

PROCEEDINGS

of the

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland



Our full archive of freely accessible articles covering Scottish
archaeology and history is available at
<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/psas/volumes.cfm>

Society of Antiquaries
of **Scotland**

National Museums Scotland
Chambers Street, Edinburgh

www.socantscot.org
Charity No SC 010440

I.

REPORT OF THE EXCAVATION ON TRAPRAIN LAW IN THE
SUMMER OF 1919. BY ALEXANDER O. CURLE, F.S.A.Scot., F.S.A.

To pick up the thread of the tale of our excavation on Traprain Law we must turn back to the report which appeared in vol. ii. of the fifth series of our *Proceedings* and the year 1916. After two periods of promising exploration and just as we had begun to adopt, after experience, the methods most suited to the site, we were reluctantly forced to abandon our enterprise as being of a nature unsuited for the serious times through which the country was passing, when the service of every able-bodied man was necessary to ensure victory. In course of time the only two of our staff who were fit for active service, our foreman Mr George Pringle and his stepson John Pitt, were absorbed in the army and fought in France. The war over, we rejoiced to learn of their safety, and at an early date in the year made preparation for resumption of our work. As the use of the riddle is an indispensable step in our procedure, it is useless to start operations until the weather has become fairly settled; we accordingly postponed the commencement until the end of April. Unfortunately Mr James E. Cree, who in the earlier years took so much of the burden of supervision on his shoulders, had to go to America on business, but before he left he assisted me to settle the plan of campaign for the ensuing summer. In his absence Mr John Bruce came to our assistance, and gave ungrudgingly many days and hours on the hill.

In 1915 we passed over a slight ridge particularly noticeable on the lowest level, in consequence of which the occupation there had only been partial. Accordingly realising this year that we had deeper ground in front of us to the northward, it was decided to continue in that direction as formerly.

Taking the northern flank of area F as far as it bordered unexplored ground, to form a base of 60 feet due east and west, we pegged out an area measuring approximately 60 feet by 50 feet. To the east of this a small 25-foot section abutting on the upper part of area F had been explored in 1915, and north of this a farther 25-foot extension was delimited so as to produce a direct east and west front on the northern boundary of our new section. This area, including the small extension of 1915, we named area G. We were later on able to take in the greater part of another area, H, immediately to the northward of G, consisting of a square of 50 feet on the western end, and of 50 feet by 25 feet on

the eastern half. The total area explored during the past season accordingly amounts to about 8500 square feet, or somewhat less than $\frac{1}{8}$ acre.

Before commencing work we were fortunate to find on the surface, turned up by a mole, one of the coins from the mint at Crosraguel, about which Mr George Macdonald enlightened us at our last meeting. This conceivably is referable to a fifteenth-century inhabitation by those in charge of the beacon, at that period to be used for spreading a warning of the coming of an English invasion from across the border. A portion of the handle of a late mediæval pitcher found in the course of excavation probably owes its presence there to the same cause.

On the removal of the turf and of a few inches of soil beneath it the highest floor level, that of the last general occupation, was met with about 1 foot beneath the surface. Numerous large unshaped blocks of the native rock lay scattered about, on many varied planes and angles, and the prospect of producing any reasonable plan out of them seemed hopeless; but by carefully considering each stone, and removing any that obviously owed their position to displacement, such for the most part lying loosely on the floor level without any hold, a rational scheme began to evolve, which on being plotted produced the plan given in fig. 1. It was very satisfactory to find that the curving mass of stones laid bare in the portion of section G opened in 1915 formed the eastern end of an elliptical enclosure giving an interior measurement of 40 feet by 20 feet. The letter G is placed in the centre of this enclosure on the plan. On the north side of it there appear the foundations of three small irregularly circular enclosures, and another lies to the south-west. There is a break in the periphery of the main enclosure towards the north-west, as if at this spot there had been a doorway, and some 17 feet distant in the same direction there is an indication of another enclosure of much the same form as the last, the west end of which has probably not yet been laid bare. As the stones on the plan are drawn to scale, it will be observed that the average size is very considerable, several measuring about 5 feet in length by 2 feet to 3 feet in breadth. The removing of them took the efforts of three or four men at a time.

There was nowhere any indication of actual building, nor did the debris in any way amount to such a quantity as would point to it being the ruin of stone walls. That the lines which form the enclosures were foundations is obvious from the contemplation of the plan, and the only reasonable hypothesis that suggests itself is that they were formed to carry walls of turf.

On this level there were exposed the remains of four hearths. Of these three are so nearly complete as to make apparent the direction in which they were oriented, that, it will be observed, being practically east

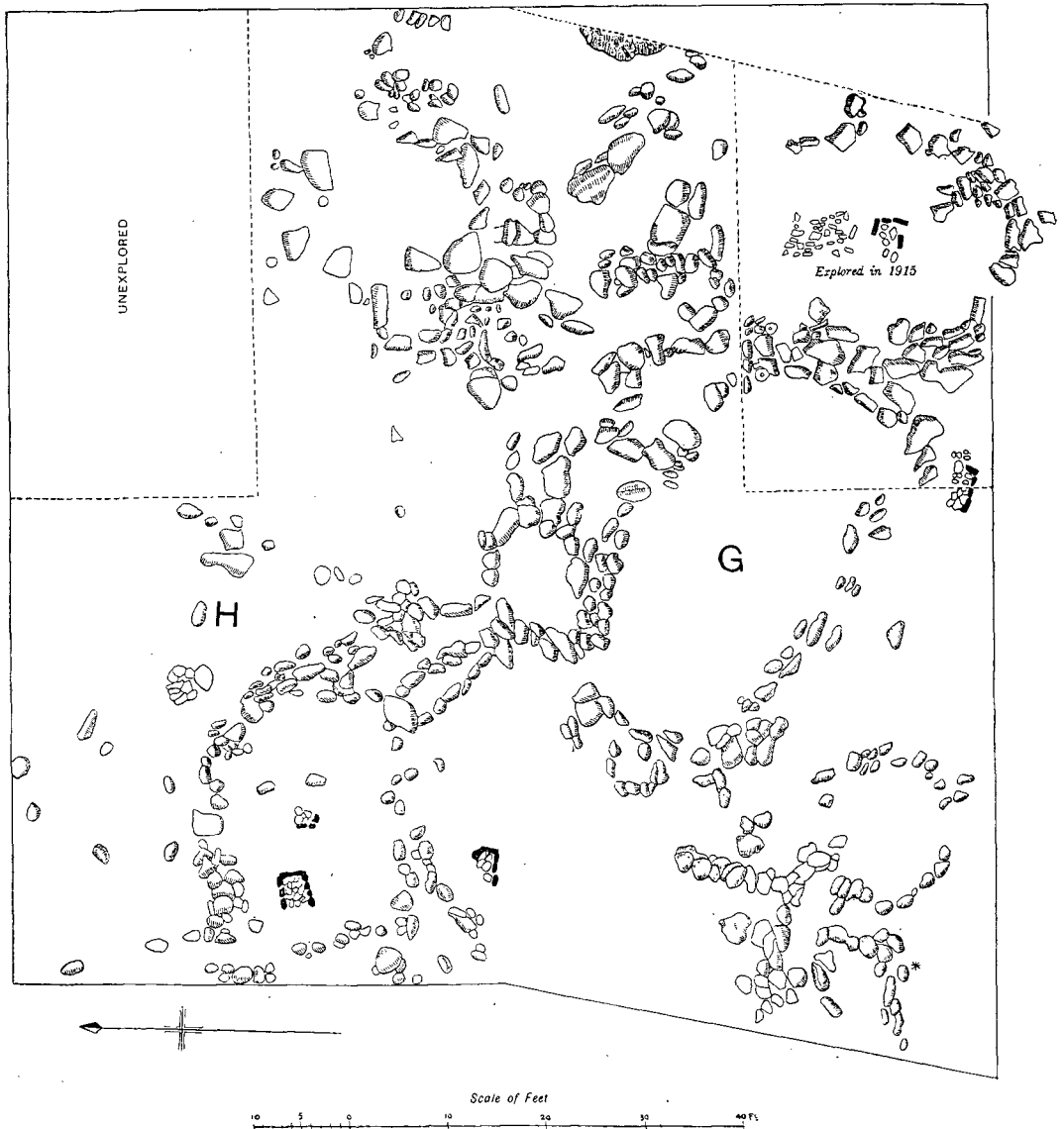


Fig. 1. Plan of Foundations on the highest level, Traprain Law.

and west. The relation of these hearths to the enclosures is not quite obvious. There is no hearth in the large elliptical enclosure, but one lies close beside it towards the south-east, so close that if the presumed wall of turf extended far beyond the limits of the foundation it must have impinged on the fireplace. To the east of this, in the area laid bare in 1915, there is another which was associated with an area of paving, and may possibly have been in the centre of a large elliptical enclosure lying with its main axis north and south, which is suggested by what appear



Fig. 2. Hearth on the highest level.

to be foundations. In the enclosure shown towards the north-west corner of the plan there are remains of two hearths. Of these the more westerly (fig. 2) is complete, but it will be observed from the illustration that it has been very rudely formed, not of carefully selected slips of stone set on edge to form the kerb, and of slabs of sandstone neatly fitted in to form the hearth, but of irregular blocks of stone and boulders, evidently the readiest that came to hand. Similarly rude in construction was the hearth immediately to the south just outside the last-mentioned enclosure. It is perhaps worth noting that both these hearths are the same distance, 4 feet, from the walls adjacent to the north of them, to

which they are also approximately parallel, while the hearth on the southern margin of the plan shows a distinct trend from the true east and west direction towards the north-west, thus placing it more nearly parallel to the main axis of the adjacent enclosure. The almost total absence of charcoal, or of discoloration of the soil, on this floor level was so remarkable as to make it evident that the period of occupation had been of the briefest.

On the removal of the remains of the latest occupation, at some 8 to 10 inches below, a second floor level was encountered. The plan (fig. 3) shows the appearance of the surface exposed. Over all there was laid bare a well-defined floor of clay, such as was not found at any part of the level above. The foundations, as far as the irregular masses of stone can be so designated, are much lighter, nor do they supply any real indication of the lines of the enclosures that existed. Only in regard to the hearths is there any definite appearance of regularity. Of these there are shown the remains of seven laid bare last summer, and one in the south-east section exposed in 1915, of which five are oriented east and west. Moreover, when we place this year's plan alongside of that for 1915 we see that along the western side of our excavation we have a row of four hearths all practically in alignment and all open towards the west. In the very centre of this year's plan, 50 feet from the western edge, is another smaller hearth which is oriented parallel to, and is in alignment with a hearth a portion of the kerbing of which appears near the centre of the 1915 plan. Also in the same alignment, but not parallel, is a third hearth in the north-east corner of this year's plan. Lying nearly parallel to, and some 20 feet to the westward of the last, but out of alignment, is a small hearth closely resembling that towards the centre of the plan. The systematic arrangement of these fireplaces thus disclosed seems to indicate that the dwellings with which they were connected were arranged in lines—or, may we say, streets? The marked difference in the general character of the remains on this and the top level points, I think, to a different method of construction, for whereas the heavier foundations on the upper level, and the total absence of clay on the floor, strengthen the idea that the erections there were of turf, the slighter remains on this level, and the amount of clay over the floor suggests that the constructional method employed in this period was that of wattle and daub. Moreover, though we recovered no examples of this material in last summer's digging, it was from this very level that we obtained so much in 1915. Where the floor levels are only separated by a few inches of soil on uneven ground it is inevitable that occasionally a mistake will occur, and there is no doubt that over a small area in the south-east part of section H, the second level was

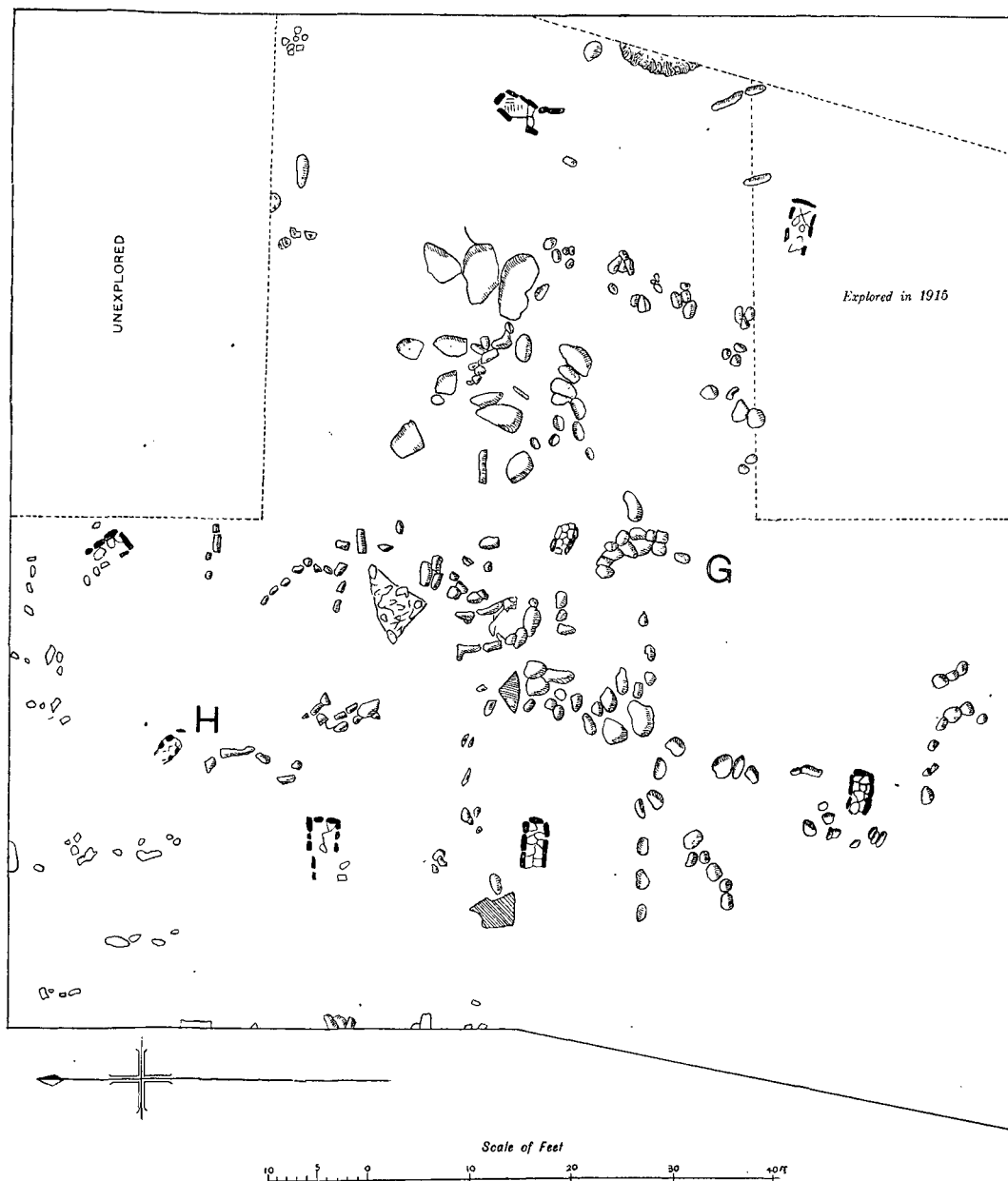


Fig. 3. Plan of Foundations on the second level.

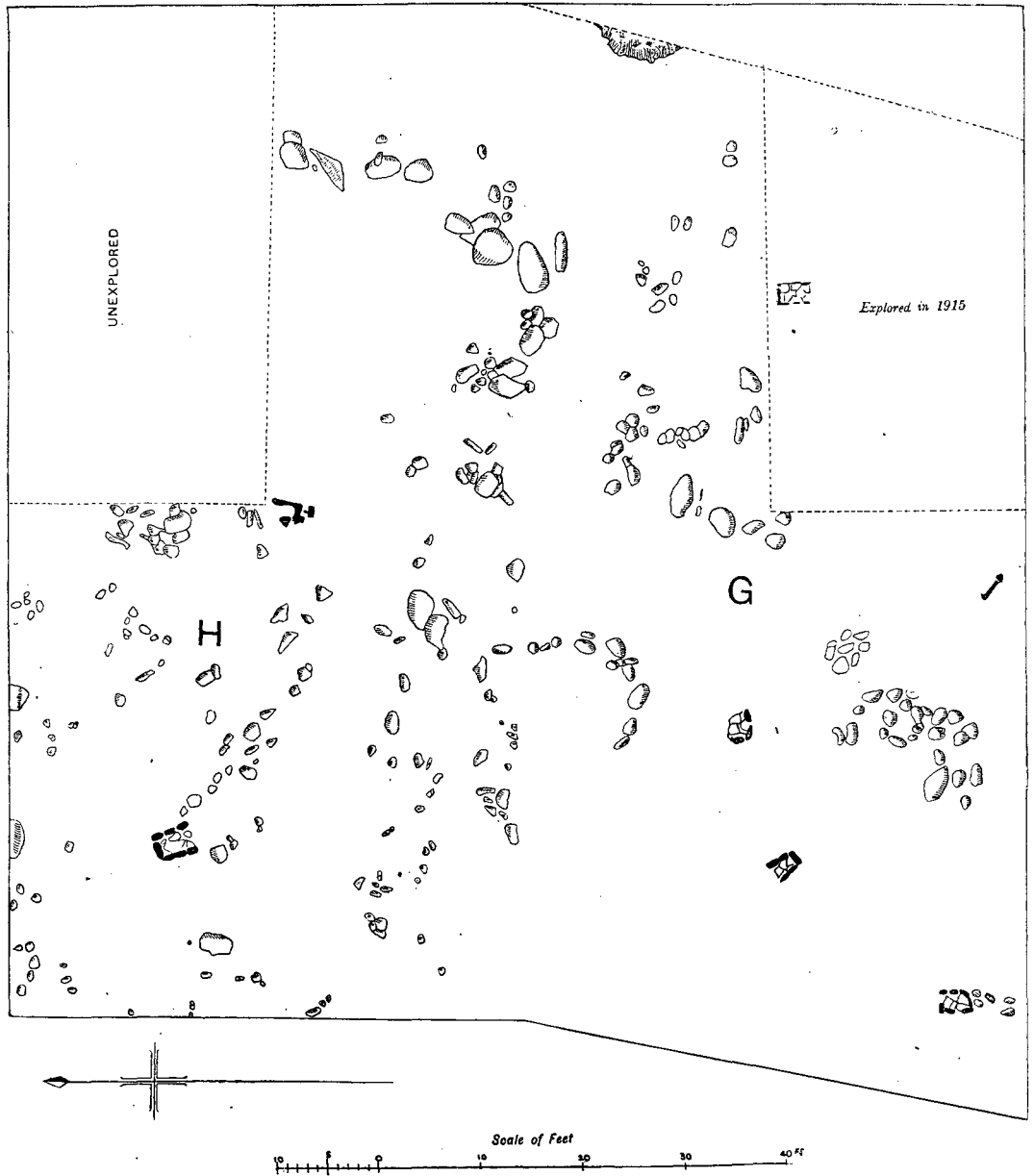


Fig. 4. Plan of Foundations on the third level.

broken through, there being no remains on it at that point, and the third exposed. The extent of this error was, however, slight.

