated with Cro-Magnon man in Europe, and called there the Magdalenian, from the location in France where this particular kind of art and workmanship was discovered. And this Magdalenian art represents a stage at or near the end of the Old Stone Age, as contrasted with the early type, or Aurignacian culture, found in the Mount Ephraim cave. This cave on Mount Carmel has thus far been merely sampled, and during the coming spring and summer a more exhaustive exploration will be carried out. In this work Ameri-



STONE AGE STATUETTE, found in the Mt. Carmel cave. It consists of the end of a bone, carved into a calf's head

can scientists will be privileged to have a share. An expedition from the American School of Archaeology will cooperate with the British School, the joint undertaking remaining under the directorship of Miss Garrod.

The discovery of bones of "modern" man associated with implements made according to the specifications of various stages of Cro-Magnon culture is a little disturbing to the simpler notions we have built on the earlier discoveries in Europe. But we need not be too much upset at finding Cro-Magnon cultures out of the hands of the Cro-Magnon race. After all, different races can exist on earth at the same time, using things of the same general pattern. Ford cars, which might he said to be specimens of the contemporary "Detroit culture," are driven by members of the Siamese, Zulu, Maori, Bulgarian and Amerind races. So why shouldn't early Mediterraneans in Palestine and Cro-Magnards in France and Spain be using the same kinds of stone knives and bone arrow-straighteners during the same set of centuries?

Even before the discoveries in Palestine there were strong hints that there were "modern" men in other parts of the world, contemporary with the Cro-Magnon race in Southern Europe. A year or so ago an American expedition in Northern Africa found skeletons of "modern" type associated with bone and stone implements closely resembling those used by the European Cro-Magnards. And during the past few weeks similar discoveries have been made in Kenya, in East Africa, where skeletons of the "modern" type were associated with Aurignacian implements, while in a lower stratum Mousterian (Neandertal) flints were found, though as yet no human remains to show what manner of men used them. It may prove in the end that modern man, the race to which we ourselves belong, will be traced to an origin in Northern Africa rather than Europe; or it may even be that the first representatives of our particular species of the human genus first arose in the ancient lands of the Bible.

At any rate, the caves of Palestine are in for some lively digging during the next few years. The limestone hills and mountains on both sides of the Jordan valley are honeycombed with them, and some of them are bound to yield exciting and even sensational data. Sir Arthur Keith has referred to Palestine as literally a land of promise for the present-day anthropologist, no less than it was for the Israelites of old.

True, the requirements of the anthropologist are not those of the tribesmen who fled from Egypt seeking a new heritage. The cave-exploring modern scientist would rather have stones than bread, and to him dry bones—if only they be of the right kind—are to be preferred above milk and honey. But the caves that the patriarchs and prophets knew will without question meet them to overflowing.

Palestine is the most natural place in the world to look for traces of stone-age man. The inhabitants of that land have always been cave dwellers, potentially at least, even after they had forsaken the tents of the patriarchal age for cities in the valleys and on the hills. The Bible is full of casual references to cave-dwelling episodes in the lives of its characters. When David hid himself from Saul he lived in caves in the hills for a time before betaking himself to the king (*Turn to next page*)

Palestine History Pushed Back—Continued

of the Philistines, to enter his services until it was safe to return to his own country. He may even have dwelt in the caves of Mount Ephraim, thought it is perhaps a little more likely that his wanderings took him more to the south, for Philistia lay on the coast towards the borders of Egypt.

The caves on Mount Carmel have been the abode of men during all known historic time. It was there that the prophet Elijah took refuge when his bristling and uncompromising righteousness made his life unsafe in the towns where King Ahab's henchmen were, and there he founded the whole priesthood of Baal. And after his time there persisted a sort of Jewish monastic community, commonly called the Sons of the Prophet, that used these same caves as their cells. During the Christian era this monastic community persisted and is counted as the primitive origin of the now world-wide order of the Carmelites.

But living in caves, at least part of the time, has not been confined to fugitives and religious recluses. The settled, ordinary, civilized people of the towns and villages, both dur-

ing Bible times and later, have frequently built their houses against the steep hillsides, turning a fortunately located cave into an extra room. Cave habitation then, even in comparatively recent times, has been a perfectly normal thing in the Holy Land, and nothing to make a fuss about.

This will be a most fortunate thing for the explorations which are planned, for the diggings will reconstruct an archaeological and anthropological history of Palestine from 20,000 B. C. down to the present time. The explorations that have been made so far have turned up, in the upper layers of debris on the cave floors, relics of occupancy more recent than the Old Stone Age. In the Galilee cave explored by Mr. Turville-Petre the topmost layer yielded objects dating back to the Byzantine period—the Greek middle ages. Below that were evidences of human habitation during the Bronze Age, to which the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob belonged, as well as Moses and all the Israelites until about the time of Saul. David represented the transition of Israel from bronze to iron.

Below that, in the cave, there was a great gap, of scores of centuries when no man lived long in the cave and only sterile earth accumulated through the ages. Then, at the bottom, the sensational find of the first Neandertal skeleton outside of Europe. The skull was not complete, but there was enough of it to mark the find as a slightly atypical but absolutely unmistakable Neandertal, with the low forehead and gorilline eyebrow ridges that were the stigmata of his species. The finding of this skull, Sir Arthur Keith says, sets the history of the human race in Palestine back to at least 20,000 B. C. Miss Garrod's discoveries on Mount Ephraim and Mount Carmel fill in part of the gap through the Old Stone Age.

But between that and the Bronze Age relics there is still a vast lacuna: thus far no fragments of pottery, no polished stone implements, no bits of primitive cloth, have indicated the existence of man in the Holy Land during the New Stone Age. It is altogether improbable that the country, populated as late as Magdalenian times, and populated again during the Age of Bronze, should have been empty of human inhabitants between these two periods, when Egypt and Mesopotamia were swarming with life. This great middle gap, as well as the smaller ones that remain in the oldest and the newest records, it will be the task of the spades and the brains directed by Miss Garrod to close.

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