

Notes

BRONZE IMPLEMENTS,

FOUND IN THE PARISH OF OLD CLEEVE, SOMERSET

THE four bronze implements, described below, are all believed to have been found together at Hayne (? Higher or Lower), parish of Old Cleeve, close to and on the west side of the West Somerset (Mineral) Railway (now disused), about $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile north of Leighland and a mile south of Roadwater (see 6-inch Ordn. Sheet, Som. XLVII, S.E.).

These 'bronzes' belonged formerly to Sir Walter Calverley Trevelyan, Bart., of Nettlecombe Court, and have recently been deposited in the Somerset County Museum by Sir Walter John Trevelyan, Bart., 1931.

(1) Flat celt of Irish type, without any indication of a rudimentary flange or stop-ridge; crescentic cutting-edge, bevelled on both faces; concave sides; well patinated, although somewhat pitted in places. Length 125 mm. ($4\frac{7}{8}$ in.), width at cutting-edge 84 mm., max. thickness 12 mm. Weight 524.6 grammes. The surfaces are slightly bi-convex, with the long margins squared. Probably brought by trade from Ireland.¹

There is also, in the collection, an iron cast of the same bronze celt,—possibly made from the local Brendon ore. Weight 427.8 grammes.

(2) Bronze palstave, without loop, in the condition in which it came out of the mould, with the 'fin' along the edges showing clearly; the crescentic cutting-edge quite blunt and showing the fin; the butt-end incomplete owing to fracture (apparently very little missing); the flanges and stop-ridge are continuous; below the stop the implement has ridges along both edges and a central vertical strengthening rib on both faces extending to about an inch from the

¹ See note on two flat celts of the early Bronze Age, found recently in the s.w. of England, in the *Antiq. Journ.*, xii (1932), 70-71, where some references are given.

cutting-edge. Length 160 mm. ($6\frac{1}{4}$ in.), width at cutting-edge 64 mm.; thickness at stop-ridge 27 mm. Weight 432.3 grammes.

(3) Palstave of bronze, without loop, complete, having a well-developed crescentic cutting-edge, deeply bevelled and sharp; the flanges taper gradually in both directions; the stop-ridge which is curved does not reach the top of the flange; below the ridge, on both faces, a very slight indication of the 'shield-shaped design'; on the sides, in the position in which the loop occurs, a slight boss; smooth and nicely patinated specimen. Length 155 mm. ($6\frac{1}{8}$ in.), width at crescentic edge 64 mm., max. thickness at flanges 32.5 mm. Weight 401.5 grammes.

This specimen is clearly marked, 'Hayne, Old Cleeve', on both faces, in the handwriting of Sir Walter C. Trevelyan, who was at Nettlecombe, 1846-1879.

(4) Small celt, of the original bronze colour, having a square socket and loop, but much damaged. A little below the mouth is a horizontal ridge all round from which, on both the wide surfaces, three vertical ribs depend, giving a little additional strength and serving also as ornament. Length 82.5 mm. ($3\frac{1}{4}$ in.); width at cutting-edge 41.5 mm. Weight, in present condition, 171.1 grammes.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

'DUN'S STONE, REMAINS OF STONE CIRCLE'

THIS site, on the Brendon Hills, is so named on the 6-inch Ordnance Sheet, Som. LVIII, N.E., and the 'Dun's Stone' marks the junction of three parishes,—Huish Champflower, Upton, and Brompton Regis. The place is slightly south of 'Middleton Lodge', and about 1,250 feet above sea-level. It is $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile E.S.E. of Higher Thorncombe Farm and Robbery Gate, and little more than $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile south of Beverton Pond, the source of the River Tone. Extending from this site in a s.w. direction is Middleton Bottom, a marshy place where many boulders are exposed, the chief mass being near the head of the bottom, and only three or four hundred feet s.w. of 'Dun's Stone'.

The Dun's Stone has apparently been set up as a monolith,—perhaps used as a rubbing-stone, but owing to its extreme hardness the polishing of the angles on the leaning side is very slight.

