

characteristic of the Amptill Clay (Corallian) of Bedfordshire. In the brickfield adjoining the railway a few small oysters were picked up; the Director had found *Belemnites* and *Ammonites cordatus* here on a previous visit. A block of limestone (apparently from a stone-bed in the clay) was noticed, and specimens taken.

An excellent tea at the Five Arrows, Waddesdon, completed an excursion that was a decided success, the weather having cleared in the afternoon, and the whole programme of a rather long walk having been carried out over ground quite new to the Association.

## REFERENCES.

Geological Survey Map, Quarter-sheets 46 S.W. [and 45 S.E.]. Price 3s. each.  
Geological Index Map, Sheet 12. Price 2s. 6d. (colour printed.)  
Ordnance Survey Map (New Series), Sheets 219 [and 237.]. Price 1s. each.  
[The maps within square brackets cover only a very small part of the district.]

1827. FITTON, W. H.—“Strata below the Chalk.” *Trans. Geol. Soc.*, vol. i, p. 26.  
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EXCURSION TO OTFORD AND THE HOLMESDALE VALLEY.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 1897.

*Director* : A. SANTER KENNARD.

*Excursion Secretary* : A. C. YOUNG, F.C.S.

(Report by THE DIRECTOR.)

ON arrival at Offord the party proceeded to the large disused chalk-pit adjoining the station. The President announced that through unforeseen circumstances Mr. W. J. Lewis Abbott, who had intended to act as Director of the excursion, was unable to be present, but that Mr. A. Santer Kennard had most kindly volunteered to take his place. Mr. Kennard then pointed out that the chief feature of interest in the section was a rainwash overlying the Chalk. This deposit varies from one to six feet in thickness, and contains, especially at the base, large quantities of land shells. All the species, with one exception, may be found now living in the district. The age of the deposit is, without doubt, post-Roman, as proved by a Roman bronze pin found by the Director at the base of the hillwash resting on the surface of the Chalk. Other Roman remains were collected by members

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of the party. That this district was fairly populous in Roman times there can be no doubt, as immediately to the westward there is a large Roman settlement, and the well-known Beckett's Well is a Roman bath.

After a short halt to enable the members to collect specimens the party proceeded through Kemsing to Oldbury Hill, the Director pointing out on the way the various features of interest. On arrival at Oldbury, attention was drawn to the site of the supposed Rock Shelters. The late Sir Joseph Prestwich, F.R.S., was the first to suggest the probability of the occurrence of Rock Shelters at this spot, basing his opinion on the great similarity of the position to the well-known Rock Shelters of France. In the year 1891 a grant was obtained from the British Association, and excavations were commenced under the guidance of Mr. B. Harrison. It was found that the scarp had wasted considerably since Palæolithic times, so a fresh trench was dug at some little distance from the present excavation with the result that hundreds of implements and flakes were obtained, all of a superior finish compared with the ordinary River Drift type, and identical with some of the Cave implements of France.

The last section visited was the sand-pit where the celebrated Ightham stone occurs *in situ*. This stone occurs in no other locality, excepting as fragments derived from this bed, and it is consequently of great importance in studying the gravels of the neighbourhood, and also those of the Chalk plateau. It is a quartzite consisting of grains of sand in a siliceous matrix, the great feature being its green colour due to silicate of iron, so rarely met with when subject to the action of meteoric waters, the silicate being usually converted into oxide, giving to the stone a yellow or brown tint. Most of the party secured specimens. The members next proceeded to Ightham, where they did justice to the tea provided at the George Inn. At the conclusion of the meal Mr. Harrison read a short paper on the Plateau implements. After hearty votes of thanks to Mr. Harrison and the Director had been accorded, the party started for Wrotham Station, with the exception of a few members who wished to inspect the collection of flint implements found by Mr. Benjamin Harrison.

#### REFERENCES.

- Geological Survey Map, Sheet 6 (Drift Edition, 1889). Price 8s. 6d.  
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