

GEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY

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An important discovery was made a fortnight ago on Corradino Hill during the digging of a large shaft for the better ventilation of some stores at a place 132 feet above the sea level near the site where the Spencer Monument, at present at Blata il-Bajda near Hamrun, was originally erected.

The shaft is being dug in an inclined direction in the soft freestone named globigerina li estone by Sir John Murray of the Challenger Expedition. At a depth of 45 feet from the surface the workmen came across a narrow vertical fissure full of red earth, in which, besides several rolled pebbles, a considerable quantity of bones belonging to different extinct animals of the quaternary period, was embedded.

On examination it was found that the pebbles do not belong to the soft rock in which the fissure is situated, but to a hard reddish li-est limestone. A patch of hard limestone, met at a lower depth, was of a quite different character. The presence of these pebbles in the fissure is therefore an evident proof that the materials contained therein were transported from a distance by the action of strong currents of water.

The extreme narrowness of the fissure at the surface of the rock just above the place where the animal bones were found, did not allow of

their falling into the fissure from that point, but as the fissure becomes much wider at a lower level, it is presumable that both the bones and the pebbles fall at some distance and were carried down obliquely to the spot where they were found. The excavations are still going on, and although most of the bones hitherto found are broken and undeterminable, they are all being carefully collected by the authorities of the Works Department of the Dockyard and in due time will, it is hoped, be deposited in the Geological Museum of the Malta University, where they will enrich the valuable collections of local extinct quaternary Elephants, Hippopotami, Stags, Swans etc. made by the late Drs. Leith Adams and A.A. Caruana and by Mr. J.H. Cooke, Professor Th. Zammit and the undersigned.