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there were reports of portions of pots having been found near, though none were seen. No other objects are known to have been found near this spot, close to which Ickman's-hill, on the old Roman road, is situated. Black earth has been found in the neighbourhood, which has led to the belief that a furnace existed close at hand. The bronzes, many of which are beautifully made, whilst others are much battered, are now in the possession of Adolphus Meetlike, Esq., of Julian's Park, Rushden, Huntingford, Herts, who is landlord, and lord of the manor.

The figure here shown (Fig. 2) is that of a wallong, or stone for grinding nardoo seed on the yowwi, a large flat stone. It is one of those (No. 10) presented to the Institute by Mr. Stanbridge, of Daylesford, Australia, and referred to at page 41 of the Journal, vol. vi.

OCURRENCE OF PLATYCNEMIC BONES IN THE ANCIENT BURIAL-GROUND AT KINTBURY.

By Prof. T. RUPERT JONES, F.R.S.

VISITING Newbury lately, I had the opportunity of seeing the ancient burial-ground at Kintbury, where human bones (referred to in various letters in the newspapers of late) have been found for some years during the process of digging away the chalk in the pit at the Whiting Factory, in the occupation of Mr. White. Mr. Walter Money, of Newbury, first drew attention to these ancient bones, having found several among some chalk that had been brought from Kintbury to Greenham.

Indeed, I was more desirous of examining the locality, and the conditions under which the skeletons occur, since I had already seen, by the courtesy of Mr. Walter Money and Mr. Montagu Palmer, a few of the old bones obtained at Kintbury, and had found that some of them presented certain interesting features, known to be characteristic of the oldest known human bones met with in caves in North Wales, West Yorkshire, Central France, and Gibraltar. I allude to the sharpness of the front edge of the shin-bone, and other prominent ridges and edges of the limb-bones. Archæologists and anatomists called this a "platycnemic" character, typified by the sabre-like or broadly compressed tibia or shin-bone. See "International Congress, Prehist. Archæol." Norwich, 1868, p. 160, &c. (Busk); "Reliquiæ Aquitanicæ," p. 97 (Broca); p. 256, &c. (Hamy); "Journal Ethnol. Soc.," London, January, 1871, p. 450 (Busk and Dawkins); "Cave-hunting," p. 173, &c. (Busk and Dawkins). The sharpness, however, of the shins and other ridges is not so strongly developed in the bones at Kintbury as in other cases.

Desirous of knowing more about these remains, and the early people whom they represent, I enjoyed the advantage of Mr. Walter Money's aid and company in examining the interesting locality

referred to. Under the surface soil of the sloping field in which the chalk pit has been dug, we noticed several sections of graves or cists that had been dug in the chalk to the depth of nearly three feet, filled in with disturbed chalk and earth, and subsequently covered over by accumulations of soil. One of these ancient graves, which had been trenched upon in digging the chalk, was seen in section on the face of the pit, looking south; it showed some bones just exposed, and we carefully examined it by digging down to its floor, and right and left to some portions of its east and west sides; but we had not time nor convenience to expose its whole extent. In the lowest portion of its rubbly infilling we found remains of two adult skeletons, some parts of which had already fallen away into the chalk-pit; also a skeleton of a female, with the bones of a child apparently in her arms; also the skeleton of a tall old man, and indications of one or more skeletons which we did not unearth. The four first-mentioned skeletons lay with their heads to the west, on the back or side; the woman on the side and bent forward; the old man on the back, with the head bent sharply forward. They looked as if the corpses had been placed in the graves without much care, and without coffins or cerements of any kind. The leg-bones of some other skeletons (not uncovered) reached over from the east side of the grave, and crossed the feet of some of those above mentioned. Nothing was found with the bones; but on a protruding portion (mastoid process) of the base of one of the skulls was a stain of verdigris, apparently indicating the probable existence of some copper or bronze article there at a former period. If this were the usual *obolus* placed in the mouth of the deceased, according to Roman custom, some approximation would be made as to the probable date of burial; but the indication is poor, and nothing else was found to substantiate the notion. From the peculiar race-character of the bones mentioned above, namely, their relatively sharp ridges, we might refer the remains to those prehistoric inhabitants of our islands and of Europe, who used stone implements, and lived here and there in caves. The shape of the skulls we examined is that of the same cave-folk; and their nearest existing allies, judged by such natural standards, are said to be the Basques, Iberians, and Aquitanians; and the Finns are regarded as not far removed. Indeed, these people are supposed to be remnants of a primeval race who retreated before the Celts, invading Western Europe from the East, just as the Celts retreated to the same and neighbouring fastnesses when pressed, in their turn, by the Teutonic and other races. The Iberians and Celts are thus found together in Ireland, Wales, and elsewhere. This subject is treated of in Professor Boyd Dawkins' interesting book on "Cave-hunting" (8vo, 1874), p. 225, &c., and references to Huxley and other ethnological authorities are there given.

Were the Kintbury skeletons buried when their race dominated in Britain? Are they the remains of Iberian survivors among a Celtic population, or even among inhabitants of a later date? Do their characteristics persist among the local population of to-day?

Can the Kintbury villagers boast of so old an ancestry? Have they, indeed, amongst them the bones of their forefathers who lived some two thousand, or even four thousand years ago?

Another point of interest is the reason and method of the interment of the prehistoric people, whose cemetery the chalk-pit has so long and so largely invaded. They were buried, at least in some instances, several in a pit, pit-like grave, or cist. How should there be so many corpses to be buried together at the same time? Epidemics, famines, massacres do not often leave, in savage or half-civilised communities, many survivors willing or able to dig definite graves for individuals or families. Were dead chieftains, on the other hand, buried here, with their slaughtered slaves around them? If so, where then are the other traces of barbaric power and wealth, whether well wrought weapon of stone or implement of bronze, which accompany the mighty one on his journey home? Will more extended search find such indications in other graves of this old station?

The relatively large amount of animal matter existing in most of the bones may be against the notion of a very remote prehistoric burial, and favour the idea of the sharp-shinned people having lived on at Kintbury, with some modification of the platyenic character.

We can, as yet, form scant notion of the habits and customs of the old folk who used this chalk slope, overlooking the Kennett, for their cemetery. They may have lived close by, or they may have had their fastness on the higher hill behind. A careful search for stone and metal implements, for coins, and for pit-marks of old earth-dwellings in the neighbourhood, such as the learned and acute Dr. Stevens, of St. Mary Bourne, has so successfully discovered in Hampshire, should be systematically carried out.

At all events, these bones seem to belong to a race of people whose scattered remains are found in various caves of immense antiquity, as old before history began, as history itself may be, and whose successors are traced in Europe of to-day. Whether they lived and died at Kintbury in those earliest days, or survived among new comers, is a point belonging to the story of this land, if it can be pieced together; and we hope to learn from the combined researches of archæologist and anatomist, of local explorer and the student of history, something to elucidate these questions.