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no trace of the glazed pitchers and pans and jugs with a pinched base which are characteristic of post-Norman crockery.

In discriminating between these different classes of ware we are dealing with minute details which it is very difficult to explain even with the help of illustrations, and this shows the importance of classifying and labelling all the specimens found; and preserving them in such a manner that they may be readily accessible for comparison.

ON SOME INDICATIONS OF A ROMAN POTTER'S FIELD NEAR JESUS COLLEGE.

By Professor T. MCKENNY HUGHES.

One of the most suggestive finds of ancient pottery that have recently come under my notice was that made in the early part of the year 1901 on the east or far side of the King's Ditch as it crosses Jesus Lane from the grounds of Sidney College and runs down Park Street by the Friends' Meeting House.

I have already described the mediaeval pottery found in the ditches of King John and Henry III. which here cross Jesus Lane and have referred some of it to the type that was the result of native work modified under Roman direction, and which, I take it, disappeared but slowly before the early Scandinavian and German incursions.

Over the adjoining area we have plenty of evidence of Roman occupation from the pottery and other remains; they cover the area in the neighbourhood of the Castle; they are common on the border of the marsh along Bridge Street and Sidney Street; they are abundant in Barnwell, and occur at intervals along the banks of the river here and there far out into the Fens wherever rising ground could be found.

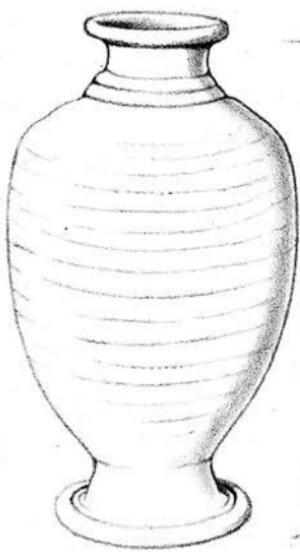
The only limitation was that, although banks and causeways may have been already made in places, the Fens generally were not yet so far reclaimed as to make it possible for farmers



1



2



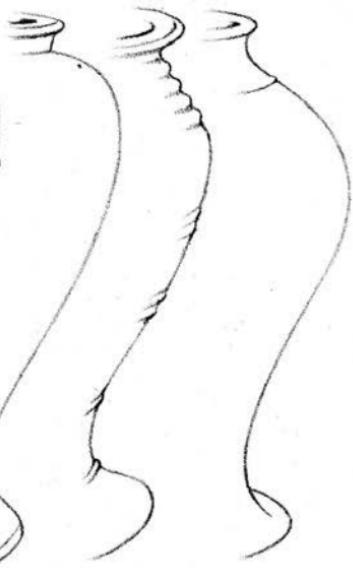
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6



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4



3

Figs. 1-2 JESUS LANE, CAMBRIDGE.

3-7 LATE CELTIC POTTERY AFTER EVANS.

to reside there throughout the year, or villas of the well-to-do to be erected within the area of periodic floods.

Still less should we expect to find traces of earlier occupation except in cases where the marshes were sought for protection or for material—but as the alluvial clay was what the Roman chiefly sought for pottery, many of the most important potter's fields are situated on the edge of the marshes.

I was much interested therefore when specimens of pottery were brought to me by Mr Mackenzie Wallis from Jesus Lane which showed a general *facies* different from that of any previously known Roman Station in our district. Some better specimens were afterwards procured by Mr Freeman and placed in the Archaeological Museum. From these the figures, Pl. XII., are taken.

I examined the spot and made enquiries and I found that it was being thrown out in considerable quantity from a silty soil further out into the marsh than where we had already proved the existence of the King's Ditch.

The King's Ditch when flushed by water being turned into it near Mill Lane, must have emptied into the river opposite Magdalene College, and therefore, so near the outfall as Jesus Lane, it must have been taken along the lowest ground possible in order to secure a flow. In still earlier times the marshes beyond where the ditch was cut would hardly have been occupied by houses. The character and condition, however, of the remains found suggested a simple explanation. There was not that great variety which is usual in middens and rubbish pits; a considerable proportion of the vessels were of the same character though there was some variety of form. Closer examination showed that they were very commonly vessels which had been spoiled in the making. Some were deformed as if they had sagged before they had been sufficiently dried (Pl. XII., Fig. 1). Some had no fault except that they leaked, owing to a boil or crack caused in the burning by the accidental inclusion of a fragment of flint or lime (Pl. XII., Fig. 2). These were vessels which would be thrown away as soon as taken out of the kiln. In fact, all the evidence went to show that somewhere close by there was a potter's

field, where vessels were made from the alluvial clay which exists there, though none that can now be seen is of a very good quality. Perhaps the manufacturers had been accustomed to a better material and no more care was taken here than had been necessary where large supplies of clay with no included fragments had been available. At any rate here we found the misfits and wasters from a kiln and the ware was different from the general *facies* of that seen in the ordinary Roman refuse heaps so common in this part of the country, although specimens of the Jesus Lane type are found in every one where a better class of ware occurs; that is to say, there are none peculiar to this deposit. The type is not that of the Horningsea manufactory, where very thick, coarse vessels predominate, those being probably such as would be most required by an agricultural population for storing and burying grain and other provisions. What then is this Jesus Lane ware? Is it the pottery of any of the people whom the Romans found here?—the people who, Caesar tells us, were in constant communication with the mainland of Europe, whence they would have introduced that and many other useful arts, the traces of which when found have always been put down to the Romans. The evidence is against this view.

On Pl. XII., Figs. 3—6, I have represented a series of late Celtic vessels from Mr Arthur Evans' valuable paper on the discoveries at Aylesbury, and in Fig. 7 indicated the difference between those and our Jesus Lane ordinary Roman hooped-barrel type.

The hooped-barrel type (Fig. 7) of Jesus Lane occurs in all the Roman rubbish heaps near Cambridge, but is nowhere common. It was more expensive or less generally useful, but it is a well-marked ware in material and workmanship, and it would be of very great interest to find the potter's field from which the country was supplied.

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