In conclusion, I would point out that evolution is only to be considered a negligible factor in the growth of populations of short duration, because its operations are slow. Surely, however, it must have had an effect upon the growths of the comparatively undisturbed populations of prehistoric days.

JOHN STANLEY

THE GROWTH OF STALACTITES

ANOTHER example of the formation of stalactites from the lime mortar used in a brick arch, under conditions similar to those described by Professor Ellis in SCIENCE for January 16, 1931, and by me in SCIENCE for April 10, 1931, has just come to my attention.

In sinking a well near Put-In-Bay, Ohio, on South Bass Island in Lake Erie, north of Sandusky, in 1897, the workmen broke into an unusually large vug lined with crystals of celestite. In 1901 a winding path for descending into the vug was constructed in order to make this vug available for exhibition purposes as the "Crystal Cave" and a brick arch was built over this passageway, both to give a more cave-like effect and to prevent surface material from washing in.

Surface waters, percolating slowly through the mortar joints of this arch, began the formation of stalactites immediately after its completion. This growth has been allowed to continue undisturbed for the past 30 years, until now the largest stalactites have attained a length of about six inches. Thus the rate of growth at Put-In-Bay is indicated quite accurately and, according to the data available for Fort Pickens, Fort Delaware, and Put-In-Bay, the rate of growth in all three instances is of the same order of magnitude.

The mainfall at Put-In-Bay is rather less than the rainfall at Fort Pickens and at Fort Delaware. It also appears that the rate of growth of stalactites at Put-In-Bay is somewhat less, but the relation between rainfall and rate of growth of stalactites in these cases may be no more than a coincidence. Without further information as to other factors it would be unsafe to assume that rainfall is the dominant factor in determining the relative rates of stalactite growth in these cases.

Stalactites and stalagmites, growing under purely natural conditions, are found in other caves in the vicinity of Put-In-Bay, but I have been unable to obtain information as to their rate of growth.

GRAGG RICHARDS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

FIELD ANTHROPOLOGY IN AUSTRALIA

FOR some years the Rockefeller Foundation has supported anthropological research in Australia. One of the chief centers of activity has been at the University of Adelaide, and during the last four years various expeditions have been undertaken by its board of anthropological research. The members of the most recent of these have just returned from Central Australia, where they have been successful in adding to our knowledge of the native Australian.

The locality chosen for this expedition was Cockatoo Creek, a spot about two hundred miles northwest of Alice Springs and about one hundred miles west of the geographical center of the continent. The site was beyond the country stocked with cattle; it was still occupied by a scattered population of more or less nomadic aborigines, entirely dependent for their subsistence on their own resources, unable to speak English, and in the majority of cases without having had any previous direct contact with Europeans.

Awaiting the expedition's arrival, a large number of natives, comprising chiefly members of the Ilpirra and Anmatjera tribes, but including a few Kukatja, Ngalia, and Walmala folk, had been assembled, and others arrived during their stay; in all, about one hundred and fifty individuals—men, women and children—were gathered together, having heard of our pacific intentions and being attracted by the novelty and by the promise of food in abundance. Amongst the tribes thus collected were members of one which only a few years ago had been responsible for the killing of one European and for attacks on others. Later, several reprisals had been taken by the police and a number of natives had been killed. To the expedition not the slightest sign of hostility was exhibited; the most cordial relations were established. The serious business of the scientific investigations was lightened by the good temper of the natives and leavened by their keen sense of humor. There was not the slightest suspicion that any malicious and magical use might be made, by members of the expedition, of the blood that was abstracted for blood-grouping, or of the samples of hair that were taken. They submitted with docility to tests that try the patience of Europeans.

Like previous expeditions undertaken by the University of Adelaide, teamwork was a feature of the one to Cockatoo Creek. Its personnel consisted of Dr. T. D. Campbell (organizer) and Mr. H. Gray, a student of medicine, whose work consisted of routine anthropometry, dental investigations, etc.; Professors J. B. Cleland and T. Harvey Johnston (blood-grouping, pathological conditions, etc.); Professor C. S.