

his presence. After which, we gave him a good bath,—for the passing centuries had left him very dirty,—and then took his photograph and a mould of him in paper.

Entire seasons could be spent in this cave work, and not a day pass without the discovery of some important fact or interesting specimen.

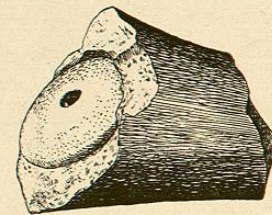


FIG. 19.—FRAGMENT OF WHISTLING VESSEL. †.

But we had accomplished the object of our researches in this, the typical cave of Yucatan. We had delved through the deposits of the present day, through the accumulations of unknown centuries, down to and into the crystalline surface of the ancient floor itself.

Our steel chisel points had probed into the ages when, in all probability, the Peninsula of Yucatan was newly risen from the depths and none save the strange creatures of the sea knew her secret chambers. This grotto, unlike those of Montmatre and Hohenfels, told no tales of the man beast. On the contrary, from the earliest period of its use as a human habitation, the people seem to have been of the same manners, religious customs, and household habits as those who built the great structures above them now in ruins.

It would be vastly interesting, no doubt, to be able to state that split human bones, charred by fire, were found, thus proving that cannibalism was indulged in, among other strange customs; but the sober truth compels us to say, that while we found a number of human bones, some in fragments, others whole,

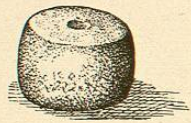


FIG. 20.—BEAD OF IRON PYRITES. †.

none showed any trace of being charred by fire or any other evidence of cannibalism. And I have no hesitation in expressing my firm conviction, based not only on the evidence obtained by this investigation, but upon studies personally carried on in other caves, that no people or race of so-called Cave People ever existed in Yucatan. And that, while these caves of the Loltun type were undoubtedly inhabited, it was by the same race and people that built the great stone structures now in ruins; and I furthermore believe that the caves were only temporary places of refuge, and not permanent habitations.

EXPLANATION OF PLATES.

PLATE I.

- FIG. 1. Principal Entrance to the Cave of Loltun.
FIG. 2. Stalactites in the Inscription Chamber (third Chamber).

PLATE II.

- FIG. 1. Inscription 1 in third Chamber.
FIG. 2. Inscription 6 in third Chamber.

PLATE III.

- FIG. 1. Inscription 2 in third Chamber.
FIG. 2. Inscription 7 in third Chamber.

PLATE IV.

- FIG. 1. Inscription 4 *a* in third Chamber.
FIG. 2. Inscription 4 *b* on same Rock as 4 *a*.

PLATE V.

Inscription 3 in third Chamber.

PLATE VI.

Bas-relief on Wall near one of the Entrances to the Cave.

PLATE VII.

- FIG. 1. Terra-cotta Objects found in the Excavations made in the Cave.
- a. Stamp, with short handle upon side not shown in illustration.
 - b. Balls, such as are frequently found within hollow legs of vessels.
 - c. Globular Beads.
 - d. Cylindrical Beads.
 - e. Ornamented Bead-like Object.
 - f. Potsherd Discs.
 - g. Potsherd Discs, perforated.
 - h. Legs of Vessels.
 - i. Potsherds with painted decorations.
 - j. Potsherds with incised decorations.

- FIG. 2. Implements of Stone found in Excavations.
- a. Obsidian Knives.
 - b. Rude Chipped Implement of Flint.
 - c. Flint Knives or Scrapers.
 - d. Flint Scraper.
 - e. Leaf-shaped Knife of Flint.
 - f. Leaf-shaped Knife of Flint, broken.
 - g. Flint Knife.
 - h. Flint Arrowheads.
 - i. Fragment of Stone Implement.
 - j. Perforated Stones.
 - k. Artificially shaped Stone Balls.
 - l. Muller or Grinding Stone.

PLATE VIII.

- FIG. 1. Terra-cotta Objects found in the Excavations. These are probably fragments of ornamental figures, and many of them are decorated in unburnt colors, including white, black, red, brown, green, and yellow.

