

I.

NOTICE OF A CUP- AND RING-MARKED BOULDER, RECENTLY DISCOVERED ON THE BRAID HILLS. BY JOHN BRUCE, F.S.A. Scot.

On the Braid Hills golf-course a small cup and ring boulder was discovered the other day by Mr George Lamb, Divinity Student, of Old Kilpatrick, who immediately reported it to the Helensburgh Naturalist and Antiquarian Society. The boulder is of white sandstone. A representation of it from a photograph is here shown in fig. 1. The surface measures 36 inches by 22 inches, and has on the upper side and edge three well-defined cup-marks, with one ring round each. As has been frequently noticed before in previous examples, the sculpturings have evidently been picked out with a sharp-pointed tool, not by chiselling or grinding. The cups are $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch respectively in depth. The boulder bears several marks which look as if they had been made by the ploughshare, the small plateau on which it lies showing signs of cultivation of an early date.

Mr F. R. Coles adds the following :—

Mr Bruce's note having been written only from a report of the discovery of this stone, I append the following remarks drawn up since

seeing the stone on the afternoon of Saturday, 31st January. The stone was found with the lower edge of its sculptured side deeply embedded in the turf, between the eighth and ninth holes of the golf-course on the Braid Hills. Its exact locality could not be determined on account of the heavy snowfall; and when I saw it, the greenkeeper had it under lock and key in the tool-house. The stone measures almost 3 feet by 1 foot 9 inches by 1 foot thick, and is roughly oblong. The cup- and ring-scribings on it comprise a large rudely oval ring, on part

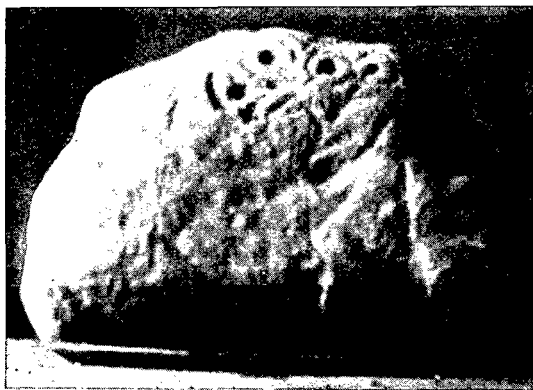


Fig. 1. Cup- and Ring-marked Stone on the Braid Hills. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)
(From a photograph by Mr George Lamb.)

of which tool-marks are clearly visible, which encloses seven cups in all. Two of these are surrounded by one ring each, and each of these rings is extended into a groove in line with the centre of the cup and crossing each other,—a feature novel to me among cup- and ring-marks. Two other, less perfect, cups are connected by a straight groove; and of the three remaining, one has a short groove. The entire group occupies a space 16 inches wide by 10 inches high, and the rings and principal cups are very cleanly picked out. There are the marks of a ploughshare towards the upper edge of the stone.

About the year 1867 three cists were found near the east end of the upper pond on the Braids; and I am informed by the discoverer (who

was then gamekeeper on the estate) that Sir J. Y. Simpson saw these cists. Nothing having been found in them but crumbling bones, we have no record of their existence in the *Proceedings*. It is quite likely that there are others on the hill, nearer to the site of the cup- and ring-marked stone, which may possibly prove to be the cover of one of them. About 300 yards away in a south-easterly direction from the site of this stone, or exactly 50 yards S.S.W. of the tool-house, there lies another travelled boulder; and on its exposed surface, measuring 21 inches by 14, are three shallow cups.