

Walter, the monk of Hucklow, once a wild and desolate place, was commemorated in the Obituary of Beauchief Abbey.

S.O.A.

## VI.

### “CORK” A LICHEN FOUND ON BASLOW MOOR AND PRODUCING A PURPLE DYE.

As related in vol. xxiii (1901) several person were “in mercy” for trespass on Baslow Moor in 1468 and 1478. They had been collecting “le corke,” for which they had become liable to pay damages, but how much we are not told.

Reference to the Oxford English Dictionary shows that the explanation of “corke” given in a footnote on p. 27 is incorrect. It is correctly defined as “a purple or red dye-stuff obtained from certain lichens growing on rocks in Scotland and the north of England.” Apparently, says the Dictionary, “it is a contraction of *corkir*, adopted from the Gaelic and Irish *corcur*, originally ‘purple,’ hence the lichen yielding a purple dye. *Corcur* was an adaptation of Latin *purpur* with Goidelic change of *p* to *c*, as in Latin *planta*, Irish *cland*, *clann*, Latin *pascha*, Gaelic *casga*, *caisg*,”

The earliest date of the word which the Dictionary can quote is 1483.

This lichen is known in botany as *lecanora tartarea*. It “is very abundant in the mountainous parts of the island, forming a greyish incrustation over the surface of otherwise bare rocks” (C. P. Johnson and J. E. Sowerby, *The Useful Plants of Great Britain*, 1861, p. 307). This lichen, with its purple patches, could no doubt be found on Baslow Moor to this day.

In Harrison’s *Survey of the Manor of Sheffield*, 1637, (ed. J. G. Ronksley), pp. 306-7 we have “an intake called ye Corker Walls,” and this is also called Corke Walls. These fields must have been called after the lichen which grew there before they were enclosed.

The name of this lichen, coming as it does from the Old Irish or the Gaelic is a great linguistic curiosity in Derbyshire, where there are no "Celtic" village names.

S.O.A.

## VII.

### MOTHER GRUNDY'S PARLOUR.

Reference has already been made to the first two reports of the Research Committee for the Archæological Exploration of Derbyshire Caves, (Royal Anthropological Institute and British Association.),<sup>1</sup> which deal with the Traycliff and Harborough Caves. The third report,<sup>2</sup> by Mr. A. Leslie Armstrong, describes the excavations conducted by himself and Mr. G. A. Garfitt at Mother Grundy's Parlour, Creswell Crags, in 1924. The work on this site is only in its preliminary stages but sufficient has been revealed to indicate the importance of Creswell in the study of the history of man. Between 1874 and 1879 the caves were examined by Sir William Boyd Dawkins and the Rev. J. M. Mello, and in the early numbers of the *Journal* there appeared some account of the result of their labours.<sup>3</sup> This is not the place to do more than call the attention of our readers to Mr. Armstrong's report, which includes numerous illustrations of the more important finds. The objects which undoubtedly make the strongest appeal to popular interest are the engravings on bone, three of which, the heads of a bear, a reindeer and a rhinoceros are shown in the report. Mr. Armstrong concludes his report with a consideration of the probable date of the occupation of the site. He is of opinion that, while the whole basis of the culture is late Aurinacian, it cannot be denied that there are remains of a culture at Creswell

<sup>1</sup> *Derb. Arch. Journal*, n.s. i, 124 and 245.

<sup>2</sup> *Journal of the Roy. Anthropol. Inst.*, Vol. LV, Jan.-June, 1925.

<sup>3</sup> *Derb. Arch. Journal*, i, 15. 'Palæolithic Man at Creswell'; do. vii, 92, "The Mammoth at Creswell"; see also iv, 161, "Pleistocene Deposits of Derbyshire."