On the removal of this floor and of some 5 or 6 inches of soil the third level was exposed. The remains found on it are shown on the plan (fig. 4). For the most part smallish stones are scattered about in a way that hardly suggests any structural form except as regards the hearths. Of these five were exposed set in a general direction north and south, but with the open end not uniformly oriented in either direction. As shown by the example illustrated (fig. 5), they were carefully fashioned and laid, in this respect contrasting favourably with those on the top level. In the south-west angle of area G is a hearth towards the back or south end of which the remains of two parallel rows of stones, some 2 to 7 inches apart, are directed. If reference is made to the third-level plan of 1915, a similar parallel arrangement will be observed in the north-west corner of area F, the direction of which points exactly to the south end of the rows on area G, 12 feet away. At an identical distance to the south-east of the rows on F occurs a short single row which possibly has been connected with the arrangement. Another was found on the second level in 1915. The purpose which these lines were intended to serve is not clear. Their proximity to hearths would suggest the foundations of wind screens, but where, as in the instance now reported, the position is in the line of the main axis of the hearth such a suggestion seems useless. Here, as on the level above it, the floor in places was formed of a thickly compacted bed of clay some 4 to 5 inches thick. If the houses were of wattle and daub, the disintegration of their walls under the influence of wind and weather after they were deserted would no doubt in some measure be responsible for this, but the compacted appearance of the clay indicates, I think, constructed floors.

With the removal of the bed of clay, and soil where clay was absent, to a depth of almost a foot in places, the foundations on the bottom were exposed (fig. 6). It will be remembered that in the 1915 excavation no remains whatever of foundations were found on this level. Last summer we were more fortunate, and two fairly regular segmental lines of stones a little to the north of the centres of G and H respectively show presumably the sites of circular huts. Two hearths were laid bare, both well laid and circular, without any kerbstones, thus in respect both of shape and construction differing from the rectangular kerbed fireplaces of the higher levels. A record of the finds which was kept for area H shows that these, for the most part, are grouped near the centre of the space enclosed by the segmental line of stones in that section, and also over a small area to the north of the circular hearth near the western margin of the section. The general appearance of the soil on the bottom

stratum of occupation differs materially from that on all the others. It is extremely black in places, and the discoloured layers have a much



Fig. 5. Hearth on the third level.

greater thickness, tending to show that the site at the earlier period had been occupied for a longer time than during the later occupations.

We have now considered the structural remains which were laid bare on each of the four identified levels that we have met with—taken in

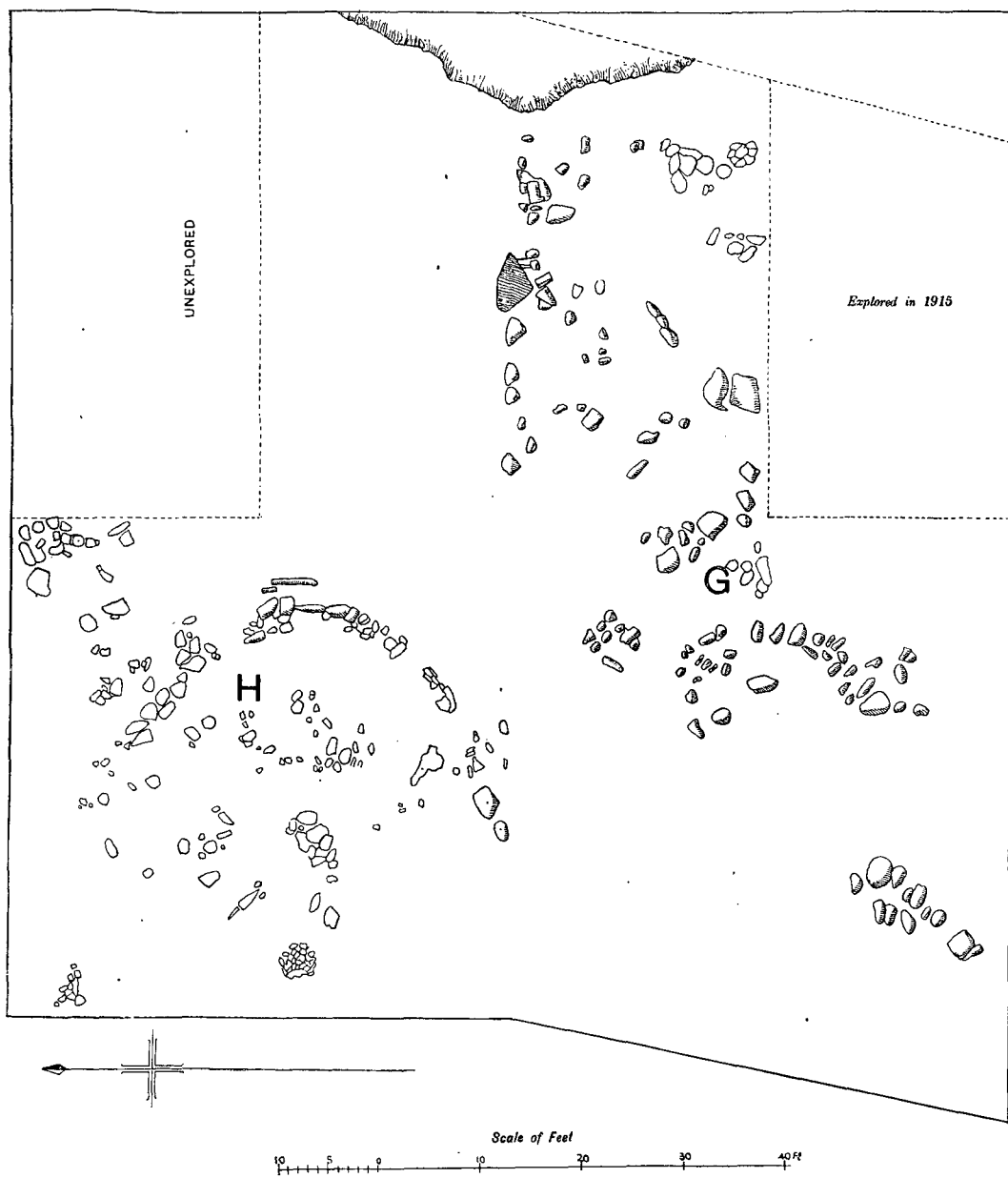


Fig. 6. Plan of Foundations on the lowest level.

the order in which they were revealed by the spade,—and I propose now to pass in review the relics found on each. In order, however, to point out changes and developments which occur as time advances, and thus reveal to a small extent the advance in civilisation of the inhabitants, I propose to start at the bottom level of all and work upwards. We shall also consider the whole relics from each level as a group, so as to direct attention to the association of types or objects at more or less definite periods instead of treating of each class specifically, as was done in our previous reports.

RELICS FROM THE LOWEST LEVEL.

With few exceptions the relics from the lowest level are shown on figs. 7 and 9, the former illustrating the smaller objects, for the most part personal ornaments of bronze, shale, etc.; and the latter the articles of iron. A selection of special objects are shown at natural size in fig. 8.

Though we have not yet discovered on Traprain Law the site of any settlement of men in the stage of culture when stone implements were in vogue, we have evidence that men of that time frequented the hill, for they left behind on the ground we excavated this year two stone axes (fig. 7, Nos. 1 and 2), both with the butt-end broken off—No. 1 measuring $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length by $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches in breadth, and No. 2 measuring $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length by 2 inches in breadth,—also a third stone object (fig. 7, No. 3) measuring $3\frac{3}{16}$ inches in length, resembling an axe of a lighter form, and not completely fashioned. It is also imperfect, in this case one side of the face being broken off. The object is carefully ground down and flattened along the side edges, but the cutting edge has never been finished. Probably belonging to this early period also is a leaf-shaped arrow-head of brown flint (fig. 7, No. 4), imperfect like the foregoing.

So far we have met with no recognisable Bronze Age pottery, but here also a few relics of that cultural epoch have been left behind to show that the man whose weapons and tools were of bronze likewise frequented Traprain Law. In 1915 we found the point of a dagger: this year we have got about a couple of inches of the upper part of the blade of another (fig. 7, No. 5). It seems significant of the manner in which they came there that they are both broken fragments.

Beyond these objects we do not seem to have found this year any relics of an earlier date than that period of the Iron Age which apparently synchronises with the coming of Agricola's legions at the end of the first century of our era. The association of first- and second-century Roman pottery with that of native manufacture, and the close similarity of the

relics to such as have been found at Newstead and on other Roman sites, indicate this conclusion.

Of bronze ornaments there is a pair of bow-shaped fibulæ (fig. 7, Nos. 6 and 7, and fig. 8, No. 1) with floriated knops and their respective pins working on springs. They are identical and in style much resemble one found on the lowest level in 1914.¹ It is interesting to find a pair, for, though these brooches were known to have been so worn connected by a chain, they are not frequently found together.

Two other bronze fibulæ, both imperfect, are shown in fig. 7, Nos. 8 and 9, and fig. 8, Nos. 2 and 3. These are of the purely Celtic type known as the "S" or dragonesque fibula, and were fairly generally distributed throughout Britain, though up to the present no large number have been found. Portions of two were obtained here in 1914, also from the lowest level, and, in addition to the finds of specimens in Scotland recorded in our Report for that year,² a fine example from the fort of Castlehill, Dalry, Ayrshire, was reported to the Society in 1918, found associated with some pieces of Samian ware and other relics.³ To the list given by the late Professor Haverfield in the Report of the Excavations at Corstopitum in 1908 should be added a second example at Cirencester, this one in the collection of Mrs Cripps.

Of the two examples recovered last summer, that shown in fig. 8, No. 2, is almost complete, lacking only the head at one end. The bronze of which it is composed is very rotten, and the enamelling, which was in rectangular panels on the body, has disappeared.

The second specimen (fig. 8, No. 3) is less perfect, but retains some beds of green enamel on the remaining portion of the body.

Of penannular fibulæ there are two. The first (fig. 7, No. 10) is of a type common on Roman and Romano-British sites, the open ends of the ring terminating in small fluted bulbs. In our last year's (1915) excavation we found three, all of which came from the third level, while in 1914 we had two—one from the lowest level, and one from that above. A second-century date may be assigned to these.

The second (fig. 7, No. 11, and fig. 8, No. 5) is of the same style as the first, but the brooch is larger and the terminals and general fashion heavier. The terminals are flattened at the end and are spirally fluted. Among the penannular brooches found at Newstead are two of similar design.

There are three rings: of these one is of silver (fig. 7, No. 12); another (fig. 7, No. 13) of bronze. These two are quite plain and call for no remark, as they might have been made to serve any purpose. The third,

¹ *Proc.*, xlix. p. 167, fig. 23, No. 1.

² *Ibid.*, xlix. p. 169, fig. 24, Nos. 1 and 2.

³ *Ibid.*, liii. p. 128, fig. 4, No. 1.



Fig. 7. General illustration of the Relics (other than of iron) from the lowest level. (Ca. $\frac{1}{3}$.)

however (fig. 7, No. 14), is undoubtedly a finger-ring. It is fashioned of bronze wire into a spiral of three coils measuring in diameter $\frac{27}{32}$ inch. A similar ring was found in the lowest level in 1914, and the occurrence in Scotland of other examples is noted in the Report for that year.¹ We have also the bezel portion of another finger-ring of small size, whereof the gem has been of glass or enamel.

A personal ornament is also a beautifully patinated object of bronze wire spirally fluted, and imperfect (fig. 7, No. 15). The head has been formed into a loop by bending back the wire. It measures 2 inches in length.

Of bronze clasps, dress-fasteners, or strap-mountings, as these objects may be, we found on this level four practically complete (fig. 7, Nos. 16-19) and the loop of a fifth. Three of these are of the style with a square head resembling one found on the third level in 1915. The fourth (fig. 7, No. 19) is of the petal and boss variety. A similar one came from the lowest level in the 1915 excavation. This design is a prevalent one in late Celtic ornament.

With these last may be grouped objects of a somewhat similar nature also of bronze and usually designated harness-mountings. The fourth level has produced five of these, three of which are shown in fig. 7, Nos. 20 to 22. Each one has at the back a metal loop, presumably for attachment to a leather strap. Two of them show the petal and boss design doubled; the third is a variation of that theme which I have not met with before, and consists of a somewhat larger boss in the centre of an oval leaf the ends of which have been slightly rolled back. The two remaining harness-mountings, not illustrated, consist: one of a simple boss with a moulded edge, and the other of a plain disc $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. Buttons of the type of the former have been found associated with relics of the Bronze Age,² it is therefore possible that this is a relic from an earlier period. Various examples of these harness mountings were found at Newstead, while our excavations of the two previous years have also yielded a number.

With the relics of the third level (fig. 11) there has been accidentally illustrated a terret (No. 1) with three bosses placed symmetrically on its outline, which really belongs to this level. It measures $2\frac{1}{16}$ inches by $2\frac{3}{32}$ inches in extreme diameter. It is identical with others found on the two lower levels in 1914.³ The find spot was on the eastern portion of H, where no foundations of any kind were met with. Its period therefore is a little open to doubt.

A small elongated heart-shaped object (fig. 7, No. 23) with a ring,

¹ *Proc.*, xlix. p. 175, fig. 26, No. 5.

² See Coffey, *The Bronze Age in Ireland*, p. 93.

³ *Proc.*, xlix. p. 180, fig. 31, No. 1.

broken, for suspension at the head, is a well-known article of the toilet. The point is imperfect, but originally it would be notched. This is presumed to have been a nail-cleaner. Such articles have been found associated with earpicks and tweezers, and the ring which has been on this example suggests its having been a part of such a toilet set. A similar nail-cleaner was found by General Pitt-Rivers in the Romano-British village at Rotherley.

Fig. 7, No. 24, is a small disc of bronze with a pin projecting axially from either face. It has been a mounting on some object—evidently of iron, from the iron oxide that adheres to its under side.

In the centre of the upper part of fig. 7, No. 25, and in fig. 8, No. 6, is illustrated a thin oval plate of bronze, covered with an exceptionally beautiful dark green patina. It measures $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $1\frac{1}{16}$ inch. Along one side is an ornament consisting of three circles of different diameter connected by double lines in punctulation done by repoussé work. It seems not improbable that this device is intended to represent a trumpet, of which the small circle at one end is the mouth, and the large one at the other the bell, the intermediate-sized circle being intended for some ornamented moulding round the centre. The single dots in the centres of the circles have certainly no place in such a representation, and must therefore be regarded as a trifling decorative licence. From end to end along the back extends a line marked by the material which has been employed to fasten this object to its principal.

In the Reading Museum, among the finds from Silchester, may be seen a similar thin oval plate, bent, but measuring in its original state $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. Along the edge it is ornamented with a row of repoussé dots, and towards the centre, but at the side, is a small circular perforation with similar dots around it. Along the back occurs an identical mark of cement or material for attachment. Though the Silchester example is a trifle larger than ours, there is no doubt that these two objects have served the same purpose, evidently a decorative one. The device on the Traprain Law specimen is clearly late Celtic.

Objects evidently intended for ornaments, but which never attained to that status, are two large imperfect castings of bronze. The more perfect (fig. 8, No. 7) consists of little more than one half of a moulded knob, which might have decorated a spear-shaft. The other has apparently been intended for the same purpose, but has been even more of a failure in construction.

We have also a piece of bronze wire about $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches long, which may have been part of a pin; the head of what may have been a pin $\frac{7}{8}$ inch in length and formed with a double curve (fig. 8, No. 4); two pieces of a large bronze link, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, very similar to portions of links

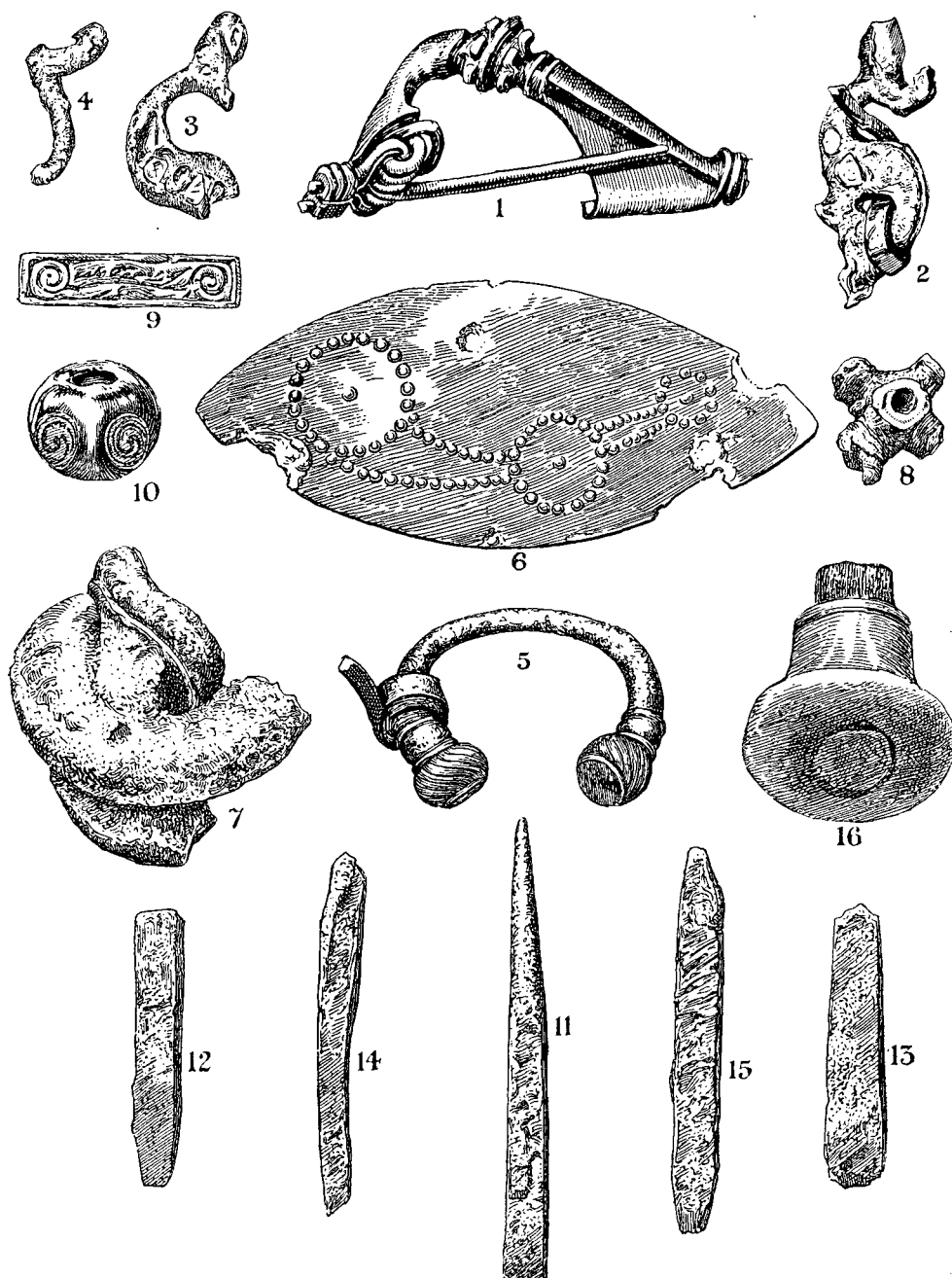


Fig. 8. Particular Objects from the lowest level. (4.)

found on the second level in 1915; three pieces of finely patinated bronze edging, triangular in section, $2\frac{11}{16}$ inches, $2\frac{7}{16}$ inches, and 1 inch long respectively; a plate of thin bronze with a rivet at one end bent into a loop 1 inch in length; a small stud with a biconical head $\frac{11}{32}$ inch in diameter; a small fragment, about $\frac{5}{8}$ inch long, of bronze binding, semicircular in section, similar to that obtained in both previous years; and a cruciform object of bronze, like the nave of a wheel, with four broken spokes projecting from it (fig. 8, No. 8).

Related to the ornamental objects of bronze is one of silver (fig. 7, No. 26, and fig. 8, No. 9). It is a small bar with no loop, or any appliance for attachment on the back, and bearing on the front within a bordered panel the remains of a device concluding at either extremity in a volute. The design in the centre of the panel appears to have been wilfully destroyed.

Leaving the metal ornaments, let us turn to those of other material.

