

remove it. Moreover, there is very commonly much crystalline dendrites of iron and manganese lining the indentations and striæ, and distinguishing them from the few fresh cuts which the pickaxe has occasionally made. I also found that more than three-fourths of the bones in the different museums which I inspected were entirely devoid of any superficial markings, whether of ancient or modern date; and M. Desnoyers and I found this to hold good of some elephant and other bones (more than forty in number) which had been thrown pell mell into boxes by the late M. Boisvillette at Chartres. All of these, though they had been roughly treated, were without any cuts, striæ, or indentations.

The number of the streaks on some bones at Saint-Prest, one parallel set often crossing an older one, is so considerable as to preclude the idea of the whole of them having been due to human agency. M. Desnoyers accordingly ascribes them, in part, to other causes; attributing, for example, some short and blunt ones to blows imparted to them by angular flints thrown against them in a river's bed, for many of them have evidently been rounded by attrition. But I agree with him in thinking that this explanation will not do for the more numerous rectilinear furrows, often in parallel sets, and one set crossing another at a considerable angle. If ordinary river action had been the cause, such phenomena would be much more general, both at Saint-Prest and elsewhere.

To account for some of the furrows which are very rectilinear, M. Desnoyers proposes the agency of ice, and they certainly bear a striking resemblance to those which occur on the smoothed and polished surfaces of glaciated boulders. But the evidence in support of this agency appears to me very conflicting. M. Desnoyers gave me a specimen, about an inch and a half long and one inch broad, supposed to be a fragment of an elephant's bone, the surface of which has been rubbed or planed down so as to be perfectly even. Mr. Busk, after minutely examining it, assures me that a large portion of the original cortical part of the bone has been removed and many of the bone-cells intersected. Over parts of the level surface run several rectilinear striæ and furrows, often two or three of them parallel to others, and some of them almost at right angles to others, as we sometimes see in glaciated stones. But M. Desnoyers also called my attention to another and much larger bony fragment, six inches long and two and a half broad, on which streaks and grooves, identical in character with those on the smaller specimen, appear. Some of these are quite straight, two inches long, parallel, but running in a different direction to others on the same