

Notes

THE MEARE LAKE VILLAGE EXCAVATIONS, 1938

THE excavations at the East Lake Village at Meare were reopened on Monday, 22 August 1938, and the examination was continued for four weeks, followed by the filling-in and making good the ground. Six men were employed.

Digging commenced at the south edge of Dwelling-mound XXIV, and the site was completely explored together with the southern half of Mound XX situated near the northern boundary of the Village.

Work was then transferred to the south side of the Village, where the whole of Mound XXII was excavated as well as a small area of ground lying to the west of that dwelling, left from a former year's examination.

Mound XX proved to be a large and thick area of clay showing little evidence of occupation and having few structural points of importance, and so further investigation was abandoned.

Mound XXII was of small area but of much interest structurally as well as for the unusual number of small objects it produced. The outstanding feature of this dwelling-site was the two series of superimposed hearths with remarkable stratified accumulations of fire-ash (17 in. deep at its thickest part).

Mound XXIV was also of small area lying south of Mound XX, composed of three clay floors and three hearths. The third or lowermost floor was notable for the number of lias slabs lying about on the surface, apparently without any arrangement or method. There was, however, one exception to this, namely that one of the slabs was placed in an upright position, the lower end having been intentionally embedded in the clay floor, and wedged on either side with smaller slabs. This 'standing-stone' was situated within 4 ft. of the margin

of Hearth iii, and was the first example of the kind found in either of the Lake villages.

Among the smaller objects discovered were the following :—

Amber and Jet.—A very large and a small amber bead, and half a ring-bead of clouded amber ; a jet bead. These are the first ' finds ' of amber and jet in the east village.

Antler (chiefly red-deer).—Twenty weaving-combs ; perforated toggle, zoomorphic (eel-head shaped at one end)—see H 53 found in 1937 ; two other toggles ; modelling-tool of roe-deer antler ; squared piece perhaps used in a game ; hammer or mallet ; two ' cheek-pieces ' ; half-a-dozen worked pieces of tine of roe-deer ; five knife-handles (one roe) ; and several interesting pieces of sawn antler.

Bone, etc.—Tibia with sawn notch and perforations ; modelling-tool ; tarsus of sheep ornamented with four lines of dots-and-circles, and another similar ; two toggles (one ornamented) ; scapula cut to an attenuated form, ornamented with rows of dots-and-circles ; rib-bone scored with lines and notched along the edge ; bone ornamented with crossed lines ; four worked shoulder-blades ; an interesting series of worked tarsal and carpal bones of sheep ; four gouges and ' skewers ' ; three perforated canine teeth of dog, and another with incipient hole.

Beads of Glass.—In addition to the amber beads a large number of glass beads were found in 1938, including part of a string or necklace of clear glass and yellow paste beads, found together in Mound XXII ; it consists of six globular beads and thirty-nine ring-beads. Half a blue glass bead, with white spiral ornament ; twelve clear glass globular beads with spiral and other devices in yellow ; bead of black glass ; small blue glass bead ; two yellow ring-beads. In all, seventy-two beads (including amber and jet).

Bronze.—Penannular ring-brooch ; fibula of La Tène III type ; part of two fibulae of iron ; large oblong-shaped brooch, formerly inlaid with enamel apparently ; a spiral finger-ring, and two other rings ; a probe ; a rivet-head ; pieces of bordering, and parts of the rim of a vessel ; twisted wire.

Iron.—Part of a sickle ; two chisels ; nail ; three knives ; an adze ; fragments perhaps of currency-bars.

Tin.—Hollowed disc.

Crucible.—One fragment.

Kimmeridge Shale.—Parts of eleven lathe-turned armlets ; ring-bead ; harness-ring.

Whorls.—Forty-seven spindlewhorls (stone, baked clay, pottery, bone, tin).

Flint.—Five scrapers, knife, and broken celt (polished).

Stone.—Ten saddle-querns (all upper stones but one); whetstone with transverse incisions on the long edges, and another perforated; a collection of 204 sling-stones; and a number of well-formed hammer-stones.

Baked Clay.—Triangular loom-weight, and a few 'balls' of baked clay.

Pottery.—Plain pottery was very abundant, but, in proportion, ornamented wares were scarce. It will be possible to restore a few of the vessels.

Animal Bones.—The remains of domesticated animals and of birds were plentiful. They include a few of otter and beaver.

ARTHUR BULLEID

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY

SOMERSET FAIRS

IN supplement to the Rev. N. F. Hulbert's paper in *Proceedings*, vol. lxxxii (1936), pp. 83-159, the following additional information has been received:

DULVERTON

Mr. Ernest G. C. Chapman, of Dulverton, has in his keeping the Minute Book of the Dulverton Fair Trustees, beginning 4 February 1732. The Manor came into the hands of the Crown at the Dissolution. The Charter granted to twelve feoffees (goodmen of Dulverton) is dated 20 April, 2 & 3 Philip & Mary. The Manor was sold to William Babington, 3 & 4 Philip & Mary, and the Charter probably enhanced the price.

Mrs. Charles Bere recently found the original Charter among her late husband's papers and gave it to the Market Trustees. It has a good seal, and is now framed and exhibited in the Town Hall.

The Charter gives a Saturday market and two fairs. The big fair was held on 10 July, but it was allowed to drop soon

after the railway was made. The profits of the fair were expended for the common advantage of the inhabitants.

Recently the Market House or Town Hall was sold by the Market Trustees to a Committee who have much improved it, thanks to the Hon. Mrs. A. Herbert of Pixton Park, Lord Dulverton and Mr. Lutley (manager of Lloyds Bank). The purchase-money has been invested and the dividends applied to 'the common advantage'.

MILVERTON

The following notes have been abstracted by Lt.-Col. H. R. Phipps, D.S.O., from the Sanford MSS., now preserved at the Somerset Record Office, Shire Hall, Taunton :

(Circa 1682). The King is, in *jure corone*, seized of the Burrough of Milverton of 2 parts, some other meane Lords of the third part. Yearly rent in Domesday 10s. to the Crown for a market, paid by the Portreeve till about 3 & 4 Philip & Mary, when market was decayed, so rent reduced to 6s. 8d. till about 9 James, when the market was totally decayed, & the rent reduced to 14d. p.a. . . . the decay supposed to be due to some visitation or fire. Day of the week for it not known. The inhabitants now want to set up a market again, but can find no charter or day. We want Friday & a fayre on *Wensday* in Easter week.

Charter, 18 October, 7 Anne (1708), granting to William Hulbert of Burgh of Milverton & his heirs permission to hold Fairs or 'Nudin' in Burgh for ever, 'on Tuesday next after Feast of Easter, the other on 25 July unless that day be a Sunday, when it shall be on the Monday next after . . . also a market on Friday in every week; & a Court of Piepowder at time of the Fairs'.

(1554) Custom of the Manor of Milverton. . . . The Reeve is allowed 1 Fee Oake & 1 little Shrowd Oake to make the Tolefery (?) House on Michaelmas Day for the fair.