

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

A MAMMOTH TUSK FROM SITTINGBOURNE.

THE unusually interesting discovery of the remains of a mammoth (*Elephas primigenius*) is reported from Hempsted, near Sittingbourne. Our member, Mr. L. Doubleday, the owner of the site, writes that one tusk was found at Hayward's Farm at the beginning of June, but was badly broken in excavating and quickly went to pieces. A fortnight later a second was found at a distance of a few yards. Both lay at a depth of 9 feet in the brick earth and measured 9 to 10 feet round the outer curve and about 3 feet round the circumference of the base.

"When partly unearthed," writes Mr. Doubleday, of the second tusk, "it presented an extremely fine appearance, but as it began to crumble I covered it with wet cloths and put some of the earth back. The following day we commenced our endeavours to excavate it, first of all treating it with spirit and afterwards putting on a thick layer of plaster of Paris. I would mention that this was attended with very great difficulty, as the tusk rapidly crumbled when exposed. Unfortunately our efforts were not crowned with success, for as we were trying to move the tusk slightly it completely broke up. I would mention that at the base of the tusk we found undoubtedly some portion of the mammoth's anatomy, and several times came upon dark brown substances of a sponge-like nature, which were no doubt remains of the bones."

The photograph opposite we owe to the Rev. H. F. Lord, of Sittingbourne. An official of the Geological Department of the British Museum, to whom Major Powell-Cotton kindly wrote, adds the following information :

"Remains of mammoth are not uncommonly found in Kent, and have been recorded from more than a dozen localities—including Sittingbourne. The most complete



MAMMOTH TUSK DISCOVERED AT SITTINGBOURNE.



A ROMAN POT FROM OTFORD.

remains have, however, been obtained from the north side of the river, at Ilford. These are included in the very large collections of fossil elephant remains which we have here. Remains of the earlier straight-tusked elephant (*Elephas antiquus*) are also found in Kent. A unique mounted skeleton of this species from Upnor, near Chatham, has lately been placed on exhibition in our galleries. A complete skeleton, or even complete limbs, of a mammoth would be most interesting to obtain. We have no complete skeleton here, in spite of the many localities where teeth or other fragments are found."¹

ROMAN POT FROM OTFORD.

IN addition to the site reported on in Mr. Pearce's paper in this Volume, the Sevenoaks Society has initiated excavations at a second site, about a mile distant from the first. This site is at Twitton near Otford, partly in the grounds of the Isolation Hospital and partly in the adjacent Frog Farm. It covers an area at least 500 feet square, over which is on an average one foot of humus, then one foot of dark earth

¹ Obviously Mr. Doubleday made every effort to preserve the tusk, and deserved a more fortunate result. In the hope that they may help towards greater success in the excavation of any similar discovery in the future, we print the following notes, compiled from advice received from the Geological Department of the British Museum :

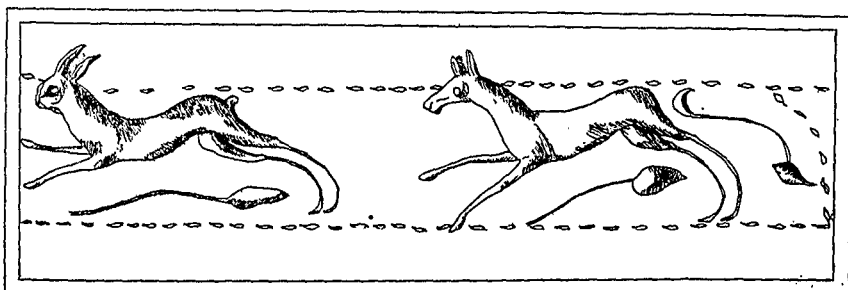
After carefully uncovering the upper surface of the tusk, and as far down and under either side as can be safely worked without the surface breaking up, allow it to dry as much as possible.

Then apply shellac thinly and cover with tissue paper, and a moderate thickness of plaster of Paris, say 2 in. for a tusk of 2 foot circumference. If the tusk shows signs of disintegration, apply the shellac and plaster at once. Quarter inch iron rods, bent to shape of the tusk and embedded in the plaster, will add to its strength. When the plaster has set, undermine the earth below, so as to leave a layer of earth next the tusk, and insert boards, then cross pieces below them. Then place a wooden frame round the cast of the tusk about 3 in. higher than the highest part ; pack in tightly with straw, paper, shavings or such like ; nail boards over the frame. This box must be firmly attached to the cross pieces below the boards. The whole can then be conveyed to some convenient place for the further treatment, or this can be carried out on the spot.

Turn the whole over, remove cross pieces and boards, and repeat the first process : i.e., free the tusk from the earth and apply shellac, tissue paper, and plaster as before, so that the whole tusk is enclosed in a mould.

