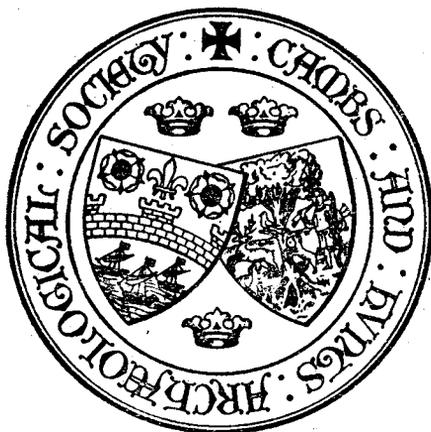


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CONTENTS OF PART 4, VOL. 7.

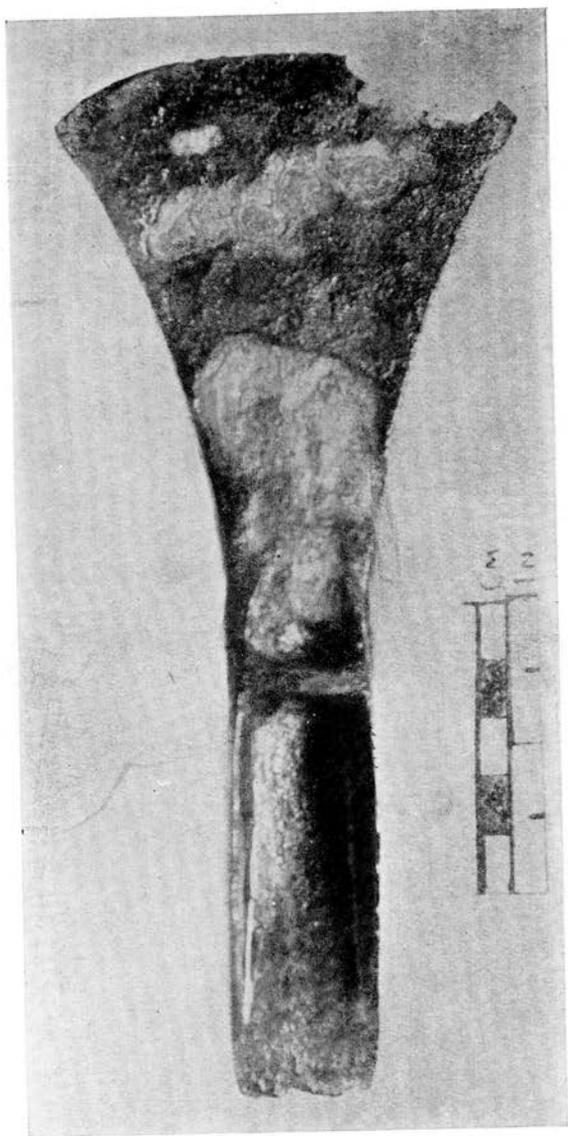
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	PAGE
PAPERS.	
A PALSTAVE IN "BOG OAK" AT WOOD WALTON, by <i>J. R. Garrood, M.D., F.S.A.</i>	82
HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN AND THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOUNDATION, by <i>Philip G. M. Dickinson,</i> <i>F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.</i>	83
THE FOUNDATION OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL,	92
REPORT	98

---

ILLUSTRATIONS.

BRONZE AXE	<i>to face</i> 82
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## A PALSTAVE IN "BOG OAK" AT WOOD WALTON

J. R. GARROOD

The bronze axe illustrated was obtained from Mr. C. Fuller, of Abbey Farm, Wood Walton, who stated that he found it stuck in a Bog Oak tree in field 132 Castle Hill Farm (Grid Ref. 231835) in the winter of 1941-2.

Major Gordon Fowler told me in 1945 that he went out to see Fuller's palstave in 1941 or 1942 and inspected the trunk of a Bog Oak from which he (Fuller) claimed it had been removed and in which Major Fowler could still see the staining of the bit of its edge which was broken off.

It will be seen that a bit is missing from the cutting edge and Fuller stated it broke off when he pulled it out. What a pity I did not know and so could not photograph it.

There is a scar on one face which is fresh and doubtless due to some injury at the time.

The implement is 7.5ins. long and 2.8ins. wide at the cutting edge, patinated irregularly with some evidence of old bronze disease. There is a continuation of the flanges forming a shield pattern below the stop ridge.

It would seem probable that this axe was embedded in the tree when it was alive or not long dead and certainly before it was covered by the peat, giving a date in the middle bronze age for the catastrophe which caused the trees to die and fall, being subsequently covered by peat. This peat having shrunk, the dead trees form an obstruction to agricultural operation and have to be removed.