

August.

The August Meet will be held at headquarters from July 31st to August 3rd. No set programme has been arranged but trips will be arranged according to demand. The main centre of interest will be at Ffrydiau Twrch where Dai Hunt will be leading an all out attempt to break in and so solve yet another South Wales mystery. Another dig will be taking place near Penwyllt where the "Ladies Dig" now renamed the "Gentlemen's Dig" has been restarted. It is to be hoped that the weather will be kind enough to let these digs take place.

The Dan-yr-Ogof Caves which have been closed to the public for so long are to be opened during August weekend. It will be most interesting to see what the place looks like with the lights on and without the tons of sand which is now being removed.

Also during August week members are reminded that the National Eisteddfod of Wales will be taking place at Ystradgynlais.

Committee Meeting.

Committee members are notified that there will be a committee meeting on Sunday August 1st at 8.30 p.m. Meet at headquarters.

Congratulations.

We congratulate Phyllis Millward and Peter Harvey on their recent marriage and we take this opportunity to wish them every good fortune for the future.

Their address is now:-

35, Cromwell Road, St. Andrews, Bristol.

Subscriptions.

Members who have not yet paid their annual subscription are again reminded of Rule 6 which will come into operation on August 18th. After that date all those who have not yet paid will be deemed to have ceased their membership of the club.

Maps.

Ordnance Survey sheets Nos. SN/71 and SN/81 in the 2½" series are now published. These sheets cover the area of limestone from Pwll Swnd to Pant Mawr

Cave Rescue Organisation.

Members who have not yet returned the forms which have been sent to them are asked to send them at once to:-

C. Hill, Penlee, Heol Caerhwys, Rhwbina, Cardiff.

Periodicals received.

"Belfry Bulletin" No.81. of the B.E.C. has been received.

Secretaries and editors of clubs are asked to send copies of their circulars direct to the Hon Editor, Dinmore, Dyffryn Rd., Llandrindod Wells.

Publication Dates.

Newsletters of the S.W.C.C. will be published as follows providing sufficient material is available.

No.8.....	May 1954.	No.10.....	October 1954.
No.9.....	July 1954.	No.11.....	January 1955.

Records.

The original survey of Llygad Lluchwr has been given to the records by Mr. A.H.Hill. Our thanks are also due to him for the set of photographs taken by K.F.H.Murrell in Penderyn Quarry Cave.

Tunnel Cave.

The height of Tunnel Cave from the entrance to the top of Cascade Aven is 390ft.

Llethrid.

Important discoveries have taken place in Llethris Cave on the Gower coast. The Taylors report the discovery of two large chambers. Owing to bad weather their explorations have been held up but a full report is promised as soon as possible.

Publications.

"The darkness under the earth," Casteret. Published by Dent at 15/-.

The book is divided into two parts, the first dealing with the exploration of the ice caverns of Marbore and the second with the dangers of speleology.

Most readers will find little to argue about in the first section which is an excellent account of the author's explorations with his daughters of what must be some of the most beautiful caverns in the world. It is with the second and largest part of the book that the author will come in for criticism. The readers is presented with a very long list of saving accidents of every shape and form. From this list the author pints out how these accidents could have been avoided for it is his object to present these accidents as an object lesson and so to improve the standard of caving. If the careless caver, on reading the book, realises the error of his ways then the author has succeeded but I am afraid that this rather gloomy chapter might dishearten some would-be cavers and it does need much imagination to know what is going to be the result when

Corrections.

Page 3 Line 4 should read:-

Railton and Little were trapped in the RAWL series.

The editor apologises for the typing errors and other mistakes but this newsletter has been produced under considerable difficulty and in great haste.

parents of young and budding cavers read the book.

The accidents cover most of the caving areas of Europe and an account of the flooding of Ogof Ffynnon Ddu in 1951 is given when Railton and Little. This account is not strictly accurate as the reader is given the impression that these cavers were exploring a part of the cave which they did not know.

From the caving point of view the book is most interesting and in a peculiar sort of way, enjoyable. It is certainly a worthy addition to the caving library. Finally it would be interesting to know who the translator is?  
D.W. Jenkins.

"Out of Doors and Countrygoer" July/August. 2/-.

