

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

THE SNODLAND SKELETON.

A STONE sarcophagus containing a complete human skeleton was discovered while workmen were digging foundations for an extension of the works of the Lead Wool Co. at Snodland, between Rochester and Maidstone, Kent. The sarcophagus was made from Lower Oolitic Limestone and was rectangular in shape, 7 feet long, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet broad and 4 inches thick. There was no inside ledge to serve as a pillow for the head. The orientation was not from east to west as in a normal Christian burial, but the head was facing north.

The site of the burial is in a part of the Church Field, Snodland, where a villa and other remains of the Roman period have been discovered in past years. Unfortunately, no associated remains were found with the coffin and it is therefore impossible to date it with absolute certainty, but the probability is that it belongs to the Roman period.

When the sarcophagus was exposed, Mr. F. Moulton of the Lead Wool Co. invited Mr. Norman Cook of the Maidstone Museum to visit the site and examine the contents of the coffin. It was found to be filled with lime in which was embedded the complete skeleton of a man. The bones were examined by Sir Arthur Keith and Dr. Gordon Ward, who drew up the following report :

“ The skeleton is that of a strong man, about 5 ft. 9 ins. or 5 ft. 10 ins. in height and over 50 years of age, presumably a colonist from Gaul who had settled in the valley of the Medway during the period of the Roman occupation. At some time of his life, the man had suffered from a most serious injury from which he had made a complete recovery. Sixteen bones of his body had been not only broken, but their broken ends crushed and widely separated by the

severity of the injury. The bones which had been severely fractured were :

1. The right collar bone, the broken ends of which overlap and are held together by bony bands.
2. Every one of the upper six ribs of the right side have been shattered and displaced ; during the process of healing the 3rd, 4th and 5th ribs have been united by masses of bone.
3. All the ribs on the left side, save the lower three, have been broken and the broken ends dislocated, yet all the fractures have healed in spite of the displacement of their ends.

To reach the state of healing shown by the fractures, the man must have lived for years after his accident. His injuries could only have resulted from his being crushed and might have been caused by his horse rolling over him after a fall or some accident of a similar kind. How the man succeeded in breathing after his ribs had been shattered is a question for modern surgeons to answer. Certainly a modern surgeon would be proud if he could claim an equally fortunate issue for a patient who had suffered from an accident of this description. The outlines of the face and skull leave no doubt that this Romano-Briton was handsome, imposing and strong. He is also marked by a condition of the jaws, which, although very common among modern English people, was very uncommon among the Roman Britons and almost unknown among the Saxons. The incisor teeth, especially the lower ones, are crowded as if the jaws had become too small for their teeth. The palate, too, becomes narrow and contracted. The face was long and hatchet shaped. His head had a very high vault, its width was 77·6 per cent. of its length, a proportion very common among our modern population. The same type of head is also very common in North Western France."

ARTHUR KEITH and GORDON WARD.

AN ANCIENT BURIAL ON THE
LINE OF THE SO-CALLED PILGRIMS' WAY
AT WESTWELL.

By H. E. LITTLEDALE, M.D.

ON June 20th, 1933, I was instructed by H.M. Coroner to superintend the excavation of some human remains that had been reported to him by the police as having been found on the so-called "Pilgrims' Way" at Dunn Street, Westwell, Kent. This section of the so-called Pilgrims' Way is now a fairly well metalled road from Dunn Street Farm to a private residence, Wychling Over, Westwell. The road runs almost due West and East, the metalled surface is about 7 ft. wide and on the South side there is a more or less vertical bank produced largely by the successive improvements of the road for traffic. This bank, from the metalled road surface, to the level of the ground which forms the top of the bank is about 3 ft., the lower 2 ft. being hard chalk, the upper foot ordinary dead leaves and humus, the product of the trees which grow thickly on either side of the road. While walking along this road a boy kicked out of this South bank a cranial bone and some other facial bones, and this led to my being present at the investigation. On looking at the sites where the bones were found, first of all one could see that a cavity had been dug out, or I believe, scratched out, as will appear later, in the undisturbed chalk for the obvious purpose of burying a body. This cavity had been filled again with mixed chalk and earth for the purpose of covering the body. The head, consisting of a right parietal and temporal bone, the whole of the upper maxilla, the whole of the mandible or lower jaw and the foramen magnum portion of the occipital bone, was lying in a cup shaped cavity obviously dug out to hold the head alone, for there was a promontory of hard chalk projecting into the space that would exist between the head and the shoulder. The chalk had then been removed to take the shoulder with the arm

down by the side, and then went straight on to contain the rest of the body. The other bones recovered were most of the ribs of the right side, the whole spinal column down to the sacrum, the right half of the pelvis, the whole upper arm—right—forearm and hand, the right femur and the right fibula, and no other parts.

