

II.

NOTICES OF (1) TWO STONE CISTS EACH CONTAINING TWO DRINKING-CUP URNS, ONE FROM PITTODRIE, IN THE PARISH OF OYNE, AND THE OTHER FROM WHITEHOUSE, IN THE PARISH OF SKENE; (2) A LATE-CELTIC HARNESS MOUNTING OF BRONZE FROM SHEEL-AGREEN, IN THE PARISH OF CULSALMOND; (3) A STONE MOULD FOR CASTING FLAT AXES AND BARS FOUND AT PITDOULZIE, IN THE PARISH OF AUCHTERLESS; AND (4) TWO STAR-SHAPED BEADS OF PORCELLANEOUS PASTE FROM ABERDEENSHIRE. BY J. GRAHAM CALLANDER, F.S.A. Scot.

I. TWO STONE CISTS, EACH CONTAINING TWO DRINKING-CUP URNS.

The Pittodrie Cist.—Some ten years ago the two cover-stones of a cist were exposed through a tree having been blown over in the woods immediately adjoining Pittodrie House, at the foot of Benachie, Aberdeenshire. The cist was placed on a small ridge steeper on the western than on the eastern side, running in a northerly and southerly direction; and the cist, if anything, was a little to the west of the summit. There are no signs of a cairn ever having been erected over the grave, which must have had only eight or ten inches of soil above the cover-stones before the tree grew over it. The exact spot where the cist was found is in the parish of Oyne, and lies directly north-east of Pittodrie mansion-house, about 103 yards due west of the dwelling-house on the home farm. The grave was exposed towards the end of the year, but it was not till the following spring that it was opened and examined. When the cover-stones were lifted, the cist was seen to be nearly full of water which had accumulated since its first exposure. After the water was baled out the grave was found to be half full of soil. An urn was found standing upright near the north-west corner of the cist under the smaller cover-stone, and it was removed complete. While clearing the soil out of the chamber another urn was discovered near the centre of the grave, but, as it was covered with earth, it was unfortunately broken by the spade before its presence was noticed. No other relics of man

were observed, and, after the cist had been emptied, the cover-stones were replaced in their original positions and the grave was covered up.

George Smith, Esq., of Pittodrie, the proprietor of the ground, having kindly granted me permission to re-examine the cist, I visited the site on 3rd January of this year, and had the cover-stones slightly raised. Owing to the south wall of the cist having collapsed, either when the tree was overturned or when the cist was first opened, and the opposite wall showing signs of giving way, I did not care to raise the stone further, for fear of destroying the structure altogether. I was thus unable to get the exact measurements of the different stones of which the cist had been built, but had to be content with ascertaining the orientation, and length, breadth, and depth of the chamber.

The western end of the grave was formed by a single slab, and the northern side by two slabs, all of the local red granite. These stones were nicely squared and fitted quite closely. Benachie granite weathers in such a way as to make it easily broken into slabs—indeed, many slabs are to be found on the hill—and so it would not be such a difficult matter to square the ends and sides of such blocks. The eastern end of the grave was formed by the solid rock, and the southern side partly by the rock and partly by much smaller stones than had been used on the opposite side. The chamber is 6 feet long, 2 feet 10 inches broad, and 1 foot 8 inches deep. The longer axis of the grave is 10° N. of E. and 10° S. of W. magnetic—almost exactly true E. and W., after allowing for the difference between magnetic and true north. The larger cover-stone, which covered the whole cist except a small part of the north-west corner, is roughly oblong in shape. It measures 6 feet at its greatest length, 3 feet at its greatest breadth, and it is from 8 to 10 inches in thickness; the smaller stone is about 15 inches in length and breadth, and 6 inches in thickness. These two stones, like the slabs in the cist, are of red Benachie granite.