This magazine contains an article called "Caving" by Author Gemmell with illustrations by R.R.Bliss. In this article the author gives a straight forward account of how he came to start caving and the fascination that it has held for him since his childhood days. Arthur Gemmell has the happy knack of presenting his caving explorations in a most interesting way. We are already aware of his prowess in this direction in his previous book "Underground Adventured" which he wrote in conjunction with J.O.Myers.

I have never heard of R.R.Bliss and I feel that my education has been sadly neglected for the photographs with which this article is illustrated are as fine as any collection you will see in the more expensive books on caving.

Members are well advised to spend 2/- to get this most interesting article.

D.W. Jenkins.

#### The Swallets of Llwyn-y-Bwch.

Near the village of Old Walls in North Gower is the farm of Llwyn-yOBwch, reached by continuing past the "Greyhound" inn at Old Walls and bearing left at the fork for about a quarter of a mile. A solitary tree on the lefthand hedgerow marks the entrance gate to the farm itself which lies a few hundred yards under the sweep of Cefn Bryn.

In the vicinity - that is to say within a radius of fifty yards or so of the actual farm buildings - are four swallets active in varying degrees.

On the left and about midway along the entrance drive is a large, shallow depression near which a tiny stream vanishes (no rock visible here). Nearer the farm on the right and abutting the track is a long largich swallet which is now almost dry but which, in former years, took an appreciable stream that used to drive a waterwheel but which has since been diverted. Nowadays a mere trickle comes in from the south end.

Interest centres on two roughly parallel and most attractive

tree-lined valleys to the right of the farmyard which mark the course of two streams rising some considerable distance away on the Old Red Sandstone of Cefn Bryn. Both streams carry a constant supply of water which, does, however, vary considerably with the weather.

Swallet No. 1. (nearer the farm) has not yet been worked to any extent, but some preliminary clearing up revealed a cave entrance in rock at the foot of a twenty-five feet high bank where the stream - in rainy weather - flows to vanish through a low tunnel, blocked at present with an accumulation of driftwood and debris, in a cave some ten feet long and six feet wide but very low. A likely spot this.

For the past year, however, our efforts have been concentrated on Swallet No. 2. where on our first visit in late August last year we were able, after disposing quite easily of a certain quantity of shattered rock, to enter a cave below the small rock cliff.

The stream in the immediate vicinity can sink in a number of different places - all of which proved to connect somewhere underground.

The chamber first entered was filled with a large roof-fall which must have occurred a considerable number of years ago for the corresponding cavity in the roof is covered in one place with a calcite flow. It was about twelve feet wide and twenty feet long sloping rather steeply down following the dip of the strata; the roof of a small parallel tunnel bore a quantity of tiny stalactites.

Nothing else of interest could be readily seen apart from an intriguing cavity between enormous fallen and jammed boulders which showed a drop of eight feet into a space below. At the rear of the chamber (which at that time was little more than a foot high) a black space could be glimpsed behind a "Sword of Damocles" stalactite. This is the sole stalactite worthy of name in the entire cave and warrants its title, not because we are in any fear of it falling, but for the simple reason that we are petrified every time we crawl beneath it in case it may be broken off.

On succeeding occasions sufficient space was cleared (unfortunately by filling up the greater part of the rest of the chamber) to reveal that a particularly evil T-shaped squeeze led into a more roomy - in height anyway - chamber some twelve feet by ten and fourteen feet high.

Nothing obviously leading on could be seen but right in the far corner a tiny hole but a few inches in diameter was found, through which small pebbles could be dropped to tumble away into the distance. Or so it seemed to us.

As this seemed the obvious next move we (our party now consisted at various times of we three, John Long and our farmer friend Edgar Davies - who had originally poured scorn and derision on us and our activities but who by now is almost as cave-minded as we are!) decided to excavate. Clearing finally revealed that the fissure - large enough to climb down fifteen feet - eventually closed to a

quite impenetrable slit. A dead end..... To make matters worse our chamber was nearly entirely filled with dumpings of boulders and clay.