As in former years, we have recovered many pieces of glass bracelets (fig. 7, No. 27) and a few glass beads. The fragments of glass bracelets number fourteen, of which five are opaque white, two opaque canary-yellow, one opaque greenish yellow, two opaque white of different section with brown lines, one translucent pale green, one translucent pale green with a blue and white twisted cord along the central ridge, one translucent pale green with lines of yellow trailed on the surface, and one piece of translucent green glass coated with opaque yellow in which is set a small crimson lozenge, while a black and yellow twisted cord appears at the side. This last-mentioned fragment shows a narrow necking made at either end by the removal of the outer layer of yellow glass. This condition, as was pointed out in the last Report, characterises all these pieces of glass bracelet which have a core covered with opaque glass of some other colour, and indicates that probably such pieces have been mounted with metal.

Glass beads all through the course of our excavation have occurred so seldom that one is tempted to believe that they were not worn in quantities on a string, as is the fashion nowadays, but sparsely suspended from necklaces in a style known to have been followed in the early La Tène period in Gaul.¹ Last year the lowest level yielded four complete beads (fig. 7, Nos. 28 to 31) and half of a fifth. The most interesting of these is a bead of dark blue translucent glass, compressed in manufacture to a cubical form with its angles rounded (fig. 7, No. 28, and fig. 8, No. 10). On each of the four sides parallel to the perforation it bears a spiral of polychrome opaque glass. The diameter is $\frac{21}{32}$ inch. Two of the other beads are of translucent glass of a pale green tint: one (fig. 7, No. 29) regularly formed on a mandril, the other (fig. 7, No. 30) apparently formed

¹ Déchelette, *Manuel*, p. 1322.

from a drop of molten glass allowed to drop and then perforated. A similar bead was found on the third level in 1915, and notes on others discovered elsewhere are given in the Report for that year. The fourth bead is discoid and of opaque yellow glass, measuring $\frac{1}{3}\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter (fig. 7, No. 31). It is of a class of which a number have already been found on Traprain Law, all coming from the lowest or third levels. Many of these beads have been found on Celtic sites, and there was reported last year to the Society by Mr John Smith not only the discovery of beads but apparently also of rods of glass from which they were being produced, in the fort of Castlehill, Dalry, Ayrshire, associated with other relics of a second-century date.¹ The last example, represented by one half, is part of a somewhat thick discoid bead, measuring $\frac{1}{3}\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter, of translucent lapis-lazuli blue.

There were found a number of pieces of Roman glass, probably representing four different vessels. The larger number of pieces (eight), including the piece of a mouth of a bottle (fig. 7, No. 44), were of dark green, thick material. Four fragments were of a thinner glass of light green tint. One piece was of medium thickness and of similar light green colour, while one other fragment was of thin colourless glass.

The only other objects of personal adornment which remain to be mentioned are the segments of shale or jet bracelets (fig. 7, No. 32), of which this level has yielded no less than twenty-four, for the most part triangular in section. At the extremity of one there has been cut a chevron with the point on the median ridge of the bracelet. Smaller rings of this material are conspicuous by their absence.

Of objects connected with industry there is a set of five small chisels or punches in bronze (fig. 8, Nos. 11 to 15). These vary in length from $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. They are not all perfect, and the cutting edge of the largest example (No. 11) is slightly broken.

Fig. 7, No. 38, is a thin bar of bronze, $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length by $\frac{5}{16}$ inch in breadth, slightly curved in its length.

One more object calls for special mention—a spear-butt of bronze (fig. 7, No. 41, and fig. 8, No. 16) of a modified pear-shaped form, 1 inch in length, $\frac{2}{3}$ inch in diameter at the mouth, and $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch at widest part. It is quite plain except for a single incised line just below the mouth. Within it is still a small fragment of wood, indicating clearly that this object has been the butt of a spear-shaft and not the head of a linch-pin. A butt approximately of this type, but more ornate, was found in a brooch at Harray, Orkney; and what I believe to be another, from which a disc at the bottom has been removed, occurs among the Roman relics from Camelon preserved in the Museum.

¹ *Proc.*, liii. p. 128, fig. 3.

Besides the three whorls illustrated (fig. 7, Nos. 39 and 39*a*) there is another of the disc type made of sandstone, making four in all from the whole of this level. The disc (fig. 7, No. 40) may possibly be a fifth in course of construction, but there is no indication of any attempt having been made to perforate it.

Fig. 7, No. 42, shows a trapezoidal piece of yellow sandstone measuring $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches by $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches. On one face, which is dressed, is neatly scored a series of lines crossing at right angles, or running obliquely from a single line that bisects the centre of the surface. The arrangement of the lines on either side of the central line produces a resemblance to some system of Ogham writing. The only other stone object illustrated (fig. 7, No. 43) is a hone, coffin-shaped in outline, with a perforation at the broad end.

Of objects of stone not illustrated there were found three stone balls of from 1 inch to $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter; a polished disc of sandstone $2\frac{1}{8}\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter, $\frac{1}{8}\frac{7}{8}$ inch thick, with the edge slightly bevelled; three stones, one of them oblong, of light-coloured sandstone, $2\frac{7}{32}$ inches by $1\frac{9}{32}$ inch in breadth, imperfect; another imperfect, oblong, and slightly tapering to one end, with an arris along one edge; the third oblong, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in breadth, with the longer sides slightly curved; a flat four-sided piece of sandstone, measuring $3\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, with a carefully fashioned arris along one edge; another somewhat similar piece of thinner sandstone, measuring $4\frac{1}{16}$ inches in length by $2\frac{1}{16}\frac{3}{16}$ inches in breadth, with an arris along one side, the rest of the outline appearing to have been roughly rounded; about one half of a finely polished disc of dark micaceous stone, the diameter of which when complete having been $3\frac{3}{16}$ inches.

The iron objects from this level are, like most of the iron things from the site, in rather poor condition. The only weapon, a spear-head (fig. 9, No. 1) is of a different form from any found hitherto, being leaf-shaped and slightly lop-sided, one side having more of a curve to it than the other. It shows also a slight opening at the base of the socket—a feature not hitherto met with in the spear-heads from the early levels, which, so far, have all been characterised by closed sockets. The opening, however, is short. The length of the spear-head is $7\frac{7}{16}$ inches.

Fig. 9, No. 2, is a heavy mortising chisel, well fashioned, with a solid head to receive the blow of a hammer. This is the second chisel of this class that we have found, the other referable to the second-level occupation having been recovered in 1915. The length of this example is $9\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

The long pin (fig. 9, No. 3) measures $10\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length. Its purpose is not self-evident.

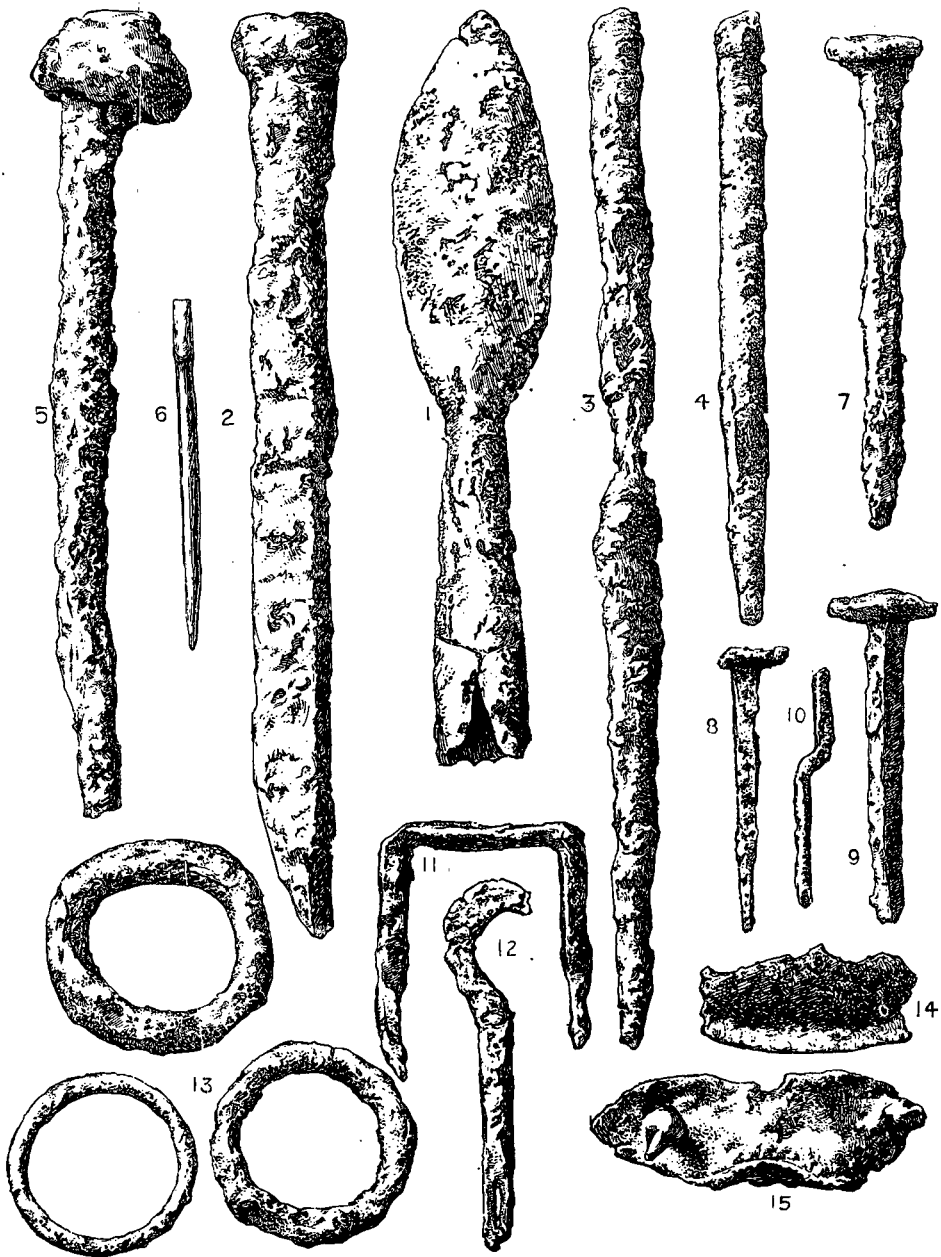


Fig. 9. Iron Objects from the lowest level. (3.)

Fig. 9, No. 4, appears to have been the spindle of a Roman quern. It is almost the counterpart of one found on the second level in 1915, except that it is about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch longer.

Fig. 9, No. 5, is a rod of iron measuring some $8\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length with a domical cap on the head which comes down well below the point of contact. It seems too long to have been a linch-pin, but what purpose it served is not apparent.

Fig. 9, No. 6, is without doubt a Roman stylus of the well-known type, measuring $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. It came from the very bottom of the level. This is by no means a unique find on a Romano-British site, showing that if the native population had not themselves acquired the art of writing they had acquired some interest in the instrument that produced it. Eight styli were found by General Pitt-Rivers in different places in his excavation at Woodyates,¹ and numerous specimens were also obtained at Woodcuts and Rotherley.² More recently Mr Donald Atkinson found one, and probably a second, on Lowbury Hill, Berkshire,³ and one was obtained by Mr and Mrs Cunnington in Casterley Camp.⁴

Fig. 9, Nos. 7, 8, and 9 are nails with square section. Several others were found, the largest measuring $4\frac{7}{8}$ inches in length.

Fig. 9, No. 10 measures $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length, and is a thin pin of iron bent in the centre so that its two ends lie in parallel planes. The upper end is imperfect. Its purpose is not apparent.

Fig. 9, No. 11, is a staple $2\frac{1}{32}$ inches in breadth and $2\frac{11}{16}$ in length.

Fig. 9, No. 12, is a hook.

Fig. 9, No. 13, shows three iron rings varying in external diameter from $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch to $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Fig. 9, No. 14, is probably a small portion of the umbo of a shield. It is a thin convex fragment with a flange at the edge.

Fig. 9, No. 15, is a cleat.

Fig. 10, No. 1, illustrates an indefinite object of iron, $2\frac{5}{16}$ inches in length, to which is attached transversely, possibly by corrosion, a thin plate of bronze with a button-like disc at one end.

Fig. 10, Nos. 2 and 3, are small iron hooks purposely so made, and not nails the points of which have been bent. A similar hook was found in 1914,⁵ and another (noted *infra*, p. 84) came from the level immediately above this.

The pottery from this level consists of fragments of native as well

¹ Pitt-Rivers, *Excavations*, vol. iii., pl. clxxiv. 15-17.

² *Ibid.*, vol. i., pl. xxix. 6-8. cv. 3.

³ Atkinson, *Lowbury Hill*, p. 51, pl. xv. 13, 14.

⁴ *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine*, No. cxix., vol. xxxviii., pl. ii., No. 10.

⁵ *Proc.*, xlix. p. 198, fig. 45, No. 8.

as of Roman wares, the former greatly outnumbering the latter. The native pottery is coarse, thick, and made without the aid of the potter's wheel, also usually much blackened by fire, indicating that the vessels have been chiefly used as cooking-pots. In previous reports details have been given, and illustrations of specimen sherds and of sections supplied, but as no fresh data have transpired in the excavation of the past summer there is nothing to add to the previous statements.

The Roman pottery has supplied fewer fragments of interest than in previous years, and no pieces of ornamented wares that have not been met with before. The most noteworthy of the latter are shown in fig. 7, Nos. 45 and 46. The most characteristic fragments are contained in the following list:—

Portion of the mouth of an amphora, round-bellied type; second century.

Fragment of cooking-pot, drab clay with silver-grey slip coating, scored lightly with a horizontal band of comb-markings and detached vertical lines; apparently of late first or early second century date.

Fragment of decorated Samian bowl, form 37 (fig. 7, No. 45).

Small fragment from the side of a Samian bowl, form 44 (fig. 7, No. 46), good hard clay and glaze (cf. *Roman Frontier Post*, pl. xl. fig. 20).

Fragments of Castor ware cup or beaker, form 55; second or third century.

Small rim fragment of Samian bowl 35/36, decorated on the recurved rim with leaves *en barbotine*; Lezoux fabric late first century (cf. *Roman Frontier Post*, pl. xxxix. fig. 5).

Small rim fragment, pale silver-grey fumed clay, hard, with well-smoothed inside surface; rare shape of open bowl with slightly inturned rim (cf. *Kastell Wiesbaden, O.R.L.*, xxxi. pl. xiii. 9, 13, 25, A.D. 83-121).

Small fragment of a decorated Samian bowl, form 37; style of Germanus, A.D. 60-85. Remains of leafage and other ornamental detail indicate that this is a piece of the same bowl as a small sherd found in 1915,¹ whereon appears the greater part of a charging lion.

Some small fragments of Belgic black ware.

Rim fragment of a flagon with three receding cordons (cf. this piece with one got in 1915).²

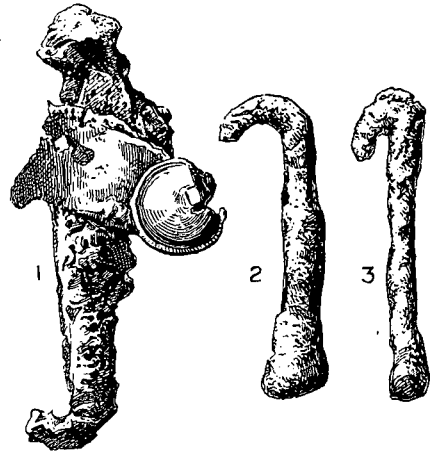


Fig. 10. Three Objects of Iron from the lowest level. (†)

¹ *Proc.*, 1. p. 96, fig. 21, No. 1.

² *Ibid.*, 1. p. 90, fig. 18, No. 7.

Fragments of a fumed grey cooking-pot, scored lightly with latticed lines.

Fragments of Belgic black ware; rim fragments of globular pipkins or beakers, fumed grey clay, coated with bitumen, not polished on outside surface.

Fragments of Castor ware, white clay with brownish red slip coating.

Rim fragment of Samian bowl, form 18; late first or early second century.

Fragment of the side of a Samian bowl, form 31; second century.

Small fragment of the side of a Samian bowl, form 37; portion of a zone of "S"-shaped ornament.

Fragment from the shoulder of a narrow-necked cooking-pot or store vessel, coarse fumed grey clay with reddish core; a cordon at junction of neck and shoulder; may be late first century.

Two rim fragments of Upchurch or late Belgic black ware decorated round the outside with a lattice pattern, scored lightly with a blunt point (cf. *Proc.*, xlix. p. 162, fig. 18, No. 4).

Lastly, this lowest level yielded two coins both from section H—one a denarius, the other a small brass, both of Faustina the Elder—which, along with the pottery, serve to indicate the period of occupation. As both coins are of the types struck subsequent to the death of Faustina in 141 A.D., they clearly belong to the Antonine period of Roman occupation in Scotland.

The foregoing notes on the Roman pottery show fragments of late first or early second century wares, as well as pieces of vessels of the Antonine period; thus pottery and coins supply evidence that this primary occupation continued well into the second century. Of the date of its commencement we cannot be certain; but, as we shall show later on, the period of its endurance was much longer than that of any one of the three occupations that succeeded it.

RELICS FROM THE THIRD LEVEL.

What we designated the third level as we reached it in succession from the latest refers, of course, to the second occupation, as we consider the relics in chronological sequence, taking the levels up from the earliest.

On level No. 3 we naturally do not find relics from the earlier Stone and Bronze Age periods, as the floor of the lowest occupation intervened between it and the ancient surface. One arrow-head of flint, however, of the lozenge-shaped variety, with a slight chip out of one edge, has found its way thither, probably by the action of a rabbit, or the still more disturbing proceedings of someone bent on digging out

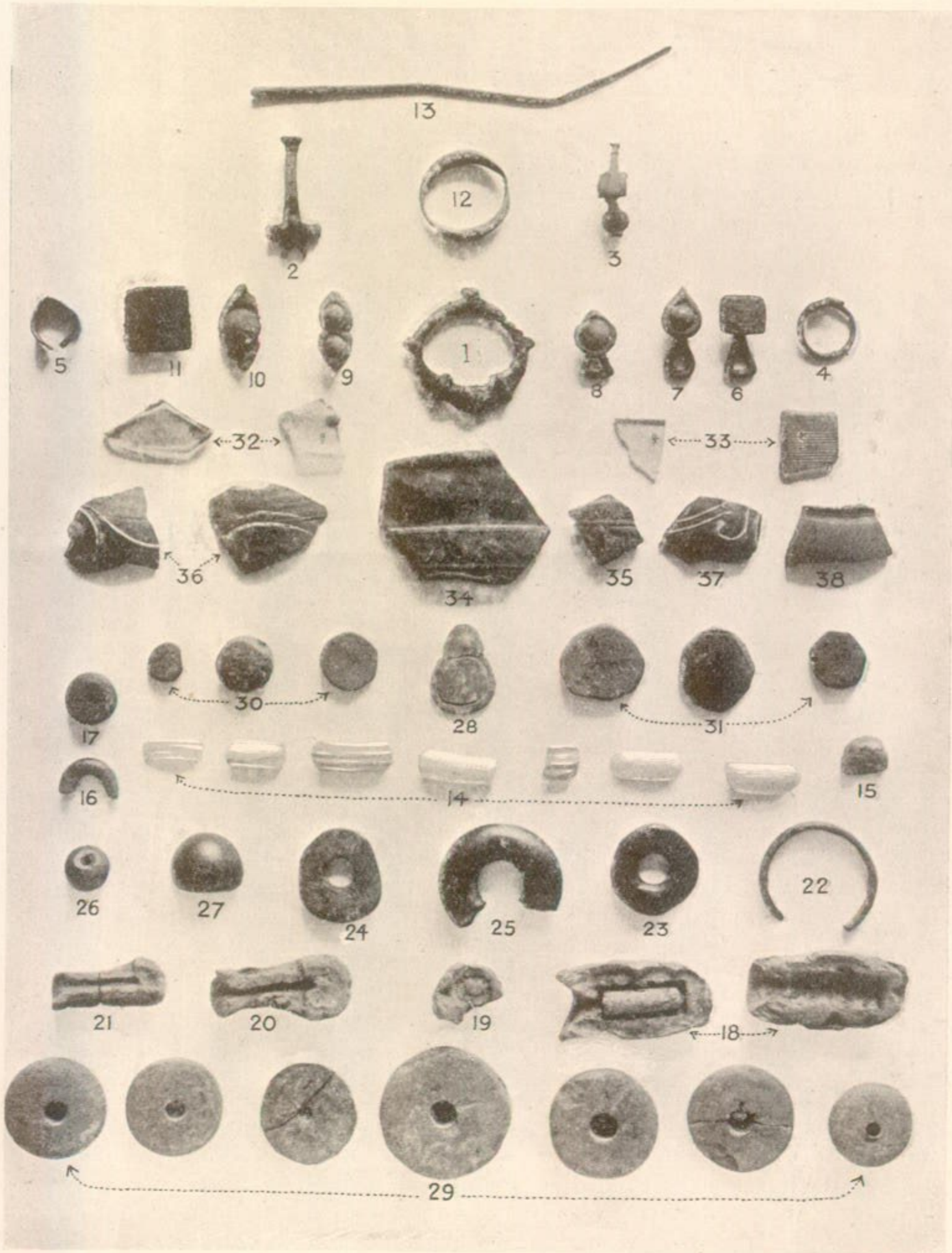


Fig. 11. General illustration of Relics (other than of iron) from the third level. (Ca. $\frac{1}{3}$.)

the rabbit. This is the fifth flint arrow-head that we have found, and it is worthy of remark that of these four are of the lozenge-shaped variety, while the fifth is leaf-shaped. Thus far we have not met with a single barbed specimen.

