

VII.—*Second Report of Researches in a Cemetery of the Anglo-Saxon period at Brighthampton, Oxon. Addressed to the EARL STANHOPE, President, by JOHN YONGE AKERMAN, Secretary.*

Read November 25, 1857.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to report to the Society of Antiquaries the result of renewed researches during the present autumn in the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Brighthampton. The reliques on the table are evidence that on the former occasion this ancient burialplace was but partially explored. I have now the gratification of exhibiting a series of ancient remains inferior in interest to none that research or accident has brought to light in this country.

In my former Report^a I called the attention of the Society to the fact of the discovery of unmistakeable evidence of the early occupation of this portion of the noble valley of the Thames by people of the Anglo-Saxon race. The indications of early possession are plainly recognised in their observance of what must be considered the most ancient form of sepulture—that by cremation. Whether this usage was observed by all the Germanic people who invaded Britain, and whether its abandonment dates from their conversion to Christianity, are problems which the researches of the archæologist may possibly solve by further and continued investigation. My own conviction is, that information must still be sought by means similar to the present. That cremation was the older and inveterate heathen rite of sepulture cannot be denied; but we have yet to learn how far the practice was modified after the arrival of the Saxons in England; for the total expulsion or extinction of the Romano-British population by the invaders will scarcely be insisted upon in this age of inquiry.

On the present occasion, the traces of sepulture by cremation were more numerous: several urns were discovered *in situ*, some of them ornamented in a manner that the student of our Anglo-Saxon antiquities will not fail to recognise. A considerable portion of the area excavated appears to have been occupied by urns deposited just below the surface; so that, when at some distant period the land was stripped of its greensward, and brought under tillage, many scores of them

^a Archæologia, Vol. XXXVII. p. 391.

were dislocated and shattered by the ploughshare; the partial preservation of some being solely owing to their having been deposited a little deeper than the rest.

It will be seen by the accompanying Plan, for the preparation of which I am indebted to Mr. Stephen Stone, that these urns were scattered promiscuously among the graves; and, if not affording evidence of the contemporaneous practice of inhumation and cremation, are, at least, proof that the burial of the dead near those whose bodies had been burnt was dictated by a desire that they should lie in the same spot as their kindred, whose remains had undergone the earlier rite of burning.

The excavations were recommenced on the western side of the ground previously explored, but without success. Proceeding in a south-easterly direction, on the fourth day a grave was discovered; and the following details will show the progress of the work.

The numbers are continued from the last report.

No. 15. Skeleton of a man, measuring six feet, with the head to the south-west; the right arm lying across the breast; the hand resting on the middle of a sword, the pommel of which was under the arm-pit; in the lap a knife. This grave was protected by three large stones. Close to the pommel lay a flat, perforated, square piece of horn, which subsequent discoveries show to have been an ornament or appendage of the sword-knot.^a

No. 16. The grave of a woman. Near the neck two amber beads, and a set of toilette implements of bronze; on the shoulders two flat circular fibulæ and defaced coin pierced for suspension. No knife was discovered.

No. 17. Grave of a girl. At the neck ten glass and paste beads, three coins pierced for suspension, two of Constantine the Great, much worn, and the third with the devices and legends obliterated; also a small metal disc perforated in the centre. On the breast a taper bronze hair-pin, measuring 6 inches.

No. 18. The grave of a woman of advanced age. The head to the south. Right hand in the lap; left, by the side. On the breast a stout bronze pin $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches long. At the left shoulder a small ring and a pair of tweezers, both of bronze. This grave was only 2 feet 2 inches deep, but was protected by large stones.

No. 19. Grave of a man. The head to the south; left hand by the side; the femur measuring 18 inches. No relique.

^a Compare 31 and 44. A sword found at Oberflacht was thus accompanied. *Archæologia*, Vol. XXXVI. p. 139. So also in the graves of Little Wilbraham.

No. 20. Grave of a woman, 3 feet deep. Head north-west; right hand under the thigh. On the shoulders two bronze fibulæ of the trefoil shape; in the lap amber beads. No knife.

No. 21. Skeleton of an old person, in a shallow grave, with the head to the west. No relique.

No. 22. Grave of a woman, 2 feet deep; the skeleton measuring 6 feet. Head to the north-west. At the feet what appeared to be the remains of a wooden vessel. On the right breast four slight silver rings. In the lap, in which lay the hands, were a number of beads, and ten Roman silver coins, comprising,

Caracalla A.D. 196-217.	Three varieties.
Maximinus	Two varieties.
Gordianus	One coin.
Philippus	Two varieties.
Philippus junior	One coin.
Hostilianus A.D. 249-251.	One coin.