Closer inspection, after rather a disheartened pause, revealed all our energy had not been wasted for between jammed boulders a promising gap appeared. This was enlarged to allow access (at last) to an actual passage. Small, true, and awkward but a passage which divided, one branch being very low but the other though tight being seven feet high and water-worn. The latter gave onto quite an extensive bedding-plane area with two further small chambers. And, to our surprise, the passage curved back and led to the cavity below 1st. chamber.

In one place a cross-rift looked promising and we began to dig here. Of course difficulty immediately arose in finding space to pack the debris which resulted in our having to block up the smaller passage ANDX- our laborious dig in the 2nd. chamber. Such is caving.

At a depth of seven feet we came upon another crawl into a low passage running to the right and - the most exciting discovery yet - there was the sound of running water. A sound difficult to locate but seemingly the noise of a turbulent stream or small waterfall. By removing a large number of rolled boulders we were able to make our way along the passage for fifteen feet where, through a fissure, this delightful sound came.

After more weeks of digging we were able to drop down another seven feet into a small chamber where the noise was very pronounced. Unfortunately the sound appeared to come through a kind of oblong window only about seven inches high - which was too low even to permit the entry of one's head, let alone body.

Nothing for it but to delve once more. Then at long last our patience was rewarded for part of the floor collapsed to leave a black aperture through which (although no actual depth could be seen) the water sounded quite deafening.

It later transpired that we were at the head of a fifteen foot pitch leading down to the elusive stream which fell a couple of feet into a passage (hence the din) and flowed twenty-five feet to tumble away down a rather dishearteningly confined tunnel out of sight, (Incidentally, Arthur Hill, who had a look- round a short while ago, did not seem so depressed at the final tunnel's size as we were and thought that it might be enlarged without undue difficulty - we hope he's right!)

Well, that's our new cave. Ninety feet of rather awkward passages reaching a depth of just over forty feet in a series of drops (which have necessitated the building of a number of retaining walls of rock in places)

There is still plenty of scope for digging as there are a number of clay and boulder filled places which might go. Incidentally we have recently diverted the stream to flow down the cave. This makes everything naturally much wetter but it has at least done

wonders in sweeping away the accumulation of muddy clay that covered the rock.

Before the cave was muddy but dry'ish - now it's definitely wet but fairly clean - of the two possibilities we prefer the latter.

The Taylors.

### Ogof Haffes ?

One of the many interesting features of Tunnel Cave is the frequent occurrence of large passage sections suggesting that all the smaller main rifts are but roof meanders above a large and continuous passage on the scale of Davy Price's Hall but which has since been filled with debris.

At present the water flowing in the cave is only a trickle under normal conditions although after excessively heavy rain it has been seen to flow at about 3 cubic feet per second. It is evident that in times of flood the usually still pool on the right hand side of Davy Price's Hall becomes a fair sized stream. Just where this water comes from we are not yet certain but on one point we are quite sure and that is that the present trickle and occasional little flood would not have developed so great a cave section. Therefore it seems that a larger and more regular source must have existed in the past. The nearest large source of water is the Llynfell rising from the nearby Dan-yr-Ogof but this source is some 100ft. lower and runs from a point well to the west of Tunnel Cave. Although Tunnel Cave has not yet been surveyed these two caves are not estimated to get nearer to one another after leaving Davy Price's Hall. It seems, therefore, that these are two entirely separate caves that resurged at a common convenient place.

The principal passages in Tunnel Cave are estimated to run mainly north and northwest and in this direction is the only other appreciable sink - Waun Fignen Felen (Wiggy-Wiggy). Waun Fignen Felen is dry in dry weather but after heavy rain the flow is roughly comparable with the Tunnel Cave resurgence. A test with fluorescein is obviously necessary to prove this. If this is so, the normal trickle can be attributed to underground collection but the association of Tunnel Cave with Waun Fignen Felen will be definite. Thus the present hydrology will be explained but where was the great stream that developed the big passages?

We are so accustomed to find dry valleys as the result of streams sinking that we are apt to overlook the fact that a change of course on the surface may leave a cave dry, or nearly dry. The explanation lies in the surrounding countryside. A look at the map or better still a walk up the southern slopes of the Carmarthen Fans will reveal the following evidence:-

1. The upper part of the Haffes runs south off the Fans which are composed of Old Red Sandstone.
2. This stream then turns east skirting the northern end of Waun Fignen Felen and runs more or less along the strike to descend rapidly into the Tawe Valley, there being a prominent waterfall en route. Finally this stream deltas above the Gwyn Arms before joining the river Tawe.

