



The Entrances to Two of the Galleries

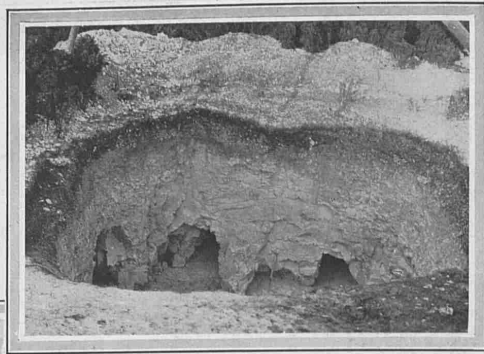
The discovery of what may be declared one of the most interesting prehistoric sites in England was made a short while ago at Blackpatch, Clapham, near Worthing, by Mr. H. J. Pull and Mr. H. Bunce of the Worthing Archæological Society.

Blackpatch is an elevation of the chalk rising 500 ft. in the heart of the South Downs. Within half a mile of its summit, above the 300-ft. contour, were found to exist sixty-four shallow circular depressions varying from 10 to 40 ft. in diameter. About these are low, irregular mounds, raised above the natural level of the ground. One of the largest of the depressions was selected by the discoverers for exploration, and as the result of nine months' laborious work, one of the ancient mines has at last been reopened.

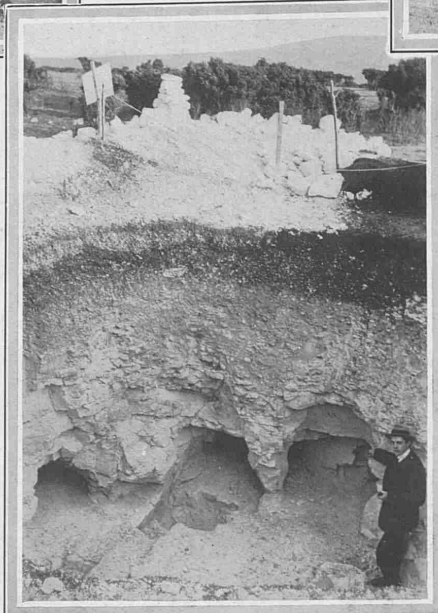
It has a vertical shaft 17 ft. in diameter, sunk down into the solid chalk to a depth of 12 ft. At that depth a layer of good flint nodules of free flaking quality was met with, and removed totally from the floor. In further pursuit of this flint seam no fewer than seven galleries were driven horizontally from the shaft's base. These galleries radiate in all directions, and vary from 10 to 30 ft. in length. In height they measure from 2 to 3 ft., and in width 4 to 7 ft. Some of them communicate with galleries which belong to the systems of neighbouring shafts. On reopening the workings, it was found that large quantities of chalk rubble and blocks, presumably extracted from other portions of the mine, had been left piled in them by the miners. Many of these blocks bore ancient tool marks, as did also the walls of the workings, and these marks appeared as fresh as if made yesterday. The principal tools which had been used in the primary digging of the shafts were picks made from the antlers of red deer, together with punches and hammers of the same material.

On having been abandoned as a source of flint-getting, the empty shaft appears to have

The DISCOVERY of a PREHISTORIC MINE IN SUSSEX.



The Circular Pit Opened by the Excavators



A General View of the Prehistoric Mine-shaft at Blackpatch

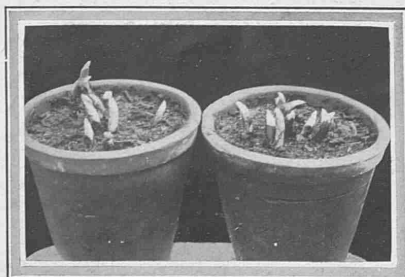
been used as a refuse pit, both for material excavated from new mines then being sunk to the west and for all sorts of rubbish which had accumulated as the result of extensive occupation of the surface. The deposition of large chalk blocks had been occasionally interrupted by the use of the partly-filled shaft as a sheltered workshop wherein to chip flint then being raised to the surface elsewhere. Upon these workshop floors were found thousands of flakes and splinters, together with waste nodules, and flint implements in all stages of manufacture, from the roughed-out shape to the finished article. These implements included axes, planes, borers, segmental tools, knives, and choppers, some of them being

worked in the Neolithic style and others resembling those obtained from the river drift.