On the third finger of the right hand a plain ring of white metal. On the breast two dish-shaped lined fibulæ. By the left hip lay a knife in its metal-mounted sheath; the silver mounting of a purse; a crystal spindle-whirl cut in facets; a large ring of ivory, within which lay a bronze ring 2 inches in diameter.

No. 23. Grave of a woman, 3 feet 3 inches deep. The body reclined on the right side; the knees bent. On the breast several amber beads, and one of crystal; also two bodkins. On the shoulders two dish-shaped fibulæ, lined with gilding, and resembling in pattern a pair found at Fairford.* A knife.

No. 24. Grave of a woman, 18 inches deep. Head to the west. The left hand in the lap, the right by the side. At the head an urn of black pottery. (See cut, page 97, fig. 1.)

No. 25. Grave of a child. A bronze bracelet on the left arm; a knife and iron buckle on the breast.

No. 26. Grave of an adult, deranged. No relique.

No. 27. Grave of a man, in close proximity to No. 24. Head to the north-west. Length of skeleton 5 feet 10 inches. At the head an urn of black pottery, very similar to that in grave 24. (See cut, p. 97, fig. 2).

No. 28. A deranged grave. No relique.

No. 29. Grave of a girl, with the head to the south. On the breast two flat circular fibulæ; in the lap two iron rings. Near this grave the workmen came

* Fairford Graves, pl. v. fig. 4. Remains of Pagan Saxondom, pl. xix. fig. 9.

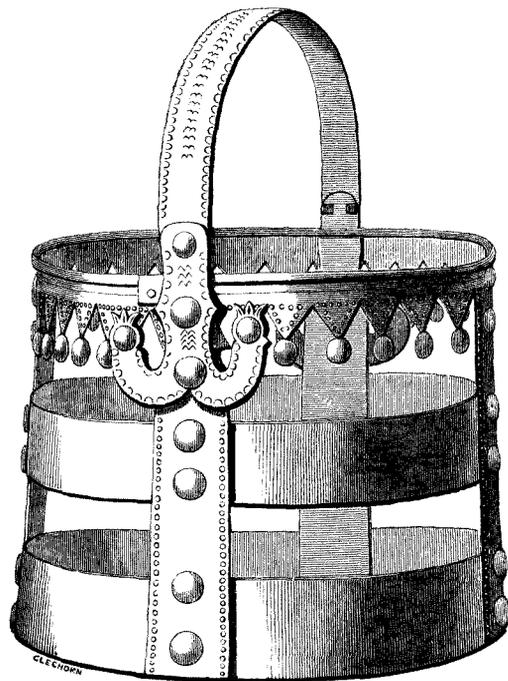
to an urn of black pottery, without ornament, which had been crushed and broken by the plough. The portion that remained still contained the calcined bones of an adult. (See cut, page 97, fig. 5.) On the following day another urn was discovered, similarly damaged. It had contained the bones of a child, and was ornamented with a pattern common on the mortuary urns found in the northern counties. Near this was another urn without ornament.

No. 30. Grave of a young man, with the head to the west, the femur measuring $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches; the legs crossed at the ankles, the knees bent; the right hand in the lap; the left by the side. In the lap a knife; on the breast an iron buckle.

Another ornamented urn, having a smaller urn within it, was this day discovered, but in too shattered a state to be preserved.

On the following day another ornamented urn, containing human bones, was discovered, like the rest, just below the surface, which had exposed them to destruction by the plough.

No. 31. Grave of a man, protected by large stones. Head north-west by north. The right hand in the lap; the left resting on a sword, the pommel of which was under the armpit. The skeleton measured from the ankle-bone to the crown of the head, which was considerably depressed on the breast, 6 feet 7 inches. The femur measured 19 inches, and the tibia 16 inches. A small spear-head lay near the right shoulder, and near the pommel of the sword was a knife, with the point upwards, and a large amber bead. At the head stood a bucket, of the usual shape, but more elaborately ornamented. Among the ornaments of the scabbard is a small cross patée of silver, and several studs and rivets.



Bucket, one-half actual size.

No. 32. A grave with two skeletons much deranged. No relique.

No. 33. Grave of a man, protected by large stones. The head to the south-west. The legs crossed at the ankles. The right hand by the side, the left in the lap. No relique.

No. 34. Grave of a man. The head to the south-west; the femur $18\frac{1}{2}$ inches; the tibia 15 inches; the hands by the sides. No relique.

No. 35. Grave of an old person of small stature. The head to the south-west; at the neck 28 glass and paste beads, one of them double.

No. 36. Grave of an old woman. The head to the south-west; the legs crossed. No relique.