The girth of this stone is at least 20 feet at the base, at which point it is of more or less oblong plan, about 6·5 ft. N. and S. by 5 ft. E. and W. It leans considerably towards the E.N.E.

The W.S.W. face is fairly flat and measures 10·5 ft. on the slope. The height of the stone, in its leaning position, is 7·5 ft. The nearest part of the stone to the nearest gate-post is 13 feet.

No. 2. There are other smaller stones lying about more or less prostrate, but they do not conform in any way to a segment of a circle. There is a fairly large prostrate stone on the S.E. of Dun's Stone, which is 47 feet (to middle) from the S. face of Dun's Stone. This stone (or as much as now shows) measures 7·5 ft. N. and S. by 5·5 ft.

No. 3. Another stone rests against the hedge to the east of Dun's Stone. Distance from S. face of Dun's Stone to No. 3, 57 feet. From No. 2 (middle) to No. 3, 34·5 feet.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

KINGSDOWN CAMP, MELLS

INTERIM reports on the excavations at Kingsdown Camp (1927-29) were given in our *Proceedings*, vol. lxxiii, pp. 130-2, and vol. lxxv, pp. 101-3. Several members have asked from time to time for the full report on this subject.

Mr. H. St. George Gray read a paper on Kingsdown Camp to the Society of Antiquaries on 20 February 1930, and it was fully illustrated by lantern slides. This paper, considerably amplified, was published early in 1931 in *Archæologia*, vol. lxxx (for 1930), pp. 59-98. It is illustrated by a Plan, a plate of Sections, four full-page illustrations and seven figures in the text.

HUMAN SKELETON FOUND AT FROME

A HUMAN skeleton was reported to me, by the Rev. H. Arnold Cook, of 33, Fromefield, Frome (on 6 June 1931), to have been found recently during road widening, at the point of a triangular piece of orchard at North Hill, where the Bath and Westbury roads divide, at the top of the rise from the town. (6-inch Ordnance Sheet, Som. xxx, s.e.)

The workmen told Mr. Cook that the skeleton was buried face downwards, and it was apparently not in a crouched attitude, but more or less extended. Before Mr. Cook's arrival a good deal of damage had been done, and some of the bones had been carted away.

The superintendent of police took charge, but after communicating with the coroner the remains were regarded as being only of archæological or anthropological interest. The skeleton was found about 2 feet below the stiff clay subsoil, but a considerable amount of superincumbent soil had been removed previously.

The remains were subsequently sent from the County Museum at Taunton Castle to Sir Arthur Keith, F.R.S., Conservator of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, asking him if he would provide a short report; this came into my hands on 5 September, and the following is a copy of it:

'Calvarium, jaws, teeth, lower end of left femur, and parts of hip-bone represent a strongly built man; big-jointed, the width of the lower end of the femur being 89 mm. Total height of man, probably about 5 ft. 9 in.

'The head is long (189 mm.) and narrow (134 mm.) with a head index of just under 71. The sutures are open—save that the sagittal is closing. Nearly all the molar teeth lost from disease. The size of the bones favour a diagnosis of a Saxon burial, but the skull-form—especially modelling of forehead—and also the condition of the bone point rather to a Briton of the Roman period—certainly not Neolithic. The jowls are particularly wide, the biangular width being 116 mm. Although the enamel surface is rubbed off by wear from most of the molar teeth, yet the modelling of the lower jaw is that of a person fed on well-cooked food, the width of the ascending ramus of the mandible being 30 mm. I think the remains are those of a Romano-Briton of the western (Barnwood) type.'

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

THE SAXON CEMETERY, CAMERTON

THE excavation of the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Camerton was continued again this year for the fourth time, by the Very Rev. Prior Horne, F.S.A., from 17 August for four weeks. The total result of the year's work was to show that this large cemetery evidently continues for some distance, as the graves were found more frequently at the end of the exploration than at the beginning. The same system of making trenches 2 ft. wide and 3 ft. apart, right across the occupied site, was carried out again, and these trenches are all recorded in a plan. The burials are east and west, and the trenches are cut from south to north so that the graves are indicated by the trenches passing across them. On beginning work where the last trench ended in the previous year, the first grave met with numbered 60, and at the end of this season's excavation, grave 88 had been reached.

