

Antiquity

VOL. XXIV No. 95

SEPTEMBER 1950

Editorial Notes

THE Notes in our last number were written under holiday conditions. The position is now reversed, and these will be read (if at all) by readers on holiday or fresh from it. That—and the usual pressure of space—is why they are so short. We shall revert to the usual length of three pages in December. The pressure is greatest in the review section, and in order to relieve it we are publishing far more reviews than usual in this number. We should welcome comment from readers as a guide to the future. The extra space is obtained at the expense of articles and notes; is this change approved or not? We do not contemplate publishing quite so many reviews as this in every number; but if the review section continues to be popular we might well give more space to it. (We cannot undertake to reply to any letters we may receive but thank the writers now in anticipation).

The first absolute date from the radiocarbon method has been obtained from wood found in the mesolithic settlement at Star Carr, excavated by Dr Grahame Clark. The date is still confidential, but we may say that it agrees quite nicely with dates already in vogue for the Boreal period. The preliminary report on the 1949 excavations is published in the current number of the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* (New Series, vol. 15; Hon. Secretary, Mr T. G. E. Powell, Dept. of Prehistoric Archaeology, The University, Liverpool 3), of which Dr Clark is the Editor. He concludes that Star Carr is 'one of the richest and most informative sites of the Maglemosian culture anywhere in north-western Europe', and that the site belongs to 'an early stage [in its history], one in which upper palaeolithic traditions are still perceptible in the choice of antler rather than bone, and in the methods used for working it'; and he cites in comparison the technique in use at the famous Late Glacial site near Hamburg. We are thus rapidly discovering exactly how the cultures of the Old Stone Age evolved into those of the New, during the intervening mesolithic period; and it would be very helpful if specimens of wood from the Hamburg site could be subjected to the radiocarbon process. (The procedure to be adopted was described by Dr Hallam Movius in our last number, pp. 99-101). The excavations at Star Carr are being continued this year and are in progress as we go to press.

We regret that, in mentioning Dr Grahame Clark's 'Report on Excavations on the Cambridgeshire Car Dyke, 1947' in our last number, under the heading of 'Important New Books and Articles', we carelessly omitted to say where it was published. It appeared in the *Antiquaries Journal* for July-October, 1949 (Vol. XXIX, pp. 145-163).