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On a "KITCHEN MIDDEN" AT VENTNOR. By Mr. Hodder M. Westropp.

IN excavating for the foundation of a house at Gils Cliff, near Ventnor, a kitchen midden was lately discovered. In it were found several fragments of pottery, bones, and shells. A fine example of a stone-hammer, or more probably a corn crusher, was also found. It is 8 inches long, with a circular indentation in the centre. In shape it exactly resembles those found in Scandinavia and in Yorkshire, and as figured in Wilson's "Stone Age," and in Evans' "Ancient Stone Implements." Higher up the cliff, the remains of a fireplace and a kitchen midden occur. Among the remains of the fireplace were found a large quantity of charcoal, and some large stones exhibiting deep traces of the action of fire, together with a number of small round pebbles. In close proximity to this fireplace was the kitchen midden, or refuse heap, where were found numbers of limpet shells, oyster shells, cockles, &c., thickly massed together; and in conjunction with these were several bones of the ox, sheep, pig, &c. Intermingled in this heap were fragments of pottery of Roman and Romano-British manufacture. Two rubbing stones also turned up. Several nodules of iron pyrites were also met with, evidently used, as Mr. Evans has suggested, for striking fire. The most remarkable find in this kitchen midden was a small cinerary urn, five inches in width, nearly perfect. It is of an unusual shape, and presents a peculiar and very rare style of ornamentation, consisting of a band of coralline seaweed round it. A fragment of another urn was also found presenting the same ornamentation. Another kitchen midden was discovered some years ago, on making the new entrance to Steephill Castle. It consisted of heaps of limpet shells, intermingled with fragments of rude pottery, and the bones and horns of the ox. It is, doubtless, of a very early period, and of a very rude and primitive age, as the pottery found in it is very rude and coarse, the ornamentation being done by laying a string on the wet clay. From the marked difference of the pottery found in the kitchen middens near Ventnor, they evidently belong to different periods, separated by a wide interval of time. The pottery found in Gil's Cliff must be of a later date, as it is of a very fine clay, and of a black colour, while the ornamentation is very elaborate, and carefully traced in diagonals with a stick on the wet clay. Evidence of a Roman period appears in the kitchen middens in Gil's Cliff, as Samian ware, and pottery of a very fine clay and of a dark red colour are found in them. The rude fragments of

pottery near Steephill Castle evidently belong to the stone age, while those on Gil's Cliff appear to be of the bronze age. Traces of several other kitchen middens occur near Ventnor. In digging for graves in the churchyard of the old church at Bonchurch, heaps of periwinkles and limpet shells are turned up, evidently the remains of kitchen middens; the tusk of a wild boar was also found there. Another was observed near the Ventnor railway station. Intermixed with oyster shells were a number of sheep's bones; a human jaw bone of large size was also found, evidently belonging to some gigantic savage of primitive times. Traces of a rude kitchen were discovered at Underwath, about a mile and a half from Ventnor. A large stone was found over a heap of charcoal and ashes. The food to be cooked was placed on the heated stone, as done by the Australians and other savages of the present day.

On a "KITCHEN MIDDEN" FOUND in a CAVE NEAR TENBY, PEMBROKESHIRE, and EXPLORED by WILMOT POWER, M.R.C.S.E.
By EDWARD LAWS, late 35th Regt., Jan., 1876.

THERE is in the limestone rock, about two miles inland from Tenby, a well-known bone cave called Hoyle's mouth, christened, I fancy, after a Flemish family, for though the name has disappeared in South Pembrokeshire, I am informed it still exists in Cumberland, the site of the first colony from Flanders which was removed to West Wales in the 12th century by Henry First. Many scientific (and unfortunately, also, unscientific) folks have dug in this cavern. Among the former, Mr. Smith, rector of Gumfreston, has been the most successful.

He has found *hyæna crocuta*, *ursus spelæus*, *rhinoceros tichorinus*, *cervus terandus*, *cervus elephas*, *equus spelæus*. Human bones, the remains of domestic animals, chips of flint, and a remarkable hornstone, copper coins of George Third, and an old pen-knife.

What renders this medley the more confusing is that the objects were mingled together, and not distributed in layers as in the more fortunate caves. However, although the upper strata has been ransacked, there are, no doubt, treasures still to be found in the virgin breccia of some of the inner chambers.

I dug for several days in this cave, and objects turned up, but they were evidently the overlooked leavings of others, and, having been displaced, appeared to me to be worthless.

So I determined to try another cave nearer to Tenby, and known as the "Little Hoyle," or "Longbury Bank." At first