

instruments and tools suited to his requirements. The same universal process of mind and instinct will lead the Australian, the New Zealander, the Peruvian, and the Scandinavian, to shape and fashion a stone weapon. The author described in some detail the characteristic forms of the gravel drift, flint implements of Ireland, and polished stone implements. The following terms were proposed by the author to distinguish them—Palæolithic, Mesolithic, Kainolithic. He briefly discussed the chief antiquities of the bronze age, and remarked that the same alloy (10 or 13 per cent. of tin) existed in the bronze weapons of Europe, Egypt, Peru, and Mexico.

The PRESIDENT said he was very sorry that Mr. Westropp was not present to answer the questions to which his paper would probably give rise, but it was very suggestive, and he was sure the Society would return their thanks to the author. It opened a large question, and indulged in some wild speculations, for which there seemed no sufficient data; the assertion that civilisation proceeded in a universal sequence, seemed to have little foundation, and in the present state of knowledge, the facts were so limited, that it was not safe to draw any conclusions on the subject. To show how little reliance is to be placed on isolated facts as indications of the state of civilisation, he mentioned, on the authority of a clergyman, that in Zetland, a woman was seen cutting cabbages with a stone implement, identical with those usually attributed to the stone age.

Mr. T. BAINES explained the manner in which the manufacture of stone spear-heads is carried on in Australia, and stated that some stone implements have recently been discovered in Africa, near the Fish River, which were not now used by the natives, and pointed to the existence of a race of men in that part of Africa before it was occupied by the Hottentot. In Australia the natives use stone weapons at the present day. On one occasion he came to a place where there had been a manufacture of those weapons, numerous chippings being found about the spot. He stated that in making the implements, a large stone is selected to act as an anvil, and against it the natives strike the stone to be chipped into form; three chips, supposing every blow to tell perfectly, would be produced in forming one weapon, but allowing for failures we may suppose at least thirty to be necessary. There were many failures, and those, with the pieces of stone chipped off, were lying about the spot where the supposed manufactory of the implements had been carried on. It was impossible, he said, that the implements found could have been produced accidentally, in confirmation of which opinion he referred to the fact, that nothing approaching the shape of a spearhead is ever found among stones broken for road making.

Professor MACDONALD said the kind of stone implements found was no indication of the age of civilisation, inasmuch as the character of the implements must depend in a great measure on the nature of the stone of which they were made. Bronze and iron implements were a safer index of the course of civilisation, for in such cases the same material was fashioned in different forms. The axe implements of the present day are, in general form, similar to those of early