

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT,
D5—96.

BY GEORGE AYNE, F.L.S., F.S.A.

FORT "BORSTAL," ROCHESTER.—On December 3rd, 1895, Colonel Sir John C. Ardagh, K.C.I., C.B., Commandant of the S.M.E., Chatham, kindly informed me of the discovery of three Roman interments during the progress of the works connected with the Fort at Borstal. A gang of convicts were engaged in digging post-holes for a fence between the south wall of Borstal Prison and the Fort railway, when they cut through three cists which had been excavated in the chalk to a depth of 4 feet 8 inches, 3 feet, and 2 feet 10 inches respectively. These were cleared out, before my arrival, of everything but what remained of the skeletons. No. 1 grave was 7 feet 3 inches long by 3 feet 2 inches wide, the skeleton lay east and west, head to the west. By the skull was a small brown vase and a black pat. No. 2 grave, 8 feet from No. 1, was 7 feet long by 3 feet inches wide; the skeleton lay south-west by north-east, head to the latter, without relics. No. 3 grave, 7 feet 4 inches long by 3 feet 2 inches wide; the skeleton lay as before, but with the head to the south-west. In this case the bones were not disturbed. The skeleton was lying extended, the bones of the hands being found on the *pelvis*. The skull was discovered some years ago when laying down a water-main which passes by the head of the cist. At the left shoulder a small brown vase with narrow neck was met with. By the feet were two iron nails which had evidently been used for fastening boards together in which the body had been encased at the time of burial. Probably all three bodies were enveloped in re coffins, as much decayed wood could be seen around the edge of No. 2. These three interments, doubtless, belong to a cemetery which yet remains to be explored.

FORT "DARLAND," CHATHAM HILL.—When making the *glacis* outside this Fort five ditches or draw-wells were discovered, two being on the north side of the road leading from Star Mill to Darland Hill, and the others on the opposite side. That which the writer

descended was bell-shaped, 40 feet in depth and 42 feet in diameter. Two chambers had been cut to a depth of 15 feet on the north and east sides of the pit. Nothing was at the bottom but tons of flints, which had been cast aside during the removal of the chalk. November, 1895.

IGITHAM (TOWN HOUSE).—Mr. J. Hill, the owner of this interesting house, discovered in his nut plantation, about mid-way between the house and the church, a chamber 3 feet 9 inches deep, 7 feet 4 inches in width from east to west, and 8 feet 10 inches from north to south. The walls were 2 feet 7 inches thick, faced inside with thin roof-tiles, laid in courses, of, perhaps, sixteenth century date, while the exterior was composed of ironstone obtained from the immediate locality. Upon the floor were five low walls of tiles, 1 foot wide, 1 foot 6 inches high, and 6 inches apart. In each wall were two small arches to enable heat to penetrate the area of the chamber, after the manner of a hypocaust; these draught holes were in line with two stoke-hole arches in the form of the letter **V** inverted (**Λ**). These openings were in the south wall, 2 feet 2 inches apart, 2 feet 6 inches high, and 2 feet 2 inches wide at the floor-line. The western wall of the chamber extended beyond it, forming the eastern wall of a second and similar hypocaust, which measured 4 feet 5 inches from north to south, and 7 feet 10 inches from east to west. There were four low walls upon the floor 7 inches apart, 11 inches thick, and 18 inches high, placed in the opposite direction to those in the first chamber, the stoke-hole being in the west wall. This arch differed from the others described, as it was round-headed, and very roughly built with 6-inch square tiles. The interior of both chambers had been subjected to great heat, especially the lower walls. During the excavations a few pieces of pottery of sixteenth or seventeenth century date were found. These curious chambers were probably kilns for burning bricks or tiles. If so, something like the following method was adopted. Firstly, the channels between the low walls were filled with wood or charcoal, then across the walls came a layer of bricks with sufficient space left between them for draught and admission of hot air. The successive layers were then stacked in cross-courses, so that all the openings acted as flues. When the kiln was filled the top was covered in and fires lighted in the stoke or fire-holes. After the moisture in the tiles had evaporated the heat was raised and the fire-holes blocked up. On the completion of the firing process the kiln was allowed to cool. This is a rough description of the method

