

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

THE HOSPITAL OF NEW WORK AND THE COLLEGE OF
ALL SAINTS, MAIDSTONE.

IN Dr. Wachter's article on "John Sprott" in Vol. XLVIII he writes on pp. 115-16 as though Boniface's Hospital of New Work (Newark) and the College of All Saints were one institution, whereas the former, which was situated on the left bank of the Medway, just below the town, was built in 1260. All that is left of it is the Chapel, a beautiful example of the Early English period of architecture. The Hospital was dedicated to SS. Peter, Paul and Thomas of Canterbury, and was a house of rest for poor pilgrims on their way to Becket's shrine at Canterbury. After about 130 years it fell into disuse, probably on account of a bridge being built at Aylesford and which, being on a more direct route, diverted the pilgrims from Maidstone. This was towards the end of the fourteenth century.

In 1394 Archbishop Courteney obtained a licence from Richard II to permit him to elevate the parish church of St. Mary at Maidstone (which stood on the right bank of the river) to become a collegiate church and a part of his new College of All Saints: he therefore pulled down St. Mary's Church and commenced building the present Church of All Saints on its site.

There are practically no existing records of the original church, but as the Palace, which adjoins the church, was presented to the Archbishops of Canterbury in 1205, as a rectory house for the parish, so one naturally supposes that the church was either a Norman or Early English building, of which there are now no remains as evidence. This I think proves that the whole of the present church was built mainly from Courteney's plans, although it could not have been completed till three or four years after his death, which occurred in less than a year after receiving the King's licence.

I assume that the date 1396 on the first line on page 116 should read 1395.

WALTER RUCK.

THE LONDON-LEWES ROMAN ROAD.

A TRENCH for pipes in the field west of Sparrow's Den, just south of West Wickham, recently (July 1939) cut through the Roman road, almost at right angles, about 300 yards west of the crossroads north of West Wickham Church. This is exactly on Mr. B. F. Davis's line (*Surrey Arch. Coll.*, XLIII, 61 *et seq.*). The section exposed in the trench, about 10 yards north of the Addington-Hayes road, showed 24 inches of turf and silt (the site is in the bottom of the valley), and some 9 inches of solid flint in the middle. The total depth of flint may be greater, as the bottom of it could not be seen, owing to the pipes being already laid, and earth rammed down on either side of them. Among the flints thrown out in digging the trench a little gravel and some chalk were visible. The trench was filled in a few hours after I examined it. In the hedges of the Addington-Hayes road two uprooted tree stumps, one on the north side and one on the south, showed a quantity of flint and gravel embedded among their roots. The tree in the north hedge grew almost over the centre of the Roman road; the other on its western edge. Both were evidently shallow-rooted, having probably failed to penetrate the flint bed.

JAMES GRAHAM.

THE BRITISH CAMP AT CHILHAM.

IN the course of some notes on Kentish earthworks, Sir (then Mr.) W. M. Flinders Petrie describes the well-known circle situated on the Downs close to Julliberrie's grave at Chilham.¹ It is, he says,² "one of the most perfect, regular, and delicately executed works in existence. . . . Its object must have been religious or sepulchral, but there is no mound or pit in the centre".

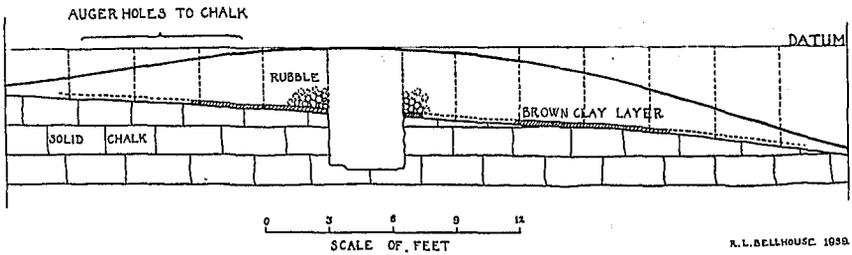
This ring-work, with its broad and shallow ditch enclosed by a slight bank, has for long been something of an enigma, but most enquirers have been content to accept it as a

¹ Six-inch sheet, Kent, 45 S.E.

² *Arch. Cant.*, XIII (1880), 12.

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SECTION THROUGH THE ROUND BARROW ON WYE DOWNS
(See page 216).

tree-planting circle, although a little could be said in favour of its being, as Petrie evidently thought, a disc-barrow.