No. 37. Grave of a young man. The head to the south-west; the knees bent to the right. No relique.

No. 38. Grave of an old man. The head to the south-west; the right hand by the side, the left in the lap. On the right breast a knife, at the left shoulder a bronze ring.

No. 39. Grave of a young woman. The head to the north-east; the knees bent to the right. On the breast an iron pin and some fragments of iron; at the left side a knife.

Another urn was this day discovered, containing the calcined bones of a child; and a little further eastward the remains of another urn, containing the bones of an adult.

No. 40. Grave of a woman, about 12 inches deep. The head to the south-west; the skeleton measuring 5 feet 6 inches; the femur $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The left hand by the side, the right hand in the lap. On the shoulders two fibulæ, one dish-shaped, the other cruciform.

A little to the south of this grave the workmen discovered a skeleton, which appeared to have been disturbed, the head lying in the pelvis. No relique was observed.

No. 41. Grave of a woman. The head to the south-west; the fragment of a knife on the left side.

No. 42. Grave of a man, 2 feet 10 inches deep; the femur measuring $17\frac{3}{4}$ inches. On the right arm a knife and a pair of tweezers; on the left breast fragments of an iron buckle.

No. 43. Grave of a man. The head to the south-west; the knees bent to the left; the hands in the lap; an iron buckle on the left shoulder. At the head two urns of black pottery, one of them of a minute form and of rude execution. See cut, page 97, figs. 3 & 4.)

No. 44. Grave of a man, 3 feet deep. The right arm lying in the lap; the left resting on a sword, the hilt of which was under the armpit. Near the guard were two beads of glass, doubtless like the amber bead discovered with No. 31, the ornaments of the sword-knot. A knife lay between the knees. The femur measured $18\frac{1}{4}$ inches. In excavating this grave the remains of a skeleton were

found, with a spear-head, which appeared to have been disturbed to make room for the last occupant.

No. 45. Grave of a woman, 3 feet deep. The head to the south-west ; the femur $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; the right hand on the breast, the left by the side ; 7 amber and paste beads at the neck ; on the breast a knife ; on the shoulders two circular fibulæ with an acus of bronze.

No. 46. Grave of a woman, 2 feet 3 inches deep. The legs bent to the right ; on the breast a knife ; 6 large amber beads near the neck ; on the shoulders a pair of dish-shaped fibulæ.

No. 47. Grave of a woman, much disturbed. The head to the east ; the femur measuring 17 inches. A large glass spindle-whirl and an iron knife near the breast. A small glass bead and the half of another of amber.

No. 48. Grave of a woman, 2 feet deep. The head to the west. Near the right hip a brass circular stud resembling a small fibula. On the right shoulder a knife. The grave was protected by large stones, some of which had been subjected to the action of fire.

An ornamented dark-coloured urn, containing human bones, but much shattered by the plough, was discovered near this grave.

No. 49. Grave of a woman of advanced age. The head to the south-west ; the knees bent to the right ; the left hand in the lap. In the left cavity of the pelvis lay a large crystal spindle-whirl ; on the breast a knife ; on the shoulders two small dish-shaped fibulæ, of a pattern not hitherto observed. Between the right arm and the body lay an ivory ring, 5 inches in diameter, exactly similar to that found in grave No. 22. Within this ring lay two rings of bronze, a perforated stone, and two objects in iron, probably a key and a knife. A previous interment had been disturbed to make room for the occupant of this grave. Three beads, and the half of a large one of amber pierced again for suspension, were also found.



Ivory Ring, one-third actual size.

No. 50. Grave of an old man, 2 feet deep. The head to the south-west ; the skeleton measuring 6 feet 2 inches ; the femur $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; the legs crossed at the ankles. In this grave only, were remarked the remains of what had been a coffin or more probably of a coarse cloth or hide in which the body had been enveloped.

No. 51. Grave of a woman. The head to the south-west ; the hands in the lap ; at

the waist the bronze tag of a girdle; on the right breast a large fibula, of a pattern much resembling that found at Fairford; ^a on the shoulders two flat plated circular fibulæ. A knife on the breast, and near the hand a single amber bead.

No. 52. Grave of a woman. Head to the west; the femur measuring $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches; the right hand on the body, the left by the side. No relique.

No. 53. Grave of a young woman. The head to the west; the knees bent to the left, but the head upright; by the right hand a knife. In this grave an unusual number of fragments of Roman as well as of Saxon pottery were discovered.

No. 54. Grave of a woman of advanced age, 2 feet deep. The right knee bent; the left arm by the side, the right bent with the hand open above the right shoulder. No relique.