Both urns are of the drinking-cup type. No. 1 (fig. 1), which was found in the north-west corner of the cist, and which was removed whole, has a long, almost straight lip, which contracts from the mouth

to the neck, a distance of $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, it then bulges out for a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, after which it tapers rapidly to the base, a distance of $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The height of the urn varies from $6\frac{7}{16}$ inches on the one side to 7 inches on the other; it measures $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter at the mouth, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches at the neck, $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches at the bulge, and $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches at the base. The wall of the urn is $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and the base $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick. The urn bears three parallel bands of ornamentation. The upper zone, which encircles the everted part, is composed of three straight lines, two zigzag lines, and six other straight lines which all go round the vessel. The angles of the two zigzag lines are not always exactly opposite, the lines of the lower zigzag being shorter than those of the upper zigzag. When they do happen to be opposite each other, they are usually about $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{7}{8}$ inch apart respectively, and the space between them is filled in with perpendicular straight lines, about seven to the inch, which gives this part somewhat the appearance of a band of irregular elongated hexagons impinging on each other. The other two zones of ornament are each composed of five parallel straight lines, rather more than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch apart, encircling the urn; the first is placed just under the bulge, and the second half-way between it and the base.

The other urn No. 2 (fig. 2) is taller and finer in its curves than No. 1, and it has a smoother and more glossy surface. The two urns are made of clay mixed with stones broken very small, but the material of the former is much the finer in texture. The profile of the wall of No. 1 is more angular than that of No. 2, which is composed of fine curves. The everted lip of No. 2 curves in to the neck, then bulges out to a little more than the diameter of the mouth, and finally curves in to the base. The height of the urn is $8\frac{1}{8}$ inches, the diameter at the mouth is $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches, at the neck $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches, at the bulge $6\frac{1}{8}$ inches, and at the base $3\frac{1}{16}$ inches. Its walls are $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in thickness, and the base, which is quite conical in the inside, is 1 inch thick at the centre. Like urn No. 1, it has three zones of ornamentation encircling it. These three zones are each bounded on the top and bottom edges by two parallel straight lines. The upper zone, which encircles the everted part, is com-

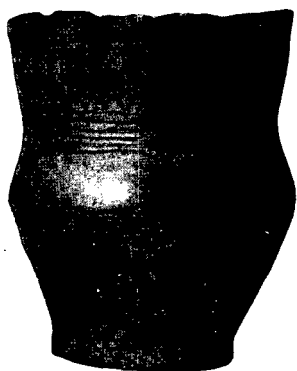


Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

Urns from the Pittodrie Cist.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

Urns from the Skene Cist



Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.

Urns from Broomend Cist No. 1.

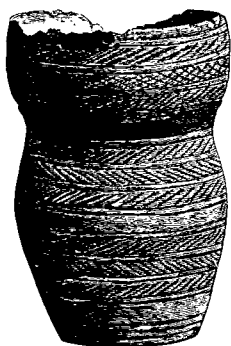


Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.

Urns from Broomend Cist No. 2.

posed of three narrow bands, each contained within two parallel straight lines. The first band is composed of straight lines, five or six to the inch, slanting to the left; the next, of perpendicular lines, nine to the inch; and the third, of lines, seven to the inch, slanting to the right. The middle zone which goes round the bulge is formed of vertical zigzags of three parts, six to the inch, which, commencing on a transverse straight line encircling the vessel, first slant to the right, then to the left, and then to the right again, when they end on another transverse straight line running parallel to, and at an average distance of $1\frac{2}{3}$ inches from the last transverse line. The lower zone is composed of crossed slanting lines, about eight to the inch, between two transverse parallel lines usually 1 inch apart.

The lines of ornament on both urns have been impressed on the soft, damp clay with the toothed or comb-like instruments which were so much used for this purpose during the Bronze Age. However, more care has been bestowed on the decoration of urn No. 2 than of urn No. 1. On the latter, the vertical lines of ornament filling up the space between the two zigzag lines, while often commencing exactly on the lower line, are usually carried across the upper one, often right up to the lip of the urn, the stamping tool apparently having been too long for this space. The same tool which was used to form the horizontal lines may also have been used to form the vertical lines. It is different in the case of the other urn. As the vertical and slanting lines of its three zones of ornament are of different lengths, and as they do not cross the transverse boundary lines, it is evident that a different stamping tool had been used for each length of line.

