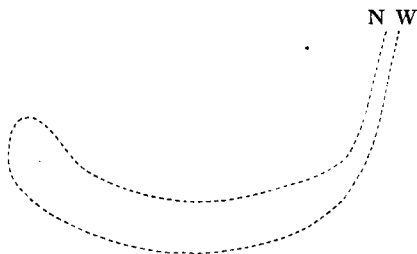


## NOTE OF AN UNDERGROUND BUILDING FORMERLY DISCOVERED IN EDINBURGHSHIRE. By JOHN ALEX. SMITH, M.D., Sec. S.A. Scot.

Mr Stuart referred to the underground building found in Roxburghshire. Buildings of a similar shape, and formed of ruder materials, had been found long ago at Cupargrange, near Cupar-Angus, and a similar one in this county of Edinburgh; they are described in the Appendix to the third volume of "Pennant's Tour in Scotland," p. 453, published in 1799. The latter is mentioned as being lately discovered in the county of Edinburgh in a field to the North of Middleton House, the seat of Mr Mitchelson, and about a mile and a half south-west of Borthwick Castle. The building was exposed by the plough at about one foot under the present surface of the ground, and was built of rough land stones, none appearing to have been formed by art; the space between the walls was mostly filled with black mould, irregularly interspersed with charcoal of wood, burnt earth, bones, and teeth apparently of sheep and oxen.



Underground Building discovered in Edinburghshire in 1799.

No artificial substances were found, nor anything else but some stones that must have fallen from the surrounding walls. The whole bottom was lined, to the depth of some inches, with fine soft clay. Both of these buildings, as well as the Newstead one, had a narrow entry pointing nearly N.W. A figure of it is given (see woodcut) with the dimensions. The writer adds in a postscript, that he has been-informed a building-of the above kind has been lately discovered in the east of Fife.

These notices in "Pennant's Tour" were, as far as he was aware, among the first instances of this kind of underground building being figured, and recorded, and, as one was in our immediate neighbourhood, it has been thought proper to give a copy of the figure, and the dimensions of the building:—

" Beginning of the entry, . . . .	2 feet 6 inches broad.
Length of the entry, . . . .	15 " 0 " long.
Outward wall of the circular part, .	42 " 0 " "
Inward wall of do., . . . .	33 " 0 " "
Height of the circular walls, . . .	5 " 5 " "
Width betwixt the circular walls, .	5 " 8 " "

With regard to the use of that class of buildings, Dr Smith was inclined to agree with those who held that any underground building which had no opening for light or ventilation, could scarcely have been used for a permanent dwelling, but probably, only as a place of occasional occupation, or concealment, for men or cattle, or for the storage of food, or valuables of any sort. Pennant considered them as "repositories for the ashes of sacrifices, which our ancestors were wont to offer up, in honour of their deities."