

SUBJECT SECRETARIES' REPORTS, 1935.

Dr. Williams-Freeman presented his report for the Field Archaeology Section :—

Finds at Beaulieu, Clausentum and Stockbridge.

1. The most ancient discovery of the year in field archaeology is the Mesolithic site at Beaulieu discovered by Sir Thomas Troubridge and described in *The Antiquaries Journal* for March (p. 200) under the heading of "A Mesolithic Village in Hampshire."

It is on a spur capped with 2ft. to 6ft. or 7ft. of gravel about 100ft. O.D. which falls rather steeply to the south-west.

In a space of about five acres there are 48 circular patches from about 5ft. to 12ft. and 15ft. in diameter all filled with brambles to a height of 3ft. or 4ft. Round many of them was a low bank (with no ditch) about 4in. in height and 18in. wide, suggesting that it was made of the turf taken off the circle. Four or five were dug away for the foundations of a house, but nothing to indicate occupation was found, and the sides were indistinguishable from the surrounding gravel. A few scrapers, scraps of charcoal or burnt wood and pot-boilers were found, and a few bits of mediaeval pottery, but all in the upper few inches. Exactly in the centre of one, however, was the base of a wooden post 8in. long with the top 15in. below the surface.

It was on a site being levelled for a lawn-tennis ground that six or seven knives or scrapers were found lying together and, in addition, several microliths and many flakes as well as a few cores from which microliths had evidently been struck. The site is the most westerly mesolithic site so far recorded, except perhaps Mottistone and those in Devon and Cornwall.

Long Barrow at Droxford.

2. Mr. McEuen reports a Long Barrow at Droxford, in a sloping grass field in the corner east of the main road up the Valley and south of the road coming in from Swanmore, about 50 yards from each. It lies due north and south, the south end being rather the higher and broader. The mound is about 75ft. by 39ft., 6ft. high at the north end and 6½ to 7ft. at the south. There is a slight ditch 6 to 9ins. deep on the upper (west) side ; on the lower side the slope runs up to it with no ditch remaining, and on this side it is 10 to 11ft. high. The north end has been dug into and removed for 10 or 11ft. and the south end also for 5 or 6ft. The soil is chalk and it is covered by trees and ivy. It has every appearance of being a Long Barrow.

Earthwork on the Beaulieu River.

3. Sir Thomas Troubridge has also found a small Earthwork on the east side of the Beaulieu River about a mile above Lower Exbury and 200 yards from Gilbury Hard. It is in a copse called Princess Grove, and may have given its name to the Hard. But it is I think of doubtful antiquity. It is an inexact square of about three acres with two sides contiguous with a medieval enclosure bank and ditch; its own bank and ditch is much mutilated but appears to be of about the same size and profile. If it should prove to be prehistoric it will, with the promontory earthwork at Lower Exbury, make two of these seafarers or landing camps for this river, and ten, great and small, for the whole County. Curiously enough, so far as I know, only one such camp has been reported in Sussex and perhaps two in Dorset. No doubt ours is the most attractive coast in England, but I cannot help thinking that others could be found in neighbouring counties if they were carefully looked for. (See report on p. 184.)

Finds at Clausentum.

4. In the summer of 1935 several skulls and human bones were unearthed in the kitchen garden of Bittern Manor House about 1ft. to 3ft. below the surface. Round about them were scattered two or three barrow-loads of building stone and, at a slightly lower level, and apparently *in situ*, was a square block of stone 14in. square at one end, 16in. by 14in. at the other, and 22in. in height. The stone has a groove of about 2in. to 2½in. wide along one edge, the faces are irregularly worn and weathered, and there is no trace whatever of any inscription or ornament.

In January 1936 further excavations round the stone revealed that it lies at about the centre of a circular ring of 6½ft. in diameter and about 2½ft. wide, consisting of broken Roman brick and tiles with fragments of stone as well as flint stones and beach shingle, all more or less bound together with disintegrated mortar of grey and pinkish colour. These remains were about a foot or so high and were evidently the footings of a small circular building.

Lying across this wall on the east side were the lower ends of the femora and the complete leg and foot bones of a large man and the leg and foot bone believed to be those of a child. They lay radially as regards the circle, and the upper part of the skeleton must have been amongst the bones previously dug up by the gardener. The level of the burials was below that of the circle which had been cut through for their reception. They lay on a few small flat slabs of stone which appeared to be the lowest course of the foundations. It is evident, therefore, that they must have been buried after the circular building had fallen into ruin.

At the beginning of this month the skull with a perfect set of teeth and some bones of a third skeleton were found just to the west of the other two, and buried like them extended with the head to the west. It was about a foot higher in level and apparently buried in a coffin, for many nails were found. It was vaulted over with mortar and stone slabs.

In the second edition of Sir Henry Englefield's *A Walk through Southampton*, p. 119, he records: "On the north side of the new road (the Northam Bridge Road) and nearly halfway between the wall and the bridge, a very considerable number of skeletons were found, not less than 50. They were laid east and west, and had apparently been buried in coffins of wood fastened with iron nails, of which a great many were found with small pieces of wood adhering to them. It is remarkable that all the teeth in every one of the jaws were quite perfect, a circumstance which seems to indicate that the bodies were of young men, probably of soldiers, slain in some engagement, evidently however by the mode of sepulture at a period later than the Roman inhabitancy of the spot."

The description of the site of these burials is not very exact, but assuming that the wall mentioned is the one he had previously examined, the site of these 50 burials might well have included the three now found and the scattered bones found around them.

The skeletons have not been reported on, but they are nearly certainly post-Roman. There were no associated objects to date them by. The spot will be carefully noted on the 6in. map.

