XV.—*Excavations at Caerwent, Monmouthshire, on the Site of the Romano-British City of Venta Silurum, in the year 1904. By T. ASHBY, Jun., Esq., D.Litt., F.S.A.*

Read 18th May, 1905.

THE excavations of 1904, with which the present report deals, were in some respects the most difficult which the Committee has had to conduct at Caerwent. In the first place, the large house which appeared rather unexpectedly on the west side of the road leading to the newly discovered south gate had been reconstructed several times in its different parts, the periods not being always clearly distinguishable, and in the second place, owing to the considerable depth at which a great part of the house lay, the excavations were so protracted that both time and money began to fail, the latter owing to a most disappointing falling off in the number of our subscribers, so that, had it not been for the timely help of two Fellows of the Society, Lord Tredegar and Lord Llangattock, it would have been necessary to begin the filling in before many important problems had been solved; and even as it is, we are not able to say that the exploration has been, in certain points of detail, as complete as we could have wished.

The work of the past season was confined to the south-east portion of the field in the south-west corner of the town, which has now been thoroughly excavated.^a The area should, if the arrangement of streets which we have elsewhere observed were maintained, have been bounded on the west by the road

^a For the previous reports see *Archaeologia*, lvii. 295; lviii. 122, 391.

from the north gate,^a but no traces of it were found to the south of the churchyard. On the north it is bounded by the wall of the churchyard, 38 feet north of which the line of the street running east and west parallel to the main road was found. It was 20 feet in width and paved with cobbles.

On the east comes the road descending to the south gate, of which more will be said later. It does not coincide, as had been previously supposed, with the road in present use as the exit from Caerwent on the south, which is, and always was, as far as we know, a farm track, but runs slightly to the west of it.

We may begin our description at the north end of the plot excavated with the building that we have called House No. X. (See Plate LXVI.)

HOUSE NO. X.

The street which we should have expected to find to the west of this house ought to have passed immediately to the east of the end of the wall projecting eastwards from the courtyard of House No. IX.^b To the east again is another open space measuring 106 feet from west to east and 75 feet from north to south, and partly paved with concrete. A small pit was found in the middle of it which contained many roof tiles, and at 4 feet 6 inches below grass level a curious carved object of Kimmeridge shale (fig. 1), the use of which is quite uncertain.

The north-east angle of this space is curiously formed, the wall having several footings, and the angle itself being rounded on the outside.

The space seems to have no west wall, while on the south it is bounded by the north wall of House No. XI.

To the east of this space comes a range of rooms which we have called House No. X,^c treating them as a portion of a corridor house, the remaining portion of which lies beneath the churchyard, and of which the north wall has been found, as is indicated on the general plan of the city.

Assuming that we are right in separating them from House No. XI., the

^a See *Archaeologia*, lix. pl. ix. and p. 113, fig. 11.

^b *Archaeologia*, lviii. pl. xxvi.

^c The dimensions of the spaces numbered on the plan are as follows: (1) $6\frac{1}{4}$ feet wide; (2) $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $14\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (3) $17\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide; (4) $17\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $14\frac{1}{2}$ feet; (5) $17\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $7\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (6) $17\frac{3}{4}$ feet by $15\frac{1}{2}$ feet; (7) $9\frac{1}{4}$ feet wide; (8) 4 feet wide; (9) $4\frac{3}{4}$ feet by $25\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

CAERWENT.—PLAN OF HOUSES X, XI, XII & XIII.

C.F. KELL & SON, LITHO.

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house appears to consist of a range of rooms with a corridor on the west and a long room (7) on the east, outside which is another corridor (8); at the south end of this three rectangular slabs lie against the east wall. Their purpose was not satisfactorily ascertained, as the cartway through the field was not disturbed. No discoveries of any particular interest were made in any of the rooms, with the

Fig. 1. Object of Kimmeridge Shale.

exception of two flat-bottomed black dishes found in Room 4, one of which was covered with a stone.

To the south of this row of rooms are two spaces, the object of which is uncertain, by which the building is rather loosely connected with House No. XI.

HOUSE NO. XI.

On the north side of the house is a narrow and much subdivided space (1), which probably had merely a constructional use. To the south of it is a range of rooms of fair size, which had no floors that could be determined, and presented no objects of interest as regards what could be made out of their original condition.^a

^a The dimensions of the spaces numbered on the plan are as follows: (1) 76 feet by $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet; (2) $19\frac{1}{4}$ feet by $17\frac{1}{2}$ feet; (3) $24\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $6\frac{3}{4}$ feet; (4) 17 feet by $16\frac{3}{4}$ feet; (5) 7 feet by $15\frac{1}{2}$ feet; (6) $14\frac{1}{4}$ feet by $15\frac{1}{2}$ feet; (7) $14\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet; (8) $23\frac{1}{4}$ feet by $6\frac{3}{4}$ feet; (9) $6\frac{1}{4}$ feet wide; (10) 14 feet by $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet; (11) $23\frac{1}{4}$ feet by $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

But many later additions have been made. In the north-west angle of Room 3 we found two small troughs formed of slabs of old red sandstone, fragments of roof tiles, each of which contained the bones of an infant under thirty months

Fig. 2. Graves of two infants, House No. XI. Room 3.

