

ART. XII.—*On another Tumulus on Sizergh Fell.* By  
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ENCOURAGED by the success of our first attempt to find traces of the ancient inhabitants of the district, we turned our attention in the summer of 1903 to a larger mound about 150 yards further east than that already described (Art. II. of this volume). In this case I have to acknowledge the active co-operation of Mr. Gandy of Heaves.

This mound was not turfed over as had been that previously opened, but was covered with small fragments of stone such as might have been recently gathered off the pasture. Deeper down we found that the stones were imbedded in earth, which could not have been thrown on for any purpose, but probably accumulated in the interstices between the stones through long ages by the action of the wind, and other natural causes.

The surface of the mound was somewhat irregular, and near the middle there was a depression, as if someone had dug down to see whether objects of interest might not be found in the centre. Notwithstanding the doubts thus raised we attacked the east margin, and, clearing away everything down to the solid rock, followed it, extending right and left as we advanced. In this way we kept a clear section in front of us, which enabled us to see how the mound was constructed and to take care that we did not pass over some central interment sunk below the original surface.

The mound was circular, about 50 feet in diameter, after making allowance for some of the smaller stones having

crept down on the south side, towards which the ground gently sloped. The greatest height above the rock floor was 3 feet 6 inches. Near the margin there was a bank of larger stones some 3 or 4 feet across, but hardly regular or persistent enough to be called a wall (*c c* in the Section). After an interval of about 4 feet there were still larger stones, up to 2 feet in longest diameter, laid over the original surface soil so as to form a kind of rough platform, and all the skeletons we found were above the level of this platform (*d d* in the Section).

The top of the limestone rock was much weathered, showing pits and irregularities due to chemical decomposition, and the surface flaked off along the bedding planes. The soil which rested immediately upon it was largely composed of the insoluble residuum of this decomposition. Its colour was black and red, and due to oxides of iron and sometimes to organic matter, but not to fire in any case. Into this the large boulders sank, but they seldom touched any part of the solid rock.

The soil which filled the interstices between the stones of the mound was chiefly a black humus full of, and owing its colour to, organic matter. The interstices were all open when first the mound was constructed by heaping stones on the cