

The Archaeological Journal.

DECEMBER, 1851.

ACCOUNT OF THE EXAMINATION OF TUMULI AT BROUGHTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE county of Lincoln presents to the antiquary a rich field of inquiry in its numerous vestiges of the early inhabitants of Britain, not less deserving of careful attention than the ancient remains in the southern counties. Whilst, however, the tumuli and earthworks of Wiltshire and other localities in the south have been examined with scientific care, and the remarkable interments of the Saxon period on the Kentish Downs are comparatively well known, through the investigations and the writings of some of our most able antiquaries, scarcely any inquiry has been directed to the numerous traces of those primeval tribes, by whom the north-eastern parts of our island were occupied, or any notice given of such peculiar features and characteristic appearances as may serve to throw light upon the most obscure period of our history.

The plough has levelled many tumuli, without affording any opportunity for scientific observation, and no record of the evidence which might thence have been adduced, has been preserved. It is only by tracing the relics of primeval manufacture in clay or stone, as well as bronze, throughout the various counties of England, and by the careful comparison of the Celtic remains in Wiltshire and Dorset with those discovered in the more northern counties, that archaeologists can expect to arrive at any certain classification of the vestiges of those tribes by whom these islands were successively inhabited, or in any degree to disperse the obscurity in which their history and customs are involved. The

following notes have been made, during the recent examination of an interesting group of barrows in the northern parts of the county of Lincoln, in the parish of Broughton, a place already known to the readers of the *Journal* by the curious manorial service of the "gad-whip," connected with lands there situated, and first brought under the notice of the Institute through the kindness of Mr. Joseph Moore, of Lincoln.¹ We are again indebted to that gentleman for directing the excavations of which the results are here recorded, with the hope that his example and lively interest in the investigation of local antiquities may encourage others to prosecute similar researches.

