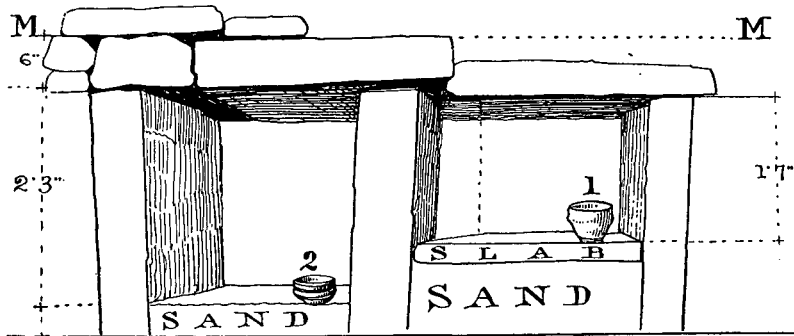
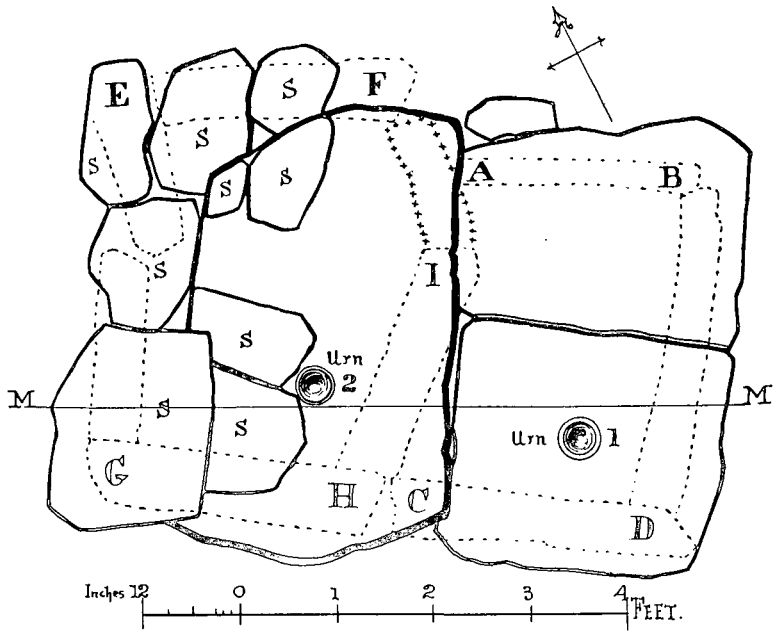


## VI.

NOTICE OF THE DISCOVERY OF CISTS CONTAINING URNS AT  
SUCCOTH PLACE, NEAR GARSCUBE TERRACE, EDINBURGH. BY  
F. R. COLES, ASSISTANT KEEPER OF THE MUSEUM.

On Monday, 13th May 1901, I was informed by Mrs A. P. Aitken, F.S.A. Scot., that, in a new road adjoining Garscube Terrace, the property of Sir Archibald Campbell, Bart., workmen had come upon a cist which contained an urn, and that the urn was in the custody of Mr D. Menzies, architect. On the afternoon of Thursday, 16th, I called at Mr Menzies' office and obtained the urn for descriptive purposes and left it in the Museum. Without loss of time I then went to Coltbridge, and finding the foreman employed in making the new road, which is to be called Succoth Place, I gained from him the following details regarding the discovery of the cist and urn.

The east edge of the cist was distant from the angle at which Garscube Terrace and Succoth Place meet, about sixty feet, and it lay as shown by



Figs. 1 and 2. Ground Plan and section of Cists at Succoth Place, Murrayfield, Edinburgh.

the dotted line A B C D in my ground plan (fig. 1). It measured, inside of its bounding stones, 3 feet 3 inches by 2 feet 5 inches, was covered by two rather heavy sandstone slabs (shown by thickened lines in plan), and was partly overlapped by the edge of another great slab at the angle C. In displacing and then breaking up these side and end stones so as to make room for the setting of the kerb between the roadway and the footpath, and during the removal of the soil which completely filled the cist, the foreman found an urn of the food-vessel type (fig. 3). It rested on a slab of sandstone which formed the bottom of the cist, and was full of fine sand. It was this urn I found in Mr



Fig. 3. Urn (No. 1) from Cist at Succoth Place.

Menzies' office. Nothing else of any artificial nature was observed. On putting in the granite kerbing, however, the workmen were obliged to chip off about eight inches from the edge of the great sandstone slab, and on seeing this *in situ* I at once informed the men that it probably formed the cover to another cist; and, after giving them some hints as to finding and keeping any other relics which the spade might bring to light, I arranged to revisit this site early in the following week. This I did in the following forenoon of Monday the 20th May, and at once proceeded to have the soil and small boulders removed from the surface of the covering slab, and the smaller slabs (S) which helped, on the west side

to roof in the second cist (E F I H G, marked by dotted lines in the plan). One or two of these smaller stones were unshapely boulders, but the majority were thinnish slabs of Craigeith sandstone of the same sort as the great slab just beneath. (See sectional view, fig. 2.)

When cleared, I found the upper surface of this slab to be 4 feet 2 inches below the grassy level of the ground on this hill. No artificial marks of any nature were found on or under this covering slab. It was canted over, and broken in two, in the process; the pieces were then lifted out of the way, and we set to work to remove the soil carefully, first finding the run of each side and end stone, thus displaying an irregularly oblong cist measuring 3 feet 7 inches by 2 feet 3 inches at its greatest. Like the adjoining cist, this one also was quite filled with soil, which was easily accounted for by the gaps left of necessity between the edges of the numerous small slabs intended to cover it. At the N.E. angle between F and I there was originally a slab. It was not *in situ* at the hour of my visit. In a short time, nearer the west end of the cist, and at a depth of 16 inches within it, the soil, which had gradually been deepening in tint, was found on a careful scrutiny to contain minute fragments of bone, which, on the gentlest handling, crumbled away. This part of the cist was then let alone and the soil removed from the opposite end, which yielded nothing. A few minutes' further scooping with a trowel, however, at the west end again revealed some small pieces of very blackened brittle pottery; and, on a careful manipulation, the workman presently handed up an urn somewhat like that found in the first cist in general appearance, but presenting, when cleaned of soil, a remarkable variation in the style of its decoration. This vessel was incomplete, its extreme brittleness and the dampness of the soil surrounding it doubtless rendering it almost impossible to handle it without doing damage. Enough of it was preserved, however, to enable it to be reconstructed so as to display the whole height and the complete scheme of the ornamentation (see fig. 4).

An inch or two below the level where it had rested, that is, 2 feet 3 inches below the top of the side-stones of the cist, we touched the undis-

turbed rotten rock and soil; and, the cist being now thoroughly empty, proper measurements were taken of its component stones. The earth was then replaced, and I brought away the urn, which with its accompanying vessel is now in the Museum.



Fig. 4. Urn (No. 2) from Cist at Succoth Place.

The position of these adjoining cists is as shown in the plan, the longer end being on the N.E. The site is within a few feet south of the actual crest of the gently rising ground, to the east of Murrayfield, north of Coltbridge House and west of the road now called Garscube Terrace, which, on the Ordnance map, is named Skinners Loan.