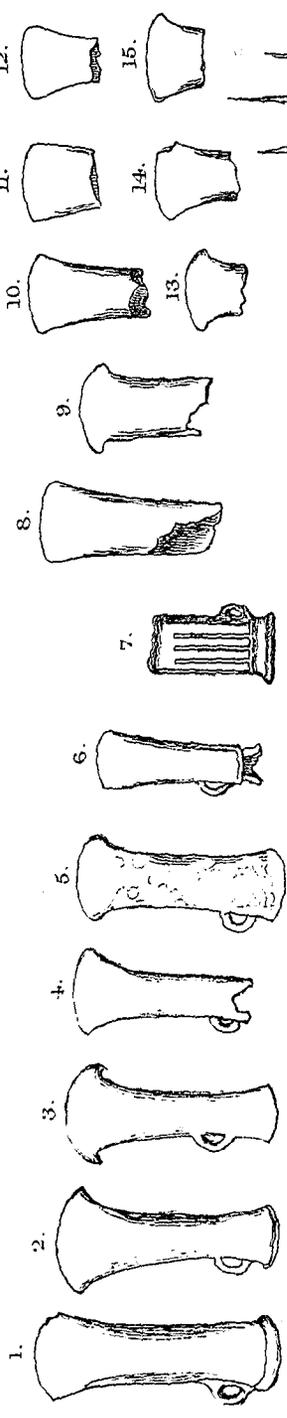


CELTIC REMAINS FOUND IN THE  
HUNDRED OF HOO.

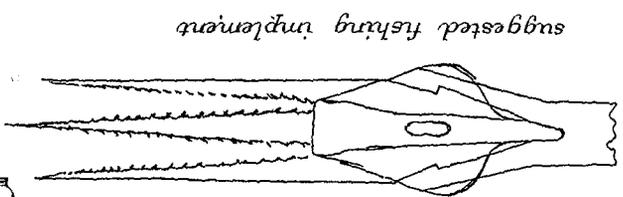
THE twenty-seven objects drawn in miniature, upon plate A, are all of pure copper, and together with ten lumps of that metal, were discovered in 1875, about three feet below the surface, by workmen who were trenching a field of Little Coombe Farm, on the border of the Parishes of Allhallows and Saint Mary, in the Hundred of Hoo. The manufactured articles weigh seven pounds and a half, and the unmanufactured metal weighs seven pounds six ounces. The former are principally of the usual types, and those that have been broken since they were found, shew clearly that the metal must have been so hard, and brittle, that like steel it would break, and not bend. Nos. 1 to 6 inclusive, and No. 19 are perfect; Nos. 22 and 27 nearly so; but all the rest are fragments. Most of the articles are in a good state of preservation, but others are much corroded, particularly No. 5, the corrosion on which is a mass of blisters. No. 6 is small, and has a portion of another celt thrust into it. No. 7 is a fragment of the only one at all ornamented, and that but slightly. No. 20 is part of a small spear head. No. 21 is the upper part of the handle, and part of the blade, of a knife or short dagger, in one piece. No. 22 is a small gouge, slightly broken. Of No. 27 I have made a separate full size drawing (plate B), shewing the four sides, as

Plate A.  
 CELTIC REMAINS FROM THE HUNDRED OF HOO.