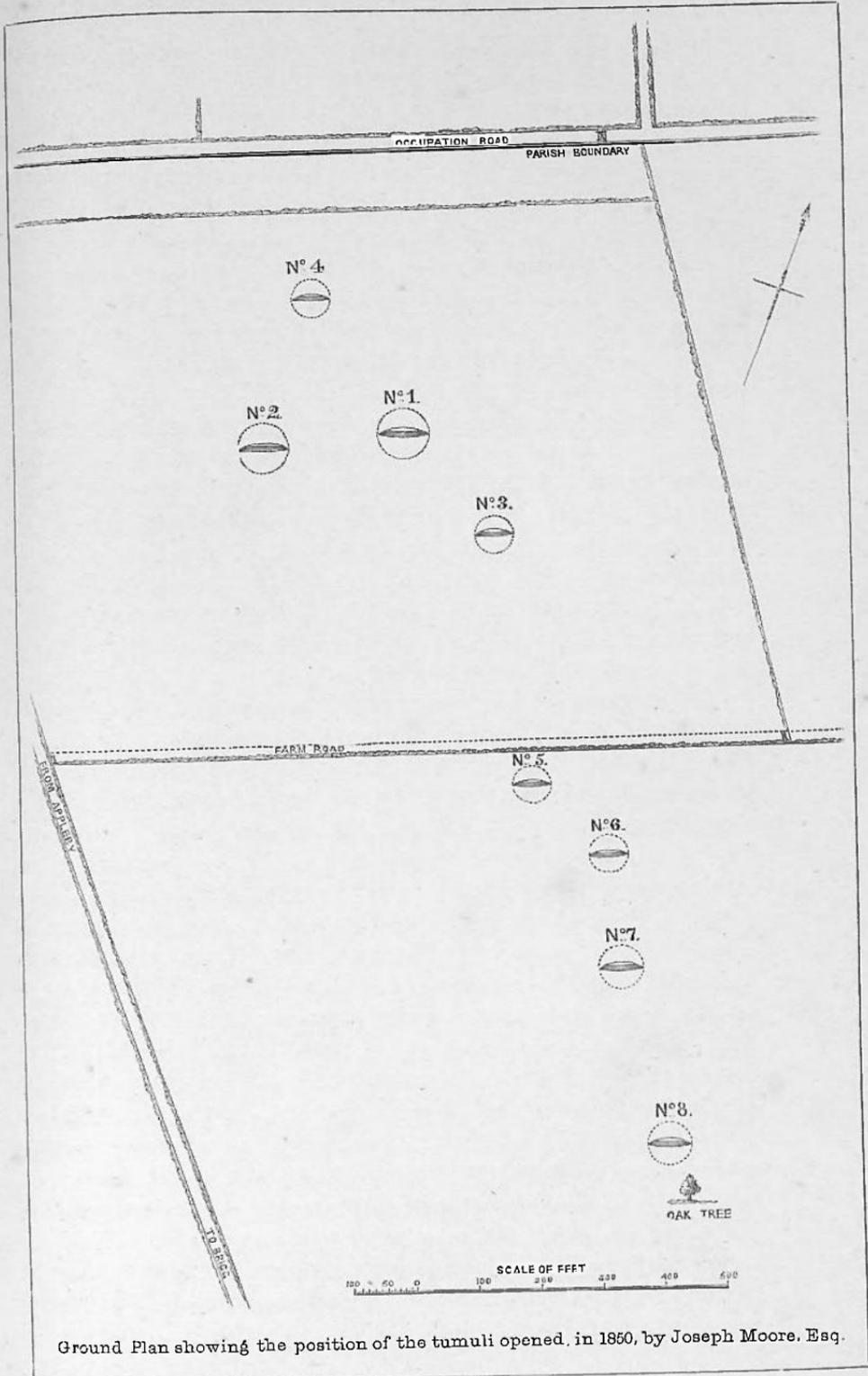
If any peculiarities here noticed, differing from details hitherto observed in early sepulchral deposits of other localities, should be recognised as contributing any fresh evidence towards the elucidation of difficulties by which primeval British antiquity is obscured, it will be a cause of gratification to the writer of the following account, as one who regards with keen interest all that is connected with the arts and customs of early times, and more especially those relating to his own county.

The group of barrows, eight in number, the general position of which is indicated in the accompanying plan, is situated on the property of Mr. Joseph Moore, of Lincoln, who caused excavations to be made, in the months of May and June, 1850, of which the results are now to be related. The spot was part of Broughton Common, enclosed about three years previously, and now under cultivation; consequently, the tumuli have been ploughed over several times. This has not, however, destroyed their form—the barrows being, in every instance, very low, as shown by the sections on the plan, and none measured more than 4 ft. in height. The soil consists of sand and peat. This ancient burial-place may be described as about 25 miles north of Lincoln, and east of the road leading from Appleby to Brigg; at no great distance, also, from the great line of Roman way, traversing the county in a straight northerly direction from Lincoln towards the Humber, part of the seventeenth *Iter* of Richard of Cirencester.

The tumulus with which our labours commenced (No. 1 in the plan), measured 80 ft. in diameter and 4 ft. in height.

¹ See the Memoir on this service, *Archæol. Journ.*, Vol. vi. p. 239.

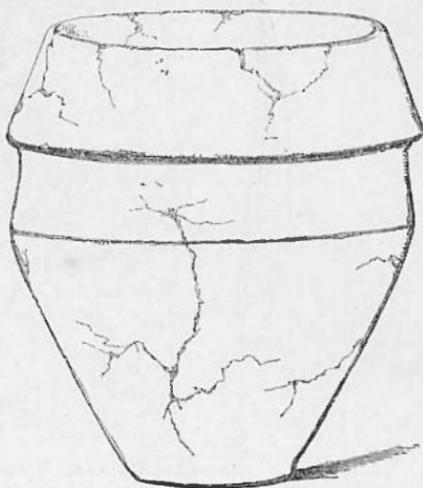
BRITISH TUMULI AT BROUGHTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.



