

was found. From the fact that in northwestern Europe the ruder kinds of stone weapons (Fig. 459) occur in what are certainly the older deposits, while others of more highly finished workmanship (Figs. 462, 463) are found in later accumulations, the Stone Age has been subdivided into an early or Palæolithic and a later or Neolithic epoch. There can be no doubt, however, that the latter was in great measure coeval with the age of bronze, and even, to some extent, with that of iron.⁶⁶

The deposits which contain the history of the Human Period are river-alluvia, brick-earth, cavern-loam, calcareous tufa, loess, lake-bottoms, peat-mosses, sand-dunes, and other superficial accumulations.

PALÆOLITHIC.⁶⁷—Under this term are included those deposits which have yielded rudely-worked flints of human workmanship associated with the remains of mammalia, some of which are extinct, while others no longer live where their remains have been obtained. An association of the same mammalian remains under similar conditions, but without traces of man, may be assigned to the same geological period, and be included in the Palæolithic series. A satisfactory chronological classification of the deposits

⁶⁶ The student may profitably consult Sir Arthur Mitchell's "Past in the Present," 1880, for the warnings it contains as to the danger of deciding upon the antiquity of an implement merely from its rudeness.

⁶⁷ This term has been further subdivided into minor sections according to the degree of "finish" in the instruments and their presumed chronological order. Thus, deposits containing the very rude type of worked flints found at Chelles near Paris and at St. Acheul have been called Chellean or Acheulian. Those with implements like the scrapers of Moustier (Dordogne) have been named Mousterian. Those where the flints have been more deftly worked, like the implements found at Solutré in Burgundy, have been called Solutrian; while those which contain well-finished implements associated with carved bone and ivory, as at the caves of La Madelaine (Périgord), have been called Magdalenian. But this classification does not rest on the evidence of superposition and is probably of little chronological value, though some weight may be attached to the presence of different mammals with the different types of instrument.