

BULLET-MOULD FROM GILL, ST. BEES.

TO FACE P. 223.

ART. XIII.—*Mould from Gill, St. Bees.* By C. A. PARKER, F.S.A., Scot.

Read at Seascale, June 11th, 1902.

A MOULD of yellowish grey stone, $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. long, $2\frac{1}{8}$ in. wide, and $1\frac{1}{8}$ in. thick, found in 1901 by Mr. Anthony Steele, of Gill, in the parish of St. Bees, when digging beside a cottage near his house. Part of a quern was found at the same time. It is a mould for casting bullets and shot of five or six varying sizes, and is evidently one of a pair or set. One face has been considerably rubbed away at both ends after its use as a bullet mould had been discontinued. This face has 40 hemispherical hollows, in rows of five across the stone, each member of a row touching its neighbour, and connected with it by a tiny channel. Larger channels lead from the edge of the stone into the outermost hole of each row. It is obvious that the mould must have been considerably heated to allow the lead to run through such small channels before cooling. At one end are remains of two holes for small bullets which appear to have been conical, and at the other end a rubbed down hollow and channel for a large spherical bullet. About half of the other face is taken up longitudinally by a set of 60 similar hollows for smaller shot, connected and channelled as before, the other half having 49 hollows for a still smaller size of shot, also connected and channelled from the other edge of the stone. At one end of this face are two hollows for conical bullets, and in the end itself are similar hollows, the axes of which are at right angles to those of the hollows on the face. The points of the cones have met in the interior of the stone, and the attempt to extract them has broken the two hollows into one in one case; in the other the lead remains. A similar double hollow is broken

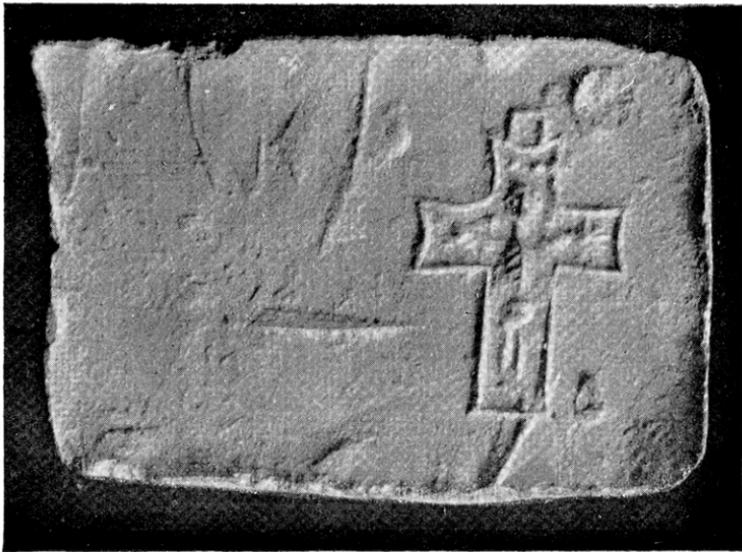
away at the other end, and besides this is a hollow and channel for a spherical bullet $\frac{1}{16}$ th of an inch in diameter. The photographs are by Miss A. E. Brickhill, of Stockport.

[NOTE.—With this mould it may be convenient here to illustrate the crucifix mould found at Portinscale in the autumn of 1901, and described by Canon Rawnsley in these *Transactions*, N.S., ii., p. 418, and in his volume entitled *A Rambler's Notebook at the English Lakes* (MacLehose, 1902), in which the subject is dealt with on page 243. The mould was found in the carriage-way from Finkle Street to Moss Garth. Mr. C. H. Read, F.S.A., keeper of British and mediæval antiquities in the British Museum, to whom Canon Rawnsley showed the stone, gave as its date the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century, and Canon Rawnsley points out that the shrine to St. Herbert on the island in Derwentwater was erected in 1374, so that this mould might have been used by a travelling moulder somewhat after that date to make little crucifixes for pilgrims who came, as many must have come, by the Finkle Street to Nichol Ending—"St. Nicholas' Landing"—on their way to St. Herbert's Island.