Rather more than one half of the grave had obviously from time to time been removed when conditioning the road, but I know of no record of the lost remains being found. The parts of the skeleton which were found were of a male person of the age of 16 to 18 years, as evidenced by the non-union of the epiphysis of the upper end of the right radius and the epiphysis of the articular surface of the head of the right femur. There was no evidence, as far as I could judge, from the jaw bones or from the supra-orbital ridge of the right part of the frontal bone, which I omitted to enumerate before, that there was anything that one could call pre-historic about the remains. Such bones as the ribs and other small bones were slightly friable owing to, I presume, partial decalcification. The general colour of the bones was of a reddish hue, as one would expect from humic earth infiltration. The earth penetrated and infiltrated most bony cavity areas, like the facial bones, and the spaces between some of the vertebrae where the discs had decayed.

My own conclusions from the information obtained are that this was a ritual burial because it lay head west and feet east, there was no trace found of anything like a coffin or any clothing—leather or anything else—merely the bones that I have described. How long the bones had been buried there I am not competent to decide, but it appears to me a reasonable supposition that this young person was probably a pilgrim going to Canterbury who died and was buried as described.

I feel myself that it was a ritual burial as far as such a burial by one's companions can be so described, and its location at the side of the old pilgrims' track seems to bear out this surmise.

ANCIENT BRITISH GOLD COIN.

THE gold coin illustrated in the accompanying photograph was discovered last year at Rochester by a man digging potatoes alongside a newly developed road. It may be described as follows :

Obv.—Convex and nearly smooth, but showing traces of a former obverse type.

Rev.—Concave, with a disjointed tail-less horse r. : below, a large pellet : above, pellets and curved lines representing Victory. The exergual line is of cable pattern, and below it is a connected series of script-like characters. Border of dots.

N. Weight, 5.99 gm. (=92½ grains). Diameter, 17 mm.



ANCIENT BRITISH.

For the type cf. Evans, *Ancient British Coins*, Plate B, 8 and pp. 63-5, and Dr. Brooke's paper on "The Philippus in the West and the Belgic Invasions of Britain" in the *Numismatic Chronicle*, 1933, pp. 104-6. The coin belongs to a class which, attributed to the Belgic Morini, is found fairly widely in S.E. England, and especially in Kent, and which is assigned a date in the second quarter of the first century B.C. The specimen here illustrated differs, however, from the usual type in showing on the reverse a fairly competent attempt to render the letters of the original legend, which in most cases either takes the form of a linked pattern (cf. *Num. Chron.*, 1933, Plate xi. 9) or is totally absent. In this respect

there is no parallel to the Rochester coin among the twelve examples of the Evans B. 8 class in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

C. H. V. SUTHERLAND.

WEALDEN IRON BLOOMERY.

MR. ERNEST STRAKER writes :

I have recently traced a bloomery of very early type near Ightham Mote, Ightham parish, $\frac{3}{8}$ mile S.W. of the Mote House— $51^{\circ} 15' 12''$ N., $0^{\circ} 15' 50''$ E. It is apparently on the Atherfield Clay, but only a few yards from the northern edge of the Weald Clay. The ore would probably have come from the latter, as in a very similar site at Blechingley, Surrey.

The site is very restricted, being confined to a radius of a few yards above a spring, which in ordinary seasons would give a fair supply of water, and the cinder is sparse, but quite typical. It is about four miles to the east of any known bloomery of the northern Weald.

The place names are Cinderfield, Great Cinderfield and Cinderfield Shaw.

AN EARLY IRON AGE SITE AT DEAL.

THE Report for 1928 (Vol. XLI, p. xlvii) describes some preliminary work which was carried out on this site on the eastern slope of Mill Hill in the autumn of that year. In the spring of this year, 1934, it came to the writer's notice that the site was to be built over under a housing scheme for miners. The First National Housing Trust, the builders, most generously gave permission for excavation over any part of the area not in their immediate plans for development. This allowed for the raising of funds to employ a local man, who had had some experience of excavation work at Richborough Castle. Besides contributions by friends to pay

wages, grants were also made from the excavation funds of the Society of Antiquaries, and this Society.