Ground Plan showing the position of the tumuli opened, in 1850, by Joseph Moore, Esq.

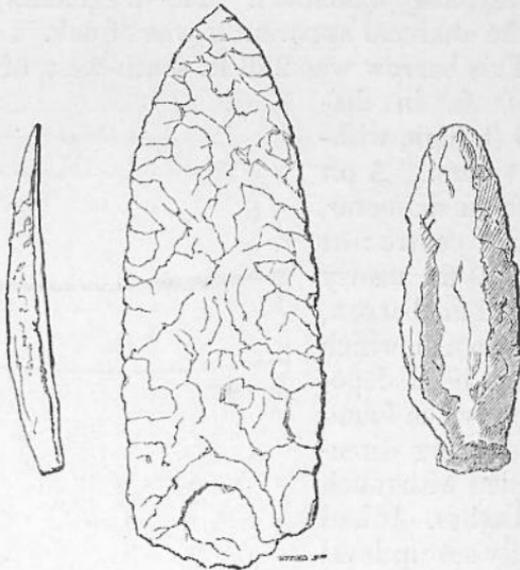
It is of the class designated by Sir R. Colt Hoare as "broad barrows," being flat at the top, from which it slopes off 5 ft. to the bottom. The whole group are of the same form and character. A section was first cut from east to west, without finding any deposit. A circular pit was then excavated in the centre, 6 ft. in diameter. At the depth of 4 ft., and close to the first section, near the middle of the barrow, we found two fragments of an urn, with much charcoal and ashes near them, together with a few burnt bones. The appearance of the deposit seemed to show that this tumulus had been previously examined. The fragments were half-burnt; all the charcoal apparently was of oak.

No. 2.—This barrow was 226 ft. south-west of No. 1; it measured 80 ft. in diameter and 3 ft. high, without ditch or vallum. A pit was cut, 6 ft. in diameter, exactly in the centre: at the depth of 2 ft., nearly in the middle of the barrow, we found a plain urn, which had originally been deposited erect, but when found it was in a slanting direction, surrounded with much charcoal and ashes. It had been originally set up level with the surrounding land; no cairn of stones had been placed about it, nor was



there any stone found throughout the barrow. Some disturbance appeared to have taken place, a rabbit having been at work near the deposit, which had caused the urn to sink down on its side, and a considerable quantity of the bones had been scratched out. The urn measured $11\frac{1}{2}$ in. in height, $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter, by 4 in. at the base. It was much better burnt than the others discovered in this group, the clay being more firm and hard, of a red colour, with here and there small stones and sand. On examining the burnt bones, two flint lance or arrow heads, of the most simple form, were found: the largest, which may have been affixed to a lance, or some missile weapon to be projected by the hand, measured $2\frac{3}{4}$ in.

long, by 1 in. in width. (See woodcut.) The other (of dimensions suited for being adjusted to an arrow) measured $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. long, by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in breadth; the latter is somewhat peculiar, having one side flat and slightly curved; the point is singularly obtuse, having been, as it appeared, intentionally rounded. (See woodcuts and profile view.) This flat-sided form of the arrow-head does not appear to have been found in Wiltshire, nor am I aware that such have been often discovered in Celtic tumuli in other localities.²