Of bronze ornaments we have fewer than on the lower level. There are two bow fibulæ, both of quite distinct forms from those previously noted. One of these (fig. 11, No. 2, and fig. 12, No. 1) is a plain bow fibula identical in style with that found in 1914.¹ The bow is rounded and plain; there is a concavity in the foot which has contained a boss, and there is a similar one at the head. The pin works on a simple hinge. The form is not uncommon on Romano-British sites, and references to other occurrences are given in the

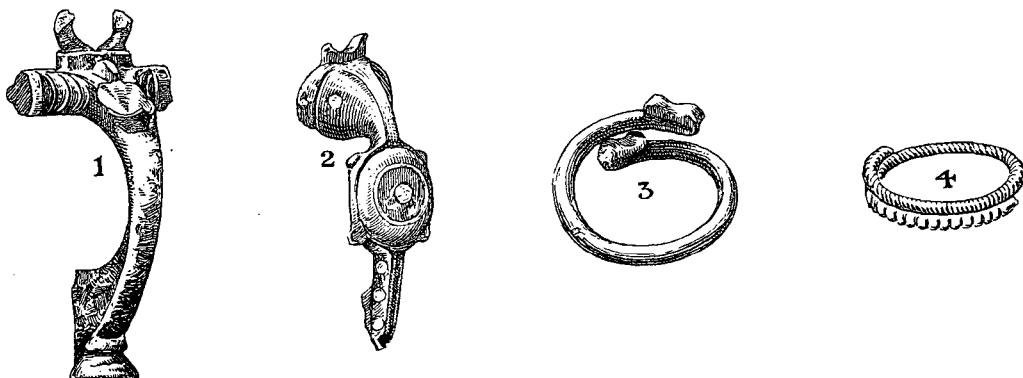


Fig. 12. Fibulæ and Rings from the third level. (3.)

Report for 1914. The second fibula (fig. 11, No. 3, and fig. 12, No. 2) is of a less common variety, and a beautiful example of its kind. The bow, which is quadrangular in section, with bevelled sides towards the foot, swells out to a trumpet-bell form at the head. On the crest of the bow is a circular disc from which four small points project at equal distances apart, tending to produce a square appearance. This disc is outlined with a thin thread of gold and is covered with enamel, which apparently has been crimson. A spot of silver forms the centre. Three other spots of silver are set along each of the flat sides of the forward section, while a band of the same metal, flanked on each side by a single spot, runs along the ridge from the disc to the head. The pin works on a spring. There has been a ring on the head which has been broken off. General Pitt-Rivers found a fibula of identical form ornamented with a stud of blue enamel

¹ *Proc.*, xlix. p. 169, fig. 24, No. 3.

in the Romano-British village at Woodcuts Common. A similar one was found at Wroxeter.¹

A ring (fig. 11, No. 4, and fig. 12, No. 3) measures $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter and is formed of a plano-convex wire in such a way that the ends are turned back and slightly overlap. There is also a fragment amounting to $1\frac{1}{2}$ coils of a small finger ring of silver (fig. 12, No. 4), formed of a tapered wire with a fine spiral rib, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter.

Fig. 11, No. 5, is a penannular ring made from a thin plate of bronze tapered to either end. The greatest diameter is $\frac{13}{16}$ inch, but it has more the appearance of a mounting than of a personal ornament.

Of the so-called dress-fasteners there are three (fig. 11, Nos. 6-8). No. 6 is fashioned with a square plate and a rounded loop, and does not differ essentially from those of the same pattern found on the lowest level. The same remark applies to fig. 11, No. 7, of the petal and boss variety. Conceivably it made a pair with fig. 7, No. 19. The other specimen, however, of this class (fig. 11, No. 8) has all the appearance of incipient decadence in its lines. The boss has got flatter and broader, and the curves are less pleasing.

Of the harness-mountings (Nos. 9-11 of fig. 11) No. 9, showing a double petal and boss design, equally with the last object shows a falling-off in workmanship from the style of the identical ornaments found on the lowest level. The curves of the petals are not so true, and the object is clumsily designed. The mounting next to it in the illustration, No. 10, is the exact counterpart of one found on the lowest level, and it is conceivable that the lowest level is its proper provenance, for both were found in the same section (G), and where the dividing stratum is shallow and uneven an occasional confusion is, I fear, inevitable.

Another harness-mounting (fig. 11, No. 11) is a plate of bronze $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch square, furnished, like all the foregoing, with a loop at the back.

Connected with harness was probably also the ring (fig. 11, No. 12). It measures $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch in diameter. The fashion of it is peculiar in respect that the ring itself is not of the same thickness throughout, but swells out on two opposite segments in a style characteristic of Late-Celtic craftsmanship.

One other ornamental relic of bronze was recovered from this level, a pin (fig. 11, No. 13, and fig. 13). It measures $6\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length and, although bent, appears to be complete. It is similar to a pin obtained from the lowest level in 1914. The head is somewhat decayed, but it has been rounded, and on the front of the pin there is a slight projecting lip curving upwards at either end. It has some resemblance in the latter

¹ *Urinconium*, Thomas Wright, p. 280, No. 5.

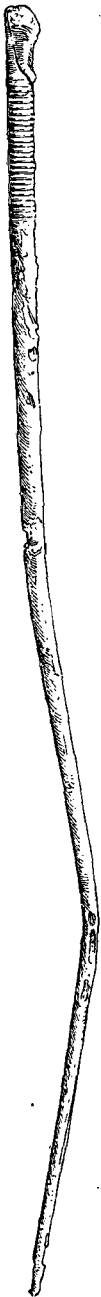


Fig. 13. Bronze Pin from the third level. (4.)

respect to a zoomorphic-headed pin found in 1915, and described and illustrated in the Report for that year.¹ The upper part of the head on this pin does not seem to have been so elaborate. At intervals there occur zones of incised lines encircling the stem with the evident intention of keeping the pin in position.

The only other objects of bronze recovered from this level were two in number. One appears to be the half of a disc, $1\frac{9}{32}$ inch in greatest diameter with a trefoil or quatrefoil piercing in the centre, and suggests the lockplate from the end of a tubular padlock. The other object is a bar of bronze, 5 inches in length, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in breadth, quadrangular in section.

Closely allied to the actual bronze ornaments are moulds for the manufacture of such articles. One complete mould sectioned and portions of three others are shown in fig. 11, Nos. 18-21. The sectioned mould was found in its perfect state as it was finished ready for use. It is of clay and has been made exactly in the same method as those found in 1915, a method fully described in the Report for that year. As will be observed (fig. 14, No. 1), it has been intended to cast one half of a cylinder with five corrugations on the outside, and has been furnished with a core to preserve its hollow character.

The three other moulds are each for pins. No. 19, and fig. 14, No. 2, the head part only, has been for a hand-pin with six beads. We got a pin of this type from the lowest level in 1914, which had five beads. No. 20, and fig. 14, No. 3, has been intended, and more probably used, to cast a pin of a type which, as far as my knowledge goes, is represented by no single existing specimen. It has, like the hand-pin, been a shouldered pin, and has had a head in the form of a cinquefoil. The full length of the pin as it left the mould has been only $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and, as will be noticed in the diagrammatic representation of it, the point has been blunt. Probably a sharpened point was produced by hammering and the stem consequently lengthened before the object was finally finished. The remaining mould (fig. 11, No. 21) has apparently been for a simple pin, but it presents a peculiar feature in that it has two interior faces, one at right angles to the other. On that shown

¹ *Proc.*, 1, p. 39, fig. 24, No. 3.

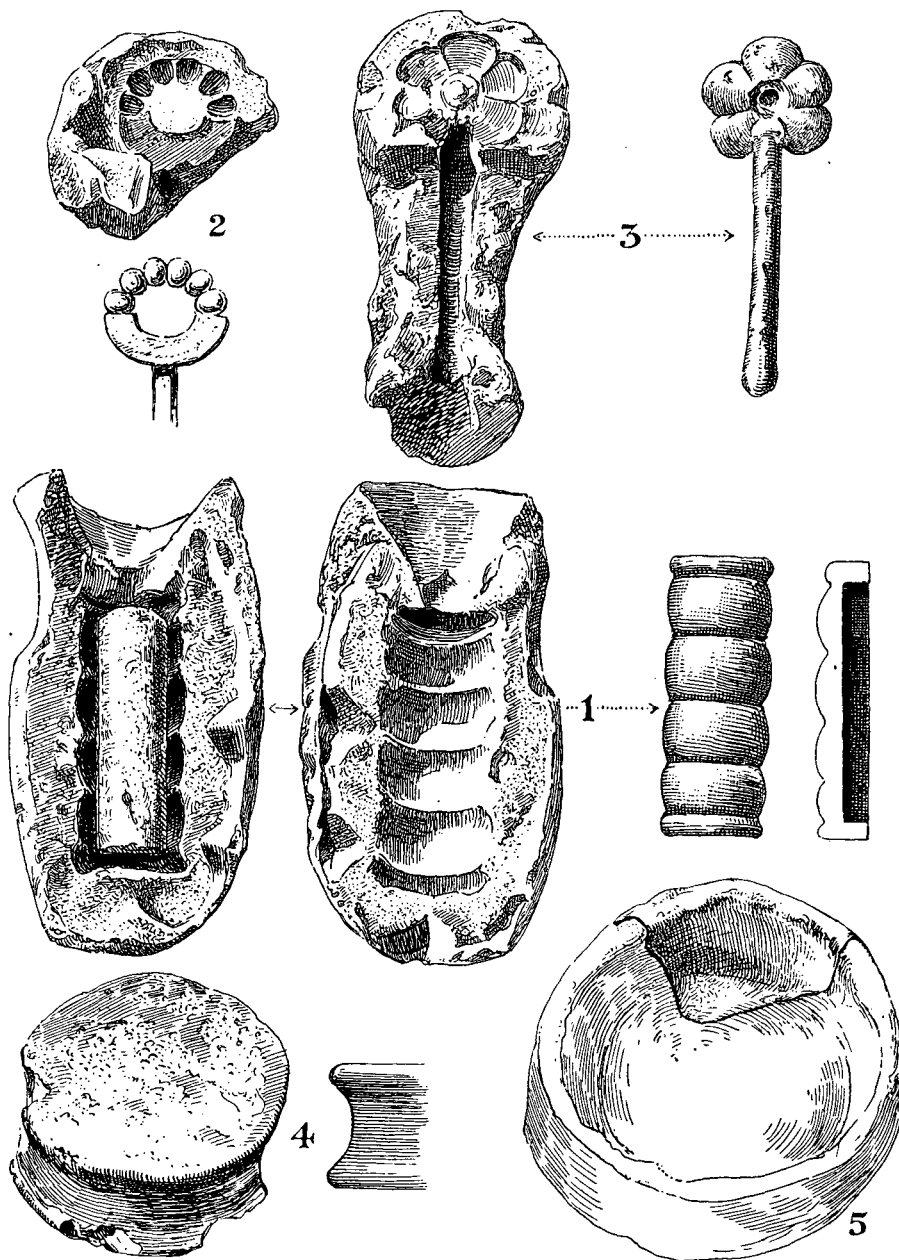


Fig. 14. Nos. 1-3, Clay Moulds, with diagrams of relative Castings; 4, Grooved Disc; 5, Segment and diagrammatic completion of Pottery Saucer. All from the third level. (1.)
VOL. LIV. 6

in the illustration is the pin matrix, while the other is plain. It is conceivable that a simple pin matrix and a plain surface existed on the counterpart of the mould with their positions reversed.

Of other ornaments not of bronze there were found, as on the level below, a number of segments of glass armlets (fig. 11, No. 14). Of these there were seven; of which two were of opaque white glass with no ornamentation; two of opaque white, but with thin blue threads trailed on the surface; two of pale translucent blue glass, each with three blue and white intertwined cord mouldings, laid one along the crest and one along each side. The last fragment was a small one of pale green translucent glass.

As was observed in our last Report, the bracelets of opaque white or yellow glass were of heavier make than those made of translucent material. In addition to the foregoing, there was found a small wedge-shaped fragment, rather too thick to have been part of any armlet, such as we have found so far (fig. 11, No. 15). It is of blue and white milleflore glass, and has been a section of some plano-convex rod, or ring, which has had its surfaces ground or rubbed down to their present state of smoothness. The style is suggestive of Roman manufacture.

Fig. 11, Nos. 16 and 17, show two objects of amber, one-half of an annular bead with a diameter of 1 inch, and a small discoid bead $\frac{7}{8}$ inch in diameter.

Since we left the lowest level a remarkable change has occurred in the prevailing fashion of shale or jet ornaments. Not a single example has come to light of the heavy segments of armlets so numerous on that level, but we have in place four rings and a bead of this material (fig. 11, Nos. 22-26). Of these No. 22 is a slightly made ring, imperfect, with a diameter of $1\frac{29}{32}$ inch. It alone is in appearance like an armlet, but it is too small for the wrist of anyone but a very small child. Nos. 23 and 24 are flattened rings, probably worn suspended as beads; and No. 25, with a diameter over all of 2 inches, has in all probability been put to a similar purpose. Fig. 11, No. 26, is a small spherical bead, flattened at either end of the perforation, and measuring $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter. Part of a very similar bead was recovered from the bottom level in 1915. No. 27 of fig. 11 is one half of the head of a pin similar in character to one found on the upper level in 1914.

The last article for personal use to be mentioned is a thin flat object fashioned out of clay-stone into the form of a disc with a tongue projecting in one direction, the disc surrounded by an incised line (fig. 11, No. 28). A notch cut on either side at the junction of the tongue and disc has evidently been made to hold a cord used for the suspension of the object. The design, which is possibly phallic, is very

much the same as that employed to decorate the head of the pin above described.

The number of complete whorls (fig. 11, No. 29) found on the third level amounts to eight, while seven different halves give a representative total of fifteen. Of these ten were fashioned from stone, one from the foot of a small Samian bowl, one each of Roman and native pot respectively, and two of lead. Among those of stone is a half-whorl made of clay-slate, on both faces of which numerous lines have been scratched with some sharp instrument. One of the objects of lead which I have included as a whorl is only $\frac{7}{8}$ inch in diameter.

For the first time this season we meet with the small discs of stone or pottery and occasionally of glass which were evidently used as playing-men or counters. Of these we have six (fig. 11, Nos. 30 and 31), varying in diameter from $\frac{11}{16}$ inch to $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch.

Of stone objects there was found one irregular oval disc of sandstone, measuring superficially $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches by $2\frac{1}{16}$ inches; a coprolite, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter, similar to one found in 1914,¹ and which, I am informed, must have come from carboniferous shale beds. A discoid object of coarse pottery, $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter by $\frac{5}{8}$ inch in depth, with a marked hollow round the middle giving it a bobbin-like aspect (fig. 14, No. 4) is of unascertained use.

A small ball of baked clay with a diameter of $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch does not fall into any of the foregoing categories. Similar pellets have been found in each of the previous years.

A small number of pieces of Roman glass (fig. 11, Nos. 32-33) came from this level.

The principal relics of iron recovered from the third level are shown on fig. 15.

There are two spear-heads—one (No. 1) leaf-shaped, measuring $5\frac{3}{16}$ inches in length, the other (No. 2) more lanceolate, measuring $6\frac{7}{8}$ inches. Both have closed sockets and well-defined midribs, in these respects showing features which apparently distinguished the purely Celtic spear-heads of our two earlier occupations from those of the later periods.

A good pair of shears (No. 3), measuring $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, are of the usual type—a type that has proved its effectiveness by its survival to the present time with a somewhat restricted use. A similar pair, but smaller, was found in 1915 on the second level.

There are three knives (Nos. 4, 5, and 6), two with triangular pointed blades (one lacking the point), the other with seemingly a rounded point.

¹ *Proc.*, xlix. p. 201.

A shouldered pin (No. 7) belongs to a type of which examples have been found in bronze in each of our previous year's digging. Similar pins in iron were found respectively in the kitchen-midden at Gallanach, Oban; in the fort at The Laws, Monifieth, Forfarshire; and in the Iron Age burial at Moredun, near Edinburgh.¹

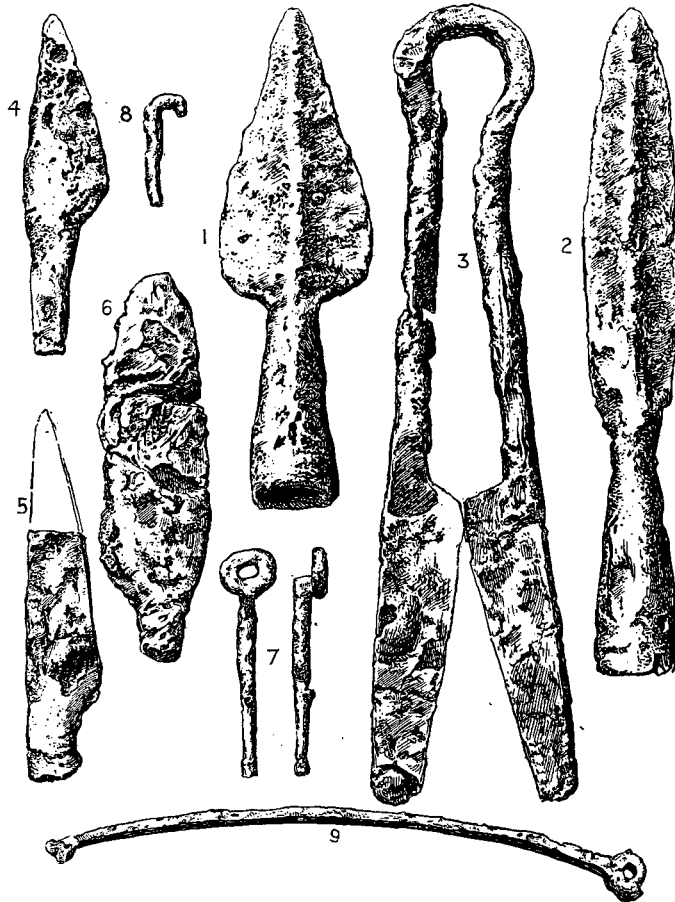


Fig. 15. Iron Objects from the third level. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

No. 8 is a small hook $1\frac{3}{16}$ inch in length. A similar hook was found in 1914.²

No. 9 much resembles a spring which has been held in position by a pin through a ring and bracket at either end. It measures $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length.

¹ *Proc.*, xxxviii., 1906, p. 433, figs.-5, 7, and 8.