The contents of a mortuary urn were found here, and in the next trench were discovered the remains of a bone comb, an iron knife, and an iron girdle-hanger; and in the loose soil two brass coins of Victorinus, with some fragments of Roman pottery, one of them remarkable for its ornamentation. The bones of animals and some oyster shells were also found in a deep pit, mingled with ashes, affording strong presumptive evidence of the occupation of this site by the previous conquerors of Britain.

In reviewing the foregoing details a few remarks are suggested. It will be seen that on this occasion three swords were discovered.^b That in grave No. 15 is a plain massive weapon, $35\frac{1}{4}$ inches long from the pommel to the point, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad at the fort. The weapon found in grave No. 31 is of a superior description, and measures from the pommel to the end of the chape $37\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and is only $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches broad at the fort. The chape is of bronze, inlaid with zoomorphic figures in gold, and is altogether a novelty among reliques of this period. The weapon found in grave No. 15 closely resembles that discovered at Fairford,^c and may possibly be an example of the more primitive weapon. The sword from grave 44, although of plain form, and without a chape, resembles the more costly example from grave 31. The finding of such weapons in this proportion strongly favours the conjecture that this cemetery contained the remains of the individual from whom the village derives its name,^d his kindred, dependants, and bread-eaters.

It has been supposed that, as the swords of these people were made of finely tempered steel, but few of them have been preserved in their graves; but this is at variance with the experience of all who have been engaged in such researches; and

^a Fairford Graves, pl. ii. Remains of Pagan Saxondom, pl. vii.

^b A sword was found when a gravel-pit was opened here about twenty years ago.

^c Fairford Graves, pl. x. fig. 1.

^d Archæologia, Vol. XXXVII. p. 392.

an attentive study of the laws and institutions of the Anglo-Saxons also leads to a different conclusion. The comparative rarity of swords is in reality referable to the fact that it was not the ordinary weapon of a man under the rank of a thane. This is clearly apparent in Canute's Law of Heriots. Of the 750 graves explored by Brian Faussett, in the county of Kent, only 15 yielded swords. At Little Wilbraham, in Cambridgeshire, 4 swords only were obtained from 188 graves. Not one example of this weapon was found in upwards of 60 graves at Harnham, in South Wiltshire. Now at Brighthampton we have 4 swords (including the one found there twenty years ago,) in less than 60 graves. With such evidence we may conclude that a Saxon family settled here, and that in the name of the village we probably have, though in a corrupt form, that of the Saxon chief or head of such family, Brighthelm, the number of swords indicating the number of males above the rank of ceorl.

The occurrence of three spindle-whirls, two of them formed of crystal and the third of glass, are significant proofs of the sex of the occupants of graves 22, 47, and 49, if other indications were wanting.*

* On this subject the following note, addressed to A. W. Franks, Esq., Director S.A., and read before the Society in the last Session, 29 April, 1858, may not be inappropriate here.

MY DEAR SIR,—It will be in the recollection of yourself and others who take an interest in our Anglo-Saxon Antiquities, that in the Session 1854 I communicated to the Society an account of my researches in an ancient cemetery at Wingham, Kent. (Archæologia, Vol. XXXVI. p. 176.)

Among the few relics then discovered was the object afterwards figured in my "Remains of Pagan Saxondom." (Plate xxxvi. fig. 5.)

This object I have in that work erroneously described as a vorticellum or spindle-whirl. It was discovered lying near the left arm of a female skeleton, *an iron rod lying within it*, and imparting a ferruginous tinge to the portion on which it rested. The slight form of this rod led me into the error, which it is the purpose of this note to correct; and I am still at a loss to account for its being formed of iron instead of wood, for it is plainly a portion of the distaff itself, and not any part of the spindle, as I had supposed.

The object to which I have now to direct your attention will be readily recognised by comparison with the distaff now exhibited, used at this day in Italy, for which I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Arthur Ashpitel

From this it will at once be seen that the ring found at Wingham forms the bridge that supports the cradle. An object in all respects identical was found at Little Wilbraham; and is figured in "Saxon Obsequies." (Plate xxiii. fig. 102.) The inner diameter of the latter ring, however, is apparently formed to receive a staff of wood and not of iron, the aperture being too wide to receive a staff of that metal.

It will be remembered, that at Ozingel in Kent, and in the Isle of Wight, there were discovered in the graves of women objects apparently originally sword-blades, but with the tops at some inches from the point hammered into a round form, as if intended to be inserted into some object which had perished. Could these have been the handles of distaves? Their flat form would fit them for insertion in the girdle, but in other respects they must have been ponderous and inconvenient. In the present state of our knowledge this must be a matter of conjecture; but the fact that the Anglo-Saxon woman was buried with her distaff

I am unable to offer more than a conjecture as to the use of the large ivory rings discovered with Nos. 22 and 49. All possible care was taken in extricating them, and one of them has been preserved entire by immersion in gelatine. They appear to have formed the framework of a kind of bag, probably for holding sewing materials and implements of housewifery. Examples of these rings, supposed to be armillæ, were discovered in the Fairford graves: they are formed of elephant ivory.

