

## V.

## NOTICE OF AN URN AND BRONZE SWORD FOUND ON THE FARM OF BAILIELANDS IN THE PARISH OF AUCHTERARDER. By A. G. REID, F.S.A. Scot.

The urn was found in a cist on the farm of Bailielands, of which Mr James Sharp is tenant, about eight years ago. The cist was formed of thin sandstone slabs, one forming the bottom and others the sides, while the top was covered over by a similar slab, the cover being about 6 inches from the surface. In the cist there was a skeleton in a contracted position, apparently entire, but the bones crumbled on being exposed to the air. The urn, though broken, was fortunately not much



Fig. 1. Urn from a Cist at Bailielands, Auchterarder. ( $\frac{1}{3}$ .)

injured, and, the pieces having been put together, is now sufficiently entire to show the form and ornamentation clearly (fig. 1). It is of the tall, narrow, thin-lipped variety, with bulging sides and slightly everted rim, known as the drinking-cup type. It is made of the usual reddish-coloured paste, from a sandy micaceous clay, almost quite free from admixture of gravel or pounded stones, and well fired. The

ornamentation is placed in two zones, the upper zone commencing 1 inch below the lip and extending to the widest part of the bulge below, and consists of a series of sixteen encircling lines less than a quarter of an inch apart, apparently made by the impression of a finely-twisted cord of two strands, wound spirally round the circumference of the vessel, and thus impressed on the soft clay. The lower zone, extending from the prominence of the bulge to the bottom of the vessel, is ornamented by a series of five zigzag lines roughly scored on the clay, the upper half of the zone having rows of punctulations obliquely thrust into the clay in the spaces between the zigzags. The urn measures  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height and  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter at the mouth.

In February last, the bronze sword, now also exhibited, was got about 200 yards from where the cist was discovered. It was found while cutting a drain, and about 1 foot from the surface. It is of the usual leaf shape,  $23\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length, the length of the handle plate being 4 inches, the width of the blade at its narrowest part  $1\frac{3}{16}$  inches, and



Fig. 2. Bronze Sword found at Bailielands. ( $\frac{1}{2}$ .)

at its widest part  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inches. The blade is considerably corroded on both sides from about 3 inches from the handle-plate to about 3 inches from the point, and slightly damaged towards the middle of one edge. The thin strip hammered down to make the cutting edge on both sides is nearly gone for the greater part of the length of the blade, but remains distinct and uninjured on both sides for about 4 inches from the point. The handle plate has two rivet holes in the grip,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches apart, and one rivet hole in each wing, in one of which the rivet remains,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in length.

Other bronze swords found in Perthshire are :—

1. A sword  $24\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length, but imperfect at the point, having three rivet holes in each wing and two in the body of the hilt-plate,

and two in the extremity of the hilt-plate, which is doubly hooked ; found in the Tay, near Elcho, in 1865.

2. A sword  $30\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, having three rivet holes in each wing and an oblong slot in the hilt-plate ; found in the Tay, near Mugdrum Island, in 1889.

3. A sword 29 inches in length, having two rivet holes in each wing and two in the hilt-plate, the extremity of which is doubly hooked ; found in the Tay, near Perth, in 1877.

4. A sword  $23\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, having two rivet holes in the wings and an oblong slot in the hilt-plate ; found in the Tay near Elcho.

5. A sword  $23\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length, the hilt-plate of which is connected by a modern handle.

Nos. 1, 2, and 3 are in the National Museum, and Nos. 4 and 5 in the Museum of the Perth Literary and Antiquarian Society at Perth. The urn and sword found at Bailielands have now been acquired for the National Museum.