² *Ibid.*, xlix., fig. 45, No. 8.

There is illustrated by fig. 16 a small mortising chisel of iron, rectangular in section throughout and measuring 2 inches in length.



Fig. 16. Mortising Chisel of Iron from the third level. (†.)

Fig. 17 shows two aspects of a flattened oval object of iron with a rectangular transverse piercing, apparently for a strap to pass through. It measures superficially $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch by $\frac{1}{8}$ inch and in thickness $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Though the rounded upper surface is now covered with iron, there is clearly discernible at the edges a thin plate of bronze, demonstrating that the iron which now overlies it is due to oxidisation. The shape which this plate of bronze must take at once recalls the ornamented plate found on the lowest level (fig. 8, No. 6), and, though of considerably larger size, the latter may originally have been employed to decorate the upper surface of a similar though larger oval boss.

The pottery fragments from this level show the usual mixture of coarse native ware with Roman wheel-made pottery. Among the former there is nothing that calls for any special remark except one small fragment that appears to be about one-third of a diminutive saucer with a diameter of $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch and a rim rising $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above the level of the bottom (fig. 14, No. 5). A very similar saucer was found in a brooch at Brabstermire, in the parish of Canisbay, Caithness, hollowed out of a pebble $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length by 2 inches in breadth and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in thickness.¹ Such objects do not appear to have been crucibles—a stone is unsuitable for such a purpose—but they may have been used for containing pigment of some sort.

The Roman pottery shows a considerable variety of periods. There are a few pieces of Samian ware—the following being those worthy of remark.

A rim fragment of a Samian ware bowl (form 37) with an ovolo border, showing a beaded line beneath and at the lower edge what appears to be the upper part of a large scroll (fig. 11, No. 34). The style is eastern Gaulish or latest Lezoux, and its date probably the end of the second, or the beginning of the third century.

A small rim fragment of a similar bowl with a thick bead moulding probably of third-century date.



Fig. 17. Oval Object of Iron and Bronze from the third level. (†.)

¹ *Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments (Scotland), Third Report, Caithness, No. 37.*

A fragment of a small bowl of the same material (form 37) with panel ornament having beaded borders (fig. 11, No. 35). In the upper portion of the narrow panel on the left is a small caryatid (Déchelette, No. 656) used by Cinnamus, Devixtus, etc.; late first or early second century.

A rim fragment of a bowl or saucer (form 18); first half of the second century.

Two base-fragments of a cup (form 33) with the first three and last three letters ALB—ANI of a central potter's stamp, possibly part of the name ALBUCIANI—a second-century potter.

Of the Roman wares other than Samian the most conspicuous are the pieces of Rhenish pottery, parts of bulbous beakers of black slip ware decorated with zones of scrolls and berries in white slip bordered by groove and roulette markings (fig. 11, Nos. 36 and 37); period A.D. 150-250. It is noteworthy that none of this ware has been found in any of the Roman sites in Scotland excavated by the Society. Its appearance here therefore must be dated subsequent to the withdrawal of the Romans, *i.e.* the very end of the second or the first half of the third century. Numerous pieces of this ware were found at Silchester.¹ It is of interest to note that a few fragments were found in excavating the broch of Keiss, parish of Wick, Caithness, and are preserved in the Museum. In 1915 pieces were recovered from each of the levels except the lowest.

A small fragment of grey Upchurch ware, part of a globular beaker decorated with a zone of roulette hatching.

Fragments of Upchurch, or late Belgic, ware, parts of one or more pear-shaped pots decorated with vertical lines made with a rounded point, of pale grey body with darker surface—smoothed above and below the decorated zone; early second century. Fragments of this ware were found in the lowest level, probably its proper position, in 1915.

A rim fragment of a small globular cooking-pot with slight upright bead rim; found also at Corbridge; Antonine period, A.D. 138-192.

Several fragments of Castor ware of white body with black slip coating; second to fourth century.

Three coins came from this level: from the upper or eastern half of G, a small brass of Probus, A.D. 276-281, and a similar coin of Allectus, 293-296; while from the centre of the western portion of H came a small brass of Carausius, A.D. 287-293. These third-century coins found at different places throughout the level may be taken, along with the fragments of Rhenish pottery, to show that the occupation of this level in the particular area excavated last summer extended well into, if not

¹ May, *The Pottery found at Silchester*, p. 103, pl. xlii. A.

throughout, the third century. This is a much later date than was attributed to it in the previous Reports from the evidence then obtained, the latest coin connected with it found up to 1915 being of the reign of Antoninus Pius. The third-century coins which it has yielded this last season are the first coins of that period that have hitherto been found on the hill. The significance of this is not clear. It may imply that during the period represented by each level the occupation was progressive over the surface and not simultaneous, the inhabitants moving to fresh ground as occasion arose. Or it may show that the duration of the occupations was much longer than we have hitherto estimated. As to the length of occupation of this particular level in last summer's excavation, I shall show later on that relative to that of the primary occupation it was brief, or else the site was used by a much less dense population.

RELICS FROM THE SECOND LEVEL.

We have now reached the period of the third consecutive occupation of the explored area—that relative to the second floor level reached in

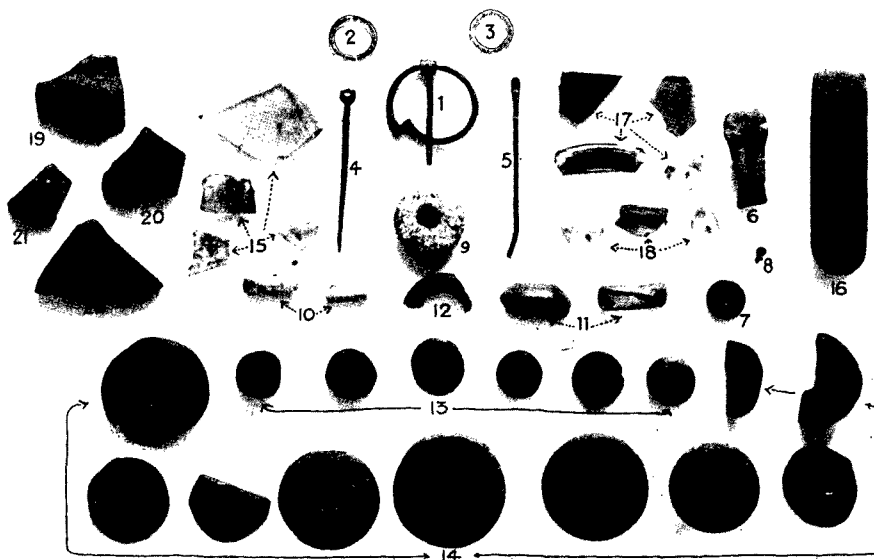


Fig. 18. General illustration of Relics from the second level (other than of Iron). (Ca. $\frac{1}{3}$.)

our digging from the surface. It is that on which the hearths lay for the most part east and west, and were in alignment.

The bulk of the relics are shown in fig. 18. It will be observed that

the number of objects found is much smaller than that obtained from either of the two preceding occupations.

The only fibula recovered (fig. 18, No. 1, and fig. 19, No. 1) is of the penannular type. The diameter is $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch, but originally it would have been a trifle more, the brooch having been slightly crushed. The terminals are exactly of the style to be seen on one half of a penannular fibula found in 1915¹ on the third level, and believed to be zoomorphic.

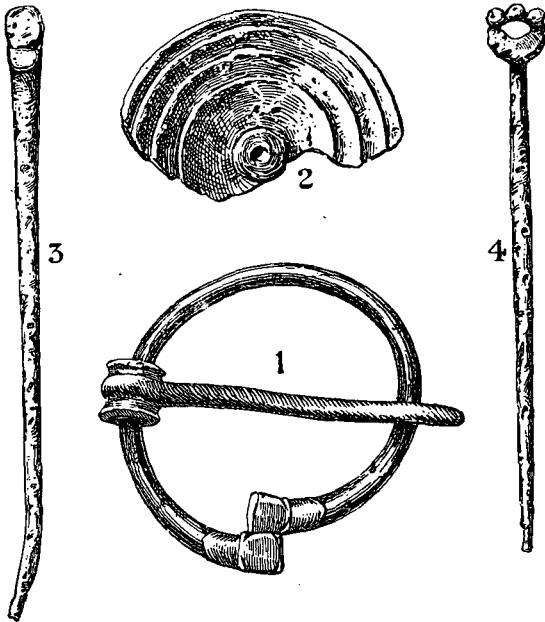


Fig. 19. Pins and Brooch of Bronze and Disc of Iron from the second level. (†.)

Though the style is the same in one respect, there is a difference in the terminals—that of the 1915 brooch shows a barely perceptible expansion in thickness from that of the wire forming the main part of the brooch, while in the more recently recovered example the ends broaden out markedly. As was related in our last Report, this type of brooch has been shown by Mr Reginald Smith to be the prototype of the later Celtic brooches with the richly wrought terminals, the best-known example of which from Scotland is the Hunterston Brooch. The broadening of the terminals as seen in our example indicates an important step in the development. It is probably of fourth-century date.

Two small slightly penannular rings of bronze (fig. 18, Nos. 2 and 3) have more probably been the movable heads of pins than fibulae.

Of actual bronze pins we recovered two. One (fig. 18, No. 4, and fig. 19, No. 4) is a modified form of the hand-pin referred to above. The number of beads upon the head is now reduced to three. It measures $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches in length. In an article tracing the development of the hand-pin in Great Britain and Ireland, Mr Reginald Smith gives to this form a fourth- to fifth-century attribution.² The relegation of this example to the fourth century, as will be shown in considering the date of this occupation, is probably correct.

The other pin (fig. 18, No. 5, and fig. 19, No. 3) measures $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches

¹ *Proc.*, l. p. 101, fig. 23, No. 5.

² *Opuscula Archaeologica Oscari Montelio*, p. 287, fig. 14.

in length, and is of the identical type of the pin found on the last level, shown in fig. 13. A pin with a similar head but larger was found in the third level in 1915.¹

Closely connected with the pins is one half of a clay mould, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch in length (fig. 18, No. 6), for casting a small hand-pin, which has apparently had five beads on the head.

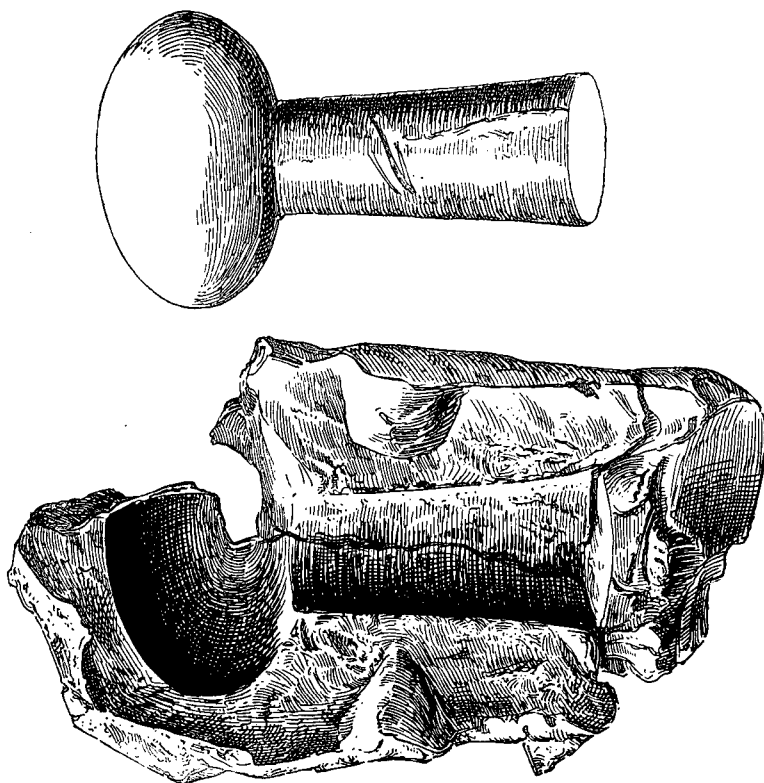


Fig. 20. Mould for a Spear-butt, and diagrammatic drawing of Casting. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

One half of a large clay mould (imperfect) is shown in fig. 20 with a diagram of the object which was intended to be cast in it. This has evidently been a socketed spear-butt with a flattened spheroid terminal measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length and $\frac{11}{8}$ inch in diameter at the mouth.

Of beads there occurred one discoid bead of amber, $\frac{11}{16}$ inch in diameter (fig. 18, No. 7), very similar to one recovered from the level below, and a small cylindrical bead of opaque green glass $\frac{5}{32}$ inch in diameter

¹ *Proc.*, 1., fig. 23, Nos. 9A and 9B.

(fig. 18, No. 8). Two similar beads of green glass were found in 1915—one on this level, and the other in filling in the soil. The horizon is therefore probably correct, and the period of the type the fourth century.

An object which has apparently been worn suspended as a bead is another fish coprolite (fig. 18, No. 9), ground into discoid form and artificially perforated. A groove radiates from the perforation in one direction to the edge, probably produced by the friction of a cord when being worn as an amulet, or bead.

Pieces of glass bracelets turned up on this level also; four of them are illustrated (fig. 18, Nos. 10 and 11). One is of the opaque yellow glass, and with a markedly triangular section, which from accumulated experience I incline to attribute to the earlier occupations. Of the three other pieces one is translucent pale green and ornamented with yellow streaks, and the others are opaque white. All three are of the lighter make, and show a semi-oval section.

Shale, or jet, is represented by a single fragment (fig. 18, No. 12), one half of a ring.

The playing-men or counters, which first came to light on the third level, appear again on this. Of these objects there are seven, six of which are shown in the illustration (fig. 18, No. 13). Two of these have been fashioned from fragments of Samian ware, three are of shale, and two are pebbles.

With the stone objects we may include another white fish coprolite, with an extreme diameter of $\frac{1}{8}$ inch, spherical in form, and in its natural state; two hones, one (fig. 18, No. 16) measuring $3\frac{9}{16}$ inches by 1 inch by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; the other, not illustrated, rectangular in section, measuring $4\frac{5}{16}$ inches by $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch by $\frac{2}{3}$ inch; a thin disc of porphyry, measuring $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter, highly polished on one face; a quadrangular flake of sandstone with one edge sharpened, measuring $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches by $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; a large scraper of fine black flint, measuring $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, which obviously has been brought up by some means from a lower level. Lastly, with these miscellaneous stone relics we may mention an oval discoid object of hardened clay, measuring $2\frac{9}{32}$ inches by $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches. This article has evidently been employed for polishing, as the surface on one face towards each end has been worn to a convex outline by attrition.

The perforated discs or whorls from this level number twelve, of which ten are illustrated (fig. 18, No. 14). In the case of two of these objects the perforation is so small, only $\frac{3}{32}$ inch in diameter, that it is barely conceivable that they were used to put on a spindle; the perforations of the remaining ten quite suit them for their presumed purpose. Two of the latter are made from pieces of Samian ware.

As we learned in our excavation of 1915, there is a notable increase in the pieces of Roman glass found on this level (fig. 18, Nos. 15-17), and especially noteworthy are the fragments of delicate vessels and of coloured glass referable to a period of occupation of the site that must be dated long subsequent to the withdrawal of the Roman legions from the territory north of Hadrian's Wall. There are probably twelve different vessels represented by the following pieces:—

1 piece, yellow bronze tint.

3 pieces, very thin, pale green.

1 piece, very thin, pale moss green, with a band formed of finely scratched lines.

1 piece, of a rim, thin, slightly darker in tint than the last.

Several pieces of colourless glass, much cracked.

2 pieces, very thin, pale yellow.

3 pieces, very thin, pale blue.

1 piece a little thicker and darker than the last.

1 piece, colourless, showing an everted rim and moulded edge.

1 piece thin, colourless, with moulding.

A segment of a hollow rim of green glass.

Several pieces of thick green glass bottles of large dimensions.

There remain to mention before considering the pottery the few following objects of metal.

A lead disc, plano-convex in section, with a hole $\frac{5}{16}$ inch in diameter, sunk in the centre on its flat underside, evidently to enable the object to be fixed on the end of a pin of some sort; three short fragments of bronze binding, semi-tubular, and such as was possibly used for the edging of sheaths;¹ a short coil of silver wire $\frac{11}{32}$ inch in length and $\frac{5}{32}$ inch in diameter; lastly, about one half of a disc of bronze (fig. 19, No. 2), $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch in diameter, ornamented with a series of four incised concentric circles.

The iron objects recovered from this level are fewer in number than from either of the lower levels. We are fortunate in having among them a spear-head which we can contrast with those belonging to the earlier occupations. It is shown in fig. 21, No. 1, and measures 4 inches in length. It is readily recognisable as of a different type, no longer leaf-shaped, but narrow and rounded with a markedly split socket. This split socket has characterised the spear-heads hitherto found from the upper levels, and is a feature of such weapons in use by the Saxons. A spear-ferrule (fig. 21, No. 2), measuring 5 inches in length, shows the same class of socket. A very similar one was found on this level in 1915.² Fig. 21,

¹ We have found pieces of this each year, as a rule on this level or on the one above (*Proc.*, l. p. 116).

² *Proc.*, l. p. 114, fig. 29, No. 3.

No. 3, resembles the flat tang of a sword-blade, but it is greatly oxidised and its purpose uncertain. What appears to have been part of a hinge, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, is shown by fig. 21, No. 4. The object No. 5 of the same fig. has probably been a small movable handle for a vessel of some sort. Fig. 21, No. 6, which measures $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length following the curve, bears a strong resemblance to a half horse-shoe; it is, however, very thin and light. Halves of horse-shoes have been found on this and the highest level in both of our previous excavations. Fig. 21, Nos. 7 and 8, are knives. From No. 7 the point is amissing. It has been

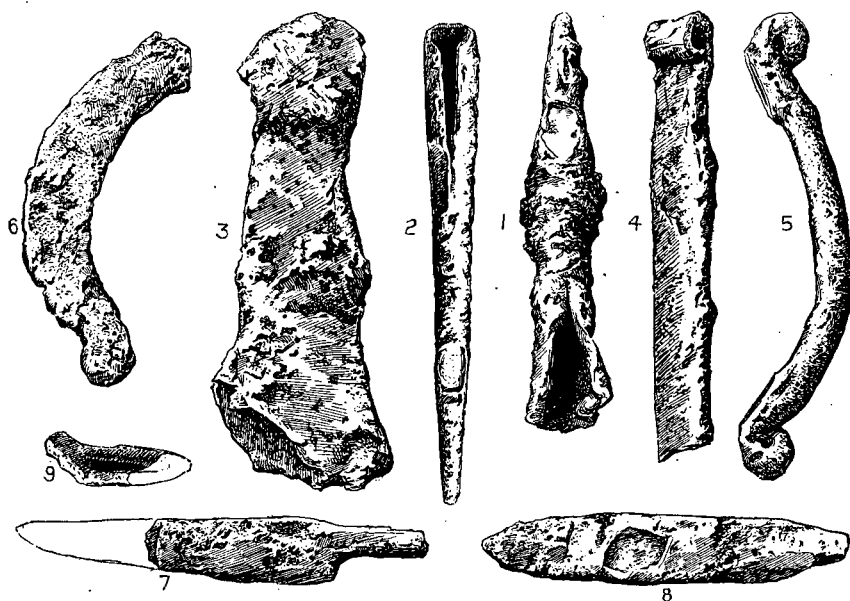


Fig. 21. Iron Objects from the second level. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

of the same triangularly bladed form as we have met with in the two previous levels, while No. 8, measuring $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length, though a trifle smaller, is of the same as that represented by fig. 15, No. 6, from the level below. No. 9 is a curious little imperfect spoon-like object, with the remains of a tang, or handle. Its dimensions are actually $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. It is difficult to conceive what process it could have been employed in, as its capacity is so very slight.

Again the native pottery calls for no remark. It shows even less variation than that found in 1915 and no fresh features.