The purse-guard and knife with its sheath, found with No. 22, are novelties: it is much to be regretted that they were not recovered in a more perfect state of preservation.

In No. 20 an opportunity was afforded for observing the manner in which fibulæ of that form were worn; namely, with the heads downwards. In this way they appear on the dresses of the figures represented on Consular dyptichs. A large fibula found with No. 51 was placed in a similar manner on the right breast.

Nos. 24 and 27 are remarkable for the absence of reliques, with the exception of an urn of black pottery at the head of each. These are ornamented with characteristic markings, and are of neat workmanship.

The pair of small dish-shaped fibulæ found with No. 49 are particularly deserving attention. They bear in the centre a figure very closely resembling the letter T on the coins of Offa. The same figure occurs on a pair of fibulæ found at Fairford,^a but on those it is repeated, and forms a circle. Its occurrence in an isolated form invites examination, but I forbear to offer any conjectures as to its significance.

In graves 47 and 49 we have evidence of the estimation in which amber was held by the Anglo-Saxon women. In each was found a fragment of a bead which had been again pierced for suspension without altering its shape.

It will be observed that in several of these graves no relique whatever was discovered, and that in three of them urns of black pottery were found without any other object. These are facts which claim the especial attention of the student of our Anglo-Saxon remains. The present state of our knowledge forbids any attempt at an explanation of these peculiarities.

is established beyond dispute, and the placing of it on record may serve as a guide to those who may be engaged in similar researches, and help to interpret the use of objects which are recovered in a fragmentary state. I am, &c.

J. Y. AKERMAN.

^a Archæologia, Vol. XXXIV. pl. x. fig. 2. Fairford Graves, pl. iii. fig. 4. Remains of Pagan Saxondom, pl. xix. fig. 2.

I cannot conclude this report without again recording my obligations to Mr. Stone, who rendered me throughout the most effective assistance, not only in extricating the reliques from the compact soil in which they were imbedded—I may say concreted—but also in the restoration of such objects as were recovered in a damaged or fragmentary condition.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's faithful servant,

J. Y. AKERMAN.

To the Earl Stanhope, Pres. S. A.
&c. &c. &c.

POSTSCRIPT.

PROFESSOR QUEKETT of the Royal College of Surgeons has favoured me with the following remarks on the Crania and other remains found in these graves.

Jaw from Grave 31.—This jaw presents certain peculiarities worthy of notice. On the left side the ascending ramus has been broken off a little behind the process for the attachment of the temporal muscle, which is termed coronoid; this is unfortunate, as in all probability something peculiar would have been discovered in the other process, which is the articular one, to account for the curious manner in which the teeth have been worn. On comparing the jaw with that of a man seven feet high, many of the measurements agree; whilst the great peculiarity consists in the position of the rami. In this jaw the ascending ramus is placed at right angles with those containing the teeth, whilst in the recent one the same processes are inclined at an angle of 110 degrees; and when the horizontal rami are placed on a level surface the front part or chin stands up at right angles to the level plane, and the teeth are also vertically situated; but in the recent jaw the parts are inclined at the same angle of 110 degrees. This peculiarity seems more or less characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon race, as in the jaws from Harnham Hill the same feature may be observed; whilst in fifty-four recent jaws in this museum all have the ascending rami inclined nearly at the same angle as that of the man of seven feet before noticed. The teeth are all present, including the wisdom teeth, one on each side; they have been much used, and all those on the right side, including also the two incisors and canine of the left side, are considerably flattened, so much so, that, instead of being on a plane with those of the left ramus, the canine of that side and the two incisors are nearly one-fourth of an inch higher. In the collection of lower jaws in this museum, amounting to many hundreds, there is not a single instance in which the teeth have been so singularly worn.

Sternum, Grave 31.—On carefully comparing this the first bone of the sternum with the corresponding one in the skeletons of men of the respective heights of six, seven, and eight feet, it was found to agree completely with that of the skeleton of seven feet. The upper portion of this bone, on the right side, is a little different in shape to that on the left, and the articulations for the clavicle and first rib on that side are lower by a quarter of an inch than those on the right. The articulation also for the first rib is of smaller size, and situated more posteriorly than that on the right. From the greater projection of the articular surfaces of the left side, both in an upward and outward direction, it would appear that some deposition of new bone, the result either of accident or disease, had taken place at this point, and, if the latter were the case, it proceeded probably from rheumatism.