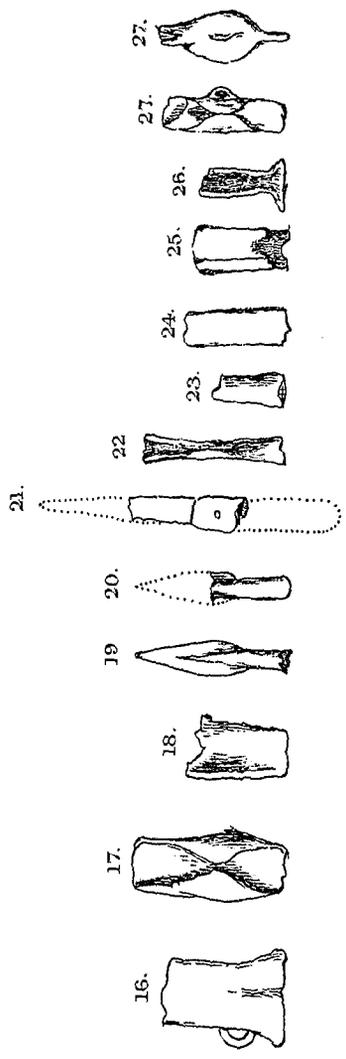


*4 1/2 inches in height  
 the others in proportion*

Diagram of



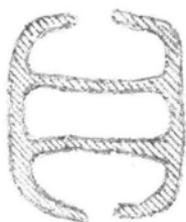
*suggested fishing implement*



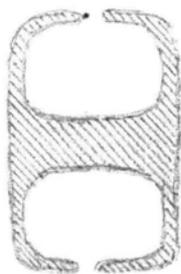
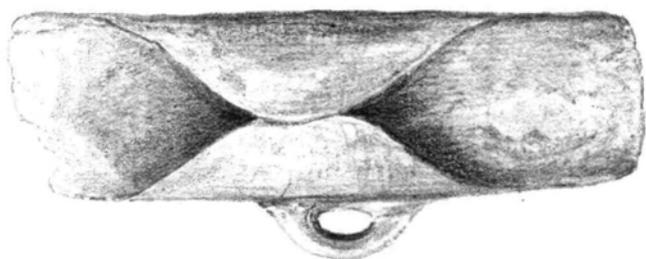
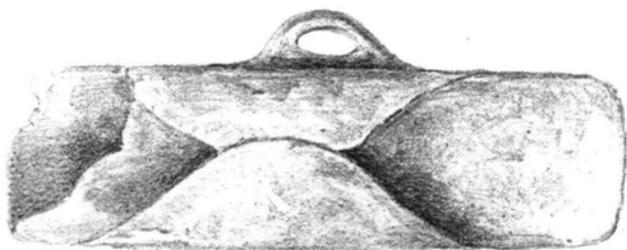
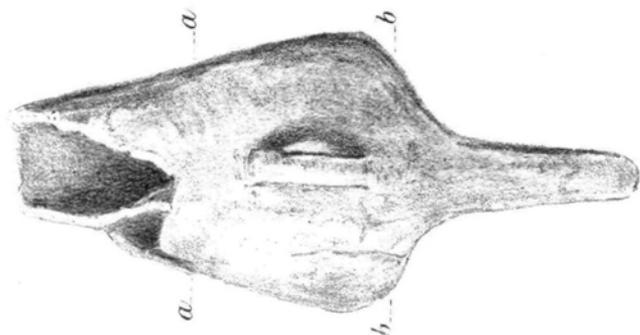
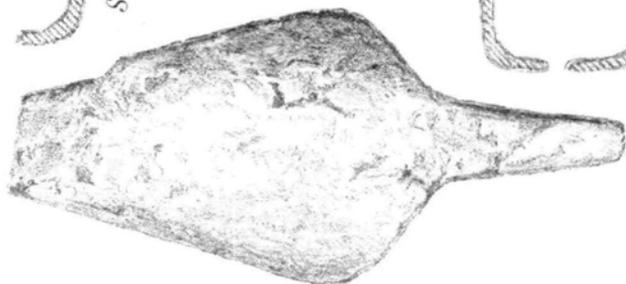
it is of an uncommon type, and the only one on the use of which I have any remark to make. Sir John Lubbock has suggested that this singular object was part of an adze, or small axe, used for felling trees. With the greatest diffidence, I would desire to suggest another use for it. It shews five sockets; one in the centre, at the top; and on each side of it one open from the top to the bottom, so that each forms two sockets, one at the top, and one at the bottom. I have minutely examined it, and from its form, and this arrangement of the sockets, I would venture to suggest that it is the metallic portion of a trident, or pronged fishing implement. The upper sockets are admirably adapted for receiving three prongs, probably of bone, as still used by the South Sea Islanders. The two outer prongs would be held fast in their proper positions, by the upper ends of the shaft (made of a short cleft stick), driven upwards through the two lower sockets, and fixed in their places by notches, as in my diagram on plate A. To the loop a long line could be attached, to answer the double purpose of recovering the implement when cast into the water, and of playing the fish when struck. My belief that such was the case is strengthened by the absence of any loop upon the small hunting spear-heads, Nos. 19 and 20 (too small for war spears, and too large for arrow heads) which being used on land did not require a line.

The eighteen objects shewn on plate c, together with some unimportant fragments and nine lumps of metal, were found in 1873, by some agricultural labourers, on Home Wood Farm in the Parish of Allhallows, Hoo, in the County of Kent. All are of pure copper, except the portions of sword blades,

Plate B.



