

Report on Roman Remains discovered at Northstoke.

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THE skeleton lies extended on its back, in the usual way, and almost all the bones are *in situ*, embedded in a deposit of fine clay. The facial and frontal bones, however, have fallen in, and the latter are so broken and decayed that nothing can be made of them. The pelvic bones, also, have fallen apart, and by their manner of lying suggest at first sight a breadth beyond the masculine; but there is no doubt that the skeleton is that of a man, and the form of the sarcophagus, widest about the part that receives the shoulders, accords with its destination.

The portion of the skull which remains coherent does not seem to have suffered any posthumous deformation. It is somewhat globose and platycephalic, with a rounded occiput; its maximum breadth is exactly 6 inches (152 millimeters); the temporal region is bulging—a form common in truly Roman skulls, but not common in any of the native British races. The fragments of the lower jaw indicate a narrow and angular chin. The teeth have been abraded by hard food, but are very sound: at least, I observed only doubtful indications of carries. The long bones are those of a fairly robust man. The maximum length of the humerus is about 13 inches (330 millimeters); the maximum lengths of the femur and the tibia I could not get so perfectly, they being partly imbedded in the clay; but the maximum trochanterian length of the former is about 17.3 inches (439 millimeters), indicating a true maximum of about 18 inches (457 millimeters). The maximum length of the tibia, including the malleolus, is 14.3 or 14.5 inches (about 363 or 367 millimeters). The probable

living stature which I should deduce from these measurements would be about $66\frac{1}{2}$ inches, or 1690 millimeters; but it may have been a little more: by my own rule, based on the femur alone, it should be 67 inches.

To sum up, we have here the bones of a robust man, probably in middle life, and of a stature of 5 feet $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches or thereby: he belonged to the Roman period, and his skull form is not adverse, but even, perhaps, somewhat favourable to the notion that he may have been a veritable Roman.

The other bones referred to were those of two individuals they were too much broken and decayed to be capable of bearing any weight of inference: one, at least, of the two was probably an old man, as I conjecture, from the marked horizontality of the neck of the femur, and some other slight indications.