Bones of the left hand, Grave 31.—These consist of three metacarpals and of nine phalanges, all of which bear a proportionate size to that of the sternum bone; and the most interesting of the three metacarpals is that of the thumb, the upper surface of which is broad and flat, and exhibits very plainly the articular surfaces for the sesamoid bones. The other two bones have well developed ridges for the attachment of muscles, and that of the forefinger has its distal extremity slightly enlarged on one side, as if from rheumatism. On comparing these bones as to length, &c. with those of the hand of a man undoubtedly of seven feet high, they were found to be on an average just one-tenth of an inch shorter, whilst, when compared with those of the hand of a man of average height, they exceeded them by one-fifth of their entire length. I therefore consider myself warranted in concluding that the person to whom these bones belonged must have been a man nearly if not fully seven feet in height.

Skull, No. 46.—The cranium of an Anglo-Saxon woman, which from the pressure of the soil in which the interment took place is considerably distorted. The right side of the face has been pressed upon the lower jaw in such a manner as to force forward from their sockets the four upper incisor teeth. The head itself has also been forcibly bent forwards on the chest, so that the four upper cervical vertebræ may be seen in the interval between the foramen magnum and the inner side of the lower jaw. When first placed in my hands, this and the other skulls from the same locality were all coated and filled with the soil in which they were found, and on the removal of this the bone was so brittle that it crumbled to pieces very readily, and of all the skulls only two could be so far restored as to have their principal measurements taken, and these were females. The soil itself was very peculiar; it contained numerous minute land shells, and was made up principally of small grains of rounded silex; and, if a lump of three or more inches in cubical measure were placed in water, in less than two minutes it would as it were crumble to atoms and fall to the bottom of the water without discolouring it. The soil was threaded in every direction by minute roots, which served the purpose of keeping it together, and in the specimens now under examination every foramen was occupied by them, and their eroding effects may be seen upon various parts of the head and face; the markings produced being very much like those of the ramifications of blood-vessels.

Judging from the teeth, this skull (No. 46) must be that of a person of middle age, the crowns, both of the molars and incisors, being very much flattened, as may be seen on the right side, where those in the lower jaw are exposed to view. The general appearance of this skull is very like that figured in the "*Crania Britannica*" of Thurnam and Davis as an Anglo-Saxon from West Harn-

ham, with the exception of this being a few tenths of an inch smaller in two directions. The measurements are here given.

Skull, No. 46.—

Horizontal circumference	.	.	.	20 inches
Longitudinal diameter	.	.	.	6·9 "
Frontal region, length	.	.	.	5·1 "
" " breadth	.	.	.	4 6 "
" " height	.	.	.	
Parietal region, length	.	.	.	4·9 "
" " breadth	.	.	.	5·5 "
" " height	.	.	.	
Occipital region, length	.	.	.	4·6 "
" " breadth	.	.	.	5·3 "
" " height	.	.	.	
Face, length	.	.	.	4·3 "
" breadth	.	.	.	5·1 "

Skull, No. 53.—This is larger and smoother than the last, and has much more the character of a female cranium. In the interment the facial portion has not been distorted, but the head has been forcibly bent forward, and all the cervical vertebræ are impacted between the foramen magnum and the chin, except the first, which was so crushed as to have dropped out piecemeal. The teeth are well preserved, the upper ones projecting some little distance in front of the lower. The measurements of the skull are here given; they exceed those of No. 46.

Skull, No. 53.—

Horizontal circumference	.	.	.	20·8 inches
Longitudinal diameter	.	.	.	7·5 "
Frontal region, length	.	.	.	5·0 "
" " breadth	.	.	.	4 6 "
" " height	.	.	.	
Parietal region, length	.	.	.	5·1 "
" " breadth	.	.	.	5·1 "
" " height	.	.	.	
Occipital region, length	.	.	.	4·9 "
" " breadth	.	.	.	5·1 "
" " height	.	.	.	
Face, length	.	.	.	4·2 "
" breadth	.	.	.	4 8 "

From the general smoothness of this cranium I conclude that, like No. 46, it must be that of a female, the ridges or marks for the attachment of muscles being less strongly developed than those of the other skulls, some of which are decidedly males; and these muscular impressions would appear, when connected with the larger dimensions of the head, to be the principal points of distinguishing the males from the females. A strong family likeness, so to speak, is common

to nearly all the skulls from this last exploration. All the skulls have more or less projecting upper jaws (*prognathic*), and the teeth are worn flat.