With regard to the Roman ware, as in 1915 there is a surprisingly large

amount, though among it there is an absence of fresh types or of notable pieces. The following list shows the principal fragments:—

Side fragment of a bowl of Samian ware, form No. 31; late second or third century.

Base fragment of another Samian bowl, form 18/37; good glaze.

Base fragment of a Samian cup, form 33, showing one letter A of potter's stamp and part of an incised circle; glaze brownish by fuming; second century.

Rim fragment of large Samian bowl, form 37, with thick bead rim and sides; of late date.

A small fragment of grey Upchurch ware, part of a globular beaker decorated with a zone of roulette hatching similar to a piece found on the third level.

Small side fragment (fig. 18, No. 19) of the upright "S"-shaped side of a bowl in red well-washed clay coated with pink slip, much rubbed off. This is pottery of a kind made at Sandford, Oxon, and Ashley Rails in the New Forest in the fourth century.

Fragment of Castor ware, late second century.

Fragment of imitation Samian ware bowl, form 31, with heavy bead rim in ordinary red tile clay.

Small fragment of Castor ware, piece of a bulbous beaker originally rough cast with small bits of clay; coated with a clay slip red-brown merging to black; clay well washed, hard, light red in colour.

Side fragment of a cooking-pot scored with vertical lines; clay pale, nearly white, hard.

Base of beaker of Castor ware in pale buff clay, coated with clay slip, red, merging into brown; fourth century.

Small fragment of a cooking-pot (fig. 18, No. 20), Upchurch ware, clay pale grey with darker surface, decorated with loops scored with a blunt point, resembling a piece from lowest level, found in 1914.¹

Part of neck of narrow-mouthed or bottle-necked vessel with everted rim; fumed grey Upchurch ware.

Rim fragment of a cooking-pot in pale buff, nearly white clay with dark core.

Base fragments of a pear-shaped cooking-pot with beaded foot of Upchurch ware; clay hard, pale daub with a darker surface.

A small rim fragment of a Belgic cooking-pot, coated externally with hot polished bitumen.

A small fragment of Rhenish ware decorated with white slip scrolls (fig. 18, No. 21).

There is a somewhat unsatisfactory mingling of periods in the

¹ *Proc.*, xlix. p. 162, fig. 18, No. 3.

assigned dates of the pottery fragments. The probable cause of this was the inequality of the depth of the soil lying between the levels on certain parts of the area, owing to an outcrop of rock, and the consequent difficulty of determining exactly to which level any chance fragment actually belonged.

No coins were found on the second level this last season; but in general the few relics recovered correspond in character to those found on the same level in 1915. In that year we obtained two coins, brasses of Constantine Junior (A.D. 317-340), and of Magnentius (A.D. 350-353); we may therefore still regard the date of this occupation as having occurred in the fourth century.

THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

Comparatively few in number as were the relics from the second level, those from the highest are notably fewer; and when we take into account the movements of soil, and the objects within it due to the presence of rabbits, it is doubtful if the number credited to the latest occupation should not be less than it is.

Of fibulæ, either bow-shaped or penannular, none were found.

Two pins of bronze were recovered (fig. 22, Nos. 2 and 3); one (No. 2, also fig. 23, No. 2), complete though bent, measuring $5\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length; the other (No. 3, and fig. 23, No. 1), also apparently perfect, measuring $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch. The former terminates in a head which was designated zoomorphic in our last Report, where the style was discussed.¹ This example differs slightly from the two found formerly, in that the terminal portion is not bisected by a shallow groove on the front surface. Groups of lines have been incised on the upper part of the stem, obviously to prevent the pin slipping too readily from its hold. The second pin is somewhat puzzling. It is short, and does not taper to a very fine point. The head is of the same zoomorphic pattern as the last, but from the square top there project two semicircular flanges set very close together, their opposing faces being practically in contact. They are not, however, pierced for a rivet, as one would have expected. The flanges obviously suggest attachment to some other object; but what that object was, or how the attachment was accomplished, remains unascertained.

There are two rings of bronze (fig. 22, Nos. 6 and 7). One (No. 7), a simple ring the ends of which are not quite closed, calls for no remark. The other (No. 6), however, measuring 1 inch in diameter, has a moulded collar moving on its circumference, indicating rather clearly that this

¹ *Proc.*, l. p. 102.

object has been part of a ring-headed pin such as was in vogue among the Saxons, and the Vikings at a later date.

Three dress-fasteners, so called, of bronze, are worth notice. One (fig. 22, No. 8) is a simple square plate with a loop on a lower plane, a form we have already met with from the lower levels. It may be a survival, or its presence here may be fortuitous, seeing that it is a form

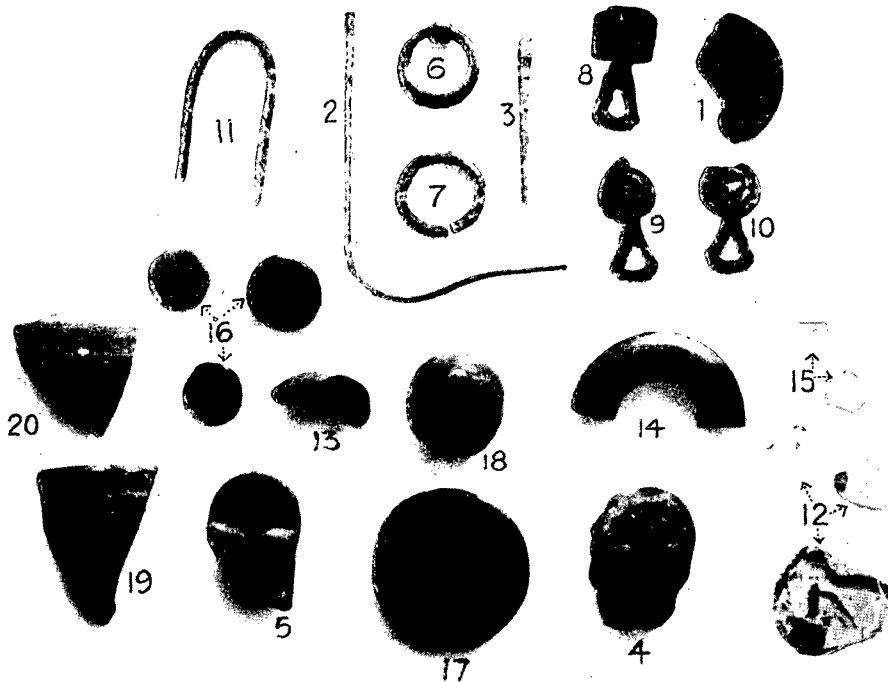


Fig. 22. General illustration of Relics from the highest level (other than of Iron). (Ca. $\frac{1}{2}$.)

which has hitherto been confined to the earlier occupations. The two other examples (fig. 22, Nos. 9 and 10, also fig. 23, No. 3) are more interesting in that they represent a form new to us, and are a pair, found, one at the mouth of a rabbit hole, and the other on the first floor level below. They are of the disc type, differing from the ordinary style in having, as shown by the perfect example, a segmental expansion on one side, increasing in breadth and ending abruptly at the top of the object as if it had been the loose end of a spiral. The plate of each has

been inset with three triangular beds of coloured enamel, red and white. The occurrence of these two identical objects in close proximity to each other at once suggests that, whatever their purpose, they were worn or used in pairs. From the highest level in 1914 came another of these articles, one with an annular head. Fig. 22, No. 11, also fig. 23, No. 4, is a staple-shaped object of bronze with an extreme length of $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch and breadth of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch between the points. It is divided up on its outer surface into a series of short segments by transverse grooves. Such an

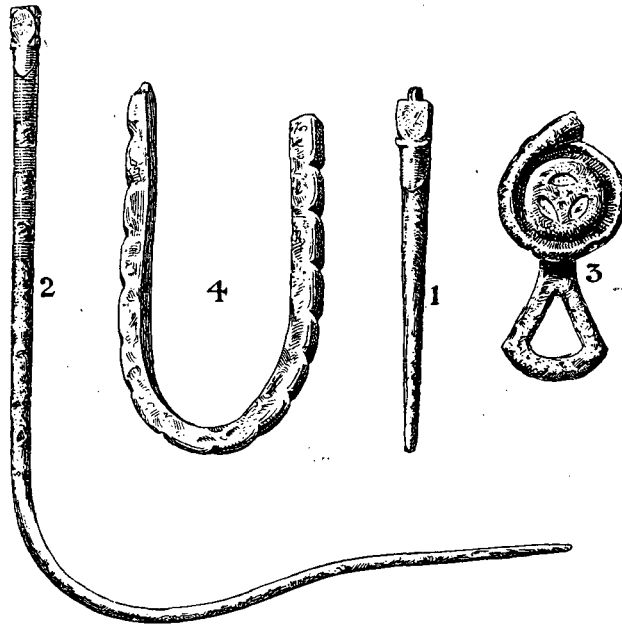


Fig. 23. Pins, Dress-fastener, and other Objects of Bronze from the highest level. (†)

object might conceivably have served as a chape of a dagger-sheath, the form being a usual one in such articles of Teutonic origin.

Of moulds there are two portions, each for the head of a pin. In one case (fig. 22, No. 4) the matrix is too much damaged to show what the actual form has been. In the other (fig. 22, No. 5, also fig. 24) the matrix has been for one of the hand type with three pellets similar to the pin found on the second level.

Of Roman glass there occurred a few small fragments (fig. 22, No. 12). Shale or jet was represented by two segments of rings (fig. 22, Nos. 13 and 14). There is also one tiny piece of a glass armband of the light translucent variety (fig. 22, No. 15).

The playing-men number three (fig. 22, No. 16).

The following articles fashioned from stone were found:—

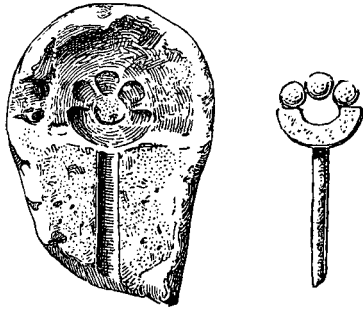


Fig. 24. Mould for a pin from the highest level, and relative diagram. (4.)

a disc of sandstone with a diameter of $1\frac{3}{16}$ inch, carefully polished on both faces (fig. 22, No. 17) a large flat object of sandstone, rounded in shape, measuring $4\frac{3}{16}$ inches in diameter by $\frac{19}{32}$ inch in thickness; the greater part of a pointed oval block of sandstone with a concave surface on the upper face, seemingly produced by sharpening large metal blades, such as swords (a somewhat similar stone was found on the second level in 1915, and is illustrated in the Report for that year);¹ a wedge-shaped object of sandstone grooved on both faces and on one side, measuring $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch in thickness,

and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in greatest breadth; lastly, the upper stone of a quern 19 inches in diameter, with a socket at right angles to the edge for a side handle, and a groove cut on the under side for a mill-rind 7 inches in length.

The iron objects are as proportionately few as those of other materials. There is a broken spear-head (fig. 25) of the leaf-shaped type with a closed socket, which presumably has been brought up from a lower level; a knife, imperfect, and in two parts, with a broad double-edged blade, symmetrically pointed, closely resembling one found on the third² level in 1914;³ a portion of another knife, single-edged and furnished with a tang; a few nails; and lastly, the iron link of a chain in form of a figure 8 (shown on fig. 25). Similar links were found in a Saxon barrow on Lowbury Hill, Berkshire.⁴

The fragments of pottery found on this level are so few in number as to be almost negligible.

In regard to the native pottery, the whole amount might almost be held in the palm of one hand. Among these

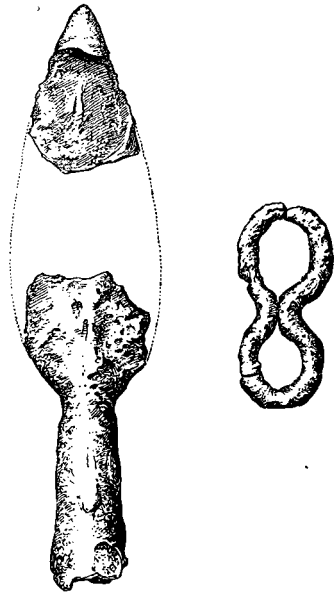


Fig. 25. Spear-head and Link of Iron from the highest level. (5.)

¹ *Proc.*, i. p. 130, fig. 39, No. 1.

² The so-called second level of the 1914 Report was in reality the third. ³ *Proc.*, xlix. p. 187.

⁴ Atkinson, *The Romano-British Site on Lowbury Hill*, p. 51, pl. xv., No. 15.

pieces there is none worthy of particular note. The Roman pottery is equally trifling in quantity. The bulk of the fragments are ostensibly from lower levels. Of the remaining pieces we may note the following as possibly being contemporaneous:—

A rim fragment of a bowl or platter, form 18 (fig. 22, No. 19), with upright side, having a groove $\frac{1}{4}$ inch below the edge of the lip to suggest a bead moulding; clay hard, brownish-red, late ware imitating Samian; third or fourth century.

Two small fragments of black slip glazed Rhenish ware decorated with zones of scrolls and berries with raised centres, in white slip, similar to that found on the third level (fig. 22, No. 20 shows one of these).

The paucity of relics, notably the extremely small quantity of potsherds, indicates clearly that the occupation of this level was of the briefest duration. Traces of charcoal, moreover, were of the slightest. As to the date of this occupation the coin evidence of 1915 placed it somewhere in the neighbourhood of the year 400 A.D. Although no coins were found on the actual floor level in 1919, the four small silver pieces which were buried with the silver hoard, to be dealt with hereafter, supply confirmatory evidence of that conclusion.

We have now passed in review the groups of relics found on each level, and it may be profitable to note features peculiar to each.

In the group from the lowest level it is natural that we should meet with relics from the periods of culture earlier than those generally represented over the area excavated; such are the stone axes and the fragment of a bronze blade. Remarkable, however, is the collection of segments of shale or jet bracelets—twenty-four in all. It is evident that, as far as the inhabitants of Traprain Law were concerned, these objects passed out of fashion, probably towards the latter half of the second century, for not a single example has come from any of the higher levels. A glance at the record of our finds of these armlets in the two previous years emphasises this point, for with few exceptions they have come from the two levels of earliest occupation. It is difficult to supply any reason for this, other than that, as happens now, fashion decreed a change. There is not, however, any such marked increase in the number of pieces of glass bracelets from the higher levels as would suggest that a preference for glass was the cause.

The number of whorls from the lowest level is singularly small when contrasted with those from the two levels above it, notwithstanding that all the evidence points to the lowest level having been under occupation, if not for a much longer time at least by a denser

population; the bulk of pottery from the respective levels, as shown hereafter, being evidence of this. The true inference to be drawn from this fact is not quite obvious; but so marked an increase in the number of spinning whorls found in later strata must surely imply an increase in the amount of spinning carried on by means of spindle and whorl over the particular area. When that increase coincides, as it does in this case, with a diminution in the number of other relics, the fact becomes more significant. The cause may have been a freer supply of raw material, wool, or flax—and one probable result an increase in the amount of textile materials woven by the inhabitants.

But the case of the whorls does not stand alone in suggesting some change of fashion in the material of clothing having occurred after the period of our earliest occupation. The occurrence of the bronze and iron pins such as would be used rather in textile fabrics than in hides appears to point to the same conclusion. In 1915 we recovered four pins of bronze and the head of a mould for casting a pin, all from the third level; while this year we have pins from each level except the earliest, and portions of no less than six clay moulds for casting such objects from similar sources.

The third-level relics show the emergence of three fresh kinds of objects—clay moulds, shale or jet rings, and small playing-men. In 1915 all the fragments of moulds, as well as the complete moulds, belonged to the third or higher levels. It is evident, therefore, that in the art of casting a great advance seemingly coincided with the increase in spinning. As well as moulds, pieces of crucibles are found in considerable numbers on the same levels. The jet rings, either flat or rounded in section, are not very numerous, but they made their appearance last season in levels above that in which the bracelets were found. The playing-men are not represented in the relics from the lowest level. Their first appearance is on the third, and they increase in number in the second. A quotation from the 1915 Report is applicable here: "The bulk of the relics have come from the two lowest levels, but in the case of these playing-men the ratio is reversed—for of the twenty-one found, two came from the level of the latest occupation, ten from the level below it, six from the third, and only two from the lowest stratum," the one unaccounted for having been found while filling in. Now possibly the presence and distribution of these playing-men may afford an indication of the source of other influences. The finding of so much Roman pottery and glass on a site on which the general aspect of the relics is so essentially Celtic clearly shows that contact with the Roman invaders, during the period of their occupation in Scotland and subsequent thereto, was responsible for the intro-

duction of many new commodities into the domestic economy of the native Celts. The discovery of a checker-board cut on stone at Corbridge, as well as the finding on sites of Roman occupation of numerous small glass discoid playing-pieces, indicate that the Roman soldiery wiled away their leisure moments with some game played on a chequered board, and seemingly they introduced it to the native inhabitants. In our last Report we pointed out how the presence of late Roman pottery and glass relative to periods long subsequent to the withdrawal of the legions from the north was indisputable evidence of an active trade, and the facts brought to light in the past summer further justify that conclusion.



Fig. 26. Native Pottery from each level, on discs of 1 foot diameter.

I have referred above to the evidence of duration of occupation of the various levels to be gathered from the amount of pottery recovered from them. In the 1915 Report an attempt was made to demonstrate this by stating the weights of the native pot and the numbers of pieces represented of the Roman wares. In this Report another method is employed. Fig. 26 shows the total amount of native pottery recovered from each of the four levels respectively, piled within circles of one-foot diameter. It will be seen at a glance that the pile from the lowest level, shown on the extreme left, is preponderately greater than that from any other; in fact, it exceeds the total from all the others. Similarly also the other relics from this level are more numerous. From the third level, the pile next to the right, the amount is unaccountably small, but the proportion which it bears to the larger is very similar to what was the case in a similar arrangement made of the pottery obtained only from area G, the first half of the ground excavated last summer. The second level has a pile barely half the height of the third; similarly the illustration of the relics from this level

shows a proportion of only about half of those from the third. When we look at the extreme right and see the trifling quantity obtained on the level of the latest occupation, and make allowance for pieces of pot brought up from below by disturbing agencies, we realise either that pottery was not in use by the inhabitants, or that they barely lived for any length of time on the site. Let us now look at fig. 27, which shows the Roman pottery identically set up within circles of one-foot diameter. From the lowest level, on the left of the figure, we have a considerable pile, showing a ready disposition on the part of the Celtic population to acquire the Roman wares. The next pile on the right bears a higher proportion to the pile from the earlier level than

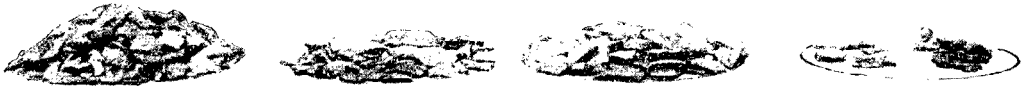


Fig. 27. Roman Pottery from each level, on discs of 1 foot diameter.

was the case with the native pot, and is not greatly less than the corresponding pile of the latter, indicating the increase in Roman influence. The next pile to the right, that of the second level, actually exceeds in bulk the corresponding pile of native pot as well as that of all similar pottery from level number three. Bearing in mind the paucity of relics from this level compared with those from the third, the increase of Roman ware is remarkable. As for the Roman pottery from the highest level, if we remove the pieces of Samian ware, which are those on the left side of the circle, and all of which probably owe their presence on this late level to disturbance, we are left with some six or seven fragments, for only one of which there can be clearly claimed a third or fourth century origin, and even that might quite well have been deposited originally on the level below. How far this method of indicating the duration of occupation on the respective floors is accurate, it is difficult to say; but as the other factor, the number of relics, shows somewhat similar proportions, it must be approximately correct. One fact, however, must not be lost sight of. Though the

area explored on each level is necessarily identical, it does not follow that at each of the periods represented the occupation extended over the whole area, nor that at each period it was equally dense.