adopted at the present day, which could have been conveniently carried out in the kilns at Ightham. They may have been pottery kilns for the baking of ware similar to that manufactured in the adjoining parish of Wrotham in the sixteenth or seventeenth century. If such were the case there was probably a false floor of tiles, perforated with holes, laid upon the low walls, or something answering the same purpose, on which the pots were placed, but no trace of such an arrangement existed. I am indebted to Mr. B. Harrison for promptly communicating this discovery, and it gives me pleasure to state that Mr. Hill caused the excavations to be made at his own expense. December, 1895.

OLDBURY CAMP, IGHTHAM.—Mr. Harrison also reports that he has secured an uninscribed British gold coin from within the camp, it being the third found there. December, 1895.

MEOPHAM.—The Rev. L. W. Lewis reports the discovery of pot-holes in the glebe meadow in rear of the vicarage. When digging for gravel from time to time Mr. Lewis's gardener finds holes about 2 feet wide and 4 feet deep; at the bottom of them he has found burnt matter, potsherds of distinctly pre-Roman date, and in one instance several small pieces of Sarsen-stone and lumps of clay. Poor as these remains are, they are of the highest importance as coming from a district which has hitherto yielded nothing that would enable us to understand its condition or to what extent it was populated in pre-Norman times.

The Meopham road which passes by the site of these discoveries runs into the British Way (Pilgrim Road) about four miles beyond, below Vigo Hill. (See *Collectanea Cantiana*, p. 152.)

THANET.—Mr. W. H. Hills kindly furnishes particulars of the discovery at Hollicondane, midway between that hamlet and Dump-ton, south-east from Ramsgate, of a skeleton accompanied by four bronze armlets; three are very massive and ornamented with alternate incised spiral and oval-shaped markings, the other is a coil armlet of ten coils.

Mr. Hills also reports the discovery of several skeletons, with pottery and a silver coin of Gordianus, at Broadstairs, on the site of the New Home, opposite the Lantern House. January, 1896.

DARTFORD.—Mr. E. C. Youens reports the finding of an ancient well during excavations for sand and gravel adjoining Dartford Heath, a few feet from a presumed British Way. The well was 3 feet in diameter, lined with masonry 1 foot thick, composed of flints set in a mixture of clay and chalk. Mr. Youens has ascer-

tained that during additions to the Telegraph Mills on the western side of Dartford Creek the foundations of several walls were met with, which are described as similar to those of Roman date. February, 1896.

Mr. Herbert Prall favours me with valuable information concerning discoveries made at Joyce Green on the eastern side of Dartford Creek. When the gravel pits were first opened there the workmen found several Roman urn-burials of the ordinary kind, consisting of small groups of urns here and there. These occurred near the road leading from Dartford to the marshes, and therefore help to establish the antiquity of the road.

HAM GREEN, UPCHURCH.—The Rev. C. E. Woodruff reports that he has obtained from a field called "Woodoaks," near Ham Green, the following objects from a Roman interment:—Two cups and three pateræ of Samian ware, a small square glass bottle with handle, height $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and a fine goblet of Durobrivian ware with long neck and flanged rim, height $9\frac{7}{8}$ inches, diameter of its pear-shaped body $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The vessel is ornamented with five rows of rings formed of white paste upon a groundwork which shews traces of a green glaze. It may be compared with a goblet found in "Thompson's" field, Plaxtol. (*Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. II., p. 6.) March, 1896.

FOLKESTONE.—Mr. John Ashtell, Curator of the Museum, reports the discovery in the grounds belonging to the Folkestone Water Works Company at the Cherry Garden, at the foot of Castle Hill, of a very fine and highly finished flint celt of the Neolithic period, measuring $6\frac{5}{8}$ inches by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. I am indebted to the Museum Committee for kindly giving instructions that a photograph should be sent to me of the specimen. April, 1896.