Amber.—In the form of round, flattened masses, each with a hole in the centre. The amber is not of the finest kind, but has a distinct vitreous fracture; it more nearly resembles the resin known as copal than true amber. In fact, many of the specimens now found and sold as amber are not really the product of the *pinus succinifer*. They may be readily known from true amber by their darker colour, their vitreous fracture, and their tendency to split up into very minute fragments. As far as I am aware, no amber of this kind has ever been found indigenous to this country, the nearest approach to it being the Copaline or Highgate resin, which is of a dull yellow colour. It would therefore appear that the amber in question, like most of that now in use, was probably obtained from the shores of the Baltic.

Wood, forming part of a bucket, from Grave 31.—This fragment was very readily split up into fibres, and the fibres exhibited the bordered pores and spirals characteristic of yew.

Wood, forming part of the sheath of a sword, from Grave 31.—This readily split up into fibres, all of which were largely impregnated with ferruginous matter; the most minute markings, both of the wood and of the vessels, are preserved, and, on comparison with specimens of recent wood, the markings on the vessels clearly show that the wood was not coniferous, but nearly allied if not identical with the ash.

Fragments of cloth adhering to Dagger, Grave 22.—This is a piece of coarse linen, which, from contact with bronze, is stained of a bright green colour. The texture of the cloth is well seen on one side.

Ivory, Grave 22.—These are fragments of a transverse section of the tusk of an elephant, and exhibit the dentinal tubuli quite as clearly as any sections taken from a recent tusk, although slightly stained with some ferruginous matter on the exterior.

JOHN QUEKETT.

† Royal Coll. Surgeons,
24 Nov. 1858.

Plate II.

Fig. 1. The sword from grave 31. One fourth of the actual size.

Fig. 2. Portion of the bronze pommel of the same. Actual size. The construction may be seen in the examples of swords engraved in "Remains of Pagan Saxondom," plate xxiv.

Fig. 3. Stamped and engraved ornament at the guard, apparently of base silver.

Figs. 4, 5. Two of four bronze studs found near the guard.

Fig. 6. A small cross patée, of base silver, found with figs. 4, 5.

Fig. 7. The chape of the same sword.

Fig. 8. Sword found in grave 44.



¼ ACTUAL SIZE

¼ ACTUAL SIZE

ANGLO-SAXON SWORDS FOUND AT BRICHTHAMPTON, OXFORDSHIRE.

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Plate III. (all of the actual size.)

Fig. 1. Hair-pin of bronze, from grave 17.

Figs. 2, 3, 4. Portions of the metal framework of a purse discovered in grave 22.

Fig. 5. Spindle-whirl of dark green glass, from grave 47.

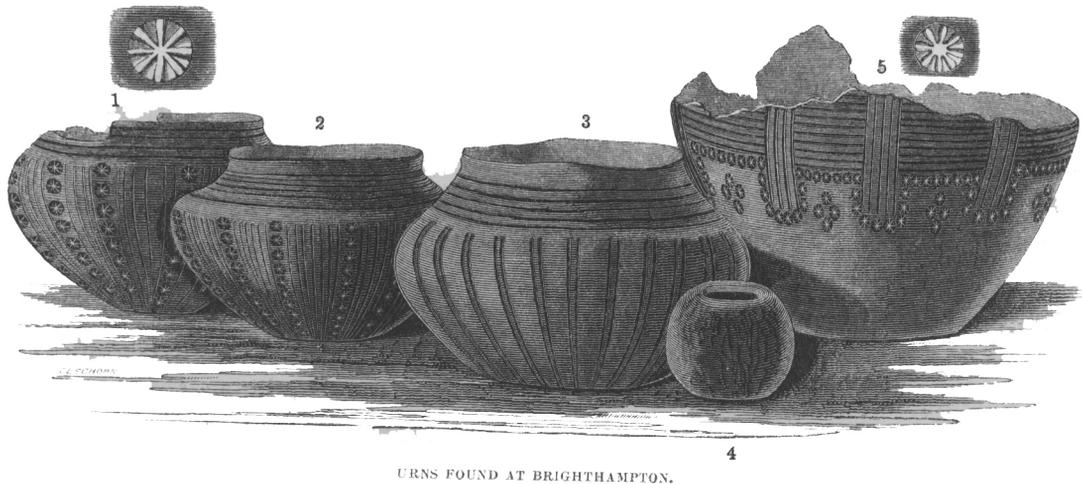
Fig. 6. Knife in metal-mounted sheath, from grave 22.

Fig. 7. Fibula of bronze, the inside gilded, from grave 49.

Fig. 8. Crystal spindle-whirl, discovered in grave 22.