An air photograph revealed no features of interest, and the local story of a "Britons' camp" proved, when it was at last tracked down, to be quite modern.

A trial excavation made in 1938 elucidated the problem a little further. It exposed a ditch with practically no silting, and a bank, composed of material thrown up from the ditch, that was obviously of no great age.

The wood-reeve of the Chilham Estate, Mr. Black, was emphatic that the ring was no tree-circle. Such methods of planting were not used at Chilham, he said, and he spoke with the authority of a family long in the service of the Manor as wood-reeves.

There the matter remained until a chance conversation with Messrs. H. and W. Arnold of Stone Stile Farm elicited the recollection that their father had spoken of the ring as a colt-breaking track which even in his day had been long out of use.

This, then, is the explanation of the "delicately executed" earthwork, and it is so obviously the correct explanation; the wonder is that not one of us who have known the ring for many years and at the same time have been familiar enough with horse practice, has recognized its real significance.

There is some documentary evidence that the ring was made by Thomas Heron, who owned the Castle between 1774 and 1791. It was certainly in existence in 1789, for it then served as a convenient trigonometrical station in the First Ordnance Survey of Kent.

R. F. JESSUP.

A ROUND BARROW ON WYE DOWNS,

by L. J. Ackroyd and R. L. Bellhouse.

Position.—Ordnance Survey (1931 Revision) 6-inch Sheet, Kent, LV, S.E., $0^{\circ} 57.7' E.$ by $51^{\circ} 11' 4" N.$

Aspect.—The mound is situated on the chalk ridge forming the southern boundary of the old racecourse, which is an extension, in a north-westerly direction, of Wye Downs.

It is at an approximate height of 450 feet O.D., and in the wood called "The Junipers". The ground slopes away on three sides, most steeply towards the west. The Middle Chalk is here covered by about 6 inches of loose soil. The mound itself is inconspicuous, being about 4 feet above solid chalk at its centre, and having a diameter, exclusive of spread, of 35 feet. The surrounding ground was much disturbed when the wood was planted.

Attention was drawn to the site when a gamekeeper, while digging for a ferret, discovered two human leg bones (femur and tibia) at a depth of 3 feet in the floor of a rabbit burrow. Subsequent excavations on the site in order to trace the extent of the burrow brought to light a second femur. Judging by the claw marks on the bones, and by similar scratches on chalk rubble thrown out by the rabbits, they had been considerably moved by burrowing activities.

Later, the burrow exposed in the centre of the mound was enlarged as a trench 2 feet wide, running N.E.—S.W., and extending 5 feet. The material removed consisted of loose chalky soil, and rounded chalk rubble with some few flint nodules having a recently quarried appearance. Two further pieces of bone were discovered at a depth of 3 feet—a fragment of skull (right parietal), and a piece of humerus.

Solid chalk was reached at about 3 ft. 2 in. A vertical cut in the solid chalk, roughly coinciding with the eastern side of the trench, was exposed. It was then apparent that a pit in the chalk had been reached. Subsequently the trench was enlarged, and the outline of the pit traced. This proved to be excavated from the solid chalk, and measured 9 feet by 4 feet, and was roughly rectangular in shape. In one corner the filling was removed with a trowel to discover the exact depth of the pit and the nature of the filling. A solid chalk floor was reached 2 ft. 6 in. below the surface of the chalk. It was assumed from the size and shape of the pit that the burial had been horizontal, and that any remains were likely to be on or near the grave floor and in the last few inches of filling. The whole filling was removed

in spits, each spadeful being carefully searched, and two fragments of scapula were found 9 inches above the floor. The removal of the last 6 inches of filling was commenced at the northern end of the pit, and almost immediately two pieces of skull were recovered, a left parietal, and a frontal complete with nasal bones. The pieces lay against the northern wall of the pit, 9 inches from the N.E. corner. The pit was completely excavated; the floor was level, and both the floor and walls were extremely smooth with very little evidence of tool marks.

There was a complete absence of pottery or any other grave goods, as well as of the remainder of the skeleton.

This small excavation was very competently carried out by the authors of the note, two undergraduate members of the South-Eastern Agricultural College at Wye. There is no direct evidence of the age of the barrow, and the human remains are such as might be found in any Roman or Saxon burial. On general grounds, it is more likely to have been Saxon than Roman, and its situation is definitely in favour of the former attribution. The grave had evidently been rifled, and as, in addition, rabbits had played havoc with the re-filling, little reliance can be placed on the human remains. The site is about a mile S.W. of the quarter of Warren Wood which proved so prolific to Brian Faussett's spade in 1757-9, and it is not impossible that the barrow, at that time standing on open down, caught Faussett's eye (see *Inventorium Sepulchrale* (1856), pp. 178 ff).

