

loam has been formed on the surface from the decomposition of the rocks *in situ*, aided by the drifting of fine particles by wind and the gentle washing action of rain and occasionally of streams. Some of these brick-earths or loams are of high antiquity, for they have been buried under fluvial deposits which must have been laid down when the rivers flowed far above their present levels. They have yielded traces of man associated with bones of extinct mammals.

Cavern Deposits.—Most calcareous districts abound in underground tunnels and caverns which have been dissolved by the passage of water from the surface (p. 623). Where these cavities have communicated with the outer surface, terrestrial animals, including man himself, have made use of them as places of retreat, or have fallen or been washed into them. The floors of some of them are covered with a reddish or brownish loam or cave-earth, resulting either from the insoluble residue of the rock left behind by the water that dissolved out the caverns, or from the deposit of silt carried by the water which in some cases has certainly flowed through them. Very commonly a deposit of stalagmite has formed from the drip of the roof above the cave-earth. Hence any organic remains which may have found their way to these floors have been sealed up and admirably preserved.

Calcareous Tufas.—The deposits of calcareous springs have in various parts of Europe preserved remains of the flora and fauna contemporaneous with the early human inhabitants of the Continent. Among the more celebrated of these deposits are those of Cannstadt in Würtemberg, which have yielded specimens of twenty-nine species of plants, consisting of oaks, poplars, maples,