

many present the appearance of a fabric into which bands of colour have been woven. Many are of great beauty, and none more so than the Angel's Wing in the Temple of Baal Cave at Jenolan.

Helictites, or "mysteries", are bizarre forms which seem to defy the control of gravity, twisting and convoluting irregularly until they simulate anything from a hair-pin to a bird's nest. They seem never to be coloured, only discoloured, and for some unknown reason are singularly prolific at Jenolan Caves.

The water solution that drips or runs on to the floor of a cave deposits there, again by evaporation, calcium carbonate which slowly assumes the massive form of a stalagmite. Sometimes stalactites and stalagmites may become united, so forming pillars that appear to support the roof. Pools on the floors of caves are often surrounded by walls of calcium carbonate, and the overflow from one of these may form successive "basins" at lower levels, building up a series of terraces. These are well developed in the Wombeyan Caves.

The mere height of a stalagmite does not indicate its age, and any estimate of age based on height is idle. The important factors controlling stalagmitic growth are rate of drip, concentration, air circulation, relative humidity and temperature. These factors taken together at their upper and lower limits give rise to thirty-two basic types of stalagmite. If the values of the factors are determined in the case of a given stalagmite in a cave it is possible to estimate approximately the present rate of vertical growth, and therefore the approximate age of growth of the stalagmite. Results so obtained do not exceed one hundred thousand years for the largest stalagmites, an estimate surprisingly less than the millions of years of popular belief.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

Contributions must be typed with double spacing, on one side of the paper only.

Contributors are also requested to be certain of all statements given as facts and, as in any scientific article of standing, to quote their authorities and references.

Articles should be in English, and so set out, phrased, and punctuated as to be intelligible and interesting to a reader other than the author himself.