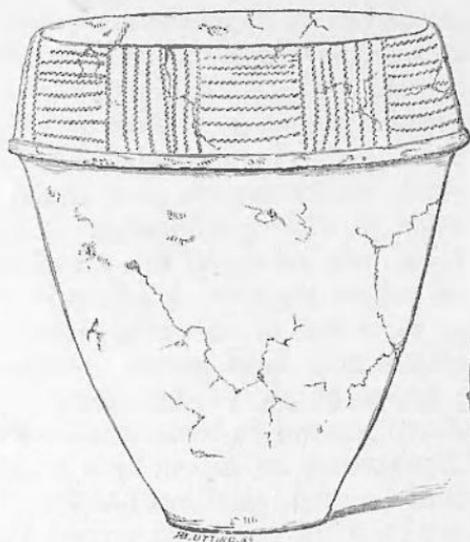
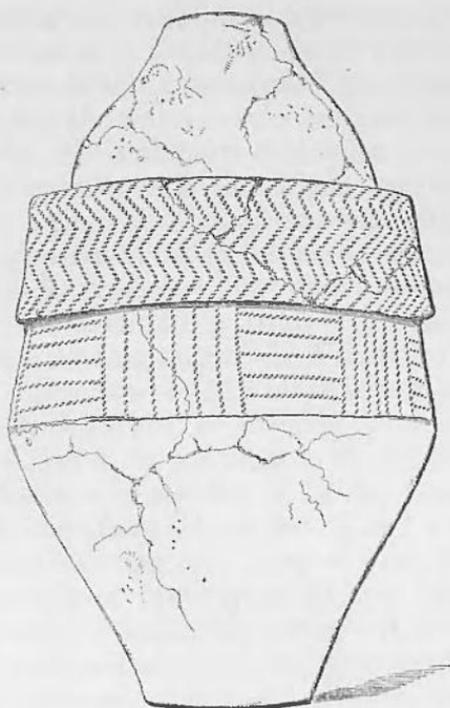
Arrow-heads of Silex. Tumulus No. 2. Orig. size.

No. 3.—This tumulus is situated 226 ft. south-east of No. 1, and is very similar in form, measuring 60 ft. in diameter and 3 ft. high; the summit was perfectly flat, and there was no ditch or vallum. Several hollow places appeared around and near it, from which the soil seemed to have been taken to construct the mound. A circular excavation was made in the centre, about 6 ft. in diameter; and at 2 ft. deep, nearly in the middle of the barrow, a fine urn was found deposited, some little depth in the natural soil; it was erect, with an urn of smaller size inverted upon it,

² Compare various forms of weapons, knives, and implements of stone discovered in Denmark; Nordisk Tidsskrift, Vol. i.

tab. iii. One of these, fig. 28, is remarkably curved and blunt at the point.

BRITISH TUMULI AT BROUGHTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.



Sepulchral Urns found in excavations made, in 1850, by Joseph Moore, Esq.

and just fitting into the larger one. (See woodcut.) This appeared to answer the purpose of a cover, and to have been placed as a protection to the burnt bones on which it rested. The soil, as well as bracken roots, having penetrated between the two urns, gave the whole a very compact form. At first the deposit looked as if the urn had been reversed (in the usual mode of burial) until the whole was cleared of soil and roots. On being lifted out, we were much struck by the unusual appearance of these urns, never having met with any similar interment, where one urn formed a cover for the other. No mention is made in Sir R. Colt Hoare's work of any such custom noticed in Wiltshire tumuli, nor do I think that it is described by any other writer, although small vessels, generally described as drinking cups, are sometimes found deposited within larger urns, in British barrows in this country. The height of this urn is 13 in., diam. at the base 4 in., from which its form dilates for $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. ; after which the sides fall in, for 3 in. On this part, a pattern is impressed or scored, consisting of five horizontal lines, alternately with seven perpendicular lines of the same. Above this, a projecting band, three inches in depth, appears, with two rows of the chevron ornament impressed thereon, with a narrow scoring of half an inch above this, running round the top. Each line is formed by small diagonal markings, such as might have been produced by impressing a piece of coarsely twisted rope upon the clay, when in a soft state. The inside slopes off half an inch from the upper edge, round which the same pattern runs in a diagonal direction. This urn was nearly filled with burnt bones, and, on examining these remains, no signs of any cloth or brass pin was found. A rough angular piece of flint was found, such as might be chipped and fashioned to serve as a small lance or arrow head (see woodcut) ; it measured $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length ; together with a piece of bronze, much decayed, in the form of an arrow-head, but differing in form from those of flint, having a narrow tongue to fix it to the shaft. This curious little relic measures in its present state 2 in. in length. The leaf-shaped blade is thin, and has



Fragment of Silex. Orig. size.

neither a central ridge nor barbs. It appears to belong to the first and simplest class of bronze arrow-heads indicated by Mr. Dunoyer in his remarks on their classification; and he gives a representation of one of these, preserved in the British Museum, as an example of this early type. (See *Archaeol. Journ.*, vol. vii., p. 281.)