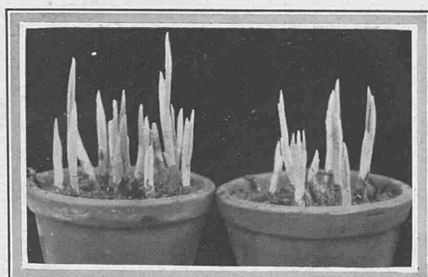
The industry at Blackpatch is estimated to date back some 8,000 years, and must have been an object of remote antiquity many centuries before Tutankhamen reigned in Egypt. The climate at the time of the mining has been determined from the data afforded by the shells of the land mollusca. It was decidedly much damper than to-day.

From the evidence obtained from the infilling of the shaft excavated, it is possible to reconstruct with some accuracy the degree of civilisation attained in this district in early times, and Neolithic man was anything but a degraded savage. His knowledge of mining proclaims him to have been far advanced above the cave men who preceded him in these islands. The flint implements left behind on his workshop floors exhibit a high degree of skill in the art of working stone. Although no knowledge of grinding or polishing seems to have been acquired, yet they are the work of master hands. Pebbles of foreign stone found in the mine indicate communication with the sea beach five miles distant, and pieces of ironstone from lower cretaceous beds also indicate communication with the low lands of the weald. A broken cylinder of chalk, of human workmanship, betrays a knowledge of carving in the round.

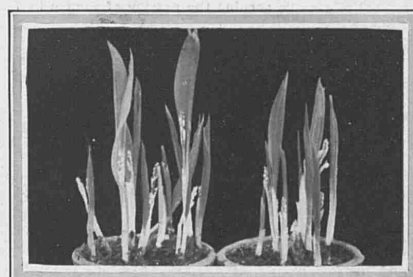
The completed excavation of the shaft at Blackpatch has been directed throughout by Mr. Pull, who has been assisted by many competent authorities. Voluntary labour has alone been employed, and it is understood that the re-opened mine is to be fenced in and left accessible to those interested. It is hoped to resume work in the spring, and by the excavating of a second pit it is probable that much more information regarding this very ancient site will be obtained. Blackpatch is upon the estate of the Duke of Norfolk, and the duke himself has taken great interest in, and visited, the excavations.



How the Bulbs are Potted



In Seven Days the Plants Reach this Stage



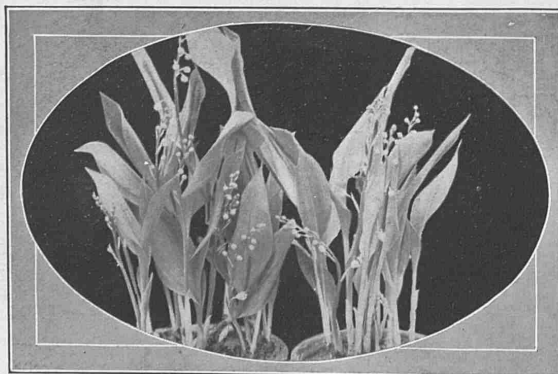
In Fourteen Days the Spikes are Prominent

RAPID FLOWER CULTURE AT HOME.

The culture of bulbs in bowls of fibre is a fascinating process, largely indulged in by those who have not the conveniences of a greenhouse; but with this method an early start is necessary, that is to say, the bulbs must be planted in the fibre by September in order to have them in full bloom by Christmas.

There may be many who have left the opportunity slip, and others who want to try their skill with some other subject, and to such we commend our present note.

By procuring what are known as retarded crowns, it is possible to have "lily of the valley" in full bloom in the short space of twenty-one days,



The Result of Twenty-one Days' Culture

The first picture of this series was taken on November 1, and the last one (reproduced above) on November 22—twenty-one days later

so that we are yet in good time to have something novel and interesting in the floral line when the festive season is with us.

Crowns are sold in bundles of twenty-five, and these should be potted up in soil or fibre, leaving the tops projecting as shown in our first picture. Moisten them well with tepid water and place the pots in a warm dark cupboard for a week. On taking them out they will have grown to the stage shown in our second illustration, and may be placed where there is warmth and light, but shade from direct sun.

Our next two pictures show the results of growth in fourteen and twenty-one days respectively. The only attention required is to keep the plants from draughts and, when moisture is necessary, to use only tepid water.