THE ORIGIN OF LIMESTONE CAVERNS

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INTRODUCTION

Caverns in massive limestones are usually more or less filled with dripstones, and thus exhibit the work of two contrasted processes: excavation and replenishment. The first process, as generally understood in the United States, is taken to be the solutional work of percolating vadose water (water descending from the land surface to the water table) associated with the corrasional work of vadose or water-table streams. No adequate explanation for the change of process from excavation to replenishment is usually given with this explanation.

Another explanation of caverns was proposed by Grund in 1903. He suggested that they are the solutional work of ground water below the water table during a lower stand of the cavern region; and that