old (fig. 2). These graves measured respectively 2 feet by 8 inches and 1 foot 8½ inches by 7 inches. The smaller of the two has been reconstructed in the local museum. The next room to the east (4) contains a curious rectangular enclosure,

with pitching to the north of it. The next (5) has remains of pitching in its southern portion. This was cut off in later times by a wall of large blocks, mostly of sandstone, all of which are fragments from other buildings. Of these

Fig. 3. Base of a statue of Mars, from House No. XI. Room 5.

the most interesting proved to be the base of a small statue dedicated to Mars (fig. 3).^a It bears the following inscription :

deo MARTI·LENO
 SIVE OCELO·VELLAVN· $\overline{\text{I}}$ ·NMA/G
 M·NONIVS·ROMANVS·OB
 IMMVNITAT·COLLIGN
 D D S D
 GLABRIONE·ET H·MVL·O·C·S·X·KSEPT

[Deo] *Marti Leno* [si]ve *Ocelo Vellaun(o?) et num(ini) Aug(usti) M(arcus) Nonius Romanus ob immunitat(em) collign(i) d(onum) d(e) s(uo) d(edit) Glabrione et Homulo co(n)s(ulibus) (ante diem) x k(alendas) Sept(embres) [23 August, A.D. 152.]*^b

^a The section of the panel moulding of this is shown on Plate LXVII. 1.

^b For *Homulo*, cf. Hübner, *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, xiv. 250.

Lenus is a not uncommon name of Mars in Rhenish inscriptions,^a while Ocelus has been only found once, on an inscription from Carlisle.^b It is possible that the dedicator came from the Rhine, and that Ocelus is the British equivalent for Lenus. Vellaun(o) is a new epithet, but the meaning cannot be doubtful, the root being that of *duellum*, two or zwei, and recurring in the name of the Catuvellauni. The words *ob immunitatem collign.* give us more difficulty. The *immunitas* referred to is probably admission without payment of the monthly contribution or of the entrance fee usually exacted from members of a *collegium*; while *collign(ium)* must, probably, be recognised as a by-form of *collegium*:^c cf. *C. I. L.* vii. 1069, 1070, where the interpretation *col(umnarum) lign(eam)* is difficult to accept, and is indeed rejected by Hirschfeld in commenting on *C. I. L.* xii. 22, where *collign(ium)* again occurs. If not we must interpret *col(legi) lign(ariorum)*, though there is no trace of a stop between the two *l*'s. The reference would then be to a guild of timber merchants. An interesting point is this, that beside the feet of Mars are those of a water bird. This may be either a goose or a swan.^d

Another of these stones, measuring 1 foot 10 inches in width and 3 feet in depth, appears to have been the top or bottom of a large inscribed pedestal like that found on the village green,^e and has on it some marks which may possibly be faint traces of letters; while a third is a portion of a pillar, 1 foot 3 inches

^a Holder, *Alt-Celtischer Sprachschatz*.

^b Holder, *op. cit.*; *Classical Review*, 1894, 228.

^c It is not at all certain whether the letter is an *e* or an *i*, but *collegnium* would be a by-form even closer to the original.

^d For the goose see F. Möller in *Westdeutsche Zeitschrift*, V. (1886), 321-331, who cites several cases, among them the Thingsus relief from Housesteads and a large slab from Risingham. He inclines to connect the goose with Mars because of its wakefulness, and thinks that for this reason it figured among the sacrifices to him (Martial, *Epigr.* ix. 31). It is curious that he omits in this connection the well-known story of the geese on the Capitol. He does not, however, deny the occurrence of the swan also on monuments of Mars. For the latter see *Götting. Gel. Anzeig.* 1874, p. 1405. "Kyknos findet sich in der Sage ebensowohl als ein Sohn des Ares wie als einer des Apollon. Auf Bildwerken trifft man den Schwan auch als Attribut des Ares, Lersch in *Bonner Jahrbücher*, viii. 152, 'Der Schwan kam auf dem Schweizer Thongefäss (v. und vi. 302, a round vase engraved by Merian, *Topographie der Schweiz*), dasselbe kommt nach genauerer Ansicht auch auf meinem Erztafelchen des sogenannten Mars Victor (Heft iii. taf. iv. 2) vor. Der Schwan steht also als ein dem Mars heiliges Thier von jetzt fest, sei es, dass er ihm ursprünglich eigenthümlich war, oder durch Vermittelung der Aphrodite zukam. Denn verwandte Gottheiten tauschen nach einer von Gerhard (*Trinkschalen*, S. 10) schon angeregten Bemerkung häufig ihre Symbole. Vielleicht ist selbst Kyknos, der Sohn des Ares, nicht ohne Beziehung auf dieses Attribut.'" There is, however, no reference that I have been able to discover to any such representation in the round.

^e *Archaeologia*, lix. pl. xii.

CAERWENT.—ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENTS FOUND IN 1904.

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PAULSEN, PHOTOGRAPH

in diameter, the shaft of which is preserved to a height of 2 feet, while the rectangular base, 1 foot 7 inches high, was apparently intended to be buried in the ground.

To the east of the wall containing these stones is a base of masonry about 3 feet square, the object of which is uncertain. This eastern portion of what was originally one room we have called Room 6.