The Skene Cist.—A stone cist was discovered in the beginning of March of this year, while a farm-servant was removing gravel from a field on the farm of Whitehouse, in the parish of Skene, Aberdeenshire, about 10 miles south-east of Pittodrie. It was covered with 6 to 10 inches of mould. On being opened, the chamber was found to measure 3 feet 10 inches in length, 2 feet in breadth, and 1 foot 9 inches in depth, and its longer axis lay almost due east and west. The grave contained the

remains of a skeleton, two urns, three scrapers of flint, and some pieces of charcoal. The skeleton, which was that of an adult male, lay on its left side, with the skull at the east end of the cist. The short urn (fig. 3) was deposited on the south side of the cist, in front of the skeleton, and the tall urn (fig. 4) lay near the north-east corner, just touching the back of the skull. Both urns are of the drinking-cup type. The height of the first urn is $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches (165 mm.), the diameter of the mouth $6\frac{3}{32}$ inches (155 mm.), the diameter at the neck $5\frac{9}{32}$ inches (135 mm.), the diameter at the bulge $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches (150 mm.), and the diameter of the base $3\frac{5}{16}$ inches (84 mm.); the height of the second urn is 8 inches (203 mm.), the diameter of the mouth only $3\frac{5}{16}$ inches (84 mm.), the diameter at the neck $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches (86 mm.), the diameter at the bulge $3\frac{3}{32}$ inches (101 mm.), and the diameter of the base $2\frac{2}{32}$ inches (69 mm.). The first urn is of a common variety of the drinking-cup type, but the second is of a most uncommon, if not unique shape. Besides being very narrow in proportion to its height, it is almost cylindrical for a great part of its length; and while the great majority of drinking-cup urns have everted rims, this urn is rather wider at the neck than at the lip, and the bulge is only $\frac{1}{4}$ inch more in diameter than the neck.

The ornamentation of the shorter urn is divided into zones or bands encircling the vessel, by six groups of horizontal parallel lines. Just under the lip it is encircled by two lines, round the neck by five lines, just above the bulge by four lines, and between the bulge and the base by three groups of three lines each, nearly equidistant from each other, the lowest group being quite close to the base. The space between the first and second groups of these lines, which occupies the everted part of the vessel, is filled in with crossed oblique lines. The portion between the second and third groups of horizontal lines, which fills up the space between the neck and the bulge, is filled in with groups of parallel straight lines, ten or twelve in number; one group slants to the right, the next to the left, and so on, right round the vessel, leaving triangular spaces between each group, and each triangle in the reverse position of its neighbour. Only one of the three remaining divisions between the

bulge and the base, the middle one, between the fourth and fifth group of horizontal lines, is ornamented, the other two being plain. This part is occupied by two parallel lines of herring-bone pattern encircling the vessel. The ornamentation of the taller urn is finer and more striking. The entire space between the lip and the neck is covered by twenty-four horizontal parallel lines going round the urn, and eight similar lines encircle the part adjoining the base. Between these zones there are three bands of ornament similar to, and almost equidistant from each other, with the lower one placed in contact with the group of eight lines at the base. These three bands are each bounded on the top and bottom sides by three parallel transverse straight lines, which encircle the vessel. In contact with each of the inner boundary lines both above and below, as well as midway between them, is a row of small transverse lozenges or diamonds formed by short crossed lines, and the spaces between the three rows of lozenges are filled in with vertical lines.

The instruments used in the ornamentation of the urns have been a pointed tool to draw the lines on the shorter urn, and the toothed, comb-like stamp for impressing the design on the taller urn.

Professor Reid, of Aberdeen University, kindly furnished me with the details of the Skene burial and with photographs of the urns. A paper on the discovery was read by Dr Alex. Low, in July last, before the Anatomical and Anthropological Society of Aberdeen University, and it will appear in the coming volume of the *Proceedings* of that Society. The relics are preserved in Professor Reid's Museum at the Marischal College, Aberdeen.