Bronze Arrow-head. Orig. size.

No. 4.—This barrow was very low, not more than 2 ft. high and 60 ft. in diameter. It was near Appleby Lordship, being the most northerly of the whole group. The position is 260 ft. north-west of No. 1. The usual excavation was made in the centre, down to the hard stratum of iron sand (which did not in this or in any of the barrows appear ever to have been disturbed) without meeting with the deposit. We then determined to proceed until nearly the entire barrow was excavated. This was done without meeting with any charcoal or ashes; but little doubt can exist that the mound had been erected as a place of sepulchral deposit.

No. 5.—This barrow was in the rear of No. 3, forming, with the rest, nearly a straight line towards the village of Broughton. It was somewhat more elevated than the last, being nearly 4 ft. high and 60 ft. in diameter. In form, it closely resembled the others, being flat at top, with sides sloped off for 5 ft. to the base line, at which the diameter was taken.

This barrow, like several of the others, had been disturbed. At the depth of 3 ft., we came to burnt bones in a decayed state, with charcoal and ashes scattered through the soil, for the space of 2 ft. So few bones being found, it appeared as if the urn had, at some previous time, been extracted, and the bones scattered, possibly in digging for rabbits. If this had been a simple interment by cremation, the bones would doubtless have been heaped up in a more regular manner, and they would have been found in larger quantity.

No. 6.—This tumulus was similar to the last in form, and measured 60 ft. in diameter and 4 ft. high. We were not successful in finding the deposit in this barrow, although the

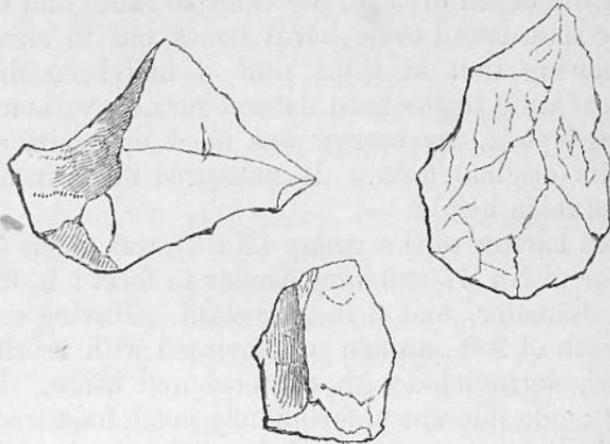
soil was excavated to the hard iron sand of this locality, until we had nearly worked out the entire barrow, and failed in discovering that the subsoil had been at any time disturbed.

The next (No. 7) was examined with little better success. At about the depth of 3 ft., we came to ashes and charcoal, and, after that, found some burnt bones, but in small quantities, showing that at some time it had been disturbed. After excavating to the hard natural surface, without finding any other deposit, the barrow was filled up again, so as to present its original form. It measured 66 ft. in diameter, and was 4 ft. in height.