The photographs here reproduced are by Mr. Mayson, of Keswick. The upper figure represents one side of the stone (size of the original), with moulds for pins and buttons (perhaps meant to be the nails and five wounds of the Passion?). The lower figure is from an impression or cast of the other side of the stone, taken for Canon Rawnsley, in order to show the crucifix in relief, as it would appear in the leaden cast. To see the effect one should look at this figure with the light coming from one's right hand. Examples of such leaden crucifixes and other *signacula* may be found in the Guildhall Museum, London. There are some moulds in the mediæval room of the British Museum, but none exactly like this, which, for our district at any rate, is unique.

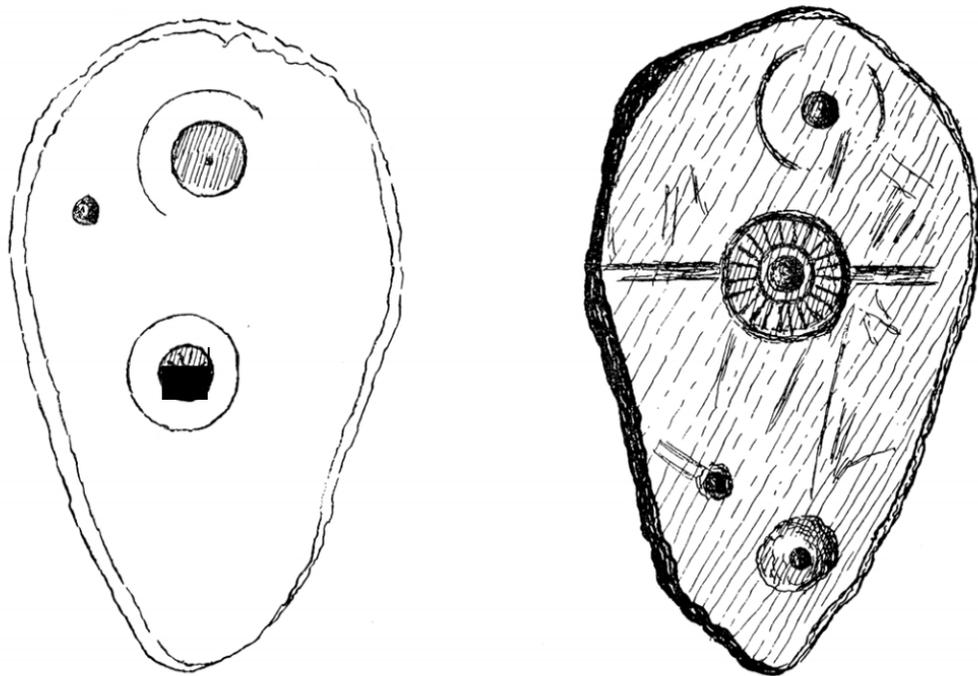
There was, however, a mould found at Butterilket in Eskdale, at the foot of Hardknott, which, though not bearing a crucifix, appears to have been made, like this, for casting small leaden objects. Mr. H. S. Cowper, F.S.A., kindly allows us to reproduce his drawings of the Butterilket mould, which is of the size of the drawings, and, like the Portinscale stone, about half-an-inch thick. It seems to have been meant for the manufacture of buttons.

Another mould, of which mention may be made for comparison, was described by the late Chancellor Ferguson in these *Transactions*, iii., Art. 5. It was made of plumbago, and must have been used by a coiner of false money in the reign of Henry VII. It was found in Netherwasdale, and is now in Tullie House Museum, Carlisle.—Ed.]



THE PORTINSCALE CRUCIFIX-MOULD.

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STONE MOULD FOUND AT BUTTERILKET, CUMBERLAND.

Actual size : from drawings by Mr. H. S. COWPER, F.S.A.