The striking feature of the two burials is the finding of two drinking-cup urns in each of the graves. Cases of a plurality of drinking-cup urns being found in a single grave are not common, either in Scotland or in England. Of the twenty-four burials containing drinking-cup urns excavated by Canon Greenwell, only two contained more than one drinking-cup urn. In one of the graves in a barrow at Rudstone, East Riding, Yorkshire,¹ three drinking-cup urns and several skeletons were found, but the various interments had been made at different times. In the parish of Goodmanham, East Riding,² a grave in a barrow was found

¹ *British Barrows*, pp. 234-245.

² *Ibid.*, p. 308.

to contain three such urns and two skeletons. An example of three drinking-cup urns which apparently were associated with one skeleton in the principal grave in a barrow on the Garrowby Wold, Yorkshire, is recorded.¹ In a note on p. 309 of *British Barrows*, Canon Greenwell quotes, from the *Transactions of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club*, vol. iv. p. 428, pl. xiii., a case of three drinking-cup urns being found in a cist with the skeleton of a girl of about nine years of age, at North Sunderland, Northumberland.

To return to Scotland: two other graves besides the Pittodrie and Skene cists, each containing two drinking-cup urns, have been recorded, and these were also discovered in Aberdeenshire, nearly midway between Pittodrie and Skene, about forty years ago. Both were found 2 feet apart in a natural mound of sand and gravel, at Broomend, near Inverurie.² The first Broomend cist, like the one at Pittodrie, was of large size, while the second Broomend cist and the Skene example were nearer the average size of the regular Bronze Age short cist. It may be mentioned that a third and much smaller cist was found about 2 feet to the eastward of the second Broomend cist. It measured 16 inches in length, 13 inches average breadth, and 11 inches in depth. It contained the remains of a skeleton and a drinking-cup urn.

	Pittodrie Cist.		Broomend Cists.				Skene Cist.	
			No. 1.		No. 2.			
Length	ft.	ins.	ft.	ins.	ft.	ins.	ft.	ins.
Breadth	6	0	5	3	4	2	3	10
	2	10	2	6	1	10	2	0
					to			
Depth	1	8	1	8	2	3	1	9
			to		1	7		
			2	2				

¹ J. R. Mortimer, *Forty Years' Researches in East Yorkshire*, p. 134, pl. xlii.

² *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. vii. p. 110.

The first Broomend cist contained two unburnt, full-grown, male skeletons placed in a crouching position, with their heads at either end of the cist, also a ring of bone, and two drinking-cup urns (figs. 5 and 6), one behind each skull. The second Broomend cist also contained two unburnt skeletons, one an adult male, behind which was a drinking-cup (fig. 8), with the bowl of a horn spoon hanging over the rim, the other an infant female, behind which also was a smaller drinking-cup urn (fig. 7). It will be noticed that in the first Broomend cist the two urns were placed in corners of the grave behind the skulls of the skeletons. In the Skene cist one urn was placed in a corner behind the skull, and in the second Broomend cist one urn was placed in a corner beside the infant skeleton, while the other was deposited behind the back of the adult skeleton, about opposite to the top of the thighs. One of the Pittodrie urns was found in a corner of the grave. Unfortunately, it is impossible to say whether the Pittodrie grave contained one or more bodies, as nothing but the urns was observed when the cist was emptied; but its resemblance to the first Broomend cist, both as regards the very large size of the chamber and two drinking-cup urns being found in it, suggests that it may also have contained two bodies. Of course this is mere supposition, but it is difficult to understand why the grave was made so large if it were to contain only one body placed in the usual crouching position.