To the south is another row of rooms. The westernmost (7) had a floor of old red sandstone *tesserae*, only a few of which were preserved, and a well-defined doorway opening to the south. Just outside of it a little to the east a hoard of some 250 *minimi* was found at 2 feet below grass level, but no trace of any vessel in which they could have been hidden was found with them. Just beyond was a well in which a large sandstone capital was found at 2 feet down, with the top hollowed out (Plate LXVII. 3), also the fragments of a stone trough and part of another capital (Plate LXVII. 4). The well was not explored beyond a depth of about 15 feet, owing to lack of time. Its stone lining was preserved on the north only.

Room 8 contained a mosaic pavement with squares, alternately of guilloche and key pattern, in red, blue black, and white, and a border of old red sandstone *tesserae*. The next room (9) had a floor paved with old red sandstone slabs, 3 feet in width, with narrower stones on each side, and trenches between these and the side walls 1 foot 10 inches and 1 foot 6 inches respectively in width. This may possibly have been a latrine, though there was no trace of drainage. Here was found a small capital with necking, the bottom of which was hollowed out.

Room 10 was not remarkable, while Room 11 had a pavement of rough sandstone slabs, among which was one block with a dowel hole in it. From the north-east angle of this room a wall runs for 60 feet south with two cross walls, which, as they seem to be broken off abruptly, may be merely the wing walls of an entrance to the open space between House No. XI. and House No. XII.; and further south were perhaps the remains of another (too uncertain, however, to be shown on the plan), forming the north side of a space which has a large sandstone slab in its south-east angle. Previous to the construction of the east portion of the two houses the site seems to have been traversed by two V-shaped drains cut in the clay. One of these takes its beginning from a culvert with stone sides, roofed with large slabs, which issues from under the churchyard wall to the east of House No. X. In this portion much pottery was found, and the half of a turned bone handle. After 14 feet the stonework stops and the drain seems to become an open one; its line then passes under the east wall of Room 9 of House No. X.,

and that of Room 6 of House No. XI., which is completely built in it. It passes through Room 11 of House No. XI., then to the west of the long wall, and finally ends abruptly just north of Room 17 of House No. XII. In its south portion

Fig. 4. Western earth drain (north of House No. XII.).

rough stones, perhaps the foundations of a wall, were found, the drain having been partially filled. The total fall is 8 feet 4 inches in 147 feet. A coin of Valens was found in it between Houses Nos. XI. and XII.

In Room 11 of House No. XI. a branch of the drain goes off west (fig. 4), turns south almost at once, and runs as far as the north wall of Room 21 of House No. XII., where it, too, abruptly stops. These drains must both have run off into the ground; but this ending is rather remarkable. It is possible that the portion in Room 11 of House No. XI. remained open and served as a latrine, though this is somewhat unlikely, as the south wall is not properly carried over either drain, and seems to have been built into their bed.

To the east of Houses Nos. X. and XI. is a long narrow space, a kind of yard apparently, enclosed on the north and east by a rough wall, with a break for an entrance on the east. Against the east wall was a pit 5 feet 3 inches in depth, which produced some pottery, including one small cup of "Samian" ware, almost perfect, with the stamp ATTILLI. M. To the south-west of the pit in one trench were possible traces of an earth drain, which were not followed further.

To the east again is a large gravelled space shading off imperceptibly into the paved road leading to the south gate. The surface is quite close to the ground level, and the gravelling seems to rest directly on the hard clay, which is here only a few inches below the modern ground level. In this space a few isolated blocks of stone, shown on the plan, were found.

HOUSE NO. XII.

This house^a is almost the largest that has been discovered at Caerwent, but unlike most of the other large houses it approximates fairly closely to

^a The dimensions of the rooms are as follows: (1) $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 7 feet; (2) (yard) $105\frac{3}{4}$ feet by $23\frac{1}{4}$ feet at the north end, 21 feet just to the west of Room 1; (3) 17 feet by $25\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (4) $16\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $15\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (5) $16\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $18\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (6) $16\frac{1}{4}$ feet by $7\frac{3}{4}$ feet; (7) $22\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $8\frac{3}{4}$ feet; (8) $25\frac{1}{4}$ feet by $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet; (9) 11 feet by 8 feet; (10) $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $7\frac{3}{4}$ feet; (11) $19\frac{3}{4}$ feet by $19\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (12) $18\frac{1}{4}$ feet by $19\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (13) $7\frac{1}{4}$ feet by $19\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (14) 9 feet by $19\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (15) $14\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $19\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (16) $48\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet; (17) 17 feet by $19\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (18) $13\frac{3}{4}$ feet by $12\frac{1}{2}$ feet; (19) $16\frac{3}{4}$ feet long; (20) 10 feet by $14\frac{3}{4}$ feet; (21) 21 feet by $19\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (22) $22\frac{3}{4}$ feet by $7\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (23) 18 feet by 4 feet; (24) 18 feet by 6 feet; (25) $13\frac{3}{4}$ feet by $19\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (26) $29\frac{3}{4}$ feet by $7\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (27) 14 feet by $17\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (28) $13\frac{3}{4}$ feet by 19 feet; (29) $7\frac{1}{4}$ feet by 19 feet; (30) $7\frac{1}{4}$ feet square; (31) $13\frac{3}{4}$ feet by $12\frac{1}{2}$ feet (east wall), $11\frac{1}{2}$ feet (west wall); (32) $6\frac{3}{4}$ feet by 11 feet; (33) $22\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $11\frac{1}{2}$ feet (east wall), 13 feet (west wall); (34) $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $11\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (35) $35\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $22\frac{3}{4}$ feet; (36) $23\frac{1}{2}$ feet (to end of apse) by $18\frac{3}{4}$ feet; (37) $19\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet (east wall), 7 feet (west wall); (38) $19\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $12\frac{1}{4}$ feet (east wall), $11\frac{1}{2}$ feet (west wall); (39) $19\frac{3}{4}$ feet by 13 feet (east wall), 15 feet (west wall); (40) $19\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $18\frac{3}{4}$

