

Archaeological Remains, Ham Hill, South Somerset.

BY H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

THE time is hardly ripe to deal, both critically and constructively, with the results of the excavations which were conducted at Ham Hill by the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society in 1923. It is felt that it would be premature to attempt to make any definite statements,—for instance, with regard to the date of construction of the inner rampart which follows the outline of the northern spur of Ham Hill. The results already obtained by the recent excavations require close scrutiny and should be supported by evidence obtained in future work, which may probably be carried out in 1924.

However, members of the Society, and especially the subscribers to the fund,¹ will be expecting a report in due course²; and in order to sustain an interest in the archæology of Ham Hill so far as actual antiquities are concerned, the writer has

1. Last spring a prospectus was issued to solicit subscriptions to the Excavation Fund. Considering the times the scheme was well supported. At the end of 1923 the sum of £96 13s. 6d. had been subscribed and £63 3s. 7d. had been spent, leaving a balance in hand of £33 9s. 11d. Some of the support came from sources where one cannot expect help again for some little time.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary of the Ham Hill Excavation Fund, Somerset County Museum, Taunton Castle, Taunton. A large fund will be required to carry out work on Ham Hill on the scale the site deserves.

2. The writer gave an illustrated lecture to the Society at the Dulverton Meeting, July 10th, 1923, in which reference was made to the recent excavations, and a report appeared in *The Times*, May 23rd, 1923.

been able to arrange with Dr. R. Hensleigh Walter to figure and describe a few of the more interesting objects from the Hill which have found their way into the Walter Collection during the last few years, some of which have been briefly described in *The Antiquaries Journal*, but not illustrated.

Reference should be made to that *Journal* :

(a) Vol. II (1922), pp. 381-2, in which a list of some recent 'finds,' with dimensions, is given.

(b) Vol. III (1923), pp. 149-150, where the remains from an interesting cremation pit-burial—probably Belgic—of La Tène II period, *circa* 200 B.C., are illustrated. The relics include an iron dagger, length 11·75ins., in bronze sheath, the front of which is tinned. The hilt, also of bronze, which is a prototype of that of the 'anthropoid' sword, is mounted on the iron tang.

(c) Vol. IV (Jan. 1924), pp. 51-53, where a first-century burial of unusual type is briefly described; with an illustration of the urn which contained the skeleton of an infant. Illustrations are also given of some iron objects, including a razor with pivoted tang and a hand-pin decorated with three pellets.

At the Annual Meeting held at Taunton in 1918, Dr. Walter presented to the Society the greater part of what is known as the Walter Collection in the Somerset County Museum.¹ Since that time other specimens have been received for exhibition in the Museum, references to which are given in a footnote below.² As two new cases are being provided for the upper room, it will be possible to display the Ham Hill collections to better advantage than formerly, and with less crowding.

