

MUTE MEMORIALS OF THE ROCKY PATH OUR FOREFATHERS TRAVELLED



When these implements were made, men had already taken several great strides along the rocky path of civilization. The flint knives and arrow-heads shown in 1, 2, and 4 are great improvements over earlier implements, for they have been chipped by pressure. Flint is so brittle that bits of it will snap off when a hard piece of bone is firmly pressed against it. This process, one of the triumphs of the New Stone Age, produces a far keener cutting edge than the older method of chipping flint by blows with another stone. The polished stone axes and hammers (3) and the bone needles and harpoons (5) give further evidence of the progress of this period.

side by side with a third stone bridging the top (dolmens).

Often these monuments show signs of having been rudely hewn by the prehistoric architects, and occasionally drawings and carvings appear upon them. Many of them are believed to

mark the burial-places of noted chiefs, while the "circle-stones" may have been meeting-places of the skin-clad clans. Great Britain and France are particularly rich in these relics, the most famous of which is the combination of "circle-stones" and dolmens called Stonehenge, on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire. Northern Africa, India, South America, and some of the Pacific islands have important examples of this earliest form of the builder's art.

Frequently these monuments stand far removed from any stone deposits. How such huge blocks were transported and set up by primitive men will probably always remain a mystery. Some monuments of this kind have been traced to the Bronze and Iron Ages, but they are usually much smaller than those ascribed to the Stone Age.

STORAGE BATTERY. The electricity that starts the engines and operates the lights of our motor-cars is supplied from the ingenious appliance called the storage battery. Electric motors and trucks run entirely on the current supplied by storage batteries, as do submarines when they are travelling under water. Storage

batteries light our trains and our mines; propel the little locomotives and trucks that carry the heavy loads at wharves and similar places; and are used for an immense variety of other purposes.

It is common to speak of the storage battery as if it were a device for actually storing electricity, like the Leyden jar. What it does is only to generate electricity as the result of chemical action, like any other sort of battery. But while other batteries, once they have been exhausted, can be renewed only by putting in fresh solution and new positive plates, the storage battery can be renewed again and again by merely passing electric current through it.

The Battery in General Use

The oldest and most generally used type is the lead battery, in which peroxide of lead is used for one of the plates and spongy metallic lead for the other. When these are immersed in diluted sulphuric acid, and connected by an electrical conductor, the chemical action sets up an electric current, which continues until most of the lead peroxide has been reduced to lead. Now, if an electric current from some other source is passed back into the cell, the chemical process is reversed, and one of the lead plates is again converted into lead peroxide. This process is known as charging the battery. (See also Electricity.)