

outlines bear witness, and the smooth surfaces of their interior, and especially the deposits of mud, mixed with fossil bones and rolled pebbles, which are discovered beneath their crust of stalagmites.

It is probable that the bones of antediluvian animals which fill so many caverns have been forced into their depths through the vertical openings, or shafts, in which the swirling waters of the deluge engulfed themselves.

In the *Bone-Caverns** the soil is usually covered with a thick layer of stalagmites (fragments of carbonate of lime formed by the infiltrating waters). Remove this stratum with a pickaxe, and you arrive at a bed of clay and rolled pebbles enclosing fossil bones.

Where this layer of stalagmites does not exist, fossils are never found ; perhaps because it is precisely the stalagmites which preserved the bones from decomposition. *Above* these stalagmites, whose origin apparently dates back from a very distant epoch, we generally meet with much more recent deposits of alluvium, which are composed of a gray or blackish clay, mixed with organic débris. All these sedimentary strata, which, in the bone-caverns, overlay the various organic débris, long prevented geologists from suspecting the fossil wealth of certain localities, which, in other respects, were well known.

The most famous bone-caverns are those of Gailenreuth, near Muggendorf, in Bavaria ; of Baumann, in the Harz Mountains ; of Kluterhohle, in Westphalia ; of Adelsberg, in Carniola ; of the Peak in Derbyshire, Kirkdale in Yorkshire, and Kent's Hole, near Torquay ; of Lunel-Viel, Mialet, Nabrigas, Bize, Echenoz, and Fouvent, in France ; of Chokier, near Liége, in Belgium ; and the Mammoth's Cave, in Kentucky, U.S.

The cavern of Gailenreuth, which has furnished inquirers with a vast number of bones, is situated near the village of that name. Its mouth does not exceed 8 feet in height, and 13 feet in breadth. A first compartment, 60 feet long, communicates by a narrow passage of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in extent, with a second chamber, 140 feet long by 45 feet in breadth. At the threshold it is about 20 feet high, but it gradually

* [A stalactite cave has been discovered in the rocks near the Clifton station of the Bristol Port and Pier Company. When explored to the distance of some 20 or 30 yards, under the superintendence of Mr. Wilkinson, the manager of the line, many beautiful stalactites were disclosed, some of them extending from the roof to the earth beneath, and, from their size, temporarily preventing the further passage of the explorers. Some bones of animals and birds were also found among the soil, including part of a skull, which seemed to be that of a hyæna. The cave is apparently of considerable length and depth.—*The Times*, December 22nd, 1868.]