In none of these four cists were the two urns alike either as regards shape or ornamentation. Each of the four graves contained two distinct varieties of the drinking-cup urn. The taller urns (figs. 2, 6, and 8) from three of the cists have a fine-flowing curved line from the lip to the base, the everted rim curving out from the neck in a regular curve. The shorter urns (figs. 1, 5, and 7) from the same three cists are more angular at the neck, the everted brim springing out from the neck much more abruptly than in the taller urns. Of the two urns from the Skene grave, the tall one (fig. 4) is quite abnormal in shape, while the short one (fig. 3) can hardly be said specially to resemble either of the two varieties from the other three graves. Thus we find two

distinct varieties of drinking-cup urns represented in three of the graves, from which we are justified in believing that these two varieties were contemporary in this part of the country. These occurrences do not look like fortuitous cases of an earlier variety surviving, and to a certain extent overlapping a later variety. If only one example of two such urns had been discovered, it might have been suggested that it was either an overlap or that the second urn had been placed in the grave at a later period, but, when we have several similar occurrences, they must be explained in some other way. However, before anything can be said with certainty about chronologies, or why different varieties of the one class of urn were chosen for the different graves, a much greater mass of data must be collected. Apparently it was not simply a case of an urn to each skeleton, although this occurs in the two Broomend cists, for in the Skene cist there were two urns and one skeleton.

In the English examples cited we find similar testimony, though their evidence is not so clear as in the Scottish examples, owing to three of the four cases not having been stone-built cists, and also owing to their having been disturbed to receive secondary interments. The fourth example from North Sunderland, however, was a cist, and it contained three urns to one body.

II. A LATE CELTIC HARNESS MOUNTING OF BRONZE FOUND AT SHEELAGREEN.

This object (figs. 9, 10) was found more than twenty years ago on the farm of Sheelagreen, in the parish of Culsalmond, Aberdeenshire. As it was picked up during farming operations, no other objects were found associated with it. It is in the form of a ring, which is hollow for the greater part. However, when it was being cast it apparently had been the intention of the founder to make it entirely hollow if possible, but parts of the upper and thinner portion have run solid, as can be seen at two places where there are small fractures in the ring. The exterior outline forms a regular oval, $3\frac{7}{16}$ inches by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in size. The interior lines of the ring commencing in the upper part curve in more

rapidly than those of the exterior, so as to form the divergent spiral, trumpet-like design which is the prevailing feature of the "Celtic art of the Pagan Period." On the under part of the ring (fig. 10) the regular, exterior curve of the object is interrupted by a slightly projecting, flat, oval collar or moulding, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $\frac{1}{8}$ inch, in which there is an oval opening, $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, with a bar, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch broad, stretching lengthwise across it; this bar is part of the casting, herein differing from a similar ring found at Towie, Aberdeenshire, which apparently had had a bar or pin of iron fixed with lead to each side of the opening.

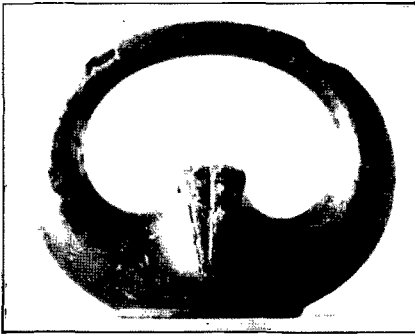


Fig. 9. Harness Mounting from Sheelagreen.

Fig. 10. Lower side of Harness Mounting.

The Sheelagreen specimen is finely patinated over nearly the whole of the surface, and is perfect but for two small holes broken in the upper and thinner part of the ring.

Harness mountings resembling this specimen, besides being found in Britain, have been found on the Continent. Dr Anderson has drawn my attention to Lindenschmit's *Alterthümer*, vol. i., part ii., plate v., Nos. 1 and 2, where portions of two pieces of horses' harness which have such mountings still attached to them, are figured. These objects are in the museum at Wiesbaden, and were found in Italy.

