

I.

REPORT ON A SHORT CIST FOUND AT CAMELON, FALKIRK.

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At the west end of Camelon, Falkirk, and within a short distance of the Roman camp in the vicinity, on ground slightly sloping to the south, one section of the Falkirk housing scheme is being proceeded with. Early last year (1921), when excavating the trench for a main sewer running north and south to connect with the existing sewer in Hamilton Street, the workmen undermined a large stone, which on falling down into the trench exposed the interior of a cist. The spot was at once visited and examined by the clerk of works, the architect, and others. Everything connected with the grave was carefully handled, and the loose contents passed through a riddle. The cist, which measured internally 2 feet 3 inches long, 11 inches wide, and 12 inches deep, was constructed of rough stones and covered by a large slab which overlapped the whole of the mouth. The walls were built of rough unhewn sandstone blocks (not slabs) and boulders. The grave lay in a ferruginous compact gravelly soil, the cover stone being about 2 feet below the surface of the field. In orientation it was east-south-east. It contained a small quantity of cremated bones which lay in a heap on the hard pebbly surface of the interior a little to one side of the centre; along with the bones was a small flint scraper which appeared to have been passed through fire. These were the only relics recovered.

The bones were examined by Professor Thomas H. Bryce of Glasgow University, who pronounced them human and to be those of an adult; but, as they were so fragmentary, it was impossible completely to define them.

It would be unnecessary to do more than report the discovery of this cist were it not for the peculiarity of the structure, which was very crude. The only stone that could be described as a slab was the cover stone, which was large enough to extend everywhere beyond the walls of the cist. These walls were of the rudest character. The two longer stones forming the north and south sides were blocks of sandstone 30 inches long and roughly about 12 inches square at their thickest part; they were rough and irregular in shape, so that it was necessary to utilise small boulders to complete the sides and bring them level at the top. The east-end stone was only 11 inches broad, and lay between the two side stones, while the west-end closing

stone overlapped them. The small size of the cist and its crude construction, taken in conjunction with the relics it contained, would seem to indicate that it belonged to the early part of the Bronze Age.