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when the arrow is fixed. The blade is shaped like a spear-head. When worn, the blade is at the back of the hand. A ridge runs down the centre of the blade from the handle to the point. The loop handle is decorated in rope and herring-bone patterns. The weapon is about eight inches long, the blade alone being about four and a half inches long and one and a half to two inches wide.

Another Muntshi article I have secured is a string of beads made from the scales of a fish, and worn by women around the waist over the hips. The beads are flat discs, one inch in diameter, and often circular; they appear to be greatly sought after by the women.

A species of battle-axe used by the pagans hereabouts gives a good idea of their style of work. The axe-head is long and narrow. The handle is of hard wood, the hole in which the metal blade is fixed being generally, if not always, burnt through. The length of the blade is about fourteen inches, and the handle eighteen inches. The usual primitive rectilinear forms of decoration are found, as a rule, on the blade.

The Muntshis make their own cloth; a coarse cloth, certainly, but well woven and strong. To the eye, a piece of this cloth, such as I bought the other day, looks like bagging, but is very soft. I am collecting various specimens. As a general rule they do not trouble to dye their cloth. The women wear a strip about the waist; the men very often wear no clothing at all.

The Muntshi arrow poison is very virulent, causing deadly pain and cramps, and death from tetanus, generally, within half an hour. The arrow heads are long, pointed and barbed, and are fixed on to the shafts by a tang run up into the reed, which is then securely bound round. The whole head is then dipped into the poison, which is allowed to dry.

The arrow head is perhaps two inches long. The whole arrow about three feet. The bow is made of a piece of hard, pliable wood, and is about four feet from tip to tip. The string is made of hide. The bow is without decoration.

I am unable at present to let you have a photograph of the Muntshi type. The country is hostile and quite inaccessible from here by an officer in my position. Still, I hope to secure some photos of this interesting and warlike people some day, if not in person, at any rate, through some of my friends.

An ivory Muntshi wristlet (Fig. c) is also among my specimens. This ornament is not completely round, but open to allow passage to the wrist at one side. On the back can be noticed a projection.

I have never yet seen a bracelet in this country made to open and shut on a hinge, they are all on the principle of this primitive Muntshi ornament—even the best Mahomedan work that I have met not excepted. E. F. MARTIN.

England: Archæology.

Clinch.

Coldrum, Kent, and its relation to Stonehenge. By George Clinch, **12** F.G.S.

The district which lies immediately to the north-west of Maidstone is remarkable for its interesting series of prehistoric megalithic remains, none of which have yet received from archæologists the attention they deserve. The best known of these monuments is Kits Coty House, a cromlech which stands out boldly on the south-western slope of North Downs, near Blue Bell Hill, Aylesford. The capstone, which is *in situ*, is supported by three nearly upright stones arranged in plan like the letter H. As this structure is divested of its earthen mound it is easy to see that the large stones of which it is composed are masses of Sarsen stone in their natural forms, and entirely free from artificial shaping.

Lower down the hill is a fallen cromlech, originally of more elaborate, complicated, and ambitious character. These remains are locally known as "the countless stones."

In Addington Park, nearly six miles W.S.W. from Kits Coty House, are several other megalithic remains, more or less displaced or overturned, but notable for the large size of the stones of which they are composed.

To the north of Addington Park, and at a distance of less than two miles, stands Coldrum, or Coldreham, at once the most remarkable and the least known of the whole series.

The site of Coldrum is sufficiently elevated to command extensive views over the Medway valley, including Kits Coty House. It is in a lonely spot, away from the main road, and visitors do not often find their way to it. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that very little has been written about this ancient monument, but it is remarkable to find that those* who have published descriptions do not seem to have observed the regular form of the stones, which, in the opinion of the present writer, is its most important and characteristic feature.

The remains of Coldrum comprise a central cromlech without capstone, an irregular line of large blocks of stone on the western side, and traces of tumulus.

The cromlech, which is still partly buried in earth, consists of (i.) two very massive upright blocks of stone, that to the south being 7 feet above the surface of the ground, 11 feet long, and 2 feet 3 inches thick, whilst the other stone, standing parallel with it, nearly 5 feet to the north, is of slightly smaller dimensions; (ii.) two large stones lying at the western end of the cromlech; and (iii.) two stones about midway between the uprights, the remains probably of a dividing partition cutting the space between the upright slabs into two parts, and so forming two adjoining sepulchral chambers.

