

## 2. A HALBERD OF COPPER FROM FIFE.

This specimen was found on the slopes of the Fife Lomonds, not far from Strathmiglo (Pl. XLVIII, 2).

It is of typical shape, measuring 26.5 cm. in length, 9 cm. in width at the wider end, and it weighs 340 grammes.

The end of the butt (wider end) is curved, and perforated near the edge by five circular rivet holes. Two of these holes are complete, and measure 9 mm. across. The margins of the other three holes are incomplete, portions of the thin margin having perished by corrosion.

The edges of the weapon are sharp and undulating. From the haft it tapers to a rounded point. There is a central midrib, beginning a short

distance from the extremity of the haft where it is 35 mm. wide, and almost 8 mm. in thickness, tapering gradually in width and thickness to the point.

The metal shows a fine rather patchy green patina.

My friend, Dr Dewar, of the Chemistry Department of the United College of the University, kindly applied some tests to determine the composition of the metal. It proved to be not bronze, but copper, the cacothelin test showing that there was not a trace of tin in its composition.

Mr Edwards, the Director of the Museum, has informed me that twenty-three halberds have been recorded from Scotland—this, therefore, is the twenty-fourth specimen—and that it is of Oriordain's type 6. As most of them have not so far been tested chemically it is not certain how many of these are bronze and how many of copper.

Many specimens of copper halberds of similar form have been discovered in Ireland, but comparatively few in Scotland.

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