NOTES ON A HOLOCENE DEPOSIT AT HARTON, CAMBS.

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THE mollusca noticed in this brief communication were found by the veteran geologist the Rev. Osmond Fisher, F.G.S., and Mr. T. R. H. Garrett, of Jesus College, Cambridge, in the parish of which the former is Rector.

In the same parish occurred the Holocene deposit of Romano-British date, near Butler's Spinney, previously (1903) described by

me before this Society.¹ This deposit yielded *H. arbustorum*, Linn., in great abundance, and is the solitary recorded locality (up to the present time) for the occurrence in Cambridgeshire of *Limax arborum*,² Bouch. Chant. Mr. Brindley states that it has not occurred alive in Cambridgeshire in recent times, although it is found in the adjoining county, Northamptonshire.

The place in which the later discovery occurred, now described in this paper, is about a half-mile from the above-mentioned deposit, and

¹ Proc. Malac. Soc., vol. v, p. 318.

² Marr & Shipley: Nat. Hist. of Cambridgeshire, 1901, p. 134.

Mr. Fisher describes it as follows:—"My notes on the shell-deposit in Harlton clunch-pit are very scanty. I send all that are relevant. The deposit is a thin layer of sandy marl beneath the surface-soil. It is not stratified, and is less than a foot thick. It appears to be a wash, chiefly from the Boulder Clay that caps the hill. I have had some of the stuff brought home, and washed it. It contains bits of flint and chalk, brown clay, and fine sand, and a bit of pyrites. It rests upon a disintegrated surface of clunch."

The height is about 150 feet O.D. It would thus be at a level of about 60 feet higher than the deposit formerly described. From a note made by Mr. Garrett at the time, it appears that above the marly band in which the shells occurred there was from two to three feet of surface-soil.

a, rainwash; *b*, brown sandy clay with shells; *c*, disintegrated clunch; *d*, talus.

The brown sandy clay with shells rests immediately on the weathered surface of disintegrated clunch.

(N.B.—There is only a small planed off fragment in the south-east corner, as though the deposit in the southern (and higher) part had suffered denudation.)

I have visited this pit four times, twice under Mr. Fisher's guidance.

List of species found:—Non-marine: *Arion ater*¹ (Linn.) [6 granules, one very large]; *Helicella itala* (Linn.); *Hygromia hispida* (Linn.); *Vallonia pulchella* (Müll.); *Pomatias elegans* (Linn.); *Jaminia muscorum*¹ (Linn.). Marine: *Ostrea edulis*, Linn.; *Mytilus edulis*, Linn.

The valve of *Ostrea* is much eroded, but the fragment of *Mytilus* is quite bright, and the naere sub-iridescent. As Harlton is an inland village and parish, the occurrence of marine species in such a deposit is decidedly of interest.

Although there is no index forthcoming as to the age of this deposit,

¹ Procured at a recent visit (April 7th, 1906).

judging from the section given above, and its position on a higher level, it may possibly antedate the other Romano-British deposit near Butler's Spinney.¹

I have the pleasure of thanking Mr. Fisher for so kindly transcribing his notes and lending his specimens for exhibition.

Note: The dark layer, marked by crosses (p. 85), is the loamy layer with land shells in which *Ostrea* and *Mytilus* occurred. The boy's height is 5 feet.

¹ Mr. A. Santer Kennard, F.G.S., thinks, however, that the presence of *Ostrea edulis* places it at Roman or post-Roman date. It may be so, but the denudation and planing off of the deposit on the south side seems to demand a longer period than he allows.