Work was started on March 10th and was continued under the supervision of Mr. Cecil Knox, Captain A. J. and Engineer Vice-Admiral R. G. Morton, and the writer until July 13th. Others, including Mr. B. W. Pearce and Mr. and Mrs. John Archibald, were on the site and took photographs. The site was proved to consist of a deep V-shaped trench enclosing an almost circular area, 160 ft. in diameter from centre to centre of the trench. This varied from 6 to 7 ft. in depth from the surface, with an average width of 10 ft. cut in the solid chalk. The surface soil varied from 8 in. to 1 ft. in depth. Before work started no indication remained on the ground of the upcast from the trench. The entrance opened to the S.E., and from a series of rather irregularly dug holes may have had some timber barrier. The area within the ditch which was available for excavation was thoroughly explored, but only one circular hut site, a hearth, and a small circular pit were found. The floor of the hut yielded some sherds of Iron Age pottery, while from the bottom of the pit came a small bronze ring of diamond section with an outside diameter of 13 millimetres.

Wherever the trench was opened early Iron Age pottery of many types was obtained. The sherds lay at all depths from the bottom to within 2 ft. of the top, but were most plentiful at an extensive hearth level on the northern side about 3 ft. 6 in. from the surface. Above this was an extensive layer of pot-boilers. At the bottom of the trench on the W. side of the entrance there had been a hearth foundation of large flints and broken rotary querns of Lower Greensand. Lying about this were many fragments of a massive (?) storage jar with finger-imprinted rim, of which sufficient remained to allow Mr. Knox to build up a restoration. This shows it to have been $22\frac{1}{2}$ in. high by $22\frac{3}{4}$ in. in greatest diameter, with a diameter for mouth and base of $21\frac{1}{2}$ in. and 8 in. Among the other finds were many flint scrapers and other simple tools, a bone spatula-like article, and a bronze pin with a flat head, $3\frac{7}{8}$ in. long. Iron in any

form was almost wholly absent. Stag's horn was used to a small extent. Bones of food animals were plentiful, but rarely showed signs of burning; skulls of large dogs also occurred, with coprolites.

W.P.D.S.

A JUTISH BURIAL ABOVE DEAL.

ALTHOUGH Jutish graves have been recorded in and about Deal the site of a cemetery does not seem to have been located. It was with all the more interest therefore that the writer, on December 22nd, 1933, was suddenly called upon to give his opinion on a burial which had been exposed in digging a soak away for surface water 10 feet from the S. wall of a new Roman Catholic mission hall. The site is on the ridge above Deal, but actually in the parish of Great Mongeham. At a depth of 3 feet 10 inches the pit had cut into the western end of a grave in solid chalk, and had exposed the skull and a spear head. With the help of Captain Morton and his brother, and with the kind permission of the Contractors, the writer opened the grave. This was 6 feet 10 inches long by 2 feet wide at the head end, and was orientated almost E. and W. The dimensions of the excavation were considerably greater above the level of the interment, a step being left at this point.

The body had been placed in the grave in an extended position on its back, with the owner's spear on the right, and his thick-backed knife on the left at the level of the pelvis. The right arm was extended down the line of the shaft of the spear, while the left lower arm crossed the body. Although the grave was fully long the skeleton looked rather cramped with the feet up against the end of the grave. This it seems was mainly due to the bowed back of the man in life. There was no evidence of any injuries having been sustained, so the probability is that, looking at the back and the almost toothless state of the lower jaw, death must have come of sheer old age. In life, and standing upright, the man must have been well over 6 feet in height, the femurs alone

measuring $20\frac{1}{4}$ inches. This compares with 18 inches, the average length of the femur of men 5 feet 6 inches in height. The weapons were the only objects buried with the interment.

Some tests of the ground have been made about the site of the grave but no further burials have been proved to exist; this may be due, however, to the depth they were cut in the chalk.

Dr. Alexander Davies of Walmer has been kind enough to give the following account of the bones.

W.P.D.S.

REPORT ON JUTISH SKELETON.

The bones of this skeleton consist of the skull, mandible, numerous vertebrae including axis and atlas, the os innominatum, sacrum, femur, tibia and fibula, and metatarsal bones. No carpal bone and no sternum. All are in a good state of preservation. Let us take the bones that really matter, a judgment of *age* and *sex*.

The skull.—Bracheo-cephalic type. Small cranium, well-marked ridges. Probably male and certainly over 50 years of age.

Mandible.—No teeth. Body shallow and alveolar margin absorbed. The angle of the superior ramus is about 140° . This is definitely a mandible of old age and probably that of a person of 70 years.

The Femora.—Well preserved. Length $20\frac{1}{4}$ inches and head of femur 53 mm. Good muscular markings and a well-marked gluteal ridge. As the head is certainly well over 45 mm. in diameter this is definitely a *male* bone.