MEDWAY MARSHES.—In June 1895 the Rev. C. E. Woodruff, his brothers H. C. and John Woodruff, and myself, prosecuted further researches on the site of the famous Roman potteries below Upchurch, under the most favourable circumstances, thanks to the kindness of Messrs. Belsey and Woodhams, who generously placed their yacht the "Gem" at our disposal for three days. We anchored in Shaffleet Creek, slept on board, and spent the whole of each day exploring the "Saltings." Much time was devoted to excavating at the base of the great mound on the left of the "Strayway" leading from Ham Green to the Slay Hills. No whole vessels were found, but a large quantity of broken pottery, including a few pieces of Samian ware, was thrown out, and portions of kiln

bricks. At various places along the Saltings similar mounds may be seen; these we determined conclusively were the sites of kilns. Around one of them we found numerous potsherds that had been washed out by the tide, and several pieces were obtained with grains of flint mixed with the clay, similar in every respect to the class of pottery usually assigned to a pre-Roman period. Along the western side of Milford Hope many circular patches of burnt earth were detected upon the mud-flats which undoubtedly formed the bases of kilns. Mr. Cumberland Woodruff, some two or three years before, found at the base of the Stray-way mound what appeared to be the remains of the wall of a circular kiln; the section left shewed that the interior was originally about 3 feet in diameter; the broken-down wall was 1 foot high and 6 inches thick, being composed of a hard coarse concrete. Owing to the enormous difficulties attending any researches on the site of the Upchurch Potteries very little can be added to what is already known; all we can hope to do is to record periodically that which may be revealed by the action of the tide.

COBHAM.—During the summer of 1895 the Earl of Darnley kindly caused an examination to be made of two mounds on the Cobham estate. The first opened was that called "The Mount," which is situate by the gamekeeper's house, a short distance to the south from the Watling Street. Unfortunately there is a large tree growing upon the summit of the mound, so that the trenches had to be cut by the side of it, leaving the centre unexplored. During the operations nothing was revealed beyond two fragments of coarse pre-Roman pottery and a few scraps of charcoal; these were found upon the natural soil at the base of the mound near the centre.

The second mound is on high ground in Randall Wood, on the north side of the Watling Street. As soon as we commenced digging, the foundations of brick walls were met with, which evidently belonged to "Randalls," the destroyed mansion of the De Cobham family, the ruins of which may be detected close by, extending over a considerable area.

I am much indebted to Lord and Lady Darnley for their kindness and hospitality to me on this and other occasions when I visited Cobham, and to the Hon. Ivo and Mr. Arthur Bligh for their valuable assistance in piloting me over the estate. Although the result of the excavations was disappointing, by recording what was done future antiquaries will be saved the trouble of reopening the mounds.

ROCHESTER (WATTS'S AVENUE).—When excavating the cellar for Dr. Dartnall's new house, opposite St. Margaret's Churchyard, the workmen accidentally cut through an Anglo-Saxon interment, destroying everything but an iron spear-head which accompanied the skeleton. After the cellar space was cleared out my attention was directed to the spot by Mr. Hubert Homan. On the north and west face of the newly exposed chalk the outlines of two other cists were visible, both of which the foreman of the works, and Dr. Dartnall, kindly allowed me to explore. In the western cist, which was 5 feet below the surface, and 2 feet 10 inches wide, a skeleton was found at full length upon its back, the bones of the hand resting upon the pelvis. By the left arm, near the shoulder, was a spear-head, and at the waist, on the left side, an iron knife, on the right an iron girdle-buckle, and in the centre a very small buckle of bronze.

As the workmen proceeded with the trenches for the foundations of the house other graves were met with daily, which I was also permitted to clear of their contents. These will now be described in the order in which they were excavated. All the skeletons lay east and west, head to the west.

Grave 4. Skeleton, 5 feet long, with arms and legs straight, upper part curved towards south. An iron dagger-shaped knife lay upon the *pelvis*.

Grave 5. Skeleton of a young female, under 5 feet long, in an extended position. By the neck were three opaque glass beads, two red and one green; two red beads were also found by the left hand. It was interesting to note that the uncut wisdom teeth were visible through a fracture in the lower jaw.