the normal type in Britain, being a courtyard house with no rooms on the south side, a fact easily accounted for by the proximity of the city wall. It was not all, however, constructed in one period, for the north wall of the house is plastered on the outside as far east as the north-east angle of Room 21, whereas further east this wall is not so protected, but is set 4 inches further north. The east wall of Room 21, too, falls into line with a suppressed wall which runs through Rooms 22, 23, 24, and only comes into being again as the west wall of Room 20. Here it has two coats of plaster, one pinkish, the other white; the latter is found on the south and east walls, whereas the former occurs on the west wall only, and on that portion of it where the end of the south wall comes against it. Here, too, the angle of the original wall forms a slight curve, which the plaster follows, as if this had been the south-east angle of the earlier building, and hence a wall goes off west, though it is broken away after about 6 feet, and could not be traced further.^a If this was the case the original house was much smaller, and included no rooms east of 21. We may suppose that it consisted of the northern range of rooms, of a corridor on the west and south, perhaps double on the west, of Rooms 22 to 24, 26, and perhaps 31 to 34 (33 and 34 being slightly smaller). The latrine (27) is probably to be treated as forming no part of the original house, though neither it nor Rooms 31 to 34 can belong to the latest period of all. At a later period the east portion was added, forming a new and larger courtyard, the old one being encroached on by the erection of 35 and 41; at the same time the west wall was reconstructed, 42 and 43 added, a new south wall given to 26, narrowing it a trifle, and 23 and 24 more or less suppressed. At a third period, or perhaps not even at one period, other alterations occurred in the west part of the house, the original corridor being suppressed and Rooms 38 to 41 created, and the corridor pushed on at the expense of the northern portion of the earlier western corridors. Finally Room 43 was enlarged slightly to the south. The rooms to the east of 21, which, as we have said, probably do not belong to the original building, show traces of reconstruction also. The wall which runs at a curious slant across the north end of Room 14 may be connected

feet; (41) $19\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $15\frac{1}{4}$ feet; (42) $13\frac{1}{4}$ feet by $14\frac{3}{4}$ feet; (43) 9 feet (north wall), $11\frac{3}{4}$ feet (south wall), by 30 feet.

The courtyard measures $92\frac{1}{2}$ feet (extreme length along south wall) by 54 feet.

The frequent recurrence of the dimension $19\frac{1}{4}$ to $19\frac{3}{4}$ feet should be noticed. It is an approximation to 20 Roman feet (= $19\frac{1}{2}$ English feet).

^a This wall is 3 feet wide below footings, as is the west wall of Room 20, the south and east walls being a foot narrower.

with the structure of the room, as no traces of it can be detected further east or west. But the corridor (16) once included Room 10, and its south wall was prolonged up to the east wall of the house, forming two rooms (5, 6), where later there was but one. A small apse at the east end of Room 6 was probably a bath, from its shape and size, though there was no trace of the lower floor nor of the west wall of the bath itself, and the end portion of the west wall of Rooms 10, 9, 8 has been reconstructed, the south portion of the earlier wall apparently remaining in use to the south of a doorway from 8 into the courtyard, a very curious arrangement, which must have made the doorway a somewhat make-shift affair. Careful search has not revealed the slightest trace of any wall corresponding to this later wall on the south side of the opening.

The main entrance of the house was from the east, that is, from the road leading to the south gate of the city. A doorway 8 feet 4 inches wide with wing-walls, against which the double gates went when open, leads into the long narrow yard (2), which is roughly pitched and slopes down with the high road.^a It is clearly a later addition to the house, as may be seen at the points where it joins up with the older work. Its east side comes sharply inwards to the south of the entrance so as to give more width to the street near the city gate, and its south-east angle is sloped off for the same reason. But at some later period a small room, numbered 1 on the plan, has been added a little north of the south-east angle. This may have been a porter's lodge, though it is rather far from the door. It encroaches on the roadway, which forms its floor, and is entered by a doorway 3 feet 3 inches wide. From the yard, doorways open into Rooms 3, 4, and 6. Rooms 7 to 10 can hardly have served as an east corridor, because they are too much subdivided and do not communicate with all the rooms to the east of them. There is no doorway between 3 and 4; but the latter originally had a doorway from the yard (2), with a threshold of three blocks of sandstone giving a width of 8 feet 8 inches; this was blocked up in later times, and 4 was then accessible only from 5. The rooms at the north-east corner (11 and 12) are above the level of Room 16, and were perhaps only entered from the open space on the north,^b while the rooms on the east side of the courtyard have no direct connection with 16, the wall between it and 10 rising well above the level of the

^a Near the south-east angle of this yard a fragment of the shaft of a column, with necking $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, was found.