The usual iron knives were with a number of the skeletons, and beads in only one case. It was fairly obvious that many of the individuals discovered must have died without anyone being near them, as they were not 'laid out', but simply buried in the positions that *rigor mortis* had left them. Grave no. 70 contained a body that had every appearance of having been alive after burial. The skeleton was lying face downwards with the head turned to one side. The feet and hands were in positions as if trying to raise the body up. Over many of the bodies discovered this year, and previously, grains of charcoal had been sprinkled which may have reference to some funeral rite. This presence of charcoal does not seem to have been recorded in other Saxon burials that have been examined.

HERALDIC STAINED GLASS AT PITMINSTER

A FEW fragments of early stained glass have survived at Pitminster Church, the most notable of which are in the east window of the chapel that terminates the north aisle. The window dates from the latter half of the fifteenth century. The lower lights are filled with glass by Kempe, put in by the Helyar family in 1893. In the upper tracery is a 'Sun in Splendour', one of the badges of Edward IV, and therefore probably contemporary with the window. There are also six shields of arms in the tracery lights, two above and four below. The shields in the four lower tracery lights are held by angels, reminiscent in technique of the work of the Exeter School, and, although somewhat restored, good examples of late fifteenth century work. It is possible that the angels held originally shields of religious emblems, and that these shields were removed in the sixteenth century.

The six shields of arms are uniform in size. They are as follows :

1. *Gu. a pair of wings conjoined arg. debriused by a bend az., a crescent for difference.* Kentisbere or Kentisbury.
2. *Arg. on a bend sa. three roses of the field, impaling az. a chevron arg. between three pears purp. (? or).* Cary impaling Orchard, for Sir Philip Carey of Cockington, d. 1437, married Christian, daughter of William Orchard of Orchard.
3. *Arg. a chevron gu. between three trees ppr., impaling gu. three bezants in chief a label of three files argent.* Boys impaling Courtenay, for Philip Courtenay of Molland, d. 1611, married Joan, daughter of John Boys. (Shield reversed.)
4. Welman impaling Hawker. Modern glass.
5. *Gu. a chevron engrailed arg. between three garbs or, within a bordure arg., impaling, az. three escallops in pale or.* Hill impaling Symes. For William Symes of Poundisford Lodge, living 1590, married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Hill. (Shield reversed.)
6. Helyar impaling Reynolds. Modern glass.

From the evidence of the arms in shield 3 and shield 5 and the character of the stained glass, it may be presumed that shields 1, 2, 3, and 5 were inserted *circ.* 1600.

A. W. VIVIAN-NEAL.

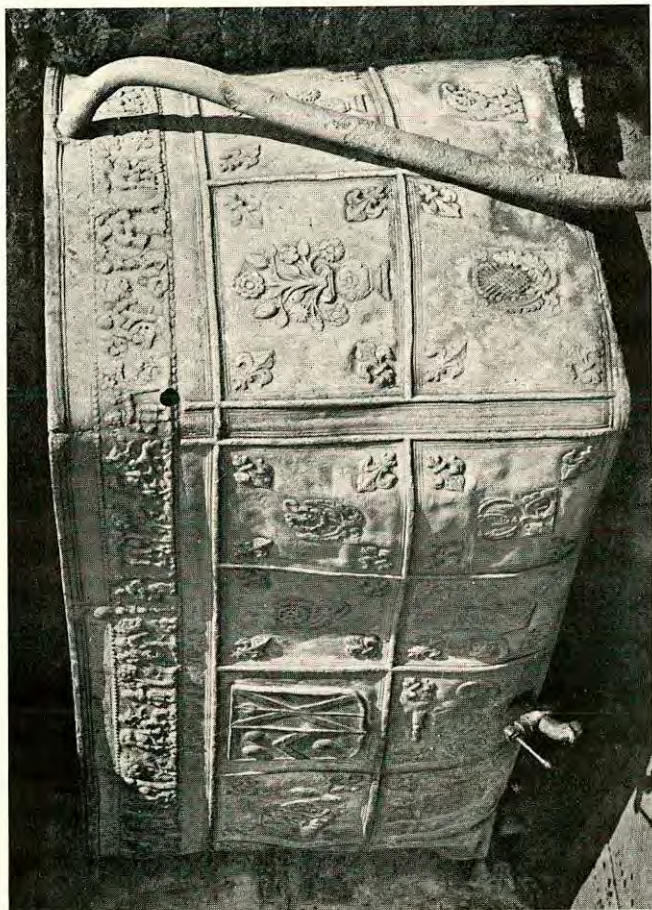
LEAD CISTERN FORMERLY AT BARTON GRANGE.

