

Miscellanea.

The Editor will be at all times glad to receive from members and others, communications of local interest on Archæology, Natural History, etc., for the pages devoted to "Miscellanea" in the Volumes of Proceedings.

The Hoopoe in Somerset.

THE REV. FRANCIS STERRY, of Chapel Cleeve, Washford, writes, September 22nd., 1903: "It is, I think, worth recording that on the 12th inst., a Hoopoe was seen here feeding on the lawn, and remained with us, being seen every day, till and including the 17th. It would be sometimes in one part of the garden, sometimes in another, but never at any great distance from the house, so that we were able to observe it with ease, both through glasses and with the naked eye. I surmise that it might have been driven here by the great storm on September 10th. It was amusing to see a thrush approach it on its arrival, and gradually draw near as if to inspect the stranger, and be promptly driven off."

Small Down Camp, near Evercreech.

SMALL DOWN or Smalldon Camp,* the summit of which is about 715 feet above sea-level, is situated half-a-mile, as the crow flies, to the south-east of Chesterblade (where Roman remains and coins have been found); one mile, five furlongs, to the north-east of Evercreech; one-and-threequarter miles

* "Smaledone," A.D. 1262. Bennett's "MSS. of Wells Cathedral," p. 69. Marked on the 25-inch Ordnance Survey as "Small Down Knoll."

north-west of Batcombe ; two miles, five furlongs, to the south-west of Merehead Camp (see p. 177), near Leighton ; and about 300 yards from Small Down Farm-house. It does not appear to have been scientifically explored, and there is little in print concerning it.

I had the opportunity of visiting Small Down in October, 1903, in the company of the Rev. W. T. Dyne and the Rev. F. W. Weaver, F.S.A., Vicars of Evercreech and Milton Clevedon respectively. It is in a very strong position and is surrounded on the north, west and south, by a deep valley, the eastern side, which is the only accessible point, being connected with an outlying branch of the Mendip range. The camp takes the form of an irregular, elongated oval, being broader on the east than at the western end where it overlooks Chesterblade. It encloses about six acres and has two entrance-causeways, on the east and south-east ; from external appearances, the smaller causeway at the south-east appears to be a modern entrance formed for agricultural or quarrying purposes. The greater part of the camp is encompassed by a vallum of considerable relief and an outer bank with a fosse between ; but the eastern and north-eastern boundary is defended by three valli and intervening fossæ. The maximum exterior length of camp is about 1115 feet, the interior length 860 feet, whilst the greatest width is about 500 feet.

In the centre of the camp and on the highest ground three tumuli can be clearly traced in a somewhat mutilated condition. Phelps in his *History of Somerset* (1839) informs us that they were opened by the Rev. John Skinner of Camerton, but unfortunately he has left behind him no proper printed record of his discoveries, which Phelps summarizes thus : "In one barrow an ornamented urn was found, inverted, containing ashes only ; in another, burnt bones and pieces of flint ; and in the third, an urn of elegant form and superior workmanship of which a drawing was made."†

† Figured in Phelps, vol. II, p. 117.

The Somersetshire Archæological Society visited the camp in 1878, but no remarks worthy of record appear to have been made. When the Society visited Doultling in 1865, the Vicar, the Rev. J. Fussell, exhibited "a very interesting ancient British urn found in the encampment at Small Down."

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

Discovery of Roman Remains at Clevedon.

MR. J. HOLLIER, while working in the tennis ground in Linden Road, Clevedon, in March, 1903, at a spot East of the Friends' Meeting House, about 200 feet N. of Prince's Road, 210 feet S. of the Constitutional Club, and 110 feet above sea-level, turned up eight bronze coins and several pieces of supposed Roman pottery. There were also a number of bones and teeth at the spot, presumably the remains of a horse. The "finds" were sent to me for identification, and although the specimens are not of any intrinsic value, and the coins in a bad state of preservation, they are at least worthy of record and particularly as Roman remains have frequently been discovered at Clevedon. The largest coin is a Roman "second brass" of Constantine I, A.D. 306—337, of which the following is a description:—

Obv:—FL. VAL. CONSTANTINVS NOB. C. (*Flavius Valerianus Constantinus Nobilis Caesar*). Laureated head of the Emperor to right.

Rev:—GENIO POP. ROM. (*Genio populi Romani*). Genius standing, holding a patera in right hand and a cornucopia in left. *In exergue*:—P. LN. (*Pecunia Londinium*).

These coins of Constantine the Great, struck in London, are common. The other seven are also of the Constantine period, but almost wholly illegible.

The twelve black and grey fragments of pottery are typical examples of what is understood as "Upchurch" ware, *i.e.*, similar in character to that made so largely on the banks of the

Medway, and elsewhere in England during the Roman occupation. One fragment of the grey is evidently a portion of a small circular cullender.

Roman remains have previously been recorded as having been found at Clevedon as follows :

In 1876, Romano-British pottery and coins were found to the N. of Christ Church, at the junction of Highdale Road and Chapel Hill ; about 130 feet above sea-level.