Professor Haverfield, in the *Victoria County History*, inclines to the belief that Clausentum was a 3rd or 4th century fort built against the barbarians with the stone of a former Roman building, though he says that no hypocausts or tesserae or signs of civil life have been recorded. Tesserae, however, with fragments of all sorts of Roman pottery, including mortaria, Samian and British Roman ware, as well as fragments of Roman brick and roofing tiles, turn up with every spadeful in the garden, and the coin series cover the whole Imperial period up to about A.D. 380. A Roman metal chape similar to those found at Caerleon was also found.

Mr. G. H. Williams, who did most of the excavating, has written a careful description of his finds with a plan and list, which will be deposited with the objects so as to be available if ever the study of the site of Clausentum should be seriously taken in hand.

Another Execution Hill at Stockbridge.

5. In digging a hole for the post of a Jubilee bonfire last summer on the highest part of Stockbridge Common Down between the Winchester—Stockbridge Road and Woolbury Camp, some

Boy Scouts turned out a skull. This led Dr. N. Gray Hill to excavate the site. In all about 37 skeletons were found, nearly all males, and it is possible that the burial place extends further in one direction. Several of them had their hands behind their backs, as if tied, and four had been decapitated. They were at different levels, and some of the bodies had been cut through for later burials before the ligaments of the feet had decomposed, so that the bones remained in order. The burials were therefore not contemporary. One of the decapitated skeletons had the bones of a large dog, also decapitated, buried with it. Some were buried extended in graves, but with no particular orientation, and others were thrown in casually. The bones appear to be those of large Saxon men, but I have not seen the final report.

An iron buckle and a so-called "wrist fastener," exactly resembling the one found at Meon Hill, and six silver pennies of Edward the Confessor, minted at Winchester in the latter part of his reign, probably 1063 to 1066—all with the man with the dog—were the only objects found.

Everything points to this being a second execution hill for malefactors like that discovered two years ago at Meon Hill on the other side of the river, where skeletons were found dated by a coin of the same king.

That two such rare discoveries of ancient methods of justice should be made at Stockbridge confers no doubt a certain distinction on that law-abiding town, but we must not forget that the coins must have been in circulation at the time of the Norman Conquest, when many foul deeds were done to honest Saxons. The crime of the decapitated individual with his dog may have been only that of hunting in the neighbouring forest of West Bere when the brutal William came to Winchester.

Mrs. Hooley said that photographs of objects found at Stockbridge, including the decapitated dog and man, could be seen in the Saxon Section of the Winchester City Museum.

Scheduled Monuments.

6. The following is a list of ancient monuments in Hampshire, that have been added during the year 1935 to the list of those scheduled as protected under the Act of 1931 :—

1. Crondall—Barley Pound earthwork.
2. Crondall—Powderham Castle earthwork.
3. Froyle—Earthwork at Penley.
4. Silchester—Earthworks south of.
5. Southampton—"Cutthorn."
6. Havant—Warblington Castle.

Architecture

Report by Mr. T. D. Atkinson, F.R.I.B.A., Secretary of the Architectural Section.

THE group of houses at the corner of College Street and Kingsgate Street, known as Nos. 1, 2 and 3 College Street, have lately been purchased by the Warden and Fellows of the College, and have been taken down. The site will be laid out as a garden and surrounded by a railing in continuation of that enclosing the gardens to the east. Though not without elements of the picturesque, the houses can hardly be said to have had much architectural value, and their condition was such that they were commercially valueless. No. 1, which abutted on Kingsgate and on the back of No. 2 St. Swithun Street, was originally rather a good house. It was probably built in the reign of Charles II, say about 1670. It was built of red brick, the windows had wood frames and mullions, but these were of the tall, narrow type crossed by a transome. There had probably been a plaster cove under the eaves. Inside there was a rather handsome contemporary staircase, for which I am glad to say we found a purchaser who was building a new house, and one of the rooms was panelled and had a large painting on wood over the mantelpiece, of which it was impossible to make out any detail. The house had been much mutilated and it would have been impossible to restore it at reasonable cost. The other two houses appeared to date from the end of the eighteenth century or the beginning of the nineteenth. They were built in the rather cheap style which characterizes that period.

When No. 1 had been taken down it was found that the Town wall and the south wall of the gateway and of the church above had suffered severely, chiefly through defective gutters and were very ruinous. In places the refacing of the wall of the gateway is over three feet thick. The south-east angle of the gateway had been entirely destroyed and the present stone quoins are modern. I think that the City is much indebted to the Warden and Fellows for this improvement—for I hope it will be agreed that it is an improvement.

The repair and tidying up of Kingsgate will, I hope, follow, but at present we are faced with the unusual phenomenon of a valuable piece of real property of which everyone disclaims ownership.

Perhaps I may be allowed to refer here to the proposed alterations in Jewry Street, on the plea that they involve the destruction and rebuilding of the time honoured George Hotel. There can be no question about the necessity of widening the street, even

with such opponents of high speed traffic as myself, and I feel that the thanks of the community are due to the Town Clerk and others for their exertions in the very difficult negotiations. Unfortunately the George is, in respect of its architecture, one of those border-line buildings which are not remarkable enough to make an indefensible case for preservation, and yet are so old and have so much quiet dignity that one cannot lose them without regret. Much of our anxiety to preserve mediocre old buildings is due to a dread, not wholly unjustifiable, of what will take their place. Time was when all were confident that every new building was going to be better than the one it replaced. Such times are fled. I suggest that it is up to all of us, collectively and individually, to do all we can to see that care is taken that new buildings shall be as near perfection as possible.