The height of the man can be gathered by the fact that the length of the femur is $\cdot 270$ of the body height. This would make him about 6 feet 2 inches in height.

Remarks.—This is a Jutish skeleton of a *male* about 70 years old and over 6 feet in height.

D. ALEX DAVIES, F.R.C.S.

DISCOVERIES DURING THE MAIN DRAINAGE
WORKS, HIGH STREET, CANTERBURY.

JANUARY-MARCH, 1933.

WHEN the Corporation decided to reconstruct their main drain from St. George's Street to King's Bridge, it was confidently anticipated that the excavations would bring to light many interesting "finds." Unhappily these anticipations were not realized to any great extent. The City Engineer, Mr. H. M. Enderby, decided to follow the line of the old brick barrel drain built by Pilbrow, when the entire City was re-drained in 1867-8. This meant that the old trench only would be excavated, and that the probable result would be the re-finding of many pottery fragments that had been returned to the trench in 1868. One of the most interesting re-discoveries was the base and foundation of one of the circular towers of St. George's Gate (*circa* 1450) demolished 1801. From 1 ft. 9 in. below the road level the foundation extended down a further 8 ft., and from the section uncovered, it appeared that the circular base was between 20 and 30 ft. in diameter. The mass was faced in Ashlar masonry with a flint core. The Canterbury Archæological Society secured some interesting photographs before the base was covered in.

At the King's Bridge section, the piles of an ancient wooden bridge were excavated at a depth of 9 ft. At the site of the old St. Andrew's Church, that stood partly over the road at the Parade, a considerable quantity of human bones were thrown up, these were reverently re-interred.

Throughout the length of the trench many fragments of pottery vessels, coins, tokens, etc., ranging from the Roman period to the eighteenth century were found. Some interesting fragments of decorated Samian ware were among the "finds."

An interesting "find" consisting of three large mediæval Cannon balls was reported in January, 1933. During the building of the new shops at the corner of the Friars,

St. Peters, these were found embedded in the foundation of the old Blackfriars Gate which stood at this spot. The objects were acquired by the Museum Committee and placed in the Westgate Towers.

H. T. MEAD.

EASTBRIDGE CHURCH.

IN Romney Marsh the Rev. Gordon Cuming (vicar of Dymchurch) has started excavations on the site of the ruined church of Eastbridge (vide *K.A.S.*, XXXVII, 195-6).

Under his supervision considerable progress has been made, the foundations of the outer walls have been laid bare, and the site of a brick altar unearthed. It is hoped to clear the site completely and enable further details to be traced.

Centuries ago the "sea-girt" Manor of Eastbridge was one of the most important in the Marsh, stretching seaward to the coast, and possessing rights over a long distance of the foreshore.

In the Domesday survey it is credited with two churches, but it is thought probable that the second was the church of the hamlet of Dymchurch, which at that time was included in the Manor.

M. TEICHMAN-DERVILLE.

REPORT ON TRIAL EXCAVATIONS AT BIGBERRY CAMP.

IT is just sixty years ago that a member of the Kent Archæological Society, Mr. R. C. Hussey, wrote the first descriptive account of the earthworks, or "entrenchments," as he called them, in Bigberry and Howfield Woods in Harbledown parish, and published in the ninth volume of *Archæologia Cantiana*, the first plan which was made at his representation by the Royal Engineers. Since that date Bigberry has become well known by reason of the important discoveries of Early Iron Age antiquities which have been made at various times in the gravel pits there, and recently

in a paper which set out the history of the Camp, a plea was made for its scientific excavation.

Fortunately, many generous donations to an excavation fund (among them one from the Kent Archæological Society) made it possible for a preliminary excavation to be undertaken in September, 1933, and in this the writer had the valued assistance of Miss Barbara Laidler, Miss Dorothy Waters, Mr. J. M. Brander, Mr. H. F. Burton, Mr. N. C. Cook, Mr. A. R. Martin, F.S.A., and Mr. Stuart Piggott. A full account of the work will be published in the next volume of *Archæologia Cantiana*, when we hope to be able to add a description of the further excavations undertaken in 1934.

R. F. JESSUP.

THE DESCENT OF OXENHOTH MANOR, WEST PECKHAM, KENT.

In *Archæologia Cantiana*, XVI, 64, it is stated that Sir George Chowne had acquired *inter alia* Oxenhoth Manor from Sir Thomas Cotton and his sons, William and Robert, about or previous to the year 1597; and that he, by indenture of lease and release dated respectively 1st and 2nd July, 1626, sold it to Nicholas Miller. This date of sale appears open to doubt.