In 1882, Roman pottery and coins were turned up in digging foundations for the Wesleyan Chapel, at the junction of Lower Linden Road and Sunnyside Road ; about 95 feet above sea-level.

And, in 1883, a flint spear-head, Roman pottery and some few coins, were discovered at a spot 180 feet to the N. of Coleridge Road, 300 feet E. of Victoria Road ; and 95 feet above sea-level.

JOHN E. PRITCHARD, F.S.A.

Opening of a Barrow at Lockinghead Farm, near Worlebury.

CONSIDERABLE interest has lately been aroused by the opening of a barrow at Lockinghead Farm, two miles from the ancient British camp of Worle, near Weston-super-Mare. The barrow lies on the top of a small but steep hill, which bears evident traces of having been fortified, and in shape presents a broad but slight elevation of a circular form, about fifty paces in diameter. By the country folk, who regard it with superstition, it is known as the "Hills," and from the summit a fine prospect of the Mendips and the surrounding country may be obtained. Close to the eastern verge of the hill there passes a trackway in its course from Worle Camp to the Mendips, which is commonly called "Roman Path," being a direct route to the lead mines said to have been worked by the Romans.

Operations were commenced by sinking a hole in the centre, and at a depth of two feet the workmen came to a square excavation, surrounded by walls built of oolite, having a single face of dry masonry filled with rubble stone. The dimensions are seven feet deep and nine feet square, one corner, in which there is a flight of steps, being rounded. The floor is very smoothly cut in the marl soil. Within this chamber, intermingled with the earth which filled it, were found the fragments of the blade of an iron sword, a burnt bone—evident marks of cremation—and pieces of coarse pottery; also a curious bone, which the writer submitted to Professor Boyd Dawkins, who pronounced it to be a bone of the *Bos longifrons* (the long-faced ox), a huge animal now long extinct. It has evidently had considerable wear, being very smooth and polished, with a hole bored through at one end. Possibly it was used as a shuttle-spool in weaving. Professor Dawkins attributes this mode of burial to a period following the Roman occupation.—*The Daily Graphic*, Sept. 22nd, 1903.

“Churchie Bushes,” Bawdrip.

IN the list of the “Stradling Collection,” (*Proc.*, Som. Arch. Soc., Vol. XLVIII, pt. i, p. 84), a “Pottery Bead, from the Roman Villa, ‘Churchie Bushes,’ Bawdrip” is mentioned. Concerning this spot the following may be of interest. Old remains have from time to time been ploughed up. At one time, as I have been informed, the carved head of a pillar was found, but this has been lost; also fragments of unglazed tiles, etc. Mr. Knott, whose father was Rector of Bawdrip up to his death in 1827, writes “on one occasion some tessellated pavement, presumably part of an old Roman Villa, was ploughed up in one of the glebe fields, but it was hastily covered up for fear it might bring people poking about.” I believe the foundations still existed a few years ago, but were pulled out by one of the former tenants.

Personally I question whether it was really part of a Roman Villa, for the following reasons. It is situated in a part of Bawdrip called Ford. At Ford there once existed a Chantry Chapel, though all trace of it has vanished. It is however mentioned in Collinson's *History of Somerset* under Bawdrip, and in Rev. F. W. Weaver's *Somerset Incumbents* there is a list given of Chaplains of Ford Chantry, *juxta* Bawdrip. The name "Churchie Bushes" seems to point to some ecclesiastical building, and therefore I should think the remains are part of this Chapel and not of a Roman Villa. As, however, at the present day it would be almost impossible to get hold of any remains,—except, perhaps, some tiles,—it would be difficult to verify it one way or the other.

EDWARD H. BRICE.

Vicar of Coleford, Glos.

The Wadham Medal.

(*See Plate, facing p. 36, part I.*)

THE medal, belonging to Lt. Colonel Bramble, F.S.A., of which photographs were sent to me for description, is of Nicholas and Dorothy Wadham. The British Museum possesses two specimens; it is a medal, not a badge. The following note is given in the *Medallic Illustrations* published by the Trustees of the British Museum, Vol. I, p. 220:—
 "This piece consists of two plates or shells, soldered together. It is said to have been struck in 1618 upon the death of the wife, who survived her husband nine years. The first stone of Wadham College, founded by them, was laid 31st. July 1610. He was of a respectable family settled at Merefield in Somersetshire, and she was a daughter of Sir William Petre, principal Secretary of State to Queen Elizabeth. He died in 1609, aged 77. She died in 1618, aged 84. There are modern

imitations of this piece, cast and chased, and skilfully executed and rare. The medal is not very uncommon." (See also *Dict. Nat. Biog.* and Jackson's *Wadham College.*)

H. A. GRUEBER, F.S.A.

Assistant-Keeper of Coins and Medals, Brit. Mus.

Medal of Marshal Saxe, found near Bruton.

DURING the present year (1903) some workmen in doing repairs at Colinshayes House, near Bruton, Somerset, discovered behind the wainscoting a medal commemorating the victories of Maurice, Count de Saxe.