The last barrow of this group (No. 8), was about 50 yards in the rear of No. 7, and very similar in form; it measured 66 ft. in diameter, and 3 ft. in height. Having excavated to the depth of 2 ft., an urn, ornamented with scorings, was discovered, surrounded with charcoal and ashes. The urn was erect; one side was unfortunately much fractured. With some difficulty it was extracted from the sandy soil, which adhered to it most firmly. It was of a different form to those found in the other barrows (Nos. 2 and 3), having no shoulder or projecting line half-way up the side; its form dilated from the base upwards $9\frac{1}{2}$ in., flush to the upper band, which is 3 in. in depth, inclined slightly inwards, and ornamented with eight perpendicular lines of the rope pattern, alternately with eight lines impressed horizontally. This urn is thin, the clay half-burnt and porous, in thickness half an inch; it is black inside, and of a reddish-brown colour outside. The burnt bones had been disturbed, and the cavity was only half-filled. On examining the bones, part of a small cup was found, much fractured; when restored, irregular dotted lines were found to run round it, for 2 in. in depth. It sloped inwards from the rim, on which dotted lines were impressed in a diagonal direction. It measured $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. in height, by $2\frac{3}{4}$ at base. On further examination being made, three rough, chipped, angular pieces of flint, apparently prepared for fabricating arrow-heads, were found towards the bottom of the larger urn. (See woodcuts, next page.) No flint, it should be observed, is found in the natural strata within several miles of Broughton.

There are several peculiarities observable in the investigation of this group of barrows, which deserve notice. The

antiquary who has devoted any attention to primeval remains, will not fail to have noticed the unusual shape of these tumuli, without ditch or vallum, and the fact that only a single interment was, in any case, found in any one barrow; the



Fragments of Silex, probably for arrow-heads, found in a cinerary urn. Tumulus, No. 8.
Original size.

erect position of the urns, and the entire absence of any cist, as well as of cairns of flints or stones as a protection.

The precise position of the barrows is as follows: the most northerly (No. 4) is close to an occupation road, the boundary of Broughton parish; beyond this, Appleby woods are seen. On the west, they are bounded by the road leading from Appleby to Brigg, and again beyond this, about half a mile, and parallel with the barrows, the Roman Way or Ermin Street runs.

On the south side, distant $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile, is the village of Broughton. On the east, they are skirted by a small stream, called Ella-beck; here it becomes flat and fenny. On this side, one field distant from the barrows, are seen the old forest-trees laying prostrate, their stems broken a foot above the root, some projecting half through the surface, whilst the rooted ends still continue upright and firm in the ground, the ragged ends protruding above the present level. The trees appear to be all oaks, and are now as black, and almost as hard, as ebony. This appears to have been the natural tree of the great fen forests of Lincolnshire, although the yew and alder are occasionally found. The land becomes

every year more dry, thus causing the soil to settle down and lose its spongy nature. The old forest timber thus again makes its appearance above the surface; and it is drawn away by degrees to the neighbouring farms to be used for some useful purpose. It cannot be altogether improbable that these woods were in existence, and possibly in full vigour, at the time when the barrows were formed. The proximity of the latter to the forest, the similarity of the surface soil, the charcoal found surrounding the urns being wholly of oak, apparently boughs of a small size and coarse grain, may serve as indications that this was the case. We cannot suppose that the Britons would bury their dead in a swamp, which this had become, and, until drained by the present owner, the land, during the winter, was only fit to harbour snipes.

The whole of this group of barrows being of the same peculiar form cannot be attributed to any change having taken place during late years; those who might have made the alteration would not have taken the trouble to distribute the soil in such a regular form, leaving the deposit exactly in the centre of each barrow.

The custom of placing the urns in an erect position by this tribe, is not of an unusual occurrence in the county of Lincoln; one of a similar type to No. 3, varying only in size, having been found in the month of March, 1850, at Lincoln. It was discovered in grubbing up a hedge to enlarge a nursery garden about 100 yards from the north-east corner of the Roman wall.

This urn was found two feet from the surface. The stone had been taken out for about 10 in. in depth by 14 in. in width; the urn was placed in the cavity erect. Charcoal and ashes were heaped up at the sides and over it. The urn was unfortunately struck and broken by the pick; the fragments were partly restored, and, when whole, it would measure about 9 in. by $6\frac{3}{4}$ in. over the top. It was filled up with burnt bones, but nothing more was found within. The chevron pattern was impressed deeply and distinctly upon the outside for $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the top. The inside was also scored, for a short distance from the rim, ($1\frac{1}{2}$ in.) with the same pattern.