Sir George Chowne made his will on February 17th, 1615-16, when he was residing at Little (i.e. West) Peckham (P.C.C. 88, Cope). It was proved on May 23rd, 1616. His eldest son Thomas was his heir. Sir George's widow, Lady Mary Chowne, was lying, apparently ill, in bed when she made her will at the house of Sir Ralph Hansbie, Kt., in Gray's Inn Lane, London. The will (P.C.C. 23, Soame) is dated December 24th, 1619, and she is described as of Oxenhoth in Little Peckham. She desires to be buried privately by torchlight at night in the chapel of Oxenhoth, and leaves £400 for a monument to be erected over her and her late husband; and £5 for setting it up and the carriage. £40 is entrusted to Thomas Stanley and Henry Thewitts for the

purchase of land which will produce 40s. rent a year for the poor of Little Peckham. The will was proved on February 7th, 1619-20.

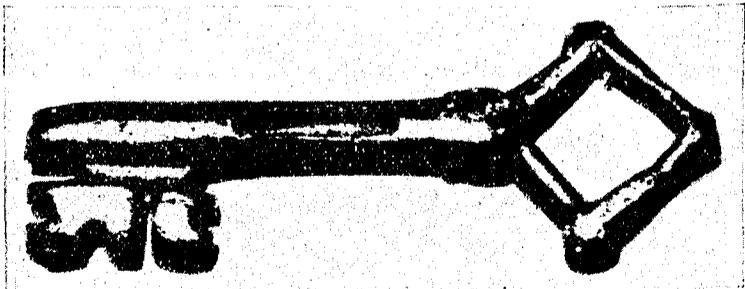
Of the six sons of Sir George and Lady Mary, Nevill died in 1618. This Nevill "of Oxenhoth, Kent," made his will on December 20th, 1618, leaving all his lands and tenements, etc., in Kent to his brother Thomas.

Apparently it was Thomas who disposed of Oxenhoth. He went to live at Frogfisle in Alfriston, Sussex, where he made his will on December 6th, 1638 (P.C.C. 64, Harvey). Nothing more is heard of Oxenhoth Manor in connection with the Chowne family.

H. C. ANDREWS, F.S.A.

A MEDIÆVAL KEY FROM DEAL.

THE key illustrated, of actual size, was found last May while digging in a garden in Manor Road, Upper Deal. The garden had formed a part of what is known as the Manor House estate, and had been long enclosed, but does not seem to have been occupied in any other way.



MEDIÆVAL KEY FROM DEAL. FULL SIZE.

The key is of bronze, cast and filed up, is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and is covered with a thick green patina. The width of the bow is $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The barrel is drilled for $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches. Uneven drilling and wear on one side has exposed the interior of the tube. There is other evidence that the key had been long in use before it was lost.

The type probably belongs to the latter half of the fourteenth century when the wards in a lock were getting so numerous that many ward slots on the key were needed, while the lock plate was so cut that the insertion of any other key was impossible. The photograph is by Mrs. Archibald.

There is a somewhat similar key in the museum in the Sandwich Town Hall.

W.P.D.S.

THE HANNEN PAPERS.

THE late Hon. Henry Hannen left a mass of papers relating to Kent which have been presented to the Society by Mrs. Hannen. These MSS. have been sorted and arranged by Dr. Gordon Ward, and are thus reported on by him. His work has included placing the letters in separate folders for each subject: the sections of the West Farleigh history have been treated in the same manner.

The *Hannen Manuscripts* have been arranged in five boxes, which have the following contents:

Box A.—A series of certified extracts from public records relating to Cobham College, amplified by letters from A. A. Arnold. Printed copy of the rules of the College. Also a series of pamphlets of which most are not of great importance.

Box B.—Correspondence including much miscellaneous information about place names, the White Horse of Kent, the Medway, etc. Records of original work relating to Rock House alias Wychdene in Boughton Monchelsea and the Alchorne family.

Box C.—A draft history of West Farleigh divided into sections of which several are completed. The church is fully dealt with. Most of the material is derived from printed works, or national records, but in some sections there is interesting material which could not be found outside this MS.

Box D.—Transcript of the Registers of West Farleigh, with index, from 1558-1812.

Box E.—Two maps and a few deeds relating to West Farleigh manor. A list of houses, castles, etc., in Kent arranged according to parishes, and showing where they may be found. A large amount of miscellaneous material relating to various Kent parishes. There is also a book containing transcripts of Court Rolls of the Manors of West Farleigh, Tuttesham and Ewell.

In each box there is a list of the contents. The chief items can thus be included in the library index, and readily found when wanted.