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100. Pre-Dynastic Iron Beads in Egypt.

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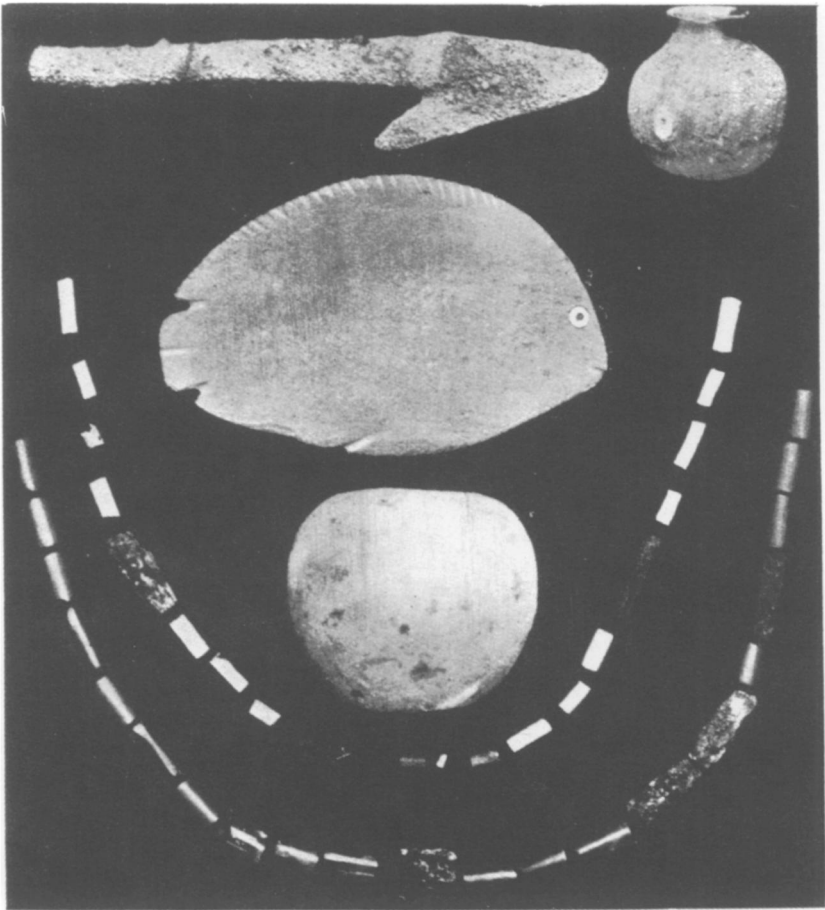


FIG. 1.

