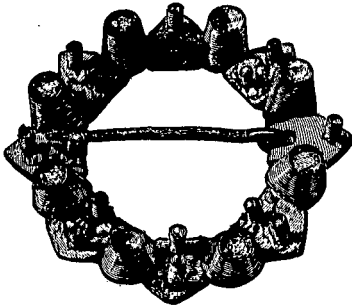


XIV.

NOTICE OF TWO BRONZE OR BRASS BROOCHES, ALSO A POINTED
IMPLEMENT OF BRONZE OR BRASS, FOUND IN SUTHERLAND.
By JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D., Sec. S.A. Scot.

The Rev. J. M. Joass, LL.D., of Golspie, sends these brooches and this
implement for exhibition to the Society. The first brooch is of a circular



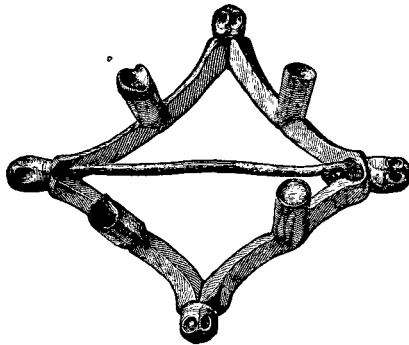
Brooch found at Culgower, Sutherland
(actual size).

form, with an alternate series of large
and small stalked settings projecting
from its surface ; many of these are
now empty ; those still remaining
show different colours of glass or
paste. The brooch is well shown in
the annexed careful drawing. It was
found in 1868, in a cutting at Cul-
gower, 4 miles eastward from the
Broch of Kintradwell, during the
progress of "The Duke's Railway,"
i.e., the section of the Highland line

made by His Grace the Duke of Sutherland between Golspie and Helms-
dale. Close to where the brooch was found there was discovered a short
cist formed of slabs, and containing two skeletons, the skull of one being

very fine, and in perfect preservation. An old woman, with whom the railway gaffer lodged, told him he should find thereabout the grave of a prince of Lochlin, slain in battle. Perhaps the cist had got partly uncovered before, by the drifting of the sand, and was made to fit in with the local legends.

The other small brooch is of a somewhat square or lozenge shape, with curved sides, and ornamented in a similar way with stalked settings of glass. The Rev. Dr. Joass tells me it was given to the Duke of Sutherland several years ago by the late Mr. Hall, Sciberscross, Rogart, as having been got in a cist within a large cairn on that farm, and known as Sciber's Grave. The earliest form of the word, so far as I can make out was Siberscaig. The brooch has a rude ornament somewhat like a human face at each of its terminal corners, and a stalked



Brooch found at Sciberscross, Rogart
(actual size).

setting projects from the middle of each of its sides; these are empty except one, which seems filled with green glass or paste. (See figure.)

A small portion of a brooch of a similar stalked character is in the Museum, which was picked up in the Culbin Sands, Moray. Both the Sutherland brooches are formed of a mixed metal, which is either bronze or brass; they also show slight traces of gilding.

Bronze or Brass Implement.—This implement was found about two years ago, under 3 feet of alluvial soil, being exposed by the falling in of the bank of Sputie Burn, the eastern boundary of Golspie parish, near the sea. It is a tube, tapering to a point, 13 inches long and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter at the widest part. At $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the point the diameter is $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch, between which and the point it is flattened to a

lanceolate form. The edges of the metal are in perfect contact along the middle of one side of this lance-like head. From the wide end there are three slits $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, which, with the slit of folding, divide the tube into four equal slips or tangs, apparently for embracing a widening shaft. It had been recently attached to a handle by tacks, of which rusty traces remain, and used for spearing trout, which has put both tube and tangs somewhat out of form. It is not easy to say what it had been intended for, but its appearance does not seem to indicate any great antiquity.

The tube and the brooches are now preserved in the Dunrobin Museum, and our thanks are due to His Grace the Duke of Sutherland for allowing us to get them for exhibition to the Society, and to the Rev. Dr. J. M. Joass for the account of their discovery.