

Notes and Discoveries.

**FIND OF FLINT INSTRUMENTS AND WORKSHOP
AT FRINDSBURY.**

At the beginning of April 1925 an announcement was made in the press of an important "find," made nearly eighteen months previously, in a cement quarry near Frindsbury Church. Among those associated with this find were Mr. W. H. Cook and Mr. J. R. Killick, the first discoverers of the flints, and Sir Arthur Keith, F.R.S., Reg. A. Smith, Esq., B.A., of the British Museum, O. G. S. Crawford, Esq., B.A., Archæol. Officer of the Ordnance Survey, Dr. E. A. Horton of the Peabody Museum, Harvard, and Dr. G. C. Simmons of Newbury. The flints were found in a saucer-shaped depression some 4 ft. 6 in. in depth and 50 ft. across, which was entirely filled by a dark brown clayey brick-earth.

The find is thus described in the *Chatham News*: "At the finish of the work, the depression being completely cleared, it was found that the flint heaps numbered no less than seventeen. These heaps, which rested on a furrowed surface of the chalk within the depression, were of a size varying from 2 ft. to 3 ft. in height and 1 ft. 6 in. to 2 ft. in diameter, and were made up of hand-axes of St. Acheul II. type; large flint flakes, mostly without secondary working; hammer-stones of quartzite; numbers of massive core-pieces, from which the flakes had been struck; together with large flint modules—the raw material. The spoil amounted to upwards of four thousand stone tools and weapons, and although much of the excavated material was washed and sieved, not a vestige of organic remains was found, nothing except the flint artifacts shaped by man's hand in mid-Pleistocene times and left in small heaps by the bank of the ancient Medway, eventually to become covered by the flood-loam of that old river."

An account of their discovery has been published by Mr. W. H. Cook and Mr. J. R. Killick in the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia*, vol. iv., part 2, 1924.

S. W. W.

A ROMAN BURIAL AT HALLING.

BY RAYMOND D'ELBOUX.

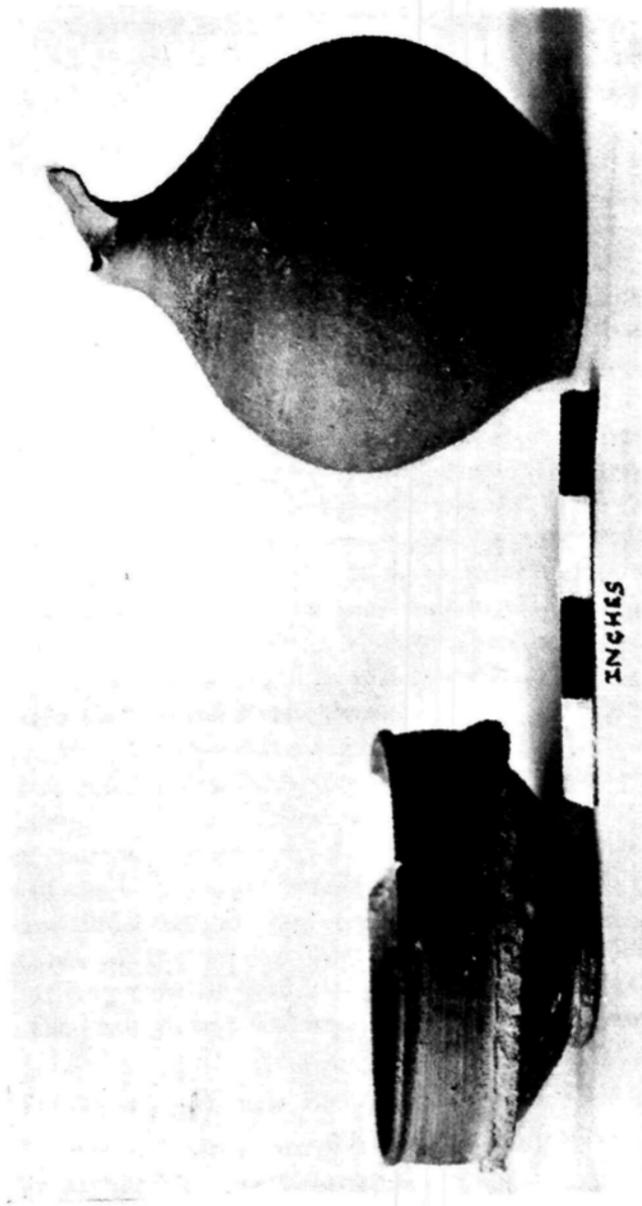
IN May 1926 workmen of the British Portland Cement Company engaged in trenching ground preparatory to blasting on the edge of Lees Great Quarry (Houlder Quarry, O.S.), Halling, unearthed a quantity of human bones and some pottery. The exact site was some 30 yards S.W. of the south-westernmost corner of Clement's Farm buildings, and since for many years a footpath had passed over the place, there was presumably no surface indication of a burial. The discovery was not made until the débris was being removed to a soil heap, consequently no stratification can be given, but the workmen were confident that bones and pottery were together and not spread over an area. Also at the time, the trench had been dug below the surface soil, and into the chalk, about four feet from the surface; this being confirmed by the condition of the objects, to which chalk still persistently adheres.