We have five specimens found in Scotland in our National Collection—one imperfect example from Kirriemuir, Forfarshire; another, locality

unknown, but probably Scottish; one from Clova, Aberdeenshire, formerly in the Sturrock Collection; and two from Hillockhead, Towie, Aberdeenshire. These last two examples were found in a cairn along with other bronze relics, which have been lost; amongst these was a bronze ring, 6 inches in diameter. A cist containing an urn and bones was also found in the cairn, but apparently the bronzes were not associated with it. A similar harness ring and several balls of shale, slightly flattened on one side, were found at Crichtie, near Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, under a large stone.¹ The shale objects were about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, and in the centre of the flattened side there were still the remains of iron fastenings. Rev. John M'Ewan, F.S.A. Scot., Dyke, near Forres, has another harness mounting of the same type, which was found on the Culbin Sands, Morayshire. It is slightly imperfect, a piece of the thin portion of the ring having been broken or worn off. The Sheelagreen example is thus the eighth specimen of this special variety of harness-mountings recorded from Scotland.

III. A STONE MOULD FOR CASTING FLAT BRONZE AXES AND BARS FOUND AT PITDOULZIE.

This mould, which was found some years ago, during agricultural operations, on the farm of Pitdoulzie, in the parish of Auchterless, Aberdeenshire, like all the other recorded Scottish flat axe-moulds, was unfortunately not associated with any other object. It is made of grey sandstone, and is roughly rectangular in shape, with rounded corners, or it might be called a rectangular oval. It measures $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches in breadth, and from $2\frac{3}{4}$ to $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches in thickness. It is pretty much weathered, but seems to have borne five matrices. On the obverse the chief matrix is for a flat axe with expanding cutting edge; it measures $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches across the cutting face, $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches across the butt, and $\frac{5}{8}$ inch deep in the middle, getting shallower towards the butt and cutting ends. This matrix occupies the centre of the stone. Across the top and at right

¹ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. vii. p. 111.

angles to the main axis of the axe, at a distance of $\frac{9}{16}$ inch from the butt end of the axe, is a matrix for a bar $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{9}{16}$ inch broad, and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep. To the left of the axe matrix, and running parallel to its main axis, is a matrix for a bar $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in breadth, and $\frac{3}{16}$ inch in depth. Across the bottom, in front of the cutting edge of the axe, is what seems to have been the matrix for a smaller axe, but it is so much abraded and weathered as not to be quite distinguishable. On the reverse of the mould there is part of a matrix for a flat axe still clearly defined for a length of $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The breadth of the butt end is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, but, the whole of the other end of the matrix having been worn away, it is impossible to say what had been the original length of the matrix or the breadth of it at the cutting edge. Judging from the breadth of the butt end, and seeing that there was apparently only one matrix on this side of the stone, it is probable that it had been larger than the one on the obverse.

This is the eighth example of a flat axe-mould recorded from Scotland, and like the other seven, as pointed out in my paper to the Society two sessions ago, comes from the north-east part of the country. Not only is this so, but it was found in that particular district of Aberdeenshire and Banffshire which has already produced four specimens, and like three of these four it bears matrices for bars as well as for flat axes. It resembles other six of the Scottish flat axe-moulds in being made of the favourite material, sandstone.

IV. TWO STAR-SHAPED BEADS OF GREEN PORCELLANEOUS PASTE FROM ABERDEENSHIRE.

These two star-shaped beads were found a good many years ago in adjoining parishes in Aberdeenshire, and they are made of a vitreous, porcellaneous paste, much resembling the material used by the ancient Egyptians in the manufacture of beads and other small grave-goods.

The smaller example of the two was found on the farm of Darnabo, in the parish of Fyvie. It is in the shape of a star of six points, with a large hole in the centre. The points of the bead are not at quite so

regular intervals as to form a perfect circle. It is of a light green colour, and was picked up in a field during the working of the land.

The larger and finer example was found on the farm of Camalynes, in the parish of Auchterless. In colour it is a lightish green. The bead has six points placed at regular intervals, forming an almost perfect circle.