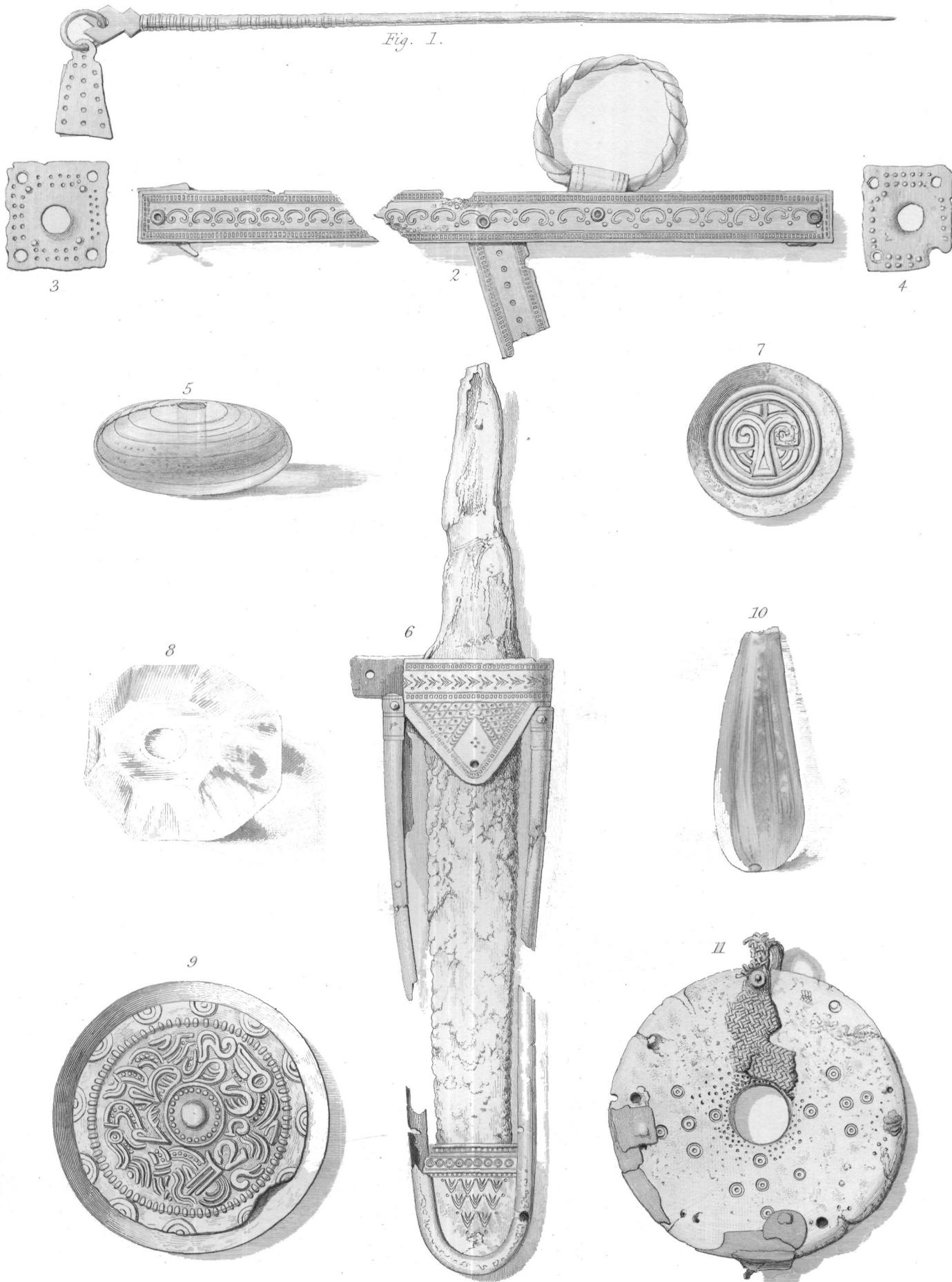
Fig. 9. Saucer-shaped fibula of bronze, lined with an embossed and gilded circular plate of the same metal, from grave 22.

Figs. 10, 11. A bead of amethystine quartz, and a bone disc, discovered by Mr. Stephen Stone in the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Yelford. See his account of these researches in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries*, vol. iv. page 213. No. 16. The edge of the bone disc appears to have been shod with metal, and a fragment of linen adheres to the surface, and, but for the iron loop with which it is furnished, it might be considered a portion of the distaff, like that discovered at *Wingham*, which was also found with a bead of amethystine quartz.



URNS FOUND AT BRIGHTHAMPTON.

Fig. 1.



ANGLO-SAXON REMAINS FOUND AT BRIGHTHAMPTON & AT YELFORD, OXFORDSHIRE.

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