Dr. Cole of West Malling drew the writer's attention to the find, and, at the suggestion of both, the bones and pottery were sent to Sir Arthur Keith, F.R.S., for identification. He has very courteously furnished a report on the bones, printed below.

The pottery consists of a small flask, a bowl, and two shards.

The flask (17.4 cms. high, 11.3 cms. diameter) is of hard buff-brown clay, twice banded on the shoulder with a cream slip, and intact save for the greater part of the mouth-piece.

The bowl (5 cms. high, 11 cms. diameter) is of fumed grey-black ware in imitation of a Samian form (*cf.* S. N. Miller, *The Roman Fort at Balmwildy*, pl. xxxviii., No. 11).



Pottery from a Roman burial at Halling.

It was broken after discovery, but all pieces, save a portion of the lip, recovered.

Both these are fairly common types of Roman pottery, and can be assigned to the fourth quarter of the second century.

The shards, a piece of rim and an indeterminate fragment, are of coarse gritty red clay, a centimetre thick, and baked grey-brown on the inner surface. From the rim shard, which is simply rounded, one would judge the pot to have had a rim diameter of about twelve centimetres, but the workmen state that when first exhumed the pot was complete and "about three feet across." It was broken on removal, and only two shards saved.

With no guide to shape, it is difficult to make any pronouncement as to the age of these pieces. In type, such pottery occurs more generally in conjunction with pre-Roman iron age remains (*cf.* The All Cannings Cross pottery), though in Wales such shards occur on Romano-British sites, and it is surprising to find the workmen certain that all the pottery was together. If, however, in remote districts Roman and native pottery can be found in juxtaposition, it is a feasible conclusion that on the North Downs, even in the late second century, the Romano-Briton fashioned pots on traditional lines, but bought the Brummagem ware of his period. In view, however, of the number of people buried (*see* Bones), and the confusion of the objects when discovered, the exact nature of the burial must remain conjectural.

I am indebted to Dr. Cole of West Malling and Mr. Milnes of the British Portland Cement Company for their untiring courtesy and assistance in recording the find, and in the examination and reproduction of the objects.

LEES WORKS.—HUMAN REMAINS AT CHALK QUARRY.

A further and more complete report has been received from Sir Arthur Keith as follows:—

The bones are of five individuals—

A.—A child represented by the forehead—about 8-9 years

old. Of this child there are also: left femur, right femur, and part of tibia.

B.—Parts of the lower jaw of a woman.

C.—Skeleton of a tall man: no trace of his skull.

Left femur, right femur, left tibia, right tibia, the only intact bone.

Parts of right and left hip bones.

Part of left humerus.

Part of right and left ulnæ.

Eight vertebræ: show changes due to rheumatism.

Part of a fibula.

D.—Parts of a woman's skeleton.

Part of left femur, part of right humerus.

Part of left humerus.

Part of left ulna, part of right scapula.

E.—Parts of a small woman.

Part of left humerus.

Part of right humerus.

Part of left radius.

Fragments of ribs, probably part of child A.