

V.

NOTICE OF A BURIAL CIST FOUND ON THE FARM OF MAGDALEN'S, KIRKTON, ON THE ESTATE OF BALMUIR, NEAR DUNDEE. BY R. N. KERR, SECRETARY, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, DUNDEE.

Mr Andrews the farmer at Magdalen's Kirkton, and one of his men, while ploughing one of the fields near the steading, came suddenly against a large stone. On digging to remove the obstruction they found that the stone covered a rectangular-shaped space, the sides of which were formed of carefully placed stone slabs. Not knowing what it might be, they informed Mr Sharp, who ordered the place to be opened all round. A brief description of it was forwarded to Dr Christison, who at once pronounced it to be a solitary burial cist; but as no "finds" were discoverable in the fine sand which filled the interior, it was difficult to decide the question of its age.

The stone forming the lid of the cist is cup-marked. It weighs 5 cwt. 1 qr. 21½ lbs., and its thickness varies from 9 to 12 inches. There are 40 or more cup-markings on it, varying from 1 to 3 inches in diameter.

The stone on the north side measures 6 feet 6 inches in perimeter. Its shape is irregularly oval. Its greatest breadth is 16 inches, its greatest thickness 6 inches. The stone on the east side is 1 foot 11 inches by 1 foot 8 inches, and 4 inches thick. The slab on the south side is 2 feet 11 inches by 1 foot 6 inches, and 6 inches thick. The one on the west side is 2 feet by 1 foot 3 inches, and 6½ inches in thickness.

The cist lies almost due east and west on a rising ground overlooking the valley of the Dichty—the ancient "*Strathdychten-comitis*"—and commands a lovely view of the country in all directions; away due east lies the historic Castle of Mains, sheltered behind a clump of trees; to the left Claverhouse and Balmuir; north, Baldovan House, Balgray, and Balmydown.