It seems to have been a frequent custom with the Britons at their burials by cremation, to cover the funereal urn with

a cairn of flints or stones. Neither in the single interment, however, at Lincoln, already mentioned, nor in examining the barrows at Broughton, was this found to be the case. The whole of the mounds at the latter place were composed of sandy peat; not a stone or flint was found in any of these barrows, the small chipped pieces of silex, intended to point the arrow or javelin, alone excepted.

In the urns, it appears to have been a common custom to insert lance and arrow-heads of flint, both ready chipped and finely finished, as well as others in a rough state.

It is difficult to conceive how these small and skilfully formed flint arrow-heads could have been made in times when the only implements used were of stone, and those, probably, of a rude and most inartificial description.

It would, at this day, when mechanical skill has reached such a high degree, baffle many a skilful workman to fashion a few flint arrow-heads chipped and notched with the same perfection as appears in those fabricated by the ancient Briton. At first, we might suppose that in those rude times it was difficult and laborious to produce such objects, and that, a high value being set on them, the roughly chipped pieces were deposited in the funereal urn in place of those that were more finished and highly prized. We find, however, a deposit described by Sir Richard Colt Hoare (*Ancient Wilts*, vol. i., p. 239), where four very perfect arrow-heads, as well as some pieces of flint, roughly chipped and prepared for similar weapons, were found together. In that barbarous age, when the inhabitants of these islands tattooed and painted their skins,—when their weapons were headed with stone, and their condition was that of mere savages, the inhabitants of the forest or the mountain fastnesses, we may infer that their thoughts, when not engaged in rude warfare, were engrossed by the pursuits of the chase. Their notions of futurity were probably on a par with those of the aborigines of countries where similar stone implements for the chase have been used in recent times, and are even at the present time employed. Amongst many tribes in North America, the belief prevails that, after death, they pass to another world, where they find hunting-grounds much superior to those they now enjoy, and without an enemy to annoy them. Might not the ideas of the Britons regarding a future state, during the "Stone Period," have been in some

degree similar ? The motive with which the small urns were deposited in the larger ones, with the remains of the deceased, may have been for preparing their food during the transit to another world ; and the arrow-heads may have been designed to give them the means of obtaining it, as well as to enable them to follow their favourite pursuit ? The remarks of an eminent antiquary, Mr. Wilson, on flint-flakes, thus deposited, the *raw material* for the supply of missiles, are highly interesting. (Archaeology of Scotland, p. 120.)

The discovery of the bronze arrow-head in the barrow (No. 3) is an unusual occurrence ; short daggers or knives of that metal are indeed found in cists and urns, where the interment was by cremation or otherwise. But arrow-heads of bronze are seldom found in barrows of the Stone Period. The shape of this singular relic being so different to that of the flint arrow-points, may seem to indicate that it might have been obtained from some tribe or people in a more advanced state than themselves.

These simple relics, the sole objects here discovered in the urns accompanying the cinereal deposit, appear, it must be admitted, to be regarded rather as the appliances of the peaceful hunter of the forest, than as evidence of his prowess in conflict. The urns themselves, on the other hand, indicate no slight skill in fictile manufacture, as compared with many early specimens, from other parts of England. It may be hoped that the future examination of other vestiges of the Primeval Age, and especially the researches prosecuted recently with so much energy and success by the antiquaries of Yorkshire, may throw light upon the antiquities of the north-eastern district of England, and lead to their scientific classification.

ARTHUR TROLLOPE.

ON THE CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF SOME ANTIEN T BRITISH AND ROMAN BEADS.

BY PROFESSOR BUCKMAN, F.L.S., F.G.S., &c.

I RECEIVED, some time since, from Dr. Thurnam a glass bead, discovered in an antient British tumulus, in Wilts, with the request that I would institute a chemical analysis of it ; I was induced, accordingly, to seek the kind co-opera-