This celebrated man was the natural son of Augustus, King of Poland, and was born at Dresden in 1696. He distinguished himself at Dettingen and Philipsburg, and in 1744 was rewarded with the staff of a Marshal of France: in 1745 he gained the famous battle of Fontenoy, which was followed by the capture of Brussels and many other places in Flanders. In 1747 he was victorious at Lafeldt, and in the following year took Maestricht, soon after which the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle was concluded. He survived that event a little more than two years, dying Nov. 30, 1750. He wrote a treatise entitled *Mes Reveries*, on the art of war, two vols., 4to.

The following description has been kindly sent by Mr. H. A. Grueber, F.S.A. (British Museum):—

Obv:—Bust of Saxe to left, in armour; (on shoulder, D. KAM. FE.); around, MAURIT. SAXO. GALL. MARESC. GEN. D. CURL. ET. SEM.

Rev:—Representation of the monument to Marshal Saxe in the Church of St. Thomas at Strasburg: it is inscribed, MAURITIO. SAXO. CURL. ET. SEMIGAL. DUCI. SU. RE. EX. PR. SEMPER. VICTORI. LUDOVICUS. XV. VICTORIA. AUCTOR. ET.

IPSE. DUX. PONI. JUSSIT.—O. CAMBORITI. XXX. NOV. A. MDCCL. ÆTATIS. LV.

It is somewhat worn and oxidised, and is 55 mm. in diameter.

It has recently been presented to the Society by the Rev. F. W. WEAVER, F.S.A.

Huish Champflower Barrow, Somerset.

MR. H. St. G. GRAY's report on the excavation of Huish Champflower Barrow, carried out by the owner, Sir Walter J. Trevelyan, Bart., which the Curator visited on behalf of the Society, has been published in "Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries," Vol. VIII, Sept. 1903, pp. 303—305.

Sword of John of France, taken at Poitiers by Johann La Warre, known as the "Warre Sword," and formerly at Hestercombe.

THE Curator of Taunton Castle Museum has been frequently asked questions relative to the present possessor of this sword, of which a colour-drawing hangs on the staircase. He has recently received the following information from Mr. L. S. Graham-Clarke, of Frocester Manor, Stonehouse (Glos.) :—

"At the late Miss Warre's (of Hestercombe) death, the family heirlooms, such as pictures, the sword, jewels, etc., were, by the order of the Court of Chancery, divided into lots which were to be drawn for by the descendants of my great grandfather, the Rev. Thomas Eagles. Amongst these was a lady of the name of Corfield, who sold her right to her share of the heirlooms to her nephew—a Mr. Guppy; but neither Mrs. Corfield nor Mr. Guppy's mother were amongst those mentioned in the late Miss Warre's will. The sword, which naturally the family valued most of all, fell to Mr. Guppy; and, *I am told*, that he since took the name of Warre, and lives at Brighton."

At the time of going to press (Dec. 19th, 1903), the following information has been received from Capt. Annesley T. Warre, who writes on behalf of his father, Mr. C. Bampfylde Warre, of 19, Brunswick Place, Hove, Brighton: "The 'Warre Sword' came into my father's possession after the trial, 'Blosse v. Eagles.'—*The Times*, July 23rd, 1875. We have a photograph of it, as it hung at Hestercombe."

Glastonbury Lake Village.

WE understand that the excavations in connection with the above, which were commenced in 1892, and have created such a world-wide interest in archæological circles, are to be renewed next year (perhaps in May), under the joint superintendence of Mr. Arthur Bulleid, the original discoverer, and Mr. H. St. George Gray, curator of Taunton Castle Museum. The British Association made a grant towards this work at the Southport meeting in September, on the understanding that the work was carried on jointly by these two gentlemen. It has been resolved by the Glastonbury Antiquarian Society, the owners of the Lake Village site, that for the present all the relics discovered, including duplicates, will remain at Glastonbury. It is hoped that the whole work will be brought to a complete finish in about three years time, and that a large and fully-illustrated monograph will be published, setting forth all the interesting details of this unique village of the Iron Age, and thus materially add to our, at present, somewhat meagre knowledge of the arts and customs of Late-Celtic times. The Excavation Committee has been re-appointed, and consists of the Very Rev. the Dean of Wells, Rev. Preb. C. Grant, Messrs. A. Bulleid, F. J. Clarke, J. Morland, J. Spire, G. C. Swayne and J. Merrick (all members of the Glastonbury Antiquarian Society), and the Rev. D. P. Alford and Mr. H. St. G. Gray, of Taunton; also the

following members of the British Association sub-committee for the Glastonbury Lake Village :—Dr. R. Munro, Prof. W. Boyd Dawkins, Messrs. Arthur J. Evans and Henry Balfour. —*Somerset County Gazette*, Oct. 17, 1903.

Rare Objects in Taunton Museum.

MR. H. St. George Gray has contributed two illustrated articles to "The Connoisseur" during 1903, viz., "Some Relics of the Monmouth Rebellion in Somerset," Vol. V, pp. 116—119 (Feb. 1903) and "Two Important Jugs in Taunton Castle Museum," Vol. VII, pp. 103—104 (Oct. 1903).