R. F. JESSUP.

A CROUCHED BURIAL FROM EAST OF DOVER CASTLE.

ON the 15th of May some workmen excavating an air raid shelter trench in chalk behind the Broadlees Bottom Married Quarters in the parish of Guston opened up a circular hollow which had been dug to a depth of 3 ft. 6 in. from the surface. The skeleton in this indicated a crouched burial. The writer visited the site a few days later and questioned the men as to whether anything of any nature had been noticed

in the hollow with the bones. They were positive there was nothing, and with the report on the incomplete skull which Dr. A. J. E. Cave, the Assistant Conservator at the College of Surgeons, has been so kind as to submit, we can go no closer in date than to say the burial is probably Romano-British, but followed an earlier custom in its nature.

W.P.D.S.

DR. CAVE'S REPORT.

Nature of Specimen.—An imperfect adult cranium, now restored from several fragments, comprising the right half of the facial skeleton, the greater parts of the frontal, right parieto-temporal, and the occipital region. Practically the entire basis cranii is wanting.

Anatomical.—A full complement of healthy, and but slightly worn, maxillary teeth, was retained (on the right side at least) at the time of death. The canine fossa is pronounced, the nasal aperture narrow, and a very slight degree of subnasal prognathism is present. The cheek bone (right) is laterally compressed; the orbit (right) is small and rectangular in outline; it is some 31 mm. high and 46.2 mm. wide, yielding an orbital index of 67.1 (microseme). The frontal and maxillary air sinuses are moderately capacious; the fairly large mastoid process is highly pneumatic. The supra-orbital ridge is not excessively developed; the forehead is low and broadish; the coronal and lambdoid sutures are open, and the latter suture contains two or three small Wormian ossicles. Muscular markings are nowhere very pronounced. The cranium is brachycephalic, having a maximum length of 192 mm. and an estimated bi-parietal breadth of about 154 mm.; the estimated cephalic index, therefore, is 80.2.

Anatomical evidence indicates an adult male of not more than 30-35 years of age.

Physical Characters.—The very imperfect nature of the Dover Castle cranium renders the determination of its racial affinities a matter of some difficulty. The broad, full, but slightly flattened occipital region and the details of the facial

skeleton suggest a type of skull commonly met with during the Roman period. The present specimen is not of the typical dolicocephalic Neolithic type, neither is it purely "Alpine" in its characters, despite its relative breadth. It retains, however, certain features characteristic of the old British stock, and may perhaps best be assigned to the Roman-British period or to one somewhat later. This view must of necessity be rather tentative in nature, for only archæological evidence can satisfactorily determine the historic age of such ancient human remains as this skull. On the whole, however, "Romano-British" appears to be the best descriptive term for the specimen.

July 3rd, 1939.

SOME COURT ROLLS OF WOODNESBOROUGH,
OTHERWISE WINSBOROW.

THESE Rolls of two of the Manors, which have been lent for examination by the kindness of our member Mr. J. J. Williamson, date from 1676, and are contained in four vellum bound volumes, three with limp covers, the fourth and latest a thick book bound in green vellum. This last carries the story down to 1877.

The two Manors in Woodnesborough were known as Grove and Shelving. The proceedings recorded are those of the Court Baron under the steward and his Homage—a foreman and two to six jurors who were duly sworn at each Court. The Courts were held at irregular intervals varying from five years at the earliest to seven, eight or even sixteen years. Besides the presentments at the Courts, which run to great lengths in the 19th Century, there is an interesting rental which records besides tenures—the earliest from 1667 to 1757—lists of the sums due from the tenants, and the lands held of the Manor. Everything due to the Manor is paid in cash and may be in annual sums of as low as 2d. There is no reference to Heriots. The business of the Court is entered in very formal language which hardly varies beyond using Latin for the earliest years. The Rolls now are mainly of value in their records

of past families and in the names of holdings or tenements. A note of some interest is that in 1806 two brothers had built a windmill on an acre of land near certain Highways "called the Causeway and Richborough Wall." It is hoped to include a more critical account of these Rolls in a future volume.

W.P.D.S.