

VII.

NOTICE OF A SHORT STONE CIST, CONTAINING A HUMAN SKELETON
AND A "DRINKING CUP" URN, FOUND AT DREM, EAST LoTHIAN.
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This cist was recently discovered, while a field was being ploughed, close to the steading of the farm of Drem. At the west side of the field the ploughshare grated on what appeared to be a large flagstone, and after the day's work was done, the steward, Mr. Hunter, and a farm servant went to make a more careful examination of the spot and remove the stone. The soil was then carefully removed to a depth of about 10 inches from the surface, and a flat slab of red sandstone about 4 feet long, 4 inches thick, and weighing about 2 cwt., was laid bare. On this stone being lifted up a short stone cist was exposed, of which it was the top or covering stone, the other five stones of which it was formed being fitted together; the cist or grave measured 3 feet 6 inches long inside, by 2 feet 6 inches broad, and 1 foot 6 inches in depth. It contained an adult skeleton, lying on its side in the contracted position, the body having been bent forwards, and the knees drawn up to the stomach. The skull was at the top or west side of the cist, in its centre the bones of the skeleton in a heap, as it were, and at the feet, or north-east corner, was placed the clay urn or "Drinking Cup." The bones fell to pieces on being exposed to the air. A large flagstone also formed the bottom of the cist, which was thus made up of six unhewn slabs of red sandstone; all being of the uniform thickness of about 4 inches.



Drinking Cup found in Short
Cist at Drem (scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

The urn, the bottom of which was slightly broken, is 8 inches in height,

4½ inches across the mouth, 5½ in diameter above the middle of its height, and 3½ inches across the bottom. It is ornamented by a series of parallel lines encircling the urn, and alternating with these are rows of short oblique lines sloping in different directions (see woodcut).

The Society is indebted for the details of the discovery of the cist, and the presentation of the urn to the Museum, to Mr. Hunter, farm steward, and also to Mr. James Reid, the tenant of Drem.

The short cist was found at about 100 yards from an old chapel, in the proximity of which many human remains have been exposed during the last twenty-five years. This, however, is the first time that a short cist, with its contained skeleton, has been discovered in this locality, and it belongs of course to a much earlier date.