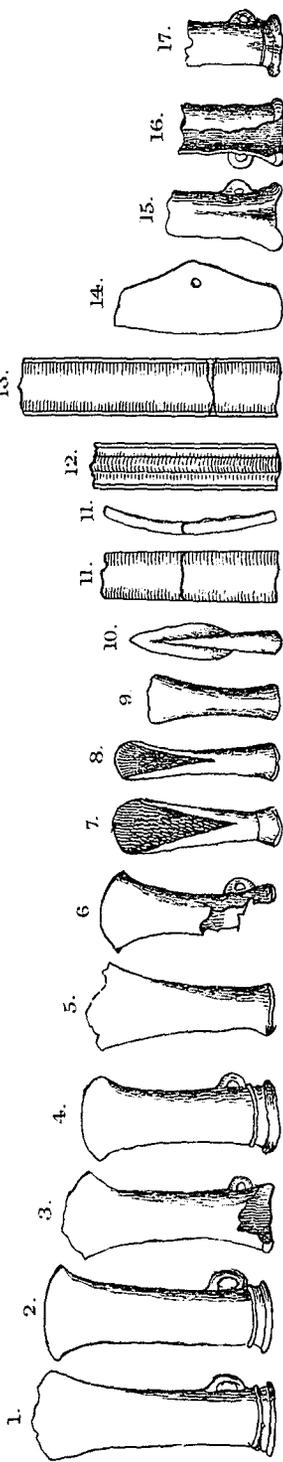
*Section at a. a.*



*Section at b. b.*

CEL TIC IM P LE M E N T (N<sup>o</sup> 27) FROM HOO, SHEWN ON ALL ITS FOUR SIDES — ACTUAL SIZE .

Plate C.  
 CELTIC REMAINS FOUND AT ALLHALLOWS, HOO.



*4 1/2 inches in height,  
 the rest in proportion.*

*(Cross Section.*



*of No. 11 actual size*

*(Cross Section.*



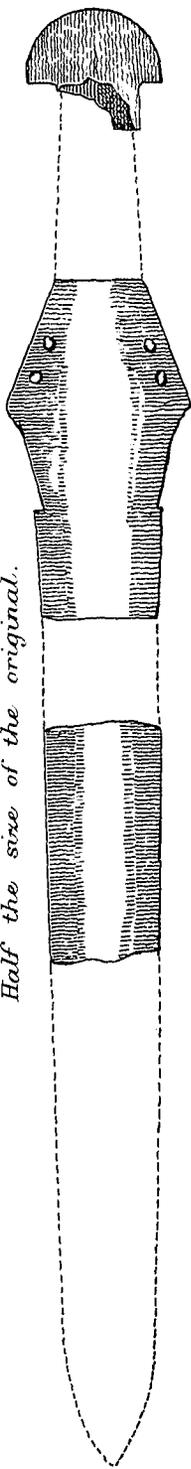
*of No. 12 actual size.*

*(Cross Section.*



*of No. 13 actual size.*

18.  
*Half the size of the original.*



Nos. 11, 12, 13, and 18, which I am not certain about.

The weight of the manufactured articles, and fragments, is six pounds two ounces; that of the lumps of metal seven pounds and three quarters. All the objects are of common and well known types, and almost identical with those found some years since at Sittingbourne, which are fully described and engraved in Mr. C. Roach Smith's *Collectanea Antiqua*, vol. i., pp. 101 and 102. The dagger engraved on the latter page appears to have been of precisely the same size and shape as that found at Allhallows; but the blade and entire hilt of the former were of metal and in one piece, while of the latter the blade, and end only of the hilt, are of metal, the middle of the hilt having been of some more perishable material. No. 14 is a thin piece of plate copper with a sharp edge.

Two other similar hoards have within the last few years been discovered in this county, viz., one near Hythe, and the other in the Isle of Harty.

Although very many hoards of Celtic remains have from time to time turned up in Great Britain, and other countries, yet I believe no melting pot or crucible has ever been found amongst the articles deposited. From this I should infer that these hoards belonged, not to artificers, but to the resident tribes or families, and that the manufacturers were persons who had no fixed places of abode, but who travelled about the country, carrying their tools and working apparatus with them, something like the itinerant tinkers of the present day.

HUMPHREY WICKHAM.

STROOD, 10th July, 1876.