

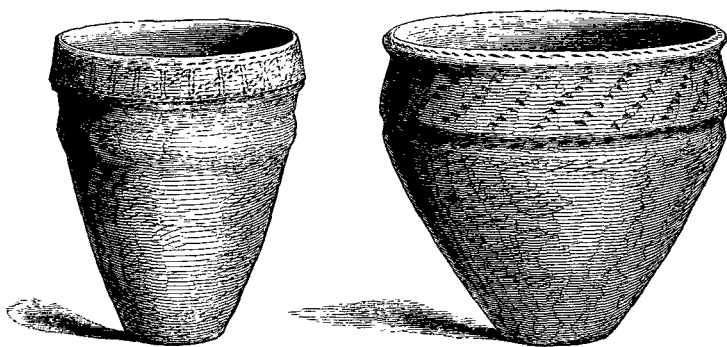
#### IV.

#### NOTICE OF THE DISCOVERY OF A CIST WITH OVERLYING URNS, AT TEALING, FORFARSHIRE. By JAMES NEISH, Esq., F.S.A., Scot.

On the 26th January I had the satisfaction to examine some interesting remains in the parish of Tealing, which I shall attempt to describe. At the base of Tealing Hill there are two large standing stones near to a gravelly hillock, and to which Mrs Fotheringham's gardener had been for years in the habit of resorting for gravel. The working was carried on from the east end, and no discovery was made until near the centre; at this point men were taking the soil before them to a depth of 6 feet, when an urn filled with calcined bones fell to the ground. Soon after they came to the ends of four flat stones, laid one upon another; these being removed, another urn inverted, also filled with bones, was found slightly protected with small stones, and within  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the surface. Immediately underneath the four stones was another large flag stone which, being removed, proved to be the cover of a well-constructed cist, composed of other four coarse flat stones. The space measured 4 feet in length, 2 feet wide at the head, 1 foot 7 inches at the foot, and was 2 feet in depth. The cist lies about east and west, the bottom of it (gravel) being 8 feet from the surface. A skeleton (male) was found quite entire, the body had been laid on its left side with the head to the east, the legs had been drawn up towards the front. The size of the bones indicates that they belonged to a person under the middle height. The urns are unfortunately much broken, but I am enabled to send sketches of them as near as possible to what they had been. They had occupied counter positions, one being at the east end of the cist, and the other at the west, both being on a level about 3 feet higher than the cist cover.

Thinking over the narrow cist and its depth from the surface (8 feet), I wrote to the overseer, Mr M'Nicoll, who has acted in a most intelligent and careful way, asking his opinion as to its construction. He replied, "We removed all the soil that had been moved at first and no more; the width of the opening is about 6 feet; there was a marked difference between the disturbed soil, and that which had not been touched."

Had the standing stones any connection with this interment, may



Urns found overlying a Cist at Tealing.

they have been part of a circle of such stones round the hillock? Having described the discovery to the Rev. William Greenwell of Durham, he kindly replied, "The discovery which you describe is similar to many that have come under my observation, an unburnt body with one or more burnt bodies overlying it; were the two burials, the burnt and unburnt, contemporaneous? I am inclined to think they were, and I have found so many cases where a burnt and an unburnt body have been laid in the grave most unquestionably at the same time, as to make such a proceeding as by no means an unusual one. It is difficult to say why one was burnt, whilst the other was interred without having undergone the process of cremation. I have thought we have in the burnt bodies those of wives or slaves killed at the time of the funeral of the man; still that is mere conjecture, and men were found burnt and laid

along side of unburnt women, if we may judge of the sex by the accompanying implements or weapons which seems a fair deduction, but I am certain that inhumation and cremation were practised, not only at the same time, but for interments made on the same day. It is probable that the case you mention was a similar one, and that the two overlying burnt bodies were laid there at the same time as the unburnt body. The burials were, no doubt, of the native population, and in all likelihood pre-Roman."

I may add that no flints or other articles were found, although carefully looked for both amongst the soil and burnt bones.

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The skull has been carefully examined by Professor Turner, and Dr J. A. Smith, and the following note gives the details of its general characters :—

A well-shaped symmetrical adult male skull, of an elongated oval form, with its lateral walls somewhat flattened, and with the supra spinous part of the occipital bone ascending almost vertically from the external protuberance. Supraciliary ridges and glabella well marked, but not excessive. Sutures of vault obliterated. Teeth all regular, free from decay and present, excepting three of the wisdom teeth which have been shed. Surfaces of crowns partially worn down, but not so much flattened as is sometimes seen in crania found in cists. Lower jaw well formed, with the rami rising at almost a right angle. The chin broad and strongly everted. Foramen magnum elongated to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in its antero-posterior diameter. The dimensions of the skull are given in the following table :—

Internal Capacity	.	.	.	.	88	cubic inches.
Extreme Length	.	.	.	.	7·2	"
" Breadth	.	.	.	.	5·3	"
" Height	.	.	.	.	5·2	"
" Frontal Breadth	.	.	.	.	4·4	"
" Parietal	"	.	.	.	5·2	"
" Occipital	"	.	.	.	4·0	"
" Zygomatic	"	.	.	.	4·9	(The right arch being imperfect.)

Maxillary Radius . . . . .	3·7	cubic inches.
Fronto-Nasal „ . . . . .	3·8	„
Frontal „ . . . . .	4·5	„
Vertical „ . . . . .	4·7	„
Parietal „ . . . . .	4·8	„
Occipital „ . . . . .	3·8	„
Basi-Cranial Length . . . . .	3·9	„
Longitudinal Arc . . . . .	14·4	„
Frontal „ . . . . .	5·0	„
Parietal „ . . . . .	5·2	„
Occipital „ . . . . .	4·2	„
Frontal Transverse Arc . . . . .	12·2	„
Vertical „ „ . . . . .	12·8	„
Parietal „ „ . . . . .	13·4	„
Occipital „ „ . . . . .	10·3	„
Horizontal Circumference . . . . .	20·8	„
Proportion of Length to Breadth . . . . .	100 to 73	„
Proportion of Length to Height . . . . .	100 to 72	„

The skull is therefore decidedly dolichocephalic. The measurements of the skull have been taken after the method employed by Mr Busk, and may be compared with measurements of other crania from cists previously recorded by us in the "Proceedings of the Society," where the same method has been employed.