- FIG. 2. Fragments of Vessels, including Handles and Portions of Rims.



FIG. 1. SECTION THROUGH THE CAVE OF LOULTUN.

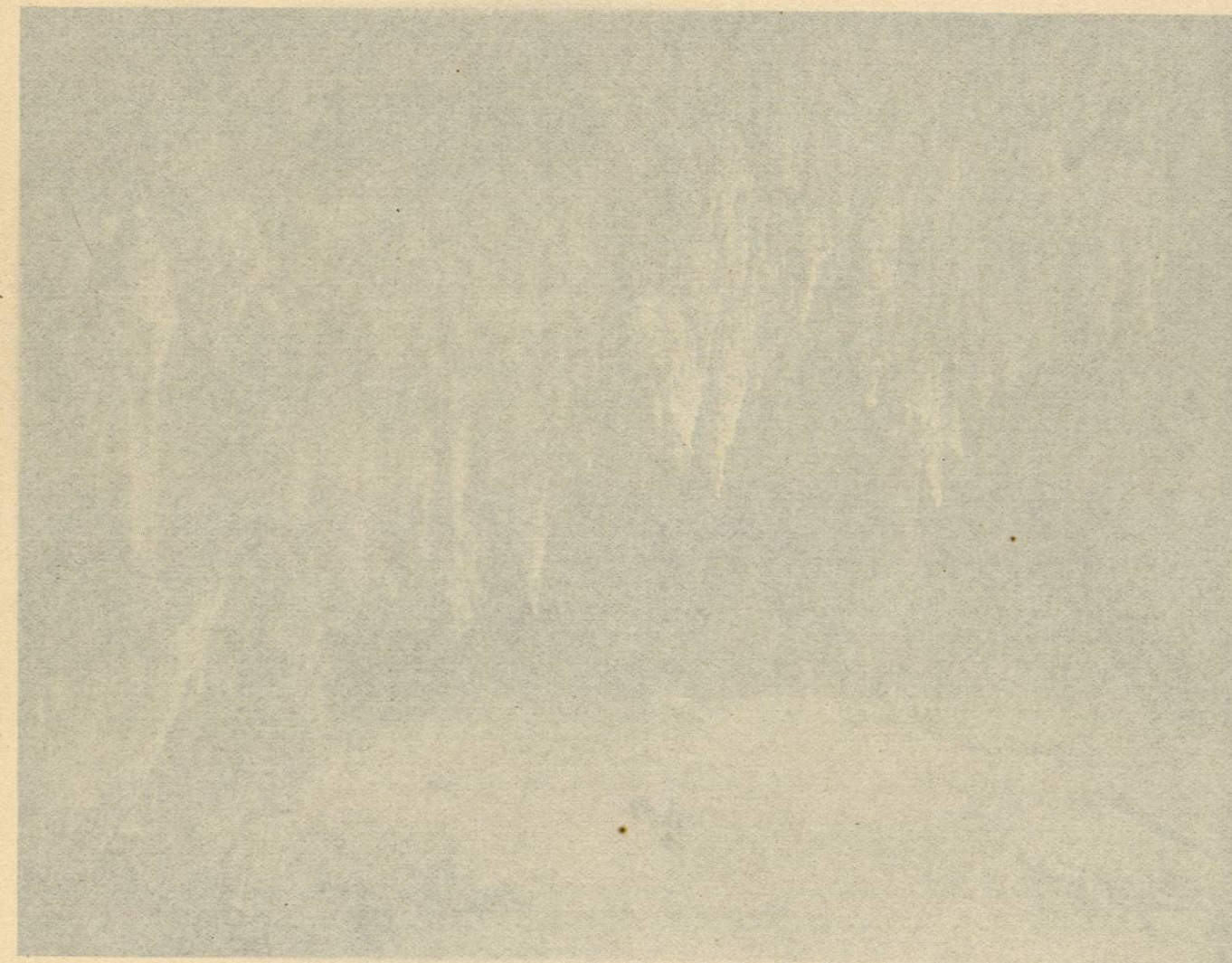


FIG. 2. SECTION THROUGH THE CAVE OF LOULTUN.