Thus far I have dealt with what I may call the normal results of the season's excavation. There were, however, as is now well known, results which were so remarkable as to be regarded as purely abnormal. I refer, of course, to the find of Roman silver plate. The circumstances of such an historical event deserve to be placed fully on record.

On Saturday, 10th May, I paid my weekly visit to the excavation, and, finding the whole of the second level floor on area G fully exposed, plotted such remains of foundations as were there, in order to enable the workmen to proceed on the following Monday with the removal of the exposed surface. Though the whole floor came under observation in the process of planning, nothing attracted attention at any spot to cause a suspicion of its having been previously disturbed. On Monday, as the foreman was gently breaking the surface with his pick, preparatory to the soil being passed through the riddle, in the south-west corner of G, at a spot marked with an asterisk, on the plans of levels 1 and 2, the point of his tool came in contact with some substance strange to the touch. Puzzled, he gently inserted the pick again, and to his amazement brought up on the point a metal bowl with a beaded border (fig. 40). Further exploration with a knife revealed the fact that the bowl was not the only relic, but that there was apparently a pit of unknown depth full of remarkable objects of metal. A few of these were taken out—other bowls with beaded borders, and the wine-cup (fig. 35) which lay near the surface. The day's work over, such objects as had been unearthed were carefully concealed in the hut; the pit, still containing an unknown amount of treasure, was covered up and left with no little anxiety for the night, while one of the staff was despatched to East Linton to telephone a message that would bring me out on the following day. Wisely desiring to keep the discovery an absolute secret, it was impossible to be explicit over the telephone; accordingly the message that reached me was not of sufficient urgency to induce me to cancel all engagements and proceed at once to the hill. It was four o'clock on Tuesday before I reached the spot. The work had been proceeded with under Mr Pringle's direction in a manner deserving of all praise. The temptation to clear out the whole hoard had been resisted. The limits of the cache having been located, the soil for a reasonable radius all round had been removed, and a sufficient amount of treasure was left still *in situ* to show me exactly the condition in which it was exposed. The sight that met my gaze on reaching the ground was one that the

most sanguine of excavators can hardly ever have dreamed of. Bowls, cups, spoons, and a miscellaneous collection of pieces of plate, tarnished and soiled, but obviously of silver, lay spread on the ground. The immediate realisation of the notable character of the find made the moment one never to be forgotten. The silver, still *in situ*, lay partially on the top of and partially between two large stones. It appeared to be imbedded in a purple paste, to such an extent was the soil discoloured by the decay of the metal with which it came in contact. In some cases the silver had so rotted away that it crumbled when touched, though with exposure to the air it hardened somewhat. Apparently the metal had become affected by sulphur in the soil, due, no doubt, to animal matter which had decayed in it in the course of occupation, and additional evidence of this chemical change was forthcoming in the offensive odour which was emitted from the hoard for many weeks after it was brought indoors. An immediate examination of the circumstances of the find showed that a hole had been dug from some surface at a higher level than the second, for—as was shown by the facts of the actual discovery—the relics at the top of the cache were barely covered by the soil that formed the floor of that occupation. Reference to the plan of the top level made it clear that during the period of the latest occupation there was no foundation over the top of the spot which would have shown a deposit during that period to have been improbable. Fortunately when the treasure was unearthed two coins were found, and in the washing of the soil which came from the pieces when the rough dirt was removed from them, two more were discovered. These four coins, small silver pieces, belonged, one to the reign of the Emperor Valens (364-378), one to the reign of Valentinian II. (375-392), and two to that of Honorius (395-423). Their condition showed that they had been subjected to little wear by circulation before the date of the deposit. To assign such a date to the early years of the fifth century was therefore not unreasonable. No coins were recovered definitely from the top level this last summer; but in 1915 three small brass pieces, believed to be of the reigns of Constantine Junior, Valentinian, and Arcadius, seemed to point to the date of its occupation as having been early in the fifth century.

The date previously assigned to the highest level therefore coinciding so nearly with the indicated date of the cache, there is every probability that the latter was made during the period of an early fifth-century inhabitation of the site. One foot of soil at this spot lay between the present surface and the highest floor level, while 10 inches separated that from the second level. If this assumption is correct, then when the deposit was made a hole about 1½ feet wide was dug just outside the

south-west end of the building which then stood on the surface, for a depth of 10 inches to the floor level below and a matter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet further down till the presence of two large stones, which actually lay on the third level or just above it, stopped any further progress. Thereupon the silver, either in a sack or out of some receptacle, was deposited with little ceremony in the hole till the top of the mass lay but some 10 or 11 inches below the surface, and only a bare inch or so beneath what had been the surface of the third occupation on the second level. There was no trace whatever of any sack or chest, but the manner in which the objects lay suggested rather that they had been hurriedly thrust anyhow into the



Fig. 28. General view of the Hoard of Silver as found.

hole. Its condition, as may be seen from the general illustration of the hoard (fig. 28) left no doubt that the mass of silver had formed part of some great spoil. Bowls and dishes finely decorated were represented by fragments; flagons were crushed into the smallest possible compass, handles were twisted and wrenched from spoons, and cups were torn from their stems and bases. A large number of pieces were in the shape of packets which had been folded over several times and hammered flat. It was evident that the artistic qualities of the plate had been held of no account whatever by those who had handled it previous to its disposal in the hole. The total weight of the treasure recovered is some 770 oz. troy, and, as many large vessels are represented by only small fragments, the original weight must have been several times as much.

The first idea that presented itself was that here we had loot obtained from the sack of some religious establishment. To give weight to this, there are a number of pieces of plate bearing Christian emblems, though the mere fact of such emblems being placed on any vessel does not

necessarily imply that it had been consecrated for the services of religion. But the shape and designs of certain of the pieces bear so markedly a

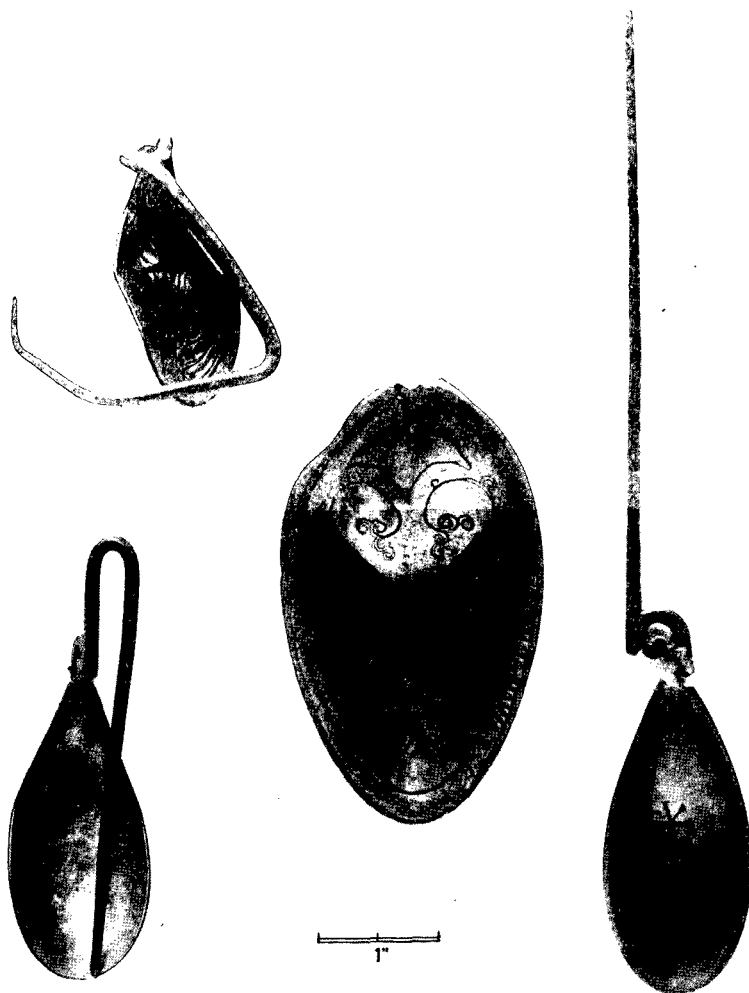


Fig. 29. Spoons.

religious character that it is reasonable to assume they have played a part in church ritual.

In the first place, fig. 29¹ shows on the extreme right a Roman spoon

¹ The other spoons shown on this plate are described on p. 115.

of a well-known type with a long handle terminating in a sharp point and an oval bowl. The sharply pointed handle was originally intended to assist in the eating of shell-fish in the manner in which we employ a fork at the present day. A pierced scroll connected the bowl to the handle, but unfortunately the two parts have been torn apart. In the centre of the bowl, so deeply cut as to have actually broken through the back at one point, is the sacred monogram, the Chi Rho as borne on the standard of Constantine. The back is decorated with a series of shallow flutes radiating from a central line. The total length of the spoon and handle when joined has been $8\frac{3}{8}$ inches. The presence of the chrism

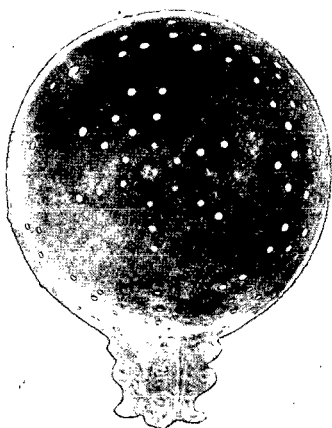


Fig. 30. A Strainer.

in this case seems to point to use in the administration of the Holy Communion. Though to this day in the Eastern Church the administration of the Communion in both kinds is carried out by means of a spoon, there is not in the west any documentary evidence to show that here also the sacred rite was so performed. While Cabrol in his Dictionary states that it is always possible that this eucharistic practice did exist exceptionally in the west, he suggests, from references associating the spoon with the paten, that the former may have been employed for placing the small eucharistic loaves on the paten.

There can be no doubt, I think, that the object shown in fig. 30 is that termed in early liturgical literature a *colatorium* or *colum*. It is a circular bowl, measuring 2 inches in diameter, which has originally had a handle, of which the base only remains. To serve its purpose, which was to purify by straining the wine to be consecrated for communion, it is perforated at the bottom and around the edge. The perforations in the bottom form the Chi Rho monogram, while those around the edge furnish the legend IESUS CHRISTUS. Strainers for wine were used by the Greeks and Romans in ordinary life, and after the introduction of Christianity were adopted by the Church. One is mentioned in the inventory, dated 471, known as the *Carta Cornutiiana*, and a few are enumerated in the *Liber Pontificalis*.¹

Equally unambiguous as to its use seems the small flagon, badly broken, two views of the body of which are shown in figs. 31 and 32.

¹ Atchley, *Ordo Romanus Primus*, p. 25.

The height of the vessel when complete has been about $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The mouth is circular, with an inverted rim, after the manner of many flagons and vases in late Roman times. Below the mouth, with a short intervening neck, is a bulbous expansion covered with leaf ornament. Between this and the body of the vessel, on the portion that forms the shoulder, is a zonal panel filled with animals and trees. Beneath this panel, bounded above by a border of triangular bosses rising from a foliaceous device, and beneath by a well-defined rope moulding, is a zone $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches deep, covering the greater part of the body of the vessel. On this there are executed in high relief in repoussé certain momentous incidents from Holy Writ. In graceful pose, and with delineation and technique recalling the art of an earlier period, Adam, with thumb and forefinger, is shown plucking the forbidden fruit, while the serpent, winding round the tree trunk, has his head extended towards the figure of Eve. With his back to Adam is Moses, clad in flowing robes, a dignified figure, with his right arm outstretched striking the rock from which the water gushes into cups held up by two small figures representing the Children of Israel.



Fig. 31. Fragment of a small Flagon showing "The Fall of Man" and "Moses striking the Rock."

With a group intervening, probably intended for our Lord's betrayal by Judas, we next have the Adoration of the Magi. The Virgin, seated on a chair with a high curved back, her feet resting on a stool, holds the infant Jesus in her arms. The child's arms are outstretched to receive the gifts which the wise men are proffering on round dishes. The Virgin appears to wear a head-dress. Her garment has loose hanging sleeves, at the edge of which a double line

of dots apparently signifies embroidery. The chair on which she is seated is of the class described by Pliny as fashioned of plaited osiers. The sarcophagus of St. John the Baptist at Ravenna shows a similar representation of the Adoration, with the Virgin seated on a basket-chair, resting her feet on a stool, while the scene is also depicted on other Christian sarcophagi of the fourth century.¹ A circle of heavy

spheres or beads encircles the base of the flagon, while around the space between them and the rope-moulding twists a vine from which bunches of grapes spring in alternate directions.



Fig. 32. Fragment of a small Flagon showing
"The Adoration of the Magi."

Alpha and *Omega*. The inscription reads PRYMIACOEISIAPI. There are no stops, no spaces left between the letters, and no indication of contraction. Numerous attempts have been made to find the nature and meaning of this inscription. Professor Haverfield suggested that some reference to the Abbey of Prüm in the Western Eifel was implied in a word PRYMIACO, adjectives terminating in *-iacus* having been not uncommon in the fourth century in Celtic lands, while Professor Sayce sees in it a reference to the corrupt worship of Isis and Apis which had

¹ Cabrol, *Dict. Arch. Chrétienne*, p. 26, s.v. *Chaire épiscopale*.

crept from Egypt into the early Christian Church. But for an uncompromising E the word "IACO(B)I" could be read after PRYM, supplying another solution; but unfortunately for this suggestion the "E" is as carefully and as clearly formed as any other letter in the inscription. A likely suggestion, emanating from another source, is PRYMIACO EISIAPI, admitting of the translation "to Prymiacus the son of Eisiapus"; but it has yet to be ascertained whether the latter name



Fig. 33. Small inscribed Flask.

was a possible one in Gaul in the fourth century. Various other suggestions made need not be mentioned here, so we must leave the solution undetermined in the meantime.

More doubtful in their Christian attribution are three portions of the ornamented border of a large circular plate, two pieces of which are shown in fig. 34. The edge is enriched with an oval and disc moulding within which is a finely designed border which has been inlaid with niello. The design is not uniform, but consists of alternate lengths of different pattern—one made up of composite hexagonal figures around a square centre, and the other, formed by four curving

lines intersecting each other at regular intervals and tracing a series of ovals filled with conventional leaf ornament. Separating the designs on the larger fragment illustrated, is a circle containing an equal-armed cross with floriated ends. The probability is that this cross is a mere

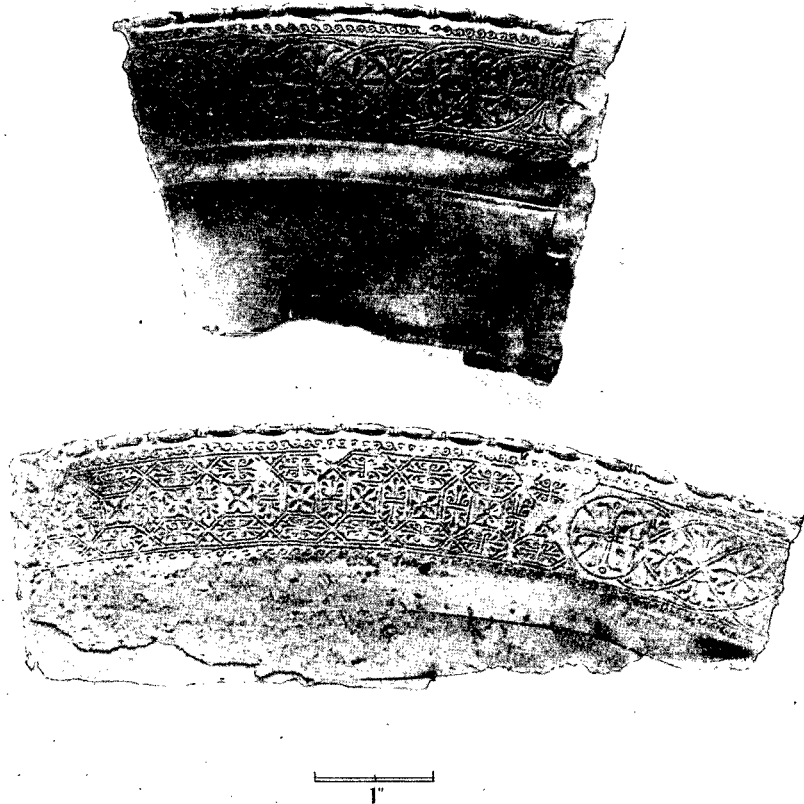


Fig. 34. Portions of the Edge of a large Platter.

conventional ornament with no religious significance, but the piece of plate on which it appears has been grouped with those which show undoubted Christian emblems, on the possibility that it may be connected with them. The platter of which these formed parts was of large size, the segments indicating a diameter of $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

There are at least four pieces which show designs as characteristically pagan as the foregoing are Christian.

A large flat dish with only a slight curve upwards from the bottom to the edge is, though folded up, complete. In the centre is a circular disc from which radiate to the edge deep flutes terminating in scallops and alternating with flat surfaces. The latter are engraved with conventional leaf designs. On the bottom of the dish, similarly engraved, there appears a figure of Amphitrite seated on a panther-headed sea-monster. Attached to one side by solder are two semi-ovoid bosses sharply pointed to the lower end, and terminating at the upper end in the neck and head of a swan-like bird, the neck bent so as to bring the head against the boss and form a loop. Through this loop there probably passed a ring or chain after the manner of other scutcheon handles known on Celtic and Saxon bowls. On the other side of this dish the remains of cement show where the two other handles have been attached, one of which at least is among the miscellaneous relics. Among the Roman relics in Mrs Cripps' Museum at Cirencester there are two handles of this type, but of bronze, one of them still retaining metal and cement similar in appearance to that in the Traprain specimens. A peculiar feature of these Roman handles is that the neck, which projects from the upper part of the boss, turns outwards and forms a loop with the boss itself, while in the somewhat similar Celtic scutcheons the loop is formed by turning the neck inward on to the edge of the vessel. In the Museum of the Philosophical Society at York is a bronze bowl found at Castleyards, York, in 1829, said to be Anglian. It is furnished with three handles, much resembling the form of those attached to the Traprain dish but with the loop formed against the edge, as in the Celtic examples. An examination of the material with which these bosses are filled shows it to be a combination of lead and tin which has been covered on the exposed surface with a cement to which the solder would be applied, as otherwise the soft metal within the boss would inevitably have melted when the soldering bolt was used. The lead and tin, or pewter as it in reality is, served the purpose of solidifying the boss, to the surface of which it would adhere in a manner that lead alone would not. A folded-up fragment, of some object at present indeterminate, is ornamented in repoussé work with a figure of Pan. On the ground between his feet lie his pipes, while lightly resting against the fingers of his left hand, with the crook over his arm, is his *pedum* or shepherd's crook. The figure is represented nude and modelled with great mastery. Dancing figures with flowing draperies accompany Pan.

A portion of the bottom of a bowl, itself broken across, is chased with a figure of Venus rising from the waves. The goddess is represented front view, her arms upraised holding up her long lank locks, which hang from a strangely conical head, possibly surmounted with a pointed cap.

Round her neck is a double string of beads, while she wears armlets as well as bracelets seemingly of the same nature. In the background is a fish and sea-shells. The medallion which has formed the bottom is encircled by a conventionalised scroll border, probably derived from a vine and leaves. It has resolved itself into a series of rather solid volutes branching from a curving stem. The surface of the stem and of the volutes is marked by small punctulations. The design of this border is to be seen on a number of objects from the cemetery of Püspök-Szent in Hungary and other cemeteries in that region.¹ The art displayed on this



Fig. 35. Wine-cup.