^b With Room 12 this certainly seems to have been the case.

floors of both. 17 is rather lower, being only 6 inches above 18 (which is on the same level as 16), and communicates with 15 and 21. Rooms 13 and 14 have lost their floors, and little can be said about their original level.

We may now proceed to describe the various rooms in detail, from the south-east angle onwards. The floor of Room 3 seems to have perished, and its south portion contains a small closed furnace and an open hearth, separated by a rough wall; in neither was anything found to give a clue to their nature. Room 4 has a good floor of gravel concrete, with a quarter round moulding in the lower angles, 4 inches in thickness; below it is a layer of earth 6 inches thick with burnt material in it; then comes a lower floor $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. The natural bottom is 9 inches further down. Partly in front of what we have supposed to be a doorway leading into Room 5 was a rectangular base, perhaps added later, and of uncertain purpose, measuring 2 feet 7 inches by 2 feet 1 inch; the edges of it were formed by old red sandstone slabs placed vertically, and inside these were laid alternately two layers of flange tiles and two layers of concrete; below these some black burnt material was found. The room formed in later times by uniting Rooms 5 and 6 had also a good gravel concrete floor, 2 feet 3 inches below grass and 8 inches thick. At the north-east angle of the room about 36 small coins were found at the level of the top of the wall, 6 inches below grass level. From under the floor came some coal and a little pottery. Rooms 7 to 10 call for no particular remark. In the later state of the house at any rate 9 and 10 seem to have been thrown into one, as were Rooms 5 and 6; whereas in earlier times 10 and 6 belonged to the corridor. Room 11, as we have said, seems to have been entered only from the north, and so also does Room 12. In each case there is a doorstep within the room, and it is possible that there were wooden steps (of which, of course, no trace was left) communicating with the south portion of the house, unless they were let off as shops. Room 11 has a pink concrete floor 4 inches thick resting directly upon the earth; just above this floor the upper and lower jaws of a human being were found. A little pink plaster remains in position on the west wall.

Room 12 has a floor of brown old red sandstone *tesserae*; the foundations of some erection, probably a low seat 1 foot 8 inches wide, run round the east and west and part of the south side. The floor is 2 feet 7 inches above the level of that of the corridor (16), and the *tesserae* are 1 inch thick; their concrete bed is 9 inches thick, then comes a layer of stones 6 inches deep, and the hard bottom is reached in 1 foot 9 inches more. Rooms 13 and 14 call for no further remark; in neither case does the actual floor level seem to be traceable, though in 14 two

layers of concrete were found below the general level of this range of rooms.^a Room 15 has a good floor of pink concrete with a quarter round moulding, but none of the plaster is preserved.

Room 13 was entered from the corridor (16), no doubt by wooden steps, and led into Room 14. Room 15 was not accessible from Room 14, but only from Room 17. The latter has the remains of a tessellated pavement of geometrical design in blue black, white, red, and brown, which is not very well preserved; the border is composed of old red sandstone *tesserae*. The floor is laid on a concrete bed 2 inches thick, then comes a layer of stones 5 inches thick, loosely laid, then a layer of mortar 2 inches thick, then smaller stones to a depth of 8 inches. The walls are preserved to a height of 1 foot 4 inches, with a dado of red plaster, above which are scanty traces of other colours. To the south lies Room 18, which is, however, a later addition, for it is traversed below pavement level by a prolongation of the south wall of the corridor (16). Beneath the floor of Rooms 17 and 18 runs a wall constructed of sandstone slabs 2 feet wide and 3 inches to 7 inches thick; they rest upon rough foundations, which are solid, so that we cannot suppose that the slabs covered a drain. This wall is not traceable beyond the north end of Room 17, while on the north side of the space (19) a wall of small stones, of the type usual at Caerwent, begins, which is almost in the same straight line; it terminates abruptly in the middle of the space, where there rested upon it a large slab of sandstone 2 feet 3 inches by 2 feet 7 inches by 1 foot 1 inch thick. The wall cuts through the middle of the earlier corridor wall in Room 18, and does not seem to have any connection with anything else. It is to be noted that the upper sides of the blocks are somewhat rounded by wear or weathering.

Room 18 has a tessellated pavement of which but little remains; the pattern was composed of a large circle of cable design, the middle of which has entirely perished, and the laying of the pavement is good. The corridor (16), which is entered on the east, is paved with old red sandstone *tesserae*, mended with fragments of slabs of the same material in some places. There is a good deal of plaster *in situ*, on the south wall red and white, and on the north wall yellow spotted with red with a red border. Bright yellow was the prevailing ground colour of the upper portion of the walls at the east end and red at the west. At the east end of the corridor a door leads into the courtyard.

^a Along the south wall of this room a small capital of sandstone was found with the necking and the top of the shaft 8 inches in diameter. See Plate LXVII. 5 for section.

