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Report on Bones Found in a Roman Villa at Morton Near Brading, April, 1881

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From the EDITOR.—“Nature,” Nos. 598, 599.

— Revue Scientifique, Nos. 16, 17.

— Revue d'Anthropologie, 1881, No. 2.

— Matériaux pour l'histoire de l'homme, Tome XII, liv. 4.

MR. J. E. PRICE, F.S.A., exhibited a collection of human and other bones discovered in a shaft or well at the Roman Villa at Morton, near Brading, in the Isle of Wight, upon which Professor Flower, who had examined the remains, made the following remarks:—

REPORT on BONES found in a ROMAN VILLA at MORTON near BRADING, April, 1881. By Professor W. H. FLOWER, F.R.S.

THE bones submitted to my examination by Mr. J. E. Price and Mr. F. G. H. Price, are all much in the same state of preservation, and probably all contemporaneous. They are fragmentary, light, porous, clean, and have the appearance of having been buried many years in a dry soil.

They are—

1. *Man.*—Fragments probably of one and the same skeleton—consisting of portions of skull, *i.e.*, of frontals, parietals, temporals, of superior maxilla with nearly all the upper teeth, and the posterior part of one ramus of the lower jaw. The left femur, wanting the lower end. The right humerus in the same condition. Portions of the right scapula and clavicle and of the left innominate bone. Part of the atlas and of four lumbar vertebræ and numerous fragments of ribs.

From the condition of the bones it is certain that the individual was adult, and probably of middle age, and about the average stature, *i.e.*, 5 feet 6 or 7 inches. The bones are all tolerably stout, especially the clavicle, and the mastoid processes of good size, indications which point to the supposition that the individual was a male, though of no specially great muscular development. On the other hand, what remains of the supraorbital ridges is thin and the frontal region is rather feminine in form. None of the teeth show the slightest signs of decay, but all are moderately worn on their grinding surfaces.

2. *Dog.*—Numerous remains of at least three individuals, all of nearly the same age and size, not more than half grown, having all the milk teeth in place. The remains consist of portions of the skull, with one lower jaw nearly complete, many long bones, including 6 humeri, 6 tibiæ, 5 femora, 5 radii, 18 metacarpals and metatarsals, ribs, vertebræ, portions of pelvis and of scapulæ.

3. *Ox*.—Young. Fragment of scapula and ribs and cervical vertebræ.


4.—*Horse*. One incisor tooth.

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The following paper was then read by the Author:—

REMARKS *on some* ARCHAIC STRUCTURES *in* SOMERSETSHIRE *and*  
DORSETSHIRE. By A. L. LEWIS, Esq., F.C.A., M.A.I.

IN continuation of the observations which I have from time to time made before this and other Societies upon the rude stone monuments and other ancient works in different parts of the country, I now venture to offer a few remarks on some of those of Somersetshire and Dorsetshire.

The principal rude stone monument in these counties is the great collection of stone circles at Stanton Drew, about seven miles south of Bristol, and as these are well known, and have, moreover, been exhaustively surveyed by Mr. Dymond, whose plans are published with his descriptive and other notes by the British Archæological Association, I shall only give a general description of them. The central circle is about 365 feet in diameter, and a line drawn through its centre, or nearly so, in a direction about 54 degrees east of north and west of south takes us on the north-eastern side to another circle, and on the south-western side to three stones which appear to have formed a chamber, called the "Cove," (thus :—) the open side of which faced in a south-easterly direction; this resembles the Hoarstone at Enstone (Oxfordshire), and Kit's Coty House in Kent, except that there is no evidence of its having had a capstone, in which particular it resembles groups of stones at Avebury and at Arberlows (Derbyshire). If, as I believe, the circles with their north-easterly reference were devoted to the worship of the summer sun, these "coves" facing towards the south-east were probably devoted to the worship of the winter sun, and might well have served to protect any sacrificial fire from rough weather, and would thus remove one of Dr. Fergusson's objections to the use of stone circles for sun-worship. The circle which I have already spoken of on the north-eastern side of the great circle is about 100 feet in diameter, consists of very large stones, and is better preserved than any other part of the group; the distance from centre to centre of these circles is about 380 feet, and from the centre of the great circle to the cove about 990 feet. Another line, taken through the centre of the great circle, or