Unlike nearly all the other known Scottish prehistoric beads, this specimen was found directly associated with other remains, by which we are enabled to date it. A boy threw a stone at what he thought was the rounded edge of a boulder projecting from the side of a mill-lade. He got a fright when the supposed stone broke and a lot of bones fell out. Having run home and told his folk about it, they went and examined the place, and found this bead amongst the bones. Although none of the bones or fragments of the urn have been preserved, it is extremely likely that it was the remains of a cremation deposited in a cinerary urn, in which case the bead will date back at least to the end of the Bronze Age.

Professor Gowland, of the Royal College of Science, London, who analysed the material of one of three star-shaped beads in the collection of Mr Ludovic M'L. Mann, F.S.A. Scot., reported that it was "a crude enamel, coloured by copper."

With the exception of the one of six rays from Blair-Drummond Moss, Perthshire, star-shaped beads had hitherto been recorded only from the Glenluce Sands and the Culbin Sands, areas which, though far apart, have produced so much in common in the way of prehistoric remains. The recovery of these two beads from Aberdeenshire, goes to show that many of the smaller and more perishable prehistoric relics, such as bronze pins, small fibulæ, and various kinds of beads; which, as a rule, are found on, and which we are perhaps accustomed to associate with sandy areas like Glenluce, Shewalton, and Culbin Sands, have been in use, and common, all over the country. A small bronze or glass object has less chance of surviving intact, and of being discovered, on land that is continually being subjected to farming operations, than on sandy areas

like the places just named, where they lie undisturbed until the sand is removed from them, and they are exposed by the action of the wind.

Thirteen star-shaped beads have been recorded as found in Scotland : one of six points was found in Blair-Drummond Moss, Perthshire, and is in the collection of antiquities at Blair-Drummond ; three perfect having nine points (as fig. 11), one with five points, and two imperfect specimens from Glenluce Sands, and one imperfect example from the Culbin Sands, are in our Museum ; three from Glenluce, one of eight points being perfect, are in Mr Mann's collection ; and the two beads of six points just described.

Such beads, as mentioned by Mr Geo. F. Black, have been found in Ireland.¹ Mr W. J. Knowles, of Ballymena, informs me that star-

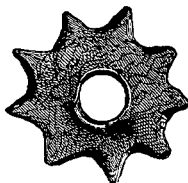


Fig. 11. Star-shaped Bead from Glenluce Sands in the Museum.

shaped beads, as well as flat beads of the same material, are termed quoit-beads by Irish archæologists. In a list of ancient Irish beads compiled in 1891 by Rev. Leonard Hassé, seven quoit-beads are mentioned, but how many were of the star pattern is not specified.² Three of the seven were in the collection of Mr Knowles, who has since received a fourth example : two of the four are star-shaped, and two are without points.

In England, two rings resembling the Irish quoit beads without rays, but provided with a loop on one side, have been recorded as found in barrows, in Sussex.³ One of these is described as an "annular pendant

¹ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xxv. p. 510.

² *Proc. Roy. Soc. Antiq. of Ireland*, vol. xxi. p. 361.

³ Dr Thurnam in *Archæologia*, vol. xliii. p. 497, fig. 192.

or amulet of greenish porcelain, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter, with loop for suspension. This ornament resembles in its texture Egyptian porcelain, and was found in an urn with burnt bones in a tumulus, in the Downs near Brighton.”¹

In recording such a varied list of prehistoric relics, I should like to draw the attention of the Society to the great number of rare and interesting antiquities which are hidden in private collections throughout the country, where their value to Scottish archæology is neither recognised nor appreciated. Some of these objects will probably come to the National Museum in time, but in many cases the circumstances of their discovery, even their provenance, will be lost at the death of their owners, as so few private collections are catalogued. Some years ago Dr Anderson and Mr Black visited the different Scottish museums, and recorded in our *Proceedings* the various antiquities contained in them—a very necessary work, when one considers the slipshod and careless fashion in which many of the curators of these museums care for, and catalogue their specimens. The Fellows of our Society might supplement that work by recording, in such a way that the object might afterwards be identified from their description, any fine or uncommon relic which they might happen to see in any private collection.

¹ Kemble, *Horæ Ferales*, p. 200, fig. 9.