To the south of Room 18 (though not accessible from it) is a space (numbered 19 on the plan) paved with large old red sandstone slabs which rest upon concrete foundations, as if the ground had been loose here. Close to the projecting south-east angle of Room 18 a pit was discovered. The exact outlines of it were not found, but the pit itself was excavated to a depth of 12 feet below the grass level and the bar penetrated 3 feet more through wet clayey stuff; a considerable amount of pottery was found to a depth of 10 feet 6 inches. The space (19) was

Fig. 5. House No. XII. Room 20 (looking south-east).

entered on the west by a doorway with a stone threshold and a step down from it; it appears to have had no east wall. On the south lies Room 20, which, as we have already seen, is a later addition. A large quantity of pottery was found in it, mostly at a depth of about 3 feet 6 inches below the grass level, including fragments of thin black lustrous ware and an entire *mortarium* with the stamp *VM*. Another almost complete was found outside the east wall, bearing a stamp of which little is preserved. Many oyster and snail shells were also found within

the room. Below this layer there was a stratum of ridge and flange tiles from the roof, and immediately below another of charred wood, the remains no doubt of either the wooden floor or the roof. A coin of Constantine was found in the middle of the room at a depth of 4 feet. The plaster ends at about this level, but the wall goes on 1 foot 6 inches further before the clay bottom is reached. On the south side it has a tile course just under the plaster, and the foundation is recessed 4 inches back where the plaster stops. On the east there are small recesses like pigeon holes at the base of the wall, 5 inches to 8 inches wide by 10 inches deep by 8 inches high, the object of which is quite uncertain (fig. 5).

The courtyard of the house shows two different levels, the upper a gravel and mortar floor 3 feet to 4 feet below the grass level, under which were found plaster, baked roof tiles, and mortar. At about 5 feet 6 inches to 6 feet below the grass is another floor, or at least a layer of gravel and rubbish, and at 6 inches below this we get pottery of an early type, fragments of roofing tiles, and a worn coin of Domitian. Below this again comes homogeneous red clay which we tested for another 3 feet 6 inches without finding any change. On the south side of the courtyard an isolated square foundation was found 6 feet 2 inches below the grass level, which was built on the back slope of the mound that preceded the city wall. Outside the wall of the courtyard two very fine brooches were found, one of wheel pattern just south of this square foundation, the other further east; and in the south-east angle of it a fragment of a base of a large column of sandstone, and a small capital with a square abacus. (Plate LXVII. 6, 7.) Owing to its great depth, however, the courtyard was not very thoroughly trenched. Its south wall is for some distance double, the original wall having fallen away to the south, and necessarily been reconstructed, but to the east of Room 7 they coincide. The wall is built upon the back slope of the mound.

Returning to the rooms on the north side of the courtyard, we have already seen that the east wall of Room 21 was originally prolonged southward; we found it below floor level running just to the west of the west wall of Rooms 18 and 19, and rising apparently above pavement level, so as to be in use in the later house, after passing the entrance into 19. In the earlier house a crosswall going westward from it separated Rooms 23 and 24; this, though we did not find it preserved above floor level, may have continued to exist, inasmuch as Room 23 has a floor of rough concrete and Room 24 a floor of stone *tesserae*, though the concrete bed may have been only the foundation of a tessellated pavement. Outside the wall of Room 24 a gravel concrete floor came to light at a depth of about 4 feet. The walls of these rooms have to a great extent disappeared.

Room 21, which is entered from Room 17, has a floor of gravel concrete 3 inches in thickness with an earlier floor of the same material 4 inches thick immediately below it. The north wall of the room, which is preserved to a height of 1 foot 8 inches, shows traces of two layers of plaster; the lower is pink spotted with red, the upper is white or pale green. The roof was apparently covered with stone slabs. Room 25 is entered from the north by a doorway near the north-east angle, with a rough step block inside the room. The floor of gravel concrete is well preserved at this point. Room 28 has a tessellated pavement with a geometrical pattern in black and white, with a border of old red sandstone *tesserae* only $\frac{1}{2}$ inch square. A remarkably large number of sawn pieces of stag's horn, some of them of considerable size, were found here. Room 29 has a similar pavement to 28 with a more elaborate design in the middle, but the whereabouts of the door between them is uncertain, as the dividing wall is destroyed down to the floor level, and neither of the pavements is preserved except in the southern portion of the room. Room 29 may also have been entered by a doorway on the north. On the west it leads into a large room (36) with an apse at the western end, with a very much flattened curve, divided from the rest of the room by two pilasters; the tessellated pavement is of good design and is well preserved. (Plate LXVIII.) In the apse are three rows of circles divided diametrically, one half being red, the other white, while the main portion of the room is occupied by squares enclosing large flowers.^a

There was an earlier and smaller apse, the foundations of which were discovered when the pavement was removed, but which cannot be shown on the plan. The angle walls of the later apse are very thick, and, to give greater strength, two buttresses were added outside as well.

In the later house, Rooms 22,^b 26, and 30 seem to have been the prolongation to the west of the main corridor. All have a floor of *tesserae* of old red sandstone. To the south of these again come other rooms forming the west wing. Room 27 appears to have been a latrine with a gutter, still preserved round three sides, 11 inches wide and 3 to 5 inches deep, cut in sandstone slabs, which are 2 feet in width. The blocks at the north-west and north-east angles may have supported a timber seat, though the gutter on the north side is wanting, and

^a The pavement has been removed to the Newport Museum.

^b In Room 22 were found two fragments of small columns, one 9 inches in diameter, the other $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, with a small round capital without abacus (Plate LXVII. 8); and a capital $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, with an abacus 9 inches square (Plate LXVII. 9). In Room 26 a small column with a bulging shaft 2 feet 3 inches in height was found (Plate LXVII. 11).