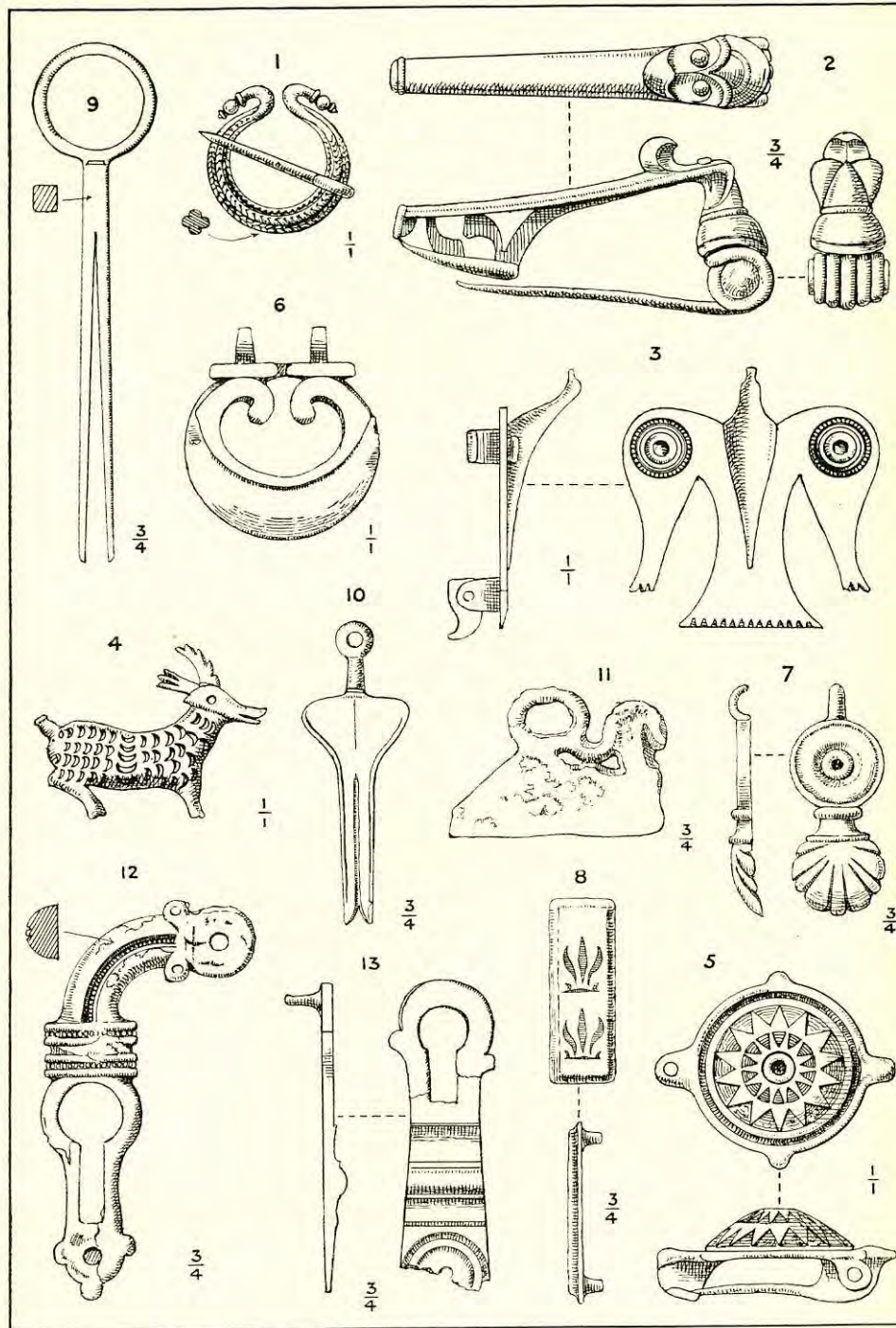
In Plate XI (accompanying this paper) thirteen specimens found on Ham Hill are figured,³ which have not been illustrated previously. The following is a description of them :—

1. Penannular brooch of silver, of small size, max. diam. 21mm.; decorated as seen in the drawing; cross-section of

1. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LXIV, xxi-xxiii.

2. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LXIV, lvii; LXV, lxi-lxii; LXVI, lxxv-lxxvi; LXVII, lxxiii-lxxiv; LXVIII, lxxxvii-lxxxviii; LXIX, lxiv.

3. The drawings were kindly made for me by Mr. H. C. Charlewood,—a member of the Society.



ANTIQUITIES FOUND ON HAM HILL, S. SOMERSET.

From Drawings by Mr. H. C. Charlewood.

the ring quatrefoil-shaped ; the moulded terminals are bent back in the plane of the brooch. 1st century A.D.

Found in August, 1922, in association with a larger ring-brooch of bronze. Brooches with similar terminals have been found at Hod Hill and elsewhere.¹

2. Brooch, or *fibula*, of bronze of dark colour and well patinated, length 68mm. (2·7ins.) ; on the back of the bow a zoöomorphic design—a conventionalized animal's head ; the back expands into a trumpet-shaped spring-cover ; the coiled spring, on an iron axis, terminates in the pin ; the catch-plate is pierced with a ' comma ' design.² Late-Celtic ; La Tène III.

