

ROMAN POTTERY FOUND AT WORTHING.

By A. J. FENTON.

The Roman pottery exhibited on the table on the stage¹ was found some two years or more ago at the East Chesswood Estate at Worthing, on land of Mr. Robert Piper, in the occupation of Messrs. Webster & Co., of the Ladydell Nurseries. The find is a good one, both for the number and condition of the pieces, but unfortunately the vessels now preserved represent only a part, and I am afraid only a small part of those found by the workmen. Previously to the erection of Messrs. Webster's vineries a house was built a little to the south-east, and I afterwards heard that in making the drains the workmen dug into and broke many pieces of pottery which they stated were like those we have left. The same happened with the pottery on Messrs. Webster's land, till one day a coarse drinking vessel was brought to me, and from that time the progress of preparing the ground for the vines, &c., which consisted of digging it to a depth of about three feet, was watched. The result was that the pottery we now have, consisting of some five-and-twenty distinct pieces, was found and preserved.

There are nine *pateræ* of Samian ware, nearly all perfect with the exception of the glazing, which is defective. Only two have any ornamentation, and they have the conventional ivy leaf pattern (mentioned by Wright in his "Celt, Romau, and Saxon") round the rim. Two others have the Potter's mark—one is illegible, the other is

"SEAERIM(ANV)"—

one of the marks to be found in the list at the end of Wright's book. These nine bowls are each about seven inches in diameter. There is also another larger bowl of Samian ware, 10½ inches in diameter, with no ornamentation except a few wavy lines some distance from the centre from which they radiate. One of the cinerary urns was found standing in it. There is another small bowl of yellow ware, which has been glazed red in imitation of Samian.

We have only three *poculæ*. One is of a coarse reddish ware, which has been colored black. It is 5½ inches high, and the sides are pressed in vertically in six places. Another *pocula* is somewhat smaller, of thin yellow ware, glazed outside with a satiny black glaze. Its sides are pressed in like the last vessel's, and it is doubtless of Castor ware, and is similar to one of the vessels of that manufacture figured in Wright.

Besides these *pateræ* and *poculæ* there is the lower part of a small amphora shaped vessel. The broadest part (which is surrounded with an ornamentation something like a series of the letter S placed horizontally and overlapping each other) is three inches in diameter, and the vessel tapers away gradually to the foot, which is about one inch across.

There are some fragments of black ware—saucer shaped—also of similar vessels, of a dark grey or brown ware, very full of grit; a bottle

¹ At the Montague Hall, Worthing, on the occasion of the visit of the Institute, August 4, 1883.

shaped vessel of yellow ware, broad, with a very narrow neck (in fact in color and shape very like a large turnip upside down), found standing in one of the Samian bowls; a fragment of another similar vessel, and a few other pieces of necks, &c., of vessels and a small bowl of a yellowish red ware.

The urns we have perfect, or nearly so, are four. One in comparison with the others is narrow for its height—of a very dark colour—nearly black, and shows signs of a pattern of diagonally intersecting lines round the broadest part. Its height is $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and its breadth $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The three other urns are of a light grey ware, averaging about 6 or 7 inches in height and eight inches in breadth. Two have lines drawn round the circumference. They are all sun baked—show the marks of the lathe inside—are a little different in shape, and contained calcined bones. One of the ivy-leaved Samian bowls was inverted over one of these urns, and the little bowl of the yellowish red ware was inverted over the foot of the Samian bowl.

Besides the pieces exhibited, there is a basket full of fragments of urns, and indeed, the ground which had been dug by the workmen before I found what was being done, was strewn with bits of rims and other parts of cinerary urns.

It is stated that when the present railway was made some years ago, "funereal vessels were disinterred a little to the west of Ham Bridge." The spot where the pottery exhibited was found is about 300 or 400 yards west of Ham Bridge, and a few feet only south of the railway. The pottery exhibited was found in a line of some breadth, running from north-west to south-east, exactly between Cissbury and the spot on the Forty Acre Field, where the bronze Celts were found some years ago. In all probability, if the land north of the railway were explored, more pottery would be found.

About the beginning of this century Roman coins and pottery were found at the other end of Worthing, and Roman remains have been found at Cissbury. At Chanctonbury, one of the highest points of the South Downs, I have lately found fragments of Roman bricks, Samian and other ware and tesserae. At Bignor, some few miles westward, is the well-known Roman villa, and on the Downs behind Lancing, a little to the east, a tessellated pavement was discovered, and unfortunately destroyed many years ago. In fact, there are abundant remains of Roman times in the neighbourhood, but, so far as I know, no remains of any *habitation* have been discovered south of the Downs.

The spot where this pottery was found lies only a short distance west of the low marsh ground or brooklands, between Lancing and Worthing, protected from the sea by banks, and considering this fact—the number of the burials that must have taken place—and the Roman custom of burying by the roads—it is perhaps not unreasonable to suppose that a road led by this spot from the seashore to the fortress on Cissbury.

The seven bronze Celts exhibited are all I have been able to get together, out of about (I have been told) as many as 40 found in an earthen vessel, some 18 inches high on the Forty Acre Field some years ago. The vessel was broken and destroyed. The Celts are similar in form to those figured in Wright. Some are of solid metal; others are hollow. There is also the mass of metal—the residuum left at the bottom of the vessel—frequently found under such circumstances.