Grave 6. Skeleton almost entirely decayed. On the left side of the skull an iron spear-head, by the left arm a long and short iron knife, the remains of a sword, and a pair of bronze tweezers. At the right hip was the umbo of a shield and the heads of four iron rivets by which it had been attached. When the interment took place the shield must have been laid upon the centre of the body. As the latter collapsed from decay the umbo fell half over towards the outside of the right arm, and was found on its edge, point outwards, with the rivet-heads and hand-bar beside it. Where the shield lay fragments of wood were met with, a portion being obtained with a silver-headed stud still remaining in it. By the right side a girdle-buckle, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, occurred of elegant design; the oval head is decorated with a row of concentric rings,

and the base of the buckle tongue was originally set with four garnets and two blue stones—two of the garnets, however, are missing; those remaining have underneath them reticulated gold-foil to give greater lustre to the garnets. The buckle is attached by a hinge, which is still in working order, to a triangular-shaped framework with a boss at each angle. These bosses were set with ivory, having a garnet in the centre, but one only is complete. The front of the framework is overlaid with a narrow band of gold on each side; one is adorned with a double row of chevrons, the other has a single row between two twisted rope-mouldings. At the back of the frame is a thin plate of gold, ornamented on the front with a braided strip-pattern in relief, the strip itself being embellished with a triple row of bead-moulding. The entire framework of this girdle-buckle is of speculum metal, richly gilt.

Grave 7. Skeleton 5 feet 6 inches long, at full length, the feet together. On the left side of the skull was a spear-head, and a small knife by the left arm.

Grave 8. This was cut through obliquely by the workmen without their observing it. At the head of it I found a fragment of the skull and an amber bead about the size and shape of an olive.

Grave 9. Shared the same fate, but a portion of the skull was found. The skeletons in both these graves must have been almost entirely decayed, otherwise the men would have noticed the bones.

Grave 10. Half this cist was accidentally destroyed—in the remaining portion the upper part of a skeleton was found without relics.

Grave 11. This contained a skeleton lying at full length, the bones of the hands lay upon the pelvis, the feet were together. By the right hip was a bronze girdle-buckle, slightly ornamented, and a small iron knife near it. The skull had become reduced to splinters; by the left side of it was a leaf-shaped spear-head. Without the skull the skeleton measured 4 feet 10 inches in length.

Grave 12. Skeleton at length, the right hand lay upon the right leg, the left upon the pelvis; by the vertebral column a small iron knife was met with.

During the widening of the road in front of Dr. Dartnall's house it was discovered that prior to the building of the wall which kept up the bank the latter had at some period given way, carrying with it portions of other graves. I cleared out the eastern ends of these which could easily be seen in the newly exposed bank.

Grave 13. The *tibia* only remained.

Grave 14. The same.

Grave 15. Skull and shoulder bones gone. The remainder of the skeleton lay at length. By the left hip was a knife of iron, a thick bronze girdle-ring, and the remains of a *châtelaine*, consisting of a key and two or three hook-shaped instruments, all of iron, corroded together into a confused mass. They appeared to have been suspended from two rings, one of bronze, the other of iron. By the right hand was a bead of red opaque glass.

Grave 16. Skeleton entirely decayed; the cist was larger than any of those previously discovered, being about 7 feet long, 4 feet wide, and the floor 5 feet from the surface. In the centre was found an iron umbo of a shield. When I took it up for the first time, after a lapse of some thirteen hundred years, a ring of the wood of the shield with the hand-bar of the umbo in the centre was disclosed to view.

Grave 17. This was met with within the foundations of the house, in digging a scaffold-pole hole. The skeleton lay at length, but was much decayed, and measured, without the feet, 4 feet 9 inches in length. By the left side was an iron knife.

Grave 18. Skeleton about 5 feet 6 inches long, lying at length, heels together. By the left side a small iron knife, and a fragment of thick pottery by the left *femur*.

Grave 19. Skeleton lying at length, heels together, the skull almost gone. By the left side of it a fine spear-head, and between the left ribs and the *humerus* a good knife. At the waist, by the centre, was a small iron girdle-buckle.