3. The entire bed of the Haffes is O.R.S. and drift lying on O.R.S.
4. Waun Fignen Felen is a plateau of drift, the southern end of which lies on Carboniferous Limestone. The plateau is covered with peat some six feet deep having drainage channels eroded through the drift which is sand and boulders as far as is visible.
5. The peat contains remains of birch trees.
6. The drainage channels unite at the southwest end and disappear underground at Waun Fignen Felen sink with the exception of two very minor sinks on the southeast side due to outcropping limestone.
7. Waun Fignen Felen sink has been dug to the depth of 80ft without finding a floor of bedrock.
8. The Dan-yr-Ogof dry valley commences at Waun Fignen Felen and is continuous all the way down to the Dan-yr-Ogof rising.

Prior to the last ice age which deepened the Tawe Valley what was the course taken by the Haffes? Was it not straight across Waun Fignen Felen and down the Dan-yr-Ogof dry valley until it retreated? The stages of retreat would be more or less as follows:-

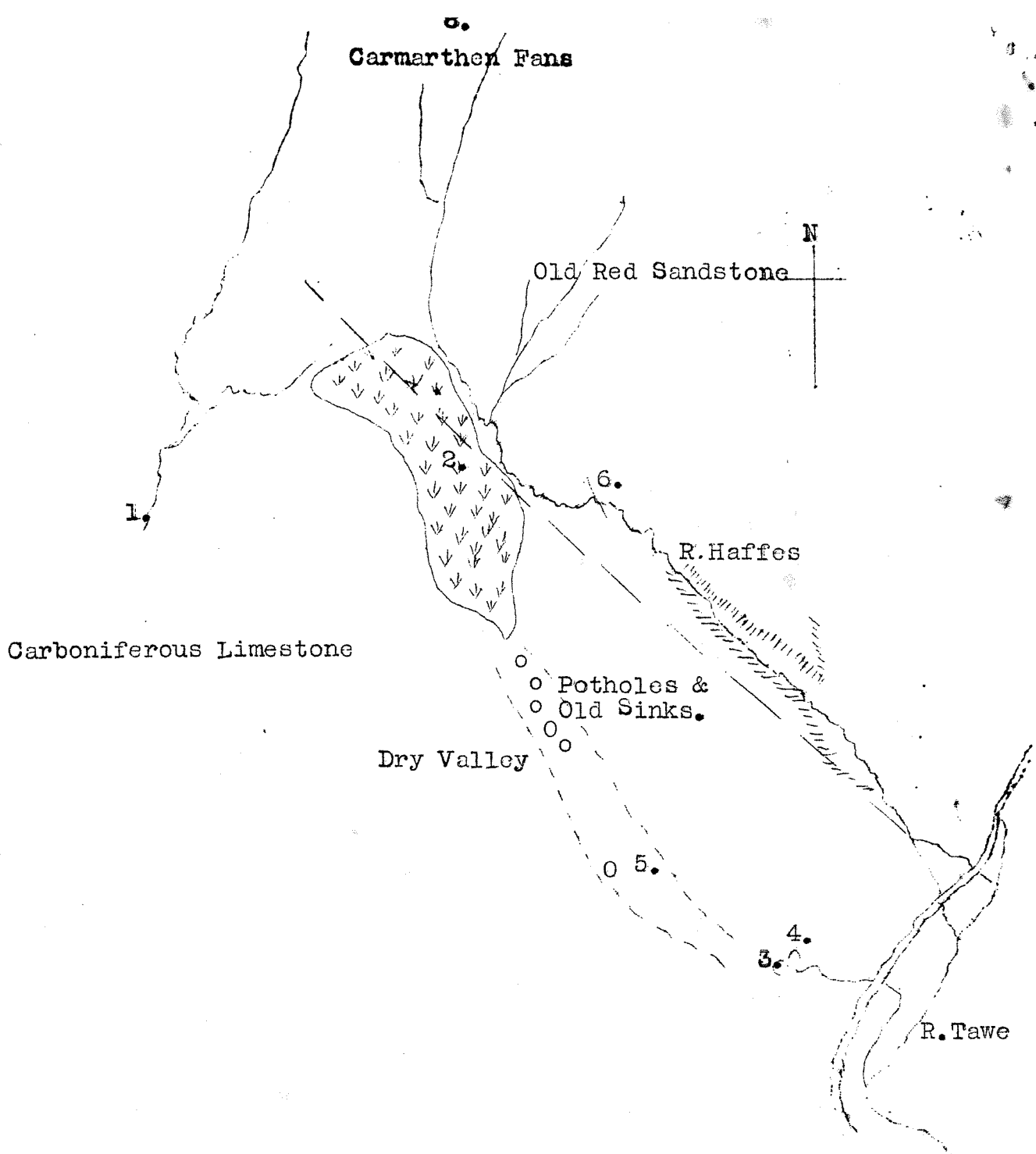
1. Continuous flowing over the surface to Dan-yr-Ogof.
2. Sinking at Pwll Dwfn (320ft. deep pot. - Ed.)
3. Sinking at various points back to Waun Fignen Felen sink and in times of flood also rising at Pwll Dwfn.
4. Consistent sinking at Waun Fignen Felen forming a deep gorge.
5. The Ice Age -- the plateau is ice covered and relatively stationary. The Tawe Valley is glaciated and deepened.
6. The melting of the ice leaves the gorge at Waun Fignen Felen filled with debris forming a plateau and probable lake. There were probably minor streams on the western side of the Tawe Valley cutting back towards Waun Fignen Felen in the O.R.S.
7. The growth of the peat bog and birch trees on Waun Fignen Felen raising the plateau level by more than another 6ft. and damming the flow to Waun Fignen Felen sink. Simultaneously the minor streams gathered more water and cut back towards the lake. The combination of these effects resulted in the capture of the Haffes during flood finally resulted in its complete capture.
8. The birch bog is now left above the Haffes and only receives water as direct rainfall on the greatly diminished area. The introduction of sheep resulted in the deterioration of the birch trees and the erosion of the peat deposit. Finally there was a slight washing out of some of the fill in Tunnel Cave.