If the tusk is badly decayed it will be necessary finally to let one side (the less perfect one, of course) rest in plaster, either part of the original mould or a properly made one.

containing many shards and other Roman remains. Below this is untouched yellow clay which seems to be the original valley alluvium. It is possible to date the time of occupation as from the first to the third centuries. No house has yet been found and there are no signs of wattle and daub. The finds include a few fragments of hypocaust and roof tiles, fibulæ, many nails and a great amount of pottery of the usual types, including a vase of black Castor ware, with a



design of a hare fleeing from a greyhound. It was disinterred by Mr. Mills, the gardener at the Isolation Hospital, who has done a great deal of careful excavation on the site, and the drawings, on this page and opposite page 229, are by Miss Audrey Godwin.

CRANBROOK CHURCH INVENTORY.

Among the notes illustrative of the Cranbrook Inventory in *Arch. Cant.*, Volume XLI, is one supplied by Mr. V. J. Torr, page 65, item xxxiii, in explanation of "suspended vestment." The note, offered in default of any better suggestion at the moment, was admittedly unconvincing and unsatisfactory. Mr. Torr accordingly continued his researches with the result that he has found a solution, which I cannot doubt to be the correct one.

In *The Fabric Rolls of York Minster*, Surtees Society's Volume XXXV., pp. 267-8, the following apposite passage occurs: "MDXIX—Eccles. Cath. Ebor., . . . Item the Vestiary, there is a chest full of suspent stuffe yt will make parores, amettes, coshyns and to amende many usuall thynges in ye where" (quire) "and such as ye secunde forme weres now is all so

torne which the wulde amend well for every day." The glossary, p. 356, at the end of the same volume interprets "suspent" to signify "suspended; forbidden to be used on account of age or wear"; and Mr. C. G. Coulton, in his *Life in the Middle Ages*, Vol. I., p. 103, *note*, explains the term to mean "cast-off." In the case of York Minster the significance is that there was a quantity of disused vestments and other textile articles, which, if too much worn and spent to be fit any longer for their accustomed use, might with advantage afford material for other purposes. For example, one of the old copes or chasubles might be unpicked and cut up, when its sound portions would do suitably for making apparels to albs or amices, or for cushions or other ornaments.

In the *History of St. Lawrence, Reading* (1883) by Rev. C. Kerry, is an Inventory of the Church goods in 1517; wherein (p. 105) among the vestment items are enumerated four chasubles, described as "suspended." Since the qualifying word in all but one instance is a marginal addition to the original, it obviously denotes a later condition, to which the vestments in question had become reduced since the Inventory was first drawn up, and, in default of evidence to the contrary, rather bears out the interpretation here offered.

"Suspended," then, as applied to a vestment, is not a technical term for any one of particular shape or kind, but is adjectival and descriptive of its condition, simply meaning "worn out," or "discarded." Lastly, it should be observed that the date of the Reading Inventory, 1517, and that of the York Minster memorandum, 1519, make them both very nearly contemporary with the Cranbrook Inventory of 1509.

At High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, the Inventories for 1503 and for 1518-19 both contain an item of two chalices "suspended," which is explained in a footnote by Sir William St. John Hope to mean "disused."

xxxvi. The "holy cloth," if now rarely seen, is not extinct in Christendom, as is exemplified by its having been used at the wedding of the Prince of Piedmont with Princess Marie José of Belgium at the Pauline Chapel of the Quirinal Palace on 8th January, 1930. Describing the marriage service, *The Illustrated London News* of the 18th January, p. 81, says: "A feature of the traditional rites was the holding over the heads of the bride and bridegroom of a veil, borne by the two youngest Princes of the House of Savoy. This was withdrawn after the Prince and Princess had been pronounced man and wife."

xli. At Aldington three iron rings or staples for the Lenten Veil are embedded in the chancel walls, one on the south side, just west of the sedilia, and two opposite on the north.

AYMER VALLANCE.

THE interesting note by Mr. Aymer Vallance on my discovery of the true meaning of "suspended" vestment was already set up in type when, unaware of this, I sent in a similar correction. I will not go so far as to say that my

previous suggestion was "unconvincing," as it was quite a possible one, but I felt at the time that it was a guess in the dark and probably not the true one. I have verified Dr. Coulton's reference and commend this Surtees Society volume to our members' notice as important evidence of the error of the popular idea that a neglect of the accessories of divine service was a kind of eighteenth century monopoly. Any serious study of mediæval visitations (cf. the *sede vacante* (1293 and 1328) ones of Canterbury, by the Rev. C. E. Woodruff, in preceding volumes of *Arch. Cant.*¹) will quickly disprove such an assumption. This 1519 visitation, like many of its predecessors at York, is of particular significance in revealing a great amount of neglect² and disorder in even a metropolitan church. *Quanto magis in minoribus quibusdam?*

V. J. TORR.

LEEDS CASTLE.