The skeletons all lay east and west, head to the west, in cists from 6 to 7 feet in length and about 3 feet in width.

These discoveries are a continuation of those made by the writer in 1892, when eleven interments of a similar nature were met with. (See *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XXI., p. lv.)

The chief point of interest connected with this Pagan cemetery is that it seems to have formed a portion of the land which was given by Ethelbert to the Priory at Rochester. The gift is thus referred to in the *Registrum Rossense*, p. 1, as translated by the Rev. A. J. Pearman:—

“King Ethelbert gave a piece of ground, which he called Priest-field, that the priests serving God might possess it by a perpetual right. He also endowed the church with Doddyngherne and with land from the Medway to the east gate of the city of Rochester, on the south, and with other lands beyond the city wall, to the north.”

Some little distance south of that portion of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery already explored, immediately beyond Fort Clarence, is Priestfield, which extends as far south as Cookham Hill. Doddyngherne is not defined, but we can hardly doubt that it lay between the Roman south wall of the city and Priestfield.

The lane which led to the land called in Ethelbert's time "Doddyngherne" was the way which ran from the great Roman road through the Southgate of Rochester, and hence received the name of Doddyngherne Lane, which is said to mean "Deadman's" Lane. This cannot be accepted as the correct interpretation, although it is now proved that soon after leaving the Southgate it passed by a field which in the days of Ethelbert was dotted over with the grave-mounds of Pagan Saxons up to the very edge of the ancient way. There were, moreover, Roman interments on Boley Hill, on the opposite side of the way, just outside the city; the *tumuli* that once covered these were probably also visible from the road. The land of Doddyngherne may, however, have derived its name from the family of Doddings, whose chief settlement in Kent was at Doddington, near Faversham. An offshoot of that clan possibly migrated to Durobrivæ (Rochester), appropriating some portion of territory outside the walls of the defunct Roman city, as did the Æslings, who settled on the opposite side of the river Medway, at Æslingham in Frindsbury. It is significant to note that the headquarters of the Æslings in Kent was at Eastling, which is the adjoining parish to Doddington; hence it is not improbable that the action of one tribe influenced that of the other. The writer submitted his views to the Rev. W. W. Skeat, Litt. D. (Professor of Anglo-Saxon in the University of Cambridge), and received the following letter in reply, which he has been kindly allowed to print:

2 SALISBURY VILLAS, CAMBRIDGE,

September 26, 1896.

DEAR SIR,

I regret that I could not reply sooner. I can say nothing as to your concluding theory. But it is clearly that *Dodding* is a tribal name, and short for *Doddinga*, genitive plural; meaning "of the Doddings." And *Dodding*, as a patronymic, is derived from the Anglo-Saxon personal name *Dodda*, of which several instances occur. *Dodding-ton* signifies town of the Doddings.

Doddinghyrne is correct. It occurs, in the dative case, *Doddinc-hyrnan* (*sic*), in a Rochester charter, printed at p. 332 of Earle's *Land Charters*, dated 761, in the reign of King Ethelberht II.

Hyrne, sb. fem., represents a Germanic theme, of which the theoretical form is *horn-jā*, a derivative of *horn*, which is cognate with Latin *cornu*; and just as English *corner* is derived from Latin *cornu*, so the Anglo-Saxon *hyrne* is derived

from Anglo-Saxon *horn*. And the two words are equivalent *in sense*. Anglo-Saxon *hyrne* means "a corner," a nook, angle; see Toller's *Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*, p. 583. So *Dodding-hyrne* means "nook of the Doddings," a corner of land in their occupation. So we really know all about it.

The Middle-English *herne*, a corner, occurs in Chaucer in the same sense.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. SKEAT.

ASHFORD.—Mr. J. Broad kindly informs me that during excavations for the foundations of a house about to be erected for Mr. Challis in Albert Road, the workmen discovered a Roman interment consisting of a large cinerary urn containing calcined bones, accompanied by a small fragile cup of red ware pressed with five indentations, which gave to the vessel a fluted rim; a goblet of red ware with handle, 9 inches in height and 1 foot 5 inches in diameter; a cup of red ware, 4 inches in diameter at the rim; a patera of Samian ware, 7½ inches in diameter, and one of Upchurch ware, 6½ inches in diameter. Three other vessels were in fragments. I am indebted to my friend and colleague Mr. H. F. Abell of Kennington Hall for the description of the above. July, 1896.