If the Haffes did not flow through Tunnel Cave I should be most grateful if some one would tell me why and also what caused the great passages in the cave.

W.H.Little.

Correspondence is invited on this subject and on any other matters of caving interest - Ed.





Scale approx  $2\frac{1}{2}'' = 1$  mile.

Demarkation line between O.R.S. and Limestone is only approximate.

Key to numbers.

- 1. Sink y Giedd.
- 3. Dan-yr-Ogof
- 5. Pwll Dwfn.

- 2. Waun Fighen Felen
- 4. Tunnel Cave.
- 6. Waterfall.

Glossary for Speleologists.Compiled by M.C.Taylor, S.W.C.C.

- ADIT** An earthy resting place. e.g. "Did you know poor old Jones' edit?"
- AVEN.** An exclamatory verb in caving parlance, e.g. "Aven you reached the top yet!", or "Aven you got yourself mucky!"
- BATS.** Temporary inhabitants of the underworld certainly are.
- BEDDING-PLANE** Utility sleeping bags for single cavers.
- BEDDING-JOINT** As above, but for married cavers.
- BOULDER** More daring. As in ancient proverb "Bolde by ye Lion but Boulder ye ruckle"
- BOULDER CHOKES** See CONGLOMERATE.
- CAPILLARIES** The minute larvae of certain species of gnats.
- CARBIDE** A firearm used by the 6th Dragoon Guards when suffering from colds in the head.
- CAVE** (Lat. - "Beware") e.g. "Cave Cancm" - Beware of the dog, "Cave Entry" - Beware of going in, "Cave Pearl" - Beware of imitations.
- CHAMBER PLAIN** Common in Great Britain.
- CHAMBER DECORATED** Definitely continental.
- CLINTS** A popular form of covering for easy chairs in club lounges.
- COLUMN** A formation joining floor to roof, each caver standing on the shoulders of the one beneath.
- CONGLOMERATE** A pudding mixture which, when eaten too rapidly, causes a painful malady called "Boulder Chokes" (q.v.)
- CURRENT MARKINGS** Marks sometimes found on the walls of waterworn tunnels which are an indication of the movements of the surveyor examining the cave at the present time.
- CANYON** This is a frightful hazard frequently encountered when caving - "Canyons to the right of them, Canyons to the left of them."
- CURTAINS** The result of a drip (or an experienced caver, for that matter) falling an interminable distance down a pothole.
- DIP, APPARENT** An inadvertant wetting caused through partial immersion in a pool apparently 6" deep.
- DIP, TRUE** As above but total immersion in a pool 6' deep.
- DRAPERY** A wavy or folded formation in the sodden clothes of cavers as the result of Dip True (q.v.)
- DRIFT** An imperceptible yet irresistable movement across the countryside of a mass of cavers towards the nearest hostelry.
- ERRATICS** Cavers of angular and twisted growth whose personality has become warped through years of exploration.
- ECCENTRICS** see Erractics.
- FAULTS** These occur all over the place in cave systems but their ownership can never be satisfactorily determined e.g. "Whose fault is it?"
- FISSURE** A lonely caver angling in a still, crystal pool.
- GOURS** Vessels used by primitive people, made from the dried fruit of an exotic plant.
- GLACIATED PAVEMENTS** Examples of these phenomena may be found in many cities in wintry weather.
- KARABINER** A slip. Ex. "If you don't stop mucking about with them stalactites I'll give you such a Karabiner on the ear'ole".