Lest it should lie buried and forgotten, or unknown in the pages of a magazine of miscellaneous literature, it may be well to draw attention to an important article by one of our K.A.S. members, Mrs. E. V. Paterson. It is entitled "The Mystery of Leeds Castle, a tragic story of the reign of Edward II," and it appeared in the *Cornhill Magazine* for July, 1930. The curt refusal of Lady Badlesmere to admit Edward II's wife, the French princess, Isabella, when, on pilgrimage to Canterbury, she wanted to break the journey at Leeds Castle, has never been satisfactorily accounted for; but Mrs. Paterson, as the result of a diligent examination of every source of information available in old records, has written a reasonable explanation of the affair, which not only makes interesting reading as a dramatic narrative, but also forms a valuable contribution to the history of our county.

A.V.

¹ XXXII. 143, XXXIII. 71.

² *E.g.* (at random), "Item the litile awterse is so ragged and torne that it were grete shame to se suche in any uplandyshe towne."

CHALICE BRASS INDENT AT WHITSTABLE.

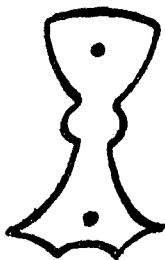
THE well-known chalice brass at Shorne, near Rochester, to Thomas Elys, vicar (died March 18, 1519-20), is correctly stated on page 41 of Griffin and Stephenson's *Monumental Brasses in Kent* (1923) to be the only chalice brass remaining in this county, though in line 2 of this page *vicar* should be read for *rector* (cf. p. 169, where "vicar" properly appears).

On p. 160, *ibid.*, is the notice of an inscription at St. Margaret's, Rochester, to James Roberts, priest, formerly accompanied by the second chalice brass of which we have record in Kent and whereof a rubbing exists in Coll. Soc. Antiq. The inscription is here stated to be now mural, in the chancel. It has since been relaid on the floor at the east end of the nave near the pulpit. The chalice was remaining in 1772, when it is noticed in Fisher's *History of Rochester*, p. 238. The relaid inscription stating that Roberts died Sept. 23, 1540, is at present being improperly cleaned with some polish or other, which our member, Canon Wheatley, the incumbent, will doubtless cause to be discontinued on the appearance of this notice. (A paraffin rag is all that should ever be used, and this sparingly.)

In addition to the existing Shorne and the lost Rochester examples, respectively 1520 and 1540, I desire to record the discovery of a third indent of this nature, omitted both in Griff. and Steph., *op cit.*, and in the latter's invaluable *List of Monumental Brasses in the British Isles* (1926), which I consider to be possibly the earliest of the three and in any case of interest as an addition to our previous knowledge.

I revisited the parish church of Whitstable in May of this year (1930), and on removing the carpet extending the length of the nave, I discovered, as the easternmost of the series of brasses and indents normally concealed by it, a slab bearing the indents of a chalice, about 6 by 3 in., and of a foot inscription, about 10 by 2 in., the former in the better preservation and each showing two dowel marks, the brass pins still remaining in that of the chalice. This brass was probably of early sixteenth century date and possibly

the earliest of the three examples, all, incidentally, in North Kent. I append an outline sketch of this indent, which will be seen to show a chalice having its foot of the same polygonal type as at Shorne and normal at this period, but here the sides are curved; at Shorne they are straight. The wafer is



INDENT OF WHITSTABLE CHALICE BRASS,
PROBABLY EARLY 16TH CENT.

represented in the bowl (as is generally the case) at Shorne, and apparently (from the *Hist. Roch., l.c.*, description) the St. Margaret's chalice showed it too. As there is no projection from the bowl rim in the Whitstable indent, this brass may have, uncommonly, depicted a chalice only.

V. J. TORR.

DISCOVERY AT MERSHAM.

In the autumn of 1925 I made rubbings of two brass figures, found in Mersham church among lumber in the Knatchbull chapel by the rector, the Rev. G. Brocklehurst, about 1923, but too late for inclusion in Griffin and Stephenson's Kentish lists. These rubbings I gave to Mr. Mill Stephenson, F.S.A., for the collection of the Society of Antiquaries at Burlington House. In 1925 these brasses were loose in the vestry chest,

but it is to be hoped that, if not already carried out, some more permanent form for their preservation will be devised.

The figures are male and female, both in civilian costume, of moderate size and of coarse design and execution. ascribed by the above-named gentlemen to "local workmanship."

V. J. TORR.

ROMAN DOVER.

Our member, Mr. E. G. J. Amos, reports that in the course of building work last March at the rear of No. 183 Snargate Street, Dover, Roman sand extending to a depth of some $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. was found beneath the made ground. In it were found several bits of tufa, one of which had Roman mortar, a Roman roofing tile and some chalk and stone rubble. This find indicates an extension south-westwards of the area already proved by previous finds in the neighbourhood of Market Square to be covered by sand over Roman strata. Mr. Amos suggests that, being well above sea level, it is blown sand from the great bar that formerly blocked the haven.