HADLOW.—Mr. F. W. E. Shrivell reports the discovery, in the Hadlow Cemetery, of two urns containing charcoal and bones; also that a fine Roman vase with two handles was dredged from the Medway between East Wickham and Golden Green. August, 1896.

CHARING.—Mr. George Langley reports that, during alterations to a house which was formerly an old tannery, a beam was discovered with the following inscription in black-letter painted upon canvas, which had been stuck on to the upper moulding:—

"As God hath lent His earthly foode
Our bodies to preserve,
So Heavenly foode He hath in store
for us if we Him serve. 1616."

Mr. Langley states that the beam came from some other building, and is moulded in a similar manner to the beams in the chancel of the church.

ROCHESTER.—Since the researches into the history of the ancient walls of Rochester, prosecuted by the Rev. G. M. Livett and myself, the results of which were recorded in *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XXI., I have fortunately made the acquaintance of Mr. John Hughes of the Analytical Laboratory, 79 Mark Lane, E.C. He being much interested, and having had great experience in the analysis of ancient mortar, very kindly offered to analyze the various samples of mortar which I had obtained from the walls of known

date now existing in Rochester. Mr. Hughes has also further favoured me by consenting to the analytical Report, together with his accompanying letter, being printed in the present volume. The value of this interesting appendix to what has already been written cannot be over-estimated, and we all owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Hughes for his patient labour and hearty co-operation :—

ANALYTICAL LABORATORY,
79 MARK LANE,
LONDON, E.C., *September 7th*, 1896.

DEAR SIR,

I send you the results of my analysis of the seven specimens of Ancient Mortar which you forwarded me in July.

The analyses have been tabulated according to their richness in lime, No. 1 containing 40·26 of Anhydrous Lime (CaO) and No. 7 containing only 17·58 per cent.

The description attached to the specimens by yourself has been placed over the respective analyses, and I append certain notes of my own which may be useful in considering the quality of the mortar.

- No. 1. Though specially rich in lime, is a soft mortar and of inferior quality.
- No. 2. The quantity sent was small, but as far as it is possible to judge from the appearance, the mortar appears to be hard and of good quality.
- No. 3. Very small quantity sent; appears to be of poor quality, though harder than No. 1.
- No. 4. Consists largely of fragments of small Bivalve shells firmly incorporated with the mortar, producing a very hard surface *where exposed* to the *weather*, but softer inside.
- No. 5. This specimen, taken from the interior of the Keep, also contains some fragments of shells, but the mortar is exceptionally soft and poor in quality, for it contains the least soluble silica.
- No. 6. Evidently a piece of concrete consisting of mortar mixed with broken tiles and coarse gravel, exceedingly hard and very durable; the soluble or gelatinous silica being remarkably high, in fact as much as exists in the best Portland cement, compares very favourably with No. 5, which contains only 1·55 per cent soluble silica.
- No. 7. This is also a piece of hard concrete like mortar, containing however less lime and more coarse gravel, but no broken tiles or bricks, of excellent quality and very durable.

These remarks, taken in consideration with the analytical results, suggest the conclusion that a high percentage of lime in a mortar is by no means a reliable indication of its superior quality, and we should rather regard the quantity of soluble or gelatinous silica as a criterion of the quality and durability of a mortar.

Believe me, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
JOHN HUGHES.

GEORGE PAYNE, Esq.

ANALYSES OF SPECIMENS OF ANCIENT MORTAR FROM ROCHESTER.

Sent by GEORGE PAYNE, Esq.