There is no reason to believe that the two stones at the western end are the actual blocks by which the mouth of the chamber was originally closed; those to the east have probably fallen down the steep slope which has been caused at that point by digging for chalk.

The size of the upright stones at Coldrum is remarkable, and their regularity of form is a point of even greater importance.

The supporting stones at Kits Coty House have a distinct slope inwards, giving irregular forms to the sepulchral chambers, but at Coldrum the upright stones are approximately vertical, and the chambers were doubtless of regular and symmetrical shape.

The irregularly-placed stones, enclosing a small space on the western side of the cromlech, represent a part only of what was probably a quadrangular or oblong enclosure placed at the foot of the tumulus by which the whole cromlech was originally concealed.

Seventeen of these massive stones remain in what is probably their original position, but the remainder, on the north-east side and in continuation of the north and south

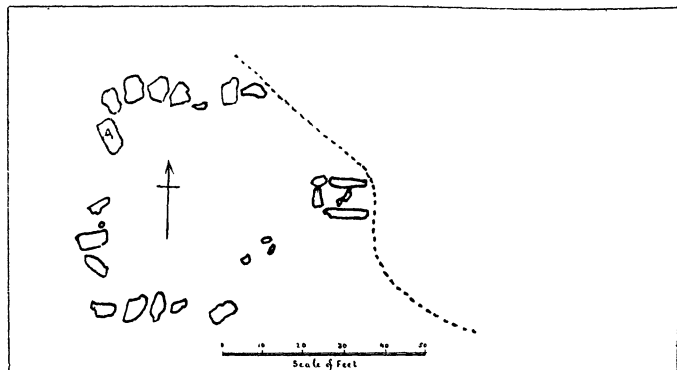


FIG. 1.—COLDRUM, KENT: GROUND PLAN OF THE CROMLECH AND UNDISTURBED STONES AROUND IT. THE DISTURBED STONES ON THE N.E. OF THE DOTTED LINE ARE NOT MARKED.

* W. M. Flinders Petrie, *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XIII., pp. 14, 16; and George Payne, *Collectanea Cantiana* (1893), pp. 139-141.

sides, have unfortunately been removed and disturbed in the process of digging for chalk already mentioned.

The arrangement of the stones of the Coldrum cromlech is clearly one of great

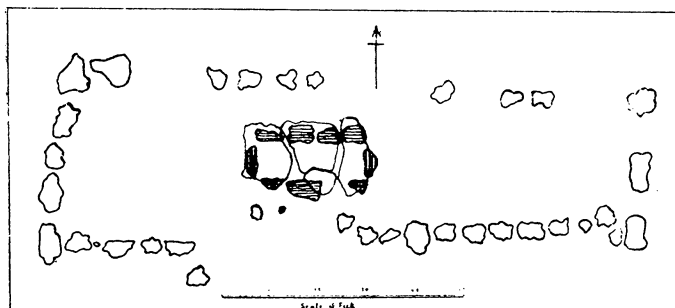


FIG. 2.—SIEVERN HANOVER: GROUND PLAN OF THE CROMLECH AND SURROUNDING STONES, SHOWING AFFINITIES WITH THE WORK AT COLDRUM.

rarity (see Fig. 1).* A central cromlech containing two sepulchral chambers was surmounted and covered by a roughly square or oblong tumulus, the sides of which were partly supported and clearly outlined by a line of stone blocks of massive character. The whole structure suggests a late date in the

neolithic age, a period of development when the form of the sepulchral chambers was followed out in the construction of the mound.

An interesting example of a stone-age megalithic structure, presenting many features in common with that at Coldrum, exists at Sievern, in Hanover. This has been admirably illustrated by plan (see Fig. 2), photographic views, and brief description by Friedr. Tewes in *Die Steingraber der Provinz Hannover*, 1898, and although it is larger than the Coldrum example, it presents the same oblong cromlech caused by the double sepulchral chamber, and the same oblong enclosure of blocks of stone following the form of the cromlech.

