

from an unfortunate miner who lost his way therein in 1690, and after wandering for three days and three nights in the obscure Dædalian maze, effected his escape, but in such a state of exhaustion, that he died almost immediately afterwards.

The cavern of Adelsberg, three leagues from Trieste, consists of three immense saloons situated in due succession. The Poigk river sinks and re-appears in it at various points. A naturalist explored it for 3270 yards, when his advance was effectually barred by a spacious lake. It is generally identified with the *Poedicum* of the geographer Ptolemy.

[Kirkdale Cave, in the vale of Pickering, Yorkshire, was discovered in 1821, in the course of some excavations of the oolitic limestone rock in which it is situated. It was examined minutely by the eminent geologist, Dr. Buckland.* Its length is estimated at 245 feet, but its elevation is inconsiderable, and there are few places where a man can stand erect. The remains have been discovered here—under a deposit of mud, incrustated with stalagmites—of the hyæna, bear, wolf, tiger, elephant, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, horse, ox, deer, weasel, rabbit, hare, raven, pigeon, duck, lark, and water-rat. Some idea of their quantity may be formed from the fact that of hyænas alone upwards of three hundred have been counted.

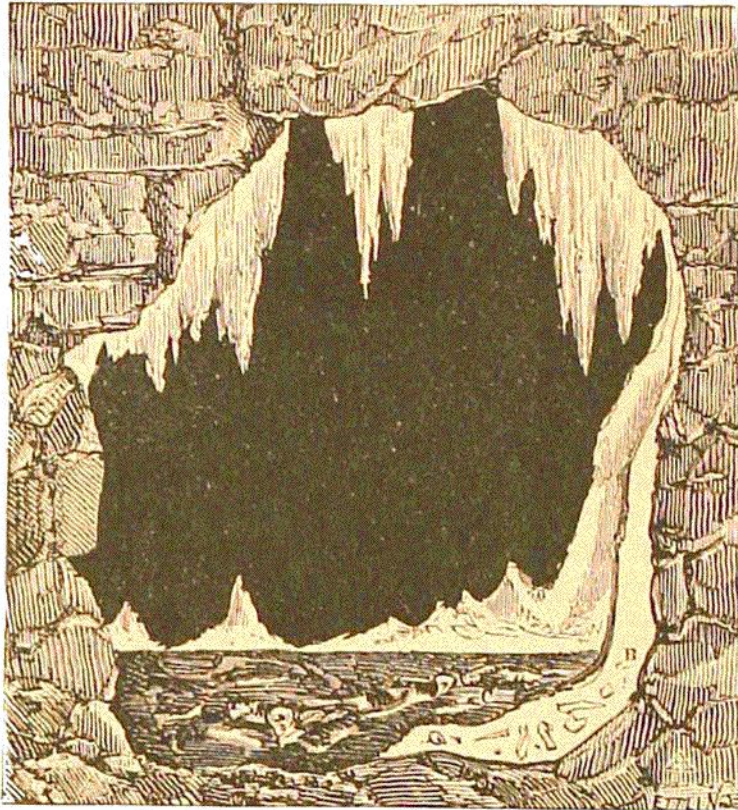


FIG. 167.—SECTION OF KIRKDALE CAVE.

Kent's Hole lies about three-quarters of a mile from Torquay, in Devonshire. Its floor was first examined in 1827, and found to be abundantly rich in the remains of animals no longer existing in this country, such as the elephant, rhinoceros, bear, and hyæna. Flint arrow-heads and pottery were also met with. The entrance is about 5 feet in height. The interior has a maximum height of 18 feet, a breadth varying from 2 feet to 70, and may be explored for a distance of 650 feet, until the way is barred by an impassable pool. The inner chambers are reached by a difficult and unpleasant defile through two very narrow passages, called the *Great* and *Little Oven*.

At fifteen miles from Totnes, elevated some few feet above the level of the river Tamar, is the celebrated Yealm-bridge Cavern, also stocked with the fossil remains of elephant, rhinoceros, horse, ox, dog, wolf, sheep, bear, hyæna, water-rat, and hare; all contained in a stratum of loam, and forming the upper bed of a series of deposits from 18 to 30 feet in thickness.

* [See his account of the cavern in his "Reliquiæ Diluvianæ."]