- LADDER, ROPE The bane of every male caver.
- LADDER, NYLON " " " " female "
- LEVEL The obvious choice of name for the gently sloping entrance passage to a mine.
- LIFELINE An ESSENTIAL for every potholer, otherwise palmists would all be out of work.
- MEANDERS The wavy course taken by successful cavers after an evening's celebrations.
- NOVICE An amateur who has a nun-confirmed calling towards speleology.
- OXBOW An abandoned meanderer who sits, like Puck, sucking bees in a water-deserted passage.
- PHREATIC ZONE Accomodation offered under the eaves of S.W.C.C. H.Q.
- PITCH A waterproofing agent applied from side to side in the Mendips, etc. (See also under "Vertical")
- POOL DEPOSIT A varied assortment of articles, coins, compasses, etc found at the bottom of deep basins in caverns. The logical result of Dip True and Dip Apparent (q.v.)
- POT That which is carried before obese and elderly cavers.
- POTHOLES Cavities worn in the floor of stream passages by O & E cavers when crawling.
- REPTATION What one gets by creeping and crawling. Ex "Well, you know his(or her) reptation!"
- RESURGENCE Water gushing out with masses of dirt. Most modern housewives firmly believe resurgence to be better than sea flakes!
- RIFT A quite common occurrence underground. The seat is usually the trouble.
- RIMSTONE Frequently deposited underground this substance has remarkably curative properties, particularly when used in the world-famous "Rimstone-and-treacle" tonic.
- SCALLOPS (See Current Markings - but be careful there's an "R" in the month)
- SIPHON A very definite trap for the unwary for however careful you tackle it the whisky is certain to be saturated.
- SINK, DRY A hole, sometimes covered with wire mesh or a grill and invariably bunged up with garbage.
- SINK, ACTIVE As above, but the tap has been left running.
- SPELEOLOGIST One who indulges in speleology (q.v.)
- SPELEOLOGY (American "spiel", talk: Greek "Logos", discourse). The art of talking interminably on subterranean matters.
- SPONGEWORK A typical example is found in the bath after a hard day's caving.
- SEALACMITES Calcite formations sometimes resembling figures (Careful who you are pointing at.)
- STRAWS Delicate stalactites generally found in very draughty passages, e.g. "Straws in the wind". They are the object of every vandal hence "That's the last straw".
- SWALLET A harbinger of warmer weather, but remember "One swallet doesn't make a summer". (Swallets whose tails fork like this must not be confused with swifts whose tails fork like that.)
- SWALLOW-HOLES The nesting place of swallets.
- TURBULENCE MARKINGS Evidence of uncontrolled violence e.g. black eyes etc.
- UNDERGROUND A place where one gets round easily. As you all know "Its quicker by underground".
- \*VERTICAL (See Pitch) The same substance applied up and down in S.Wales.

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