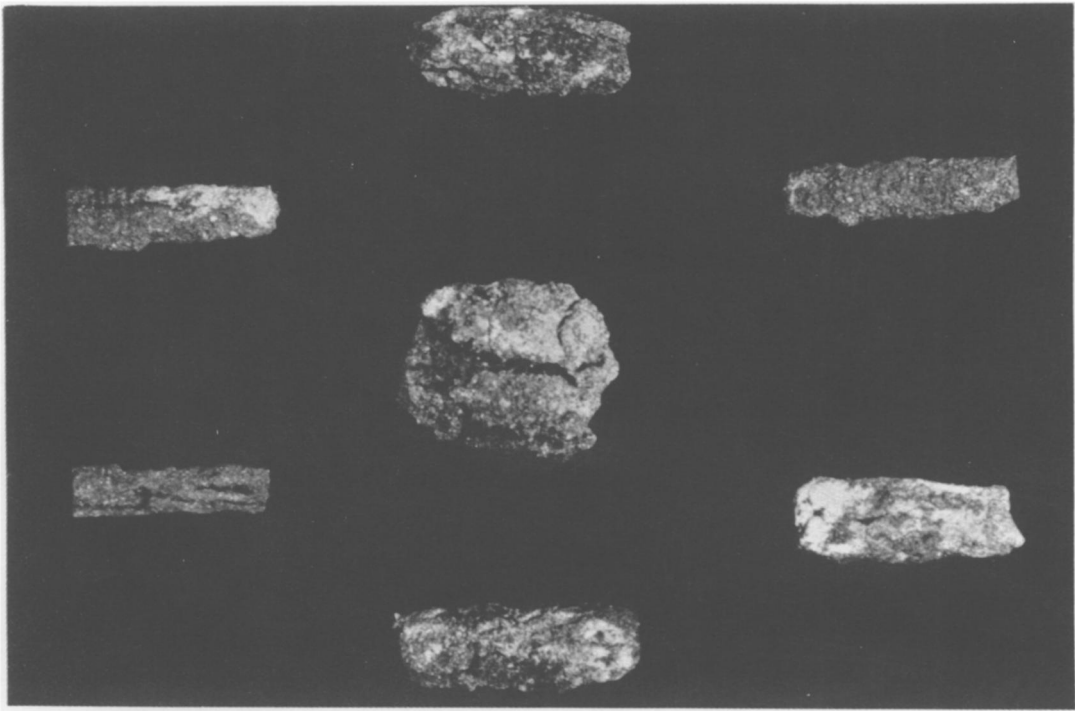


FIG. 2.

**PRE-DYNASTIC IRON BEADS IN EGYPT.**

## ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

Egypt: Archæology.

With Plate N.

Wainwright.

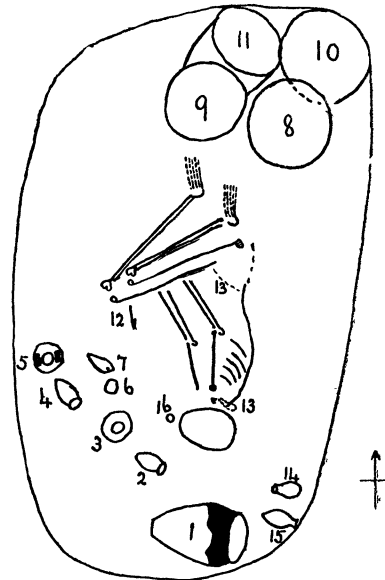
**Pre-Dynastic Iron Beads in Egypt.** By G. A. Wainwright, B.A.**100**

Mr. Bushe-Fox and myself, while working on a pre-dynastic cemetery for the British School of Archæology in Egypt at El Gerzeh, about 40 miles south of Cairo, found the iron beads here figured in an undisturbed burial of this age; No. 67. The string of beads from the neck is in its original order of 3 gold, 1 iron, 1 gold, 2 iron, 2 carnelian, 1 gold, 1 iron, 3 agate, 1 gold, 1 carnelian, 1 gold, 1 carnelian, 1 gold, and 2 gold, which were slightly apart from the others, but appeared to join in here. This string is shown at the bottom of the upper photograph. The order of the beads from the waist is not sufficiently certain for a guarantee. Both strings were in position round the skeleton, the necklace resting in a vertical plane. There were one or two beads at the ankle. Mr. Bushe-Fox picked the beads off, while I cleared the sand from them, exposing two or three at a time and checked his observations.

The objects in the grave are shown in the plate, and in illustration. They are:—

- No. 6. White limestone mace-head.
- „ 7. Slate palette.
- „ 12. Copper harpoon.
- „ 13. Strings of beads.
- „ 16. Small ivory pot.
- ▼ Vertebra out of place.

POTTERY OF CORPUS TYPES.			DATES.
1.	B. 53. b. -	-	S.D. 40-75
2, 3, 4.	R. 69. a. -	-	53-66
5.	D. 7. b. -	-	33-63
8, 9, 10, 11.	R. 81 -	-	38-67
14.	R. 63 -	-	50-80
15.	R. 69. b. -	-	36-71

S.D. 53-63

GRAVE NO. 67. 1:20

None of these objects last on into the later Pan-grave civilization, nor were any objects of this civilization found in the whole cemetery.