MIDDLE LINE

there are no traces of any provision for carrying away solid matter, in contrast to the arrangement of the latrine in House No. III.^a The outlet is through an irregular aperture near the south-east angle, which leads into a drain covered with big stones and paved with roof tiles; the bottom of this is 5 feet 4½ inches below the grass. It runs out through the south wall of the courtyard, falling 4 feet in this part of its course, beyond which it was not traced.^b

Room 27 is at a considerably lower level than Room 31, and there is a space between the north wall of Rooms 31 and 32 and the south wall of Rooms 26 and 30 without interconnection, which would make it appear at first sight as if 31 and 32 and the rooms to the south of them were added later. But, on the other hand, it should be noted that in the space between these two walls there is a concrete floor, which comes right up to the north wall of 31 and 32, but not to the south wall of 30, which may have been inserted afterwards. Room 31 has a good concrete floor at a high level. Room 32 has no determinate floor, and the south wall seems to be a later insertion blocking an original doorway with a pilaster on each side, corresponding to that which leads from Room 33 to Room 34. Rooms 38 to 41 were, as we have already seen, formed at the expense of an earlier double corridor. In Room 38 the upper floor has perished and the east wall shows a coat of white plaster at a low level, against which, in the north-east angle, a stone mortar, formed of a part of an old capital turned upside down and hollowed out, was to be seen *in situ* resting on the lower floor of clay and rotten concrete, 3 feet 6 inches below the grass level.

Here were also found two fragments of a column, 9 inches in diameter, the one 1 foot 5 inches, the other 9 inches in length, with a dowel hole in one end 2 inches square. Near the north wall, and still under the late floor, was a piece of a fallen arch of flange tiles and some baked roof tiles.

We have already noticed that these rooms are traversed below floor level by the east wall of the earlier west corridor. This wall has in many places white plaster splashed with black *in situ* on both sides, and so has the wall parallel to it to the east (on the west side at least).

The later floor of Room 39 consists of concrete, and so does that of Room 40, while that of Room 38 has perished. The east portion of Room 37 seems to have been thrown into the north corridor after having in the original construction

^a *Archaeologia*, lvii. 308 and Plate xl.

^b To the west of it are some foundations belonging apparently to an early period, which could not be connected with any other walls.

served as a part of the double corridor on the west of the house, inasmuch as it is traversed by a wall, and was entered from Room 30 by a step, leading down on to a gravel concrete floor. Its later floor consists of large slabs of old red sandstone. The wall between Rooms 37 and 38 is obviously a part of the latest construction.

The main western wall of the house was found to have been reconstructed, both the old and the new walls being traceable. The western wall is the later, as from it start all the later crosswalls. It is further to be noticed that the eastern wall corresponds in line with the pilasters of the apse of Room 36. Room 42 is therefore a later addition; it has a gravel concrete floor, and no definite traces of doorways. Its side walls are not bonded into the main wall, and it may have

Fig. 6. Tile flue, House No. XII. Room 41.

been quite an afterthought. Room 43 occupies a similar position, and has been enlarged to the south even later. Rooms 41 and 35 are also later additions. In the north wall of the former there is a finely preserved tile flue, 1 foot 3 inches wide, with the sides drawn in at the top to form the roof, the total height being 3 feet 1 inch (fig. 6). It is remarkable that there is no trace of a hypocaust on either side of the wall, and the tiles show no traces of burning, though there was a layer of burnt stuff in each room, that in Room 40 lying between two concrete floors. A fine spearhead was found 3 feet down on the west side of Room 41.

Room 35 was pitched, and on the south side two open hearths were found, and a column drum 1 foot 9 inches in diameter.

The different periods in this portion of the house are very difficult to distinguish, but it seems clear that the original west corridor of the house was double, and that to this house belonged also the rooms on the north and the north corridor. Rooms 23 and 24 also belong to an early period; and we must suppose a room to the west of 19 and 20. It is more difficult to say at what time the other alterations in the plan of the house occurred, when the new west wall of the house was constructed, and whether this was or was not contemporary with the suppression of the double west corridor. Nor is it easy to see the interrelations between the alterations in the west part of the house and those in the east portion. We have seen that the whole east portion is probably later than the original west portion, but whether the alterations in the west portion are contemporary with the erection of the east part is not certain. There were no differences of construction, except that the transverse walls which divided up the original west corridors were of inferior work.

HOUSE NO. XIII.

This building^a stood on the east side of the road leading to the south gate, and opposite therefore to House No. XII. Only a very small portion of it is included within the field in which we were at work, part of its site being now occupied by the farm lane, while the rest lies on the east side of it. The main entrance, however, is preserved. It measures 10 feet 6 inches in width, and had double doors; the stones in which the iron sockets were placed are still *in situ*, and the arrangement is precisely similar to that of the entrance to the courtyard of House No. IIIx.^b Here, however, there is an inner threshold, 8 feet from the outer one, formed of slabs of sandstone. There is no trace of socket holes in the blocks at each side of this, and probably there was only an inner arch without a second door; the north side of it could not be cleared owing to the presence of large trees.

On the south side of this gateway there appears to have been a room (1). Close to its south-west angle, against the outer wall of the house, stood a block of

^a The dimensions of the spaces numbered on the plan are as follows: (1) $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $12\frac{3}{4}$ feet; (2) $13\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $12\frac{3}{4}$ feet; (3) $22\frac{1}{2}$ feet long; (4) 31 feet by 18 feet.