The regular form of the upright stones at Coldrum is a matter of considerable importance, and differentiates this from the other megalithic remains of Kent. The good proportions and regular, flat surfaces are, in the writer's opinion, suggestive of artificial shaping and perhaps dressing (see Fig. 3).† If this view be not accepted, and if it be held that the forms are natural, it is still fairly obvious that the careful selection of appropriate stones indicates a degree of culture and appreciation of form equally indicative of a late period in the neolithic age. Indeed, no one who is



FIG. 3.—COLDRUM, KENT: VIEW OF THE CROMLECH FROM THE EAST.

* I am indebted to Mr. E. H. W. Dunkin's plan in *The Reliquary*, October, 1871, for this illustration, and my thanks are due to Mr. Dunkin for his kind permission to reproduce it here.

† Unfortunately it is not easy, owing to the surrounding trees and bushes and the unfavourable nature of the ground, to get a photographic view at close quarters.

familiar with Stonehenge can fail to recognise the general similarity existing between the forms of its upright stones and those of Coldrum.

Most writers on the subject of Stonehenge have found it difficult to explain how the stones, of which that celebrated circle is composed, were conveyed to their present position on Salisbury Plain; whilst the means by which they were brought into regular form, and reared to an upright position have long awaited reasonable and satisfactory explanation. These points, as well as the larger questions of the age and purpose of Stonehenge were entirely and fully explained in Professor Gowland's paper on the subject read, in December, 1901, before the Society of Antiquaries of London.*

The squared condition of the stones is one of the most remarkable features of Stonehenge, and it was long held by archæologists that it involved the use of metal tools, and that the period to which the circle should be ascribed could not by any possibility be earlier than the age of bronze. Both these conclusions have been disproved by Professor Gowland's recent discoveries. It has been shown that the rough shaping and dressing of the stones have been produced by tools made of quartzite boulders and flint. The absence of ancient metal objects among the discoveries at Stonehenge, and the presence of stone tools by which the shaping could be produced, form good reasons for placing Stonehenge within, but probably at the latter end of, the stone age.

In some respects there is a striking similarity between Coldrum and Stonehenge. In both we find that artificially-shaped stones are employed, and in both we have the idea of enclosure within a line of stones. Both, too, may be fairly referred to the end of the neolithic age. But here the parallel ends, because Coldrum was obviously a sepulchral pile, whilst Stonehenge, although following to some extent the same arrangement, was conceived on a more ambitious scale, and probably designed for a very different purpose.

The megalithic structures of Kent furnish a valuable series illustrative of the constructive skill of the neolithic race. Kits Coty House is particularly interesting from this point of view. We there see that, although the stones are entirely unworked, great care and skill have been used in the construction. The two main upright stones (answering to the two perpendicular sides of the letter **H**) are really leaning somewhat inwards and resting against the middle upright, which is at right angles to them. In this way the pressure of the weighty capstone is so distributed as to strengthen the whole structure; and, although Kits Coty House has lost its tumulus, and is situated on the side of a hill, where, owing to rain-wash and agricultural operations, one would not expect to find very good foundations, the cromlech still stands in its original position.

At Coldrum, however, we see a distinctly higher development of constructive skill. The cromlech has been so built that the upright stones stand erect, although no capstone remains to hold them firmly in position.

Much of this venerable monument has already been disturbed, and this accounts for the blank part left to the north-east of the dotted line in Fig. 1, but it is most desirable that what remains should be carefully preserved, and it should certainly be placed under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments Protection Act. GEORGE CLINCH.

Siam : Folklore.

Annandale.

The Dynastic Genius of Siam. *By Nelson Annandale, B.A.*

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It is well known among Oriental scholars and students of comparative religion that the kings of Siam, as of many other Eastern states, were formerly regarded as being superhuman, and that their sacred persons were treated with a most elaborate ceremonial. Though the present monarch, King Chulalongkorn, has abolished much of the ritual with which his predecessors were treated, this feeling is still strong among the Siamese. There is one point, however, with regard to the kingship of Siam on which I would be very grateful for further information, viz., the provenance of the belief that there is a

* *Recent Excavations at Stonehenge.* *Archæologia*, Vol. LVIII., pp. 37-118.