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REPORT OF THE NORTHERN NATIONAL MEETING OF THE CAVE RESEARCH GROUP OF GREAT BRITAIN, 1966

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The Northern National Meeting of the Cave Research Group of Great Britain for the year 1966 took place during the weekend 14th-15th May at and in the neighbourhood of Oswestry, Shropshire. The formal meeting commenced at 5.30 p.m. in the Oswestry Library.

The Chairman, Mr. W.H. Little, welcomed members and visitors to the gathering, and introduced the speakers.

Mr. Bernard Chandler gave a paper on "The Ancient Mines of the Lake District", illustrated with slides. Mr. Chandler opened with a description of his exploration of the Borrowdale graphite mines, and mentioned that his research into the previous documentation of these undertakings had uncovered a large amount of information about the ancient mines of the district. He [56] recommended the book 'Mines and Mining in the Lake District by Postlethwaite as a standard work. A large number of mining areas in the Lake District were described, portrayed by photographs of former mine equipment and surface buildings, and by plans of adits and other underground workings. Mr. Chandler discussed the motives of people who explore old mines, and questioned the true value to the speleologist of research into mines not in or adjacent to limestone rocks.

A new departure for a national meeting of C.R.G. was a description of caves and mines in the area. Mr. D. Adams and Mr. M. Jennings of the Shropshire Mining Club described places of speleological interest in the North Wales area. These included the south Shropshire lead mining area near the Stiperstones; Coalbrookdale, cradle of the Industrial Revolution; Llanymynech Roman copper mines; Glynceiriog slate mines; the North Wales limestone outcrops of Eglwyseg and Esclusham, Halkyn and Maeshafn; Brasgyll Gorge; and the western mining region, including Snowdon copper mines.

The final paper described the exploration of the Lancaster Hole - Easegill System, the results of which are soon to be published by C.R.G. Mr. George Cornes described the early exploration, and Mr. Jim Eyre the later discoveries and survey. The whole paper was illustrated by slides by Mr. Ron Bliss. The trials and tribulations of the early explorers were recounted in a saga of lids, leases and inaccurate publications. This explained why it had taken twenty years to produce the survey and manuscript of the explorations. The account was amusingly illustrated by anecdotes.

The Chairman drew attention to the new C.R.G. stand, which was on display with a biospeleological theme, together with an exhibit on bacteria in caves

compiled by Dr. Ann Williams. He explained the temporary closure of the new series in Dan-yr-Ogof to prevent contamination whilst biospeleological observations were taken.

Mr. R.R. Glover announced the speleological research week to be held by C.R.G. in the Gaping Gill area of Ingleborough between 20th and 27th August, 1966.

Dr. R.G. Picknett proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and the hosts, Shropshire Mining Club. The meeting then adjourned to the Bear Hotel for an informal dinner. On the Sunday trips were arranged to Llanymynech Roman copper mines and Glynceiriog slate mines.

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