^b *Archaeologia*, lix. 102, fig. 9, and pl. ix.

sandstone, which perhaps served as a mounting block. To the south again after an interval came another room (2) with a concrete floor and a doorway 6 feet 4 inches in width leading out of it to the east, where a pitched floor was found. In this room, 2 feet 2 inches down, a small altar was found in two pieces, measuring 1 foot 9 inches high.^a It bore no traces of any inscription. The spaces numbered 3 and 4 lay to the south again; and the south wall of the latter was traced as far to the east as its return northwards.

Room 4 was entered from the street direct. Its south portion was occupied by a large T-furnace, lined and roofed with sandstone slabs, 4 inches to 6 inches in thickness, which was stoked from the north side. The longer arm of the T measures 6 feet 8 inches in length, the east side being formed by one large slab, 2 feet 3 inches in height, and is 2 feet in width, while the lateral arms are 3 feet long and 1 foot 4 inches to 1 foot in width. On each side of the main arm the floor of the room, which is on a level with the top of the slabs, is paved with old red sandstone slabs 2 inches in thickness. Black earth was found in the main arm of the T, and greyish dirt in the west arm, the floor in both cases being about 6 feet 2 inches below the grass level. In samples of the earth examined by Mr. Clement Reid carbonised tares and wheat were recognised. A coin of Constantine was found down at this level, and a part of a small pot of red ware with incised ornamentation.

The south-west portion of the house has been built over an older house, the north-west angle of which was discovered under the floor of Room 2, outside of which it had a doorway opening to the north with a threshold 6 feet 6 inches in width, composed of two slabs of sandstone grooved to take the door frame. Beyond this point the northern wall could not be followed, but the western wall ran on under 3 and 4 to 12 feet 6 inches to the south of the latter room. From this point the wall ran east as far as the boundary wall of the lane, at a considerable depth (about 8 feet) below the surface, and only about 15 feet from the city wall. It appears to have been built on or just behind the ridge of the mound, which has been smoothed off, the trench for its foundation being visible. It is of very solid construction and batters considerably on the north. In the south-west angle some plaster and pottery were found, and at 11 feet below the surface an unidentified coin. A little to the south of the wall a lime-kiln was discovered, made possibly by the builders of the city wall. It is circular, about 8 feet in diameter, and at about 13 feet below the modern grass level cuts through the

^a For section, see Plate LXVII. 13.

slope of the mound ; at about 3 feet further its sides appear to be steined. Below this point was a layer of black earth, and the bottom of the pit, which was dished, was reached at about 20 feet below the modern grass level.

The north wall of Room 4 of the later house is built right over a filled-up well, which probably belonged to the earlier building. The foundations of the wall stopped at about 5 feet 6 inches below the grass level. The well appears to have been lined with stonework as far as 16 feet down, but below this, where it only measures 4 feet (and less) in diameter, and is cut through very hard stuff, the clay stopping at 19 feet 1 inch down, it certainly was not. It appears to have been intended to collect surface water, for no spring made its appearance, contrary to what was the case in most other wells at Caerwent. The depth was 23 feet 10 inches below grass level. A good deal of fine earth and mud was got out and sent up for examination. Not many seeds were discovered, and a complete list is therefore postponed. A good deal of pottery, and bones also, but no coins, were found. The pottery seemed mostly to be of comparatively early types, resembling that found in the mound. One whole pear-shaped black pot was found at 19 feet down ; it was misshapen, and probably discarded for this reason. Of iron objects only a few nails were discovered ; two small bone counters may also be noted.

Between House No. X. and House No. XIII. runs the road to the south gate. In this portion of its course it is not very clearly marked. Where it issues from the churchyard wall east of the slab drain near House No. X. it is only 13 feet in width,^a and by no means in a straight line for the south gate. Where it next becomes traceable, to the east of the yard of Houses Nos. X. and XI., it has developed into a large open space, paved with one layer of gravel resting on the hard red clay, which in the northern portion is only 6 inches to 8 inches below the surface, though north of Room 11 of House No. XII. it is 2 feet 9 inches to 3 feet down.

Between the north portion of House No. XII. and House No. XIII. the road becomes more definite. Here it is 20 to 27 feet in width, and the bed seems to be 1 foot 6 inches thick in one place, where there was a hole in the ground perhaps, and 6 inches in another, but elsewhere to be bedded directly on the clay. Its surface is here 2 feet 10 inches below ground level.

Further south it is 4 feet 3 inches down below grass and roughly pitched, and this is the case where Room 1 of House No. XII. is built on it. To the north

^a The roadbed here lies 1 foot 10 inches below grass ; it is about a foot thick, and there is clay under it.

of the gate it varies from 8 feet to 8 feet 3 inches below grass, but the modern ground level rises near the wall. Here the bed is 1 foot 2 inches thick, formed of stones and pebbles, and of considerable hardness. The slope of the mound down to and under it can be traced. There were also some indications of an earlier road level 9 feet 5 inches below the surface.^a

The annexed plan (fig. 7) shows the progress of the excavations down to November, 1904.

Fig. 7. Plan of Caerwent, showing discoveries down to November, 1904.

^a Further details will be given in our report on the south gate itself, which was excavated in July, 1905.