

level. If "normal" means the diurnal average, there is no climate that high.

These criticisms are not devastating ones, nor do they reflect upon the book as a whole. Rather, they suggest that some tightening is advisable in a new field where none of us properly rank as specialists. The profession should be indebted to Howells for a beautifully and tightly constructed book, and to Coon for a stimulating and provocative volume that is mostly dead right, but not always.

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FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOLUTION OF THE PILTDOWN PROBLEM. By J. S. Weiner; W. E. Le Gros Clark; K. P. Oakley; G. F. Claringbull and M. H. Hey; F. H. Edmunds; S. H. U. Bowie and C. F. Davidson; C. F. M. Fryd; A. D. Baynes-Cope; A. E. A. Werner and R. J. Plesters. (Bulletin of the British Museum [Natural History], Geology, Volume 2, Number 6.) 63 pp., 7 figs., 5 plates. London. 1955.

The painstaking re-examination of all the Piltdown finds, if this term can be used to designate objects which were never lost, is described in detail here. The major result of the investigation is well known (Weiner, Oakley, and Le Gros Clark; same volume, Number 2, 1953), and the purpose of *Further Contributions* is to present the evidence in complete detail. Summaries of the chemical analysis, x-ray crystallography, measurements of radioactivity, and other technical procedures will be of great value to palaeontologists and archaeologists confronted with problems of association. The entire discovery has been relegated to the status of a sorry collection of artificially stained Neolithic or Mesolithic flints; a well-traveled group of mammalian fossils (some probably from North Africa and the Mediterranean islands); part of what might be described as a richly hand carved, mahogany stained orang mandible; fragments of an unusually thick (pathological?) subfossil or fossil human skull, also stained to conform to the prevailing color motif; a whittled elephant bone; and a few other items, including the famous isolated canine tooth, the finding of which so gratifyingly confirmed the earlier British Museum reconstruction. An interesting by-product is the detection of a probable second fraud, this time involving Villafranchian bears at another gravel pit in southern England.

Although unmasking the fraud and explaining the technical means by which it was accomplished is surely putting first things first, Piltdown Man is not yet ready for decent oblivion. From the standpoint of the history of science and also from simple curiosity, a reconstruction of the whole episode in terms of human relationships and motives is needed badly. Professor Weiner's forthcoming book will deal with the "circumstances and sequence of the finds;" it should be a valuable and perhaps a final addition to the Piltdown bibliography.

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