The wine-cup (fig. 35) is shown as if complete, though the foot is detached and doubled up. Its height is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, diameter of bowl $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, diameter of base $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The broad foot, a little exceeding in diameter the mouth of the bowl, gave the cup a stability which modern drinking-vessels too often lack from disregard of these proportions. In addition to this cup, there are the remains of at least three others: in the case of one the foot alone is lacking, of another there is a detached bowl and a stem, while a broken portion of a crushed bowl attached to another stem are portions of a fourth cup. Such cups might well have been used for administration of the wine in the Communion, it being the practice in the early Church to transfer the precious liquid from the larger chalice to such smaller vessels. On the other hand, they may have been simply wine-cups used in some Roman villa. They bear

¹ See Hampel, *Ungarische Alterthümer*, ii. p. 329.

piece presents a marked contrast to that which appears on most of the other ornamented fragments. The figure of Venus is stiff and formal, recalling the conventionalised form of some Hindoo goddess. Whatever its provenance, it certainly never issued from the same *atelier* as the piece with Pan or the flagon with scenes from Scripture.

The bulk of the pieces bear no emblems or ornament to associate them definitely with either Christian or pagan worship, but, being portions of dishes, platters, bowls, or flagons, might quite possibly have served the purposes of either, or done duty as table plate in a purely secular establishment.

no emblems, and there is nothing in their form to restrict their use to sacred ceremonial.

A large flagon is represented by three pieces, two of which are shown on fig. 36. One piece, not illustrated, consists of the mouth and the neck, on the lower part of which is a knob or bulb wreathed in laurels. The mouth is so crushed that its form is uncertain. The second fragment (on the right of the figure), from lower down the vessel, is enriched with a broad band of ornament, formed by the intersection of a series of circles, the spaces so formed being filled with leaf orna-



Fig. 36. Two Fragments of a Flagon—panel gilt.

ment. Certain portions have been gilt, while all the rest of the design has been filled in with niello. The third fragment, which is the largest, shows two broad panels of geometric design, with shallow gilded mouldings above and below each. The upper one is interrupted at intervals by circular spaces, each containing a representation, gilt, of a winged cherub holding a basket of fruit, while the lower panel includes at shorter intervals a series of small medallions with human heads, also gilt.

Another such vessel is in a more perfect state. The bottom has been torn off and the body and mouth crushed. The height of the flagon in its present condition is 10 inches. The mouth has been too much crushed to enable its exact form to be determined in the meantime. Around the neck occurs a broad band bordered at top and bottom by a line of scallops between which is a rich ornament derived from some trailing

plant, probably the vine. The background between the scallops and around the plant motive has been inlaid with niello. At the junction of the neck with the body is a deeply projecting moulding, the rounded edge of which is engraved with feather ornament. Below this the body of the vessel slopes outward to the bulge with flat panels, each alternately filled with an engraved leaf design formed by leaflets springing from either side of a central rib and by a repetition, on a smaller scale, of the plant design around the neck, with, as in that case, a background of niello. From the bulge of the vessel where the panels cease the body is continued plain to the base.

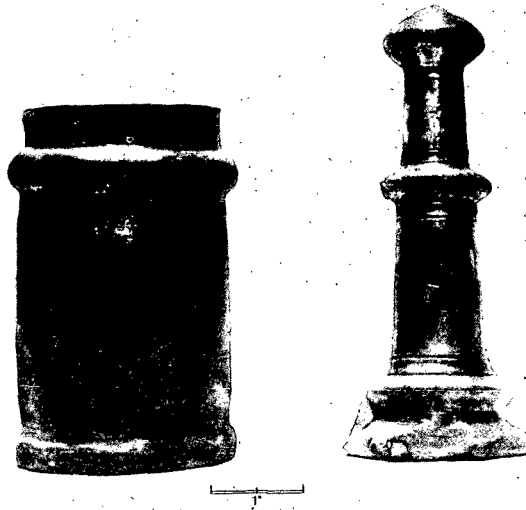


Fig. 37. (1) Toilet Box, and (2) Handle.

Fig. 37, No. 1, is a cylindrical box with a convex moulding $\frac{7}{16}$ inch below the top on which the lower part of a cap has rested. It is $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches in height. In a large silver casket, part of the Esquiline Treasure in the British Museum, are four almost identical boxes or pots placed symmetrically around a central bottle. This casket is regarded as a lady's dressing-case, and the boxes are supposed to have been used for holding pomades and cosmetics. An object, obviously a handle, is also illustrated in fig. 37. It is $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, and has a knob at the foot and another between two hollow mouldings on the stem, with a similar moulding at the upper end. All these mouldings have been gilt. A flange at the top indicates that the socket has held some spreading arrangement, and it has been suggested that this may be the handle of a *flabarum*, or fan.

A crushed-in conical object terminating in a fluted knob has been a cover or lid. Within it was caught the bowl of a spoon which was found to have engraved on it the Chi Rho monogram. Three other spoons (fig. 38) are of a different type from those mentioned above. Two have pointed oval bowls. The handle of each, which is somewhat slender and rounded, terminates in a bird's head. The spoon on the left of the illustration has a swan's head with, apparently, a fruit in its bill. Originally the head of the bird was turned round, so that it was

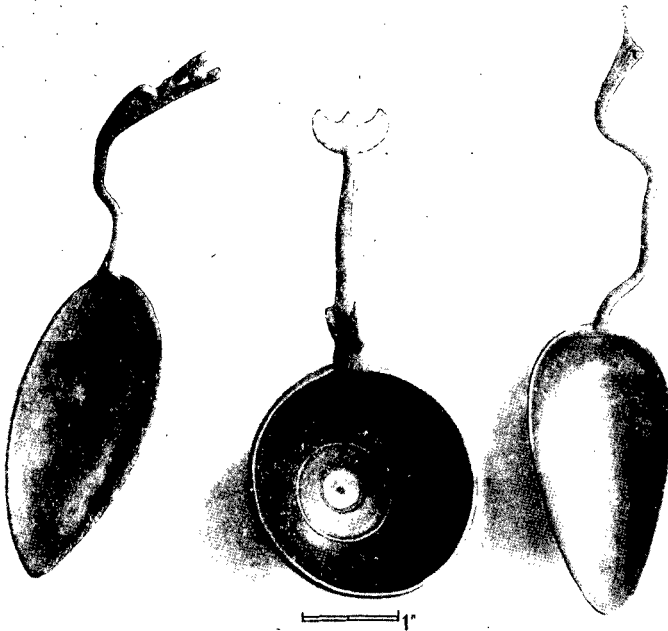


Fig. 38. Spoons.

parallel in direction to the central line of the spoon and the stem had one bend in it. A spoon of similar form, but of bronze, with a debased bird head and a double loop on the stem, is illustrated by Pilloy,¹ as found at St Quentin. It bears along the bowl the legend PONE CURIOSSE, *i.e.* "Handle carefully." A similar spoon, but with one bend in the stem, is related by the same authority to have been found in a fourth-century cemetery at Spontin, and to have been in the Museum at Namur. A silver spoon of the same class bearing along the blade VO^T. FECIT LETUS was found also in a fourth-century cemetery at Vermand.

¹ Pilloy, *Etudes*, vol. ii, p 209.

The spoon on the right is altogether ruder in execution. The bird's head seems so debased as to be barely recognisable; the stem, which is of the same slender character as that of the other, is longer, and has, in all probability, had a double twist. The central spoon in the illustration is of yet another type. Its length is $5\frac{5}{8}$ inches. The bowl, with a diameter of $2\frac{9}{16}$ inches, is circular and has been spun on a lathe. In the centre of the bottom are two concentric circles. The handle is in the form of a dolphin holding the edge of the spoon in its mouth. There is a curve in its body, admirably contrived for the thumb if held in the right hand, while the flat tail would rest on the lower joint of the first finger. In the treasure in the British Museum, found on the Hill of St Louis, Carthage, and belonging to the fourth or fifth century, there are a number of spoons with deep circular bowls similar to that above described but with different handles.

Among the smaller objects found were a pair of handles in the form of leopards or, from the absence of definite spotting on one, a leopard and a panther (fig. 39). These objects are represented as supporting themselves in an upright position with their fore paws gripping a segmental bar, which has evidently been attached to the curving side or edge of some vessel, while their feet have pressed against the base. Though both animals are beautifully modelled, that on the left of the illustration is more highly finished than the other. The panther, if such it be, on the right, does not appear to have been made by the same hand as the other; the modelling of the animal, and especially of the hinder part, is not so good, and when the face is looked at frontwise it will be observed that the lower jaw is not in the centre. The best-known analogy for the use of such animal figures as handles are the bowls in the treasure found at Petrossa in Roumania early in the last century. Each of these bowls or baskets, as they might well be called, had leopard handles at either side, the animals fastened to arms which project from the edge of the actual vessel. The art is later and the modelling incomparably poorer than that of our specimens. In the Cairo Museum there are two tankards of bronze, each with a single handle, in the form of a lion with turned-in tail and outstretched head. So far there has not been identified among the Traprain treasure any vessel, or part of a vessel, to which these handles seem to have been attached. We cannot tell, therefore, whether they have belonged to a single or to separate vessels. The curved bar on which their respective fore paws rest are of identical curve, but, as will be seen in the illustration, the blocks against which their hind paws press do not lie at the same angles.

The smaller object on the upper part of fig. 39 appears to have been

a foot. The projecting bar on which the supported article rested has been bent downwards.

One of the finest pieces of the treasure is a somewhat shallow bowl,



Fig. 39. Foot of Stand and two Handles of Vessels.

mutilated and crushed, with a drawn wire edge and a foot rim near the outer circumference of the bottom. Around the side, between a species of ovolo border above and a border of dentelles below, is a broad frieze filled with figures of animals and occasional human masks in relief.

The animals, which are depicted with great vigour, are shown in savage pursuit of one another.

Among the fragments of plate there are a surprising number which



Fig. 40. Broad-rimmed Bowl.



Fig. 41. Triangular Bowl.

are decorated along the edge with a row of large beads hammered up from beneath, and we are fortunate in possessing six small bowls with this character of decoration in an almost complete state. That shown

in fig. 40 measures 6 inches in diameter and $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in height. As previously stated, this bowl was the first object recovered from the cache and shows on its lower side the indentation caused by the pick.

Fig. 41 is a small triangular dish measuring $4\frac{0}{16}$ inches along each side and $2\frac{1}{16}$ inches in height. Like the circular bowls above referred to, it has a heavy bead edging, but the beads in this case have been cast solid and not hammered up. This is one of the few objects recovered in a perfect state.

A variation from the simple flat rim of the beaded bowls is shown by the fragment fig. 42. Here the rim is ornamented with a human head between a grazing horse and a hound with its head to the ground. The modelling and execution of these animal figures are very vigorous, and

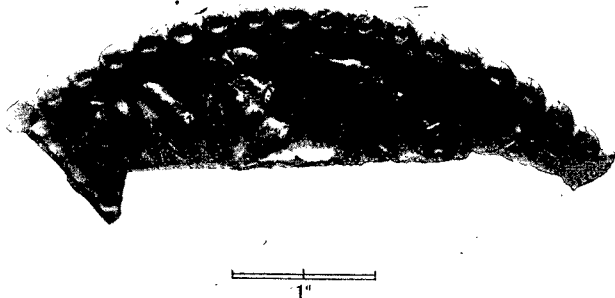


Fig. 42. Fragment of Rim of Shallow Dish.

the bowl of which this is the only surviving fragment has been of high artistic value. The style is what is commonly known as Alexandrine, and a somewhat close parallel may be seen in a bowl from Carthage in the British Museum.

The last fragment of a rim to be illustrated (fig. 43) has been part of a bowl with a turned-down flange at the edge in place of beading. Like the last, it is an isolated fragment, while the design upon it and the method of execution are both peculiar. In a rowing-boat with curved prow and a high stern, stand two nude fishermen drawing in a net with a large fish enmeshed in it. In advance of the boat a long-legged bird is holding in its bill an eel or snake, while behind it a cuttle-fish floats upright with its tentacles outstretched. The character of the design on this piece belongs to a class generally recognised as Nilotic in origin, and occasionally, as affording a certain indication of the provenance of the scene depicted, a crocodile or hippopotamus is associated with the boat and with other aquatic creatures. Two plaques in Italy so ornamented are illustrated

by M. Salomon Reinach,¹ and their close resemblance in style to the design of this silver fragment is obvious.

Let us now briefly consider some of the questions which this find of treasure invokes.

In the first place, where did it come from?

So little plate of this character has been found in Britain that we may safely assume it was not raided from any local source. The difference in the character of the pieces—Christian vessels for church use, vessels with pagan devices, others that may have been simply secular plate—suggests that it was not all looted from one establishment.

The presence also of certain Teutonic personal ornaments, probably

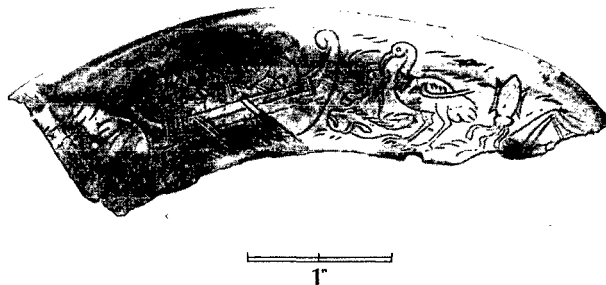


Fig. 43. Fragment of Rim of Dish, with Nilotic scene.

Gothic, considerably strengthens the case against any British source, and points to Gaul. These ornaments (fig. 44) consist of two buckles, two strap terminals (one only of them illustrated), the mountings of a belt, and a small fibula of Visigothic type.

The numerous bowls and platters represented, which have been embellished with heavily beaded edges, indicate even more clearly a continental origin. The beaded bowls have been found over a large extent of the Roman Empire, yet the greater number, though chiefly in bronze, have been recovered in France. The fourth-century cemeteries of Abbeville and Vermand have yielded them, and an example identical with those from Traprain Law was discovered in a pagan grave in Mecklenburg. Such are the factors which point to Gaul as the region from which the treasure was raided.

Who brought it to Traprain Law? This is an even more difficult question to answer than the foregoing, for if, as I believe, it was buried

¹ Reinach's *Répertoire des Reliefs*, vol. ii. pp. 215 and 271.

by the occupants who last reared their group of dwellings on the spot, then these people have left no relics behind that we have yet found to prove that they were other than native Celts. The extreme scarcity of pottery fragments, as of other relics, indicates how brief was their sojourn. One ring we have found which is of a form that has been classed as Saxon, but equally we have found other things which are as



Fig. 44. Fragments of Leather Strap with silver studs, two Buckles, Fibula, and Belt Tab.

certainly Celtic. Of positive evidence thus far we have none, we must therefore rely at present on conjecture. The Celts were not a sea-faring, piratic folk. On the other hand, the Saxons, who at this period were engaged in harrying the sea coasts of Southern Britain and Gaul, undoubtedly were. So serious a menace were the latter that the Romans actually appointed an officer, the "Comes littoris Saxonici," to organise resistance to their attacks. The probable solution of the difficulty seems to be that we have here part of a great booty acquired by one of these Teutonic bands of sea rovers in a series of raids into Gaul.

The different conditions in which we find the plate perhaps indicate

that this has been an accumulated booty. Three beaded bowls except for natural decay, a triangular bowl, and several spoons were practically perfect when found. In another group of objects, a shallow, fluted dish, a pair of small beaded bowls, a cover, a shallow bowl, and three spoons, are complete, but crushed or twisted. Several articles, only single halves of which are in the hoard, have been systematically cut through the middle. A large number of bowls, platters, etc., are represented

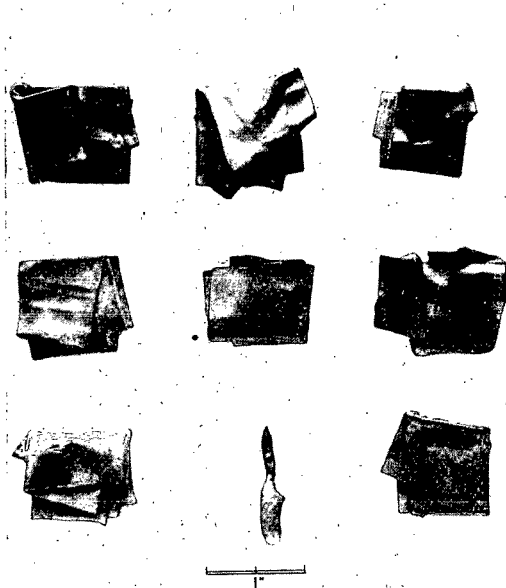


Fig. 45. Fragments of Dishes folded for melting, and a Drop of run Silver.

by small portions only. Various pieces, in some cases amounting to one-half of the originals, had been folded up into small packets and hammered flat. Inside two of these there were discovered pieces of pewter, presumably put there fraudulently to add to the weight. There are eight small packets approximately about 1 inch square, several times folded over, and cut into shape, ready for the crucible, and lastly one drop of run silver (fig. 45).

If we are to regard this as the fruit of a single raid, how come about these differences in condition? There is no ostensible reason why the beaded bowls should have been kept intact, unless, as is possible, they were actually in use previous to being placed in the cache; nor is it

apparent why certain pieces should have been selected merely to be crushed, while others have either been cut in halves and separated or reduced to small fragments, and as regards the greater number of these, parted with or melted down. The packets loaded with pewter, evidently so treated for purpose of direct trade, may quite well have been so prepared by other hands than those which were engaged in converting the plate into bullion. In fine, we have no certain evidence yet that the individuals who placed the silver in the cache were the original raiders who obtained it in Gaul or elsewhere.

As to the question of its origin, it is evident from the varied styles of ornament and execution that the whole has not come from one workshop. The general character of the art displayed on the finer pieces, such as

the small flagon with the scenes from Scripture and the fragment with the representation of Pan, is classical, as are also the border designs on the remains of each of the three larger flagons with designs which resemble those on objects in the Cairo Museum. There is little sign of that decadence which begins to make its appearance in the early Middle Ages, and which has sometimes been associated with early Christian art. A comparison of fourth-century finds shows that the prevailing styles are generally those in vogue throughout the Roman Empire at the time; that the range of the bowls with beaded borders is from Cairo to Corbridge in Northumberland; and that the closest analogies with the rarer designs employed are to be found preserved in Egypt.

How the treasure came to be hidden in a hole on Traprain Law, we cannot tell. It was too valuable and too important, I fancy, to have been the private wealth of any one individual, and it is hardly credible that its existence was not known to many. Its concealment in a comparatively shallow hole indicates hasty action in presence of some imminent peril. The most we can be sure of is that the anticipated danger materialised, and that none of those cognisant of the place of concealment ever returned to recover their wealth. Further exploration may reveal fresh facts, but for the present the light of our knowledge does not suffice to dispel the darkness that enshrouds the history of this great hoard previous to its being buried on the shoulder of Traprain Law.

This Report as regards the silver is necessarily incomplete, as the numerous pieces are in course of being opened out, examined, and repaired by Messrs Brook & Sons. It was thought best, however, to give a preliminary report to be printed in the *Proceedings*, reserving the final account of the find for a monograph to be issued by the Society.

Before closing, I desire to advert to the great benefit conferred on the Society by Mr A. J. Balfour, not only in continuing to countenance our excavation, but also in generously handing over all the finds to the National Museum of Antiquities. With a less public-spirited landowner, awkward questions arising from the law of Treasure Trove might easily have produced trouble. To Mr John Bruce, F.S.A. Scot., we are peculiarly indebted, for his generosity made it possible for us to carry on the excavation; and similarly we are under obligation to the Carnegie Trustees for a valuable and much-appreciated grant from their Research Fund. We are also obliged to Mr Mark, on whose farm the Law is situated, for permitting us to carry on our exploration. My personal thanks are due to many friends: to Mr George Macdonald for much scholarly help; to Mr Thomas May for examining the Roman pottery and supplying me with copious notes thereon; to Mr Mathieson for being at the trouble to redraw the plans; to Dr M'Lintock, of the Royal Scottish

Museum, for making analysis of metals, etc. Lastly, I desire to pay a tribute to the staff under Mr Pringle, whose intelligence and zealous discharge of their duties have produced the notable results which I have here the honour to relate.