DESCRIPTION ATTACHED TO SPECIMENS BY SENDER.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Water (lost at 212°F)	2.21	.42	1.70	.30	.80	3.74	2.06
Combined Water and loss on ignition	4.05	2.12	2.65	.54	1.30	5.05	2.90
* Total Lime	40.26	35.75	31.89	28.58	24.19	20.60	17.58
Magnesia52	.09	.16	.30	.12	1.92	1.08
Oxide of Iron and Alumina	1.35	1.35	3.20	.95	1.00	1.430	9.05
Sulphuric Anhydride	4.27	.69	.22	.13	.24	.43	.15
Carbonic Anhydride	27.87	27.74	23.54	21.68	17.99	11.46	12.00
Chlorine17	.07	.63	.05	.24	.12	.08
Potash and Soda	1.15	.47	.60	.32	.47	1.32	.55
Silica soluble in 10 per cent. solution Caustic Soda	1.75	5.50	2.01	1.80	1.55	22.05	10.05
Insoluble Silicates, etc., etc.	16.40	25.80	33.40	45.35	52.10	19.01	44.55
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	.08	.17	.17	.11	.08	.08	.17

* Containing Caustic Lime (CaO).

JOHN HUGHES, F.I.C.,

Member of the Society of Public Analysts, Consulting Chemist to the Ceylon
Coffee Planters' Association, District Agricultural Analyst for Herefordshire.79 Mark Lane, London, E.C.
September 7th, 1896.

ROCHESTER.—While these pages are passing through the press a portion of the foundations of a Roman building was discovered during excavations on the southern edge of the yard of the Police Station, in rear of the Guildhall. At a depth of 14 feet from the level of High Street the workmen threw out a few horn-cores of *bos longifrons* and other bones, together with fragments of Roman pottery, and the half of a bone-piercer with a hole drilled through its flat head. Immediately after massive foundations were struck which required repeated blows of the pick-axe before any of the masonry could be removed. Unfortunately the work of demolition proceeded until 2 feet of it had been destroyed. The City Surveyor (Mr. W. Banks) then arrived, and at once kindly communicated with the writer, who was permitted to disclose all that was possible in a cavity 7 feet by 6 feet.

A wall was met with running north and south, 5 feet of its length being composed of flints set in a brownish-coloured mortar of the finest quality, the remaining 2 feet of the wall was constructed with layers of broken tiles bedded in mortar mixed with pounded tile, the joints being as wide as the tiles. The whole mass of masonry visible was from 3 feet 4 inches to 3 feet 10 inches in width, but how much wider could not be ascertained. On its western side was a wall 22 inches in width, running in a westerly direction, half its width being built with flints, the other half with tiles laid in courses. This wall turned to the north, thus forming the angle of a compartment, the east side of which was also faced with tiles to a depth of twelve courses, the work being of the best description. Upon this eastern bit of wall rested the super-structure of broken tiles set in pink mortar already mentioned. The latter was evidently a later work of Roman date. On sinking down in the angle in hope of finding a floor, portions of buff-coloured tiles were found. On the southern side of the 22-inch wall, which was probably the exterior face, the earth was so soft that the crowbar almost sank in with its own weight. Small as this discovery is, it is of the highest importance in connection with the history of Rochester, as no record has hitherto been made of the finding of Roman foundations within the boundary of the city walls. It is therefore most unfortunate that those which have just come to light are in such a position that nothing further can be exposed. A Plan, however, of what has been discovered will be inserted upon the large Map in the Rochester Museum for future guidance.

BIRCHINGTON.—A house has recently been erected for Mr. W. W. Neame at Birchington between the high road from Margate and the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, on the edge of a new thoroughfare to be called the “Beaconsfield Road.” During excavations for the foundations of the house the workmen state that they found two skeletons at a depth of 10 feet, lying head to head; both skeletons lay east and west, one being head to the east, the other to the west. No relics were observed, but animal bones, charred matter, and oyster shells were met with. A few yards to the north-east of the house, when laying a drain, a third skeleton was discovered with a small Roman vase by the skull. It lay east and west, head to the west, at a depth of 2 feet 6 inches. Within a yard of the skull I detected in the drain-trench the outline of another grave, cut north and south. The information we have hitherto received concerning discoveries on the border of the county in this locality has been meagre and imperfect. I have therefore taken steps to ensure systematic watchfulness when land is again disturbed for building purposes at Birchington. October, 1896.