IT was the opinion of the late Sir Lawrence Weaver that most, if not all, of the notable cast leadwork, dating from the latter half of the seventeenth century and the early part of the eighteenth century, found in West Somerset and in the neighbourhood of Exeter, had a common origin in the forge of some individual craftsman, or family of craftsmen, either at Exeter or Taunton. The leadwork in question has many marked features not found elsewhere: certain floral patterns are like trade-marks by which the work of this particular firm can be recognised.

In his book on *English Leadwork*, Weaver illustrated the water-head and cistern at Poundisford Park. The latter is dated 1671. At Barton Grange, only about half-a-mile from Poundisford, there was formerly another cistern of similar character (Plate XXIII). It has been sold since the Great War and is now in a garden near London. This cistern has a frieze representing an orchard scene of identical design to that at Poundisford Park, and the familiar floral designs are repeated in the square panels below the frieze, although the date, which is cast near the base, is as late as 1699. In the centre panel at the front is a shield of arms, Goodenough impaling (? Leachveake). The arms of Goodenough were, *arg. a chevron . . . between three ogresses*; and of Leachveake, *gu. a saltire arg. a crescent for difference*. Smart Goodenough was high sheriff for Somerset the year in which the cistern was made. It is unfortunate that the Barton cistern which is considered one of the finest of the series should have been taken away from the county.

At Poundisford Lodge there is a pair of cisterns, illustrated in *Country Life*, 24 June 1916, one of which also has the orchard frieze, and the other a frieze representing a lion-hunt, the latter a very spirited composition. These cisterns are dated 1670, and bear the initials of William and Rachel Symes.¹ On the lion-hunt cistern are the arms of Symes, *three escallop shells in pale*; and on the orchard-scene cistern are the arms of Bluet,

¹ Brown's 'Somerset Wills,' iv, 70-71.



LEADEN CISTERN, DATED 1699,
which was formerly at Barton Grange, near Taunton

or, a chevron between three eagles displayed vert.¹ Rachel Symes was a daughter of Francis Bluet of Holcombe Rogus in Devon and Greenham in Somerset, who was killed at the siege of Lyme Regis. Two of the escallops in the Symes coat are missing, and it can be seen that they were originally attached to the cistern after casting. Ornament on leadwork of this type was very rarely *appliqué*.

A certain 'Mr. Jeffery' seems to have releaded the spire at Pitminster in the same decade in which the Poundisford tanks were made. His name occurs in several entries in the Pitminster churchwardens' accounts. It is possible that he may have been the craftsman whose individual treatment of leadwork is still recognisable wherever his work is found along the Devon and Somerset border.

A. W. VIVIAN-NEAL.

¹ The Bluet arms are one of the most interesting coats associated with Somerset. Ralph de Monthermer, the squire of low degree, who married the Princess Joan of Acre, daughter of Edward I, had a sister Hawys who married Sir Ralph Bluet. The Monthermer arms were, *or, an eagle displayed vert*, the famous 'green eagle of Monthermer', and from this connection the Bluet arms seem to have been derived. The son of Sir Ralph Bluet and Hawys de Monthermer married the heiress of Greenham.