

Besides these stones there are the well-known digging stones ; circular disc-shaped stones, perforated in the centre. The stone is passed over a stick, the lower end of which is hardened in the fire or thrust into an antelope's horn, and the stick thus weighted is used by the Bushmen and Hottentots to dig roots. A Bushman whom the late Dr. Bleek, the distinguished South African linguist, had under his charge, called the apparatus a squaw's stick, because, of course, the squaws have to do the digging. He showed us how it is used.

Well-made spear and arrow-heads and scrapers are found with these things, but are comparatively scarce, and far more abundant on the Cape Flats.

Very much broken pieces of a coarse pottery are common about the refuse heaps. The pottery is black, and seen on fracture to be full of fragments of quartzite. I found two pieces with handles, evidently the side handles of pots. In the Cape Museum are plenty of similar pieces, and also a drawing on a small slab of stone, from a neighbouring cave which was probably a home of the midden people.

The middens lie in places where there are banks of shifting sand. As the sand shifts, there are exposed, all about on the slopes, heaps of stones, evidently put together for some purpose. A considerable number of human bones were lying about. I turned over several of the stone heaps which had evidently been hitherto undisturbed, and excavated for a short depth beneath them without finding any interments ; but in one case a complete skeleton lay around one of the heaps, and at Cape Point I saw a second one lying beneath a similar heap, having been evidently buried in a crouching position with the body unstraightened after death. The majority of the stone heaps have, however, certainly not been graves, but are very possibly the remains of places where fires have been lighted.

The sand at White Sands is calcareous. As it shifts before the wind it in many places buries bushes growing near the shore. These die, and their stems, buried in the sand, decay, and in doing so set free a certain amount of acid which brings about a solution and redeposit of calcareous matter in the sand. The sand immediately surrounding the stems is thus cemented into a solid mass which encrusts the remains of the bark. The wood decays away, and a pipe with a wall of cemented calcareous sand is the result. The sand shifting again, these pipes, which are often branched, are left exposed on the beach.*

* Darwin observed similar structures in Australia, but in this case the cavities left by the decaying branches had been filled in by hard calcareous matter. "Journal of Researches," p. 540.