Found in April, 1921.

3. Brooch of bronze, tinned, in the form of a bird with outstretched wings ; length 38mm. (1·5ins.) ; the depressions in the studs on the wings appear to have contained enamel ; the brooch is of the hinge-pin variety. Roman.

Found in May, 1921.

4. Brooch of bronze, of the hinge-pin type, length 29mm. ; in the form of a deer on which the markings of the coat and the eye were firstly engraved and then filled with red enamel, of which traces remain ; little of the tinning of the surface of the brooch is now seen except on the edges. Roman.

Found in July, 1921.

5. Brooch of bronze, circular and of low conical form ; of a common hinge-pin type. The wheel-shaped design is further ornamented with enamel—the outer ring of wedges, blue, and the inner wedges, alternately blue and red.³ Roman.

Found in May, 1921. Three damaged brooches of this form and style were found at Charterhouse-on-Mendip, and are exhibited in the Pass Collection in Bristol Museum.⁴

6. Bronze buckle, 27 by 30mm., well preserved and heavily

1. *Guide to Roman Britain*, Brit. Mus., 1922, fig. 64, d.

2. See Evolution of the Comma ornament, *The Glastonbury Lake Village*, 506.

3. *Guide to Roman Britain*, Brit. Mus., 1922, fig. 73, a. Some of the most interesting brooches which have been found on Ham Hill from time to time are figured in the plate accompanying my paper on Ham Hill antiquities in *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LVI, ii, 50–61.

4. *V.C.H. Somerset*, I, fig. 92, no. 1.

tinned to produce a surface like silver on the side which showed Roman.

A somewhat similar buckle from Hod Hill has been figured.¹

7. Bronze ornamental 'handle,' length 44.5mm., probably used opposite a similar one for attachment to the rim of a bronze bowl, to which it would be fastened by means of an iron rivet; traces of such a rivet are clearly seen in the centre of the circular disc (especially at the back of the object). Possibly the disc was enamelled. The hook at the top is broken; when complete a chain could have been attached to this and the opposite hook for the purpose of suspending the bowl. Roman.

Found in 1912. A precisely similar object (length 43mm.) was found in the excavations on the east side of the northern spur in 1923.

8. Bronze ornament, 34 by 12mm., with two projections at the back, probably for attachment to leather. The ornamental design is niello inlay work,² and this is not the only example from Ham Hill.³ Roman, and probably of Italian workmanship.

Found in 1912.

9. Bronze 'forceps,' finely patinated, length 97mm. (3.8ins.), with closed ring-handle (ext. diam. 22mm.). On the sides near the ring-end and in the position of the section in the drawing there are faint traces of two rivets penetrating the neck of the implement from side to side. Late-Celtic.

Found with an uninscribed British coin in November, 1920. Nothing else of this type, of ancient date, appears to be known, but Dr. Walter has stated that a similar implement (a 'picker') is used in silk-weaving at the present day.

10. Nail-cleaner of bronze, perfect and finely patinated; length 56mm. Roman. Found in June, 1919.

1. *Guide to Roman Britain*, Brit. Mus., 1922, fig. 105, e.

2. Niello—a black composition, consisting of alloys of silver, lead, copper and sulphur, with which engraved designs on metals are filled in, for ornamental effect (*Oxf. Dict.*).

3. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LVIII, i, 122; LXVI, lxxv. Similar nielloed work has been found on Hod Hill (*Guide to Roman Britain*, Brit. Mus., 1922, fig. 105, a and f).

11. Razor of bronze, with modelled handle, somewhat corroded ; length 38mm. (1·5ins.). Found in June, 1915, on a site which has produced a large number of articles of the Roman period.

12. Bronze escutcheon for a fairly large key-hole ; nicely worked and tinned ; vertical height 75mm. (nearly 3ins.). Roman.

13. Bronze escutcheon for a key-hole, broken ; present length 59mm. Roman.