The skull was not articulated to the spine, but was standing on its base, packed round with the sand filling of the grave, and one of the neck vertebrae was found out of place, being some distance in front of the spine between the upper parts of the humeri.

There were no signs of plundering, the necklace with its gold beads being quite undisturbed, still round the neck, and the beads in their original order; all the pottery being unbroken; the copper harpoon still remaining and the skeleton lying in place on the floor of the grave. There were no plundered graves at this west end of the cemetery, the very few that were plundered being all on the higher ground at the other end. The skeleton was that of a young person. It was lying on the left side with the head to the south, and the face to the west, the usual pre-dynastic position. The bones were very cracked and in a soft pasty condition, probably owing to the action of salts, so that they could not be moved. All shape had disappeared from the iliac bones.

Professor W. Gowland, F.S.A., has examined the iron beads and reports:—  
“ I have examined the ‘iron’ beads from the Pre-dynastic grave in Egypt and

" find they consist of hydrated ferric oxide, *i.e.*, iron rust, none of the original iron having escaped oxidation. On analysis one gave the following results:—

" Ferric oxide - - - - -	78·7 per cent.
" Combined water with trace of CO <sub>2</sub> and earthy matter -	21·3 „
	<hr/> 100·0

" They do not consist of iron ore, but of hydrated ferric oxide, which is the result of the rusting of the wrought iron, of which they were originally made."

The tubular beads have been made by bending a thin plate of metal, probably over a rod, which was afterwards removed.

The full account will appear in this year's volume of the *British School*.

G. A. WAINWRIGHT.

Since writing the above, on working over the tomb groups, I have found the beads from yet another grave, No. 133, to include two small beads of iron. They are of the same shape and technique as the others but very much smaller, being only  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch long, and are rusted together.

The tomb group is just as distinctly pre-dynastic as is No. 67, being dated by its pottery to S.D. 60-66, and containing a slate palette and rubber, an ivory spoon, a small porphyry bowl and a small vase of red breccia, and a very fine and small flint flake. On the head were the usual pre-dynastic disc beads of carnelian, garnet, lapis lazuli, glazed limestone, and serpentine. On the hands and arms were the two iron beads, with disc beads of carnelian, serpentine, glazed limestone, lapis lazuli, garnet and gold, besides some shells, and barrel beads of quartz, calcite, and serpentine. In the grave was also a collection of curios; such as pretty naturally-polished pebbles, mostly carnelian; two curiously-shaped pebbles not unlike the human eye, one of which has been ground down; a piece of hæmatite much rubbed down; dog's teeth and shells. This grave is the more satisfactory, as it was daubed over with a covering of mud, which, when we found it, was unbroken, though it had sagged badly while still wet. This guarantees the absence of any objects of later date. As the iron in the two graves is less probably the result of two separate finds of iron than of one, this find is limited to S.D. 60-63.—G. A. W.

#### DESCRIPTION OF PLATE N.

Fig. 1.—Tomb group.  $\frac{3}{4}$  scale.

Fig. 2.—Iron beads.  $\frac{2}{3}$  scale.

### New Guinea: Linguistics.

Strong.

**Note on the Tate Language of British New Guinea.** By W. Marsh Strong, M.D.

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The Tate language is spoken on the Cupola, a rocky promontory on the shores of the Papuan Gulf, close to the village of Kerema. Mr. McGowan, of Movavi, first sent me a vocabulary of this language, and Mr. H. L. Griffen subsequently extended and verified this. There are two settlements of people whom the Elema tribes regard as strangers on the Cupola, and another small one at its foot near the Elema village which is known to the Motu as Silo. The language spoken in these villages is quite distinct from the Elema language used in the adjoining villages; it is possible that it is allied with the unknown dialects which are spoken in the hills behind the coastal zone of the Papuan Gulf.

In a list of 240 words only fifteen occur at all similar to Elema words and probably these are borrowed, for all the Tate people speak the Kaipi language, which is a dialect of the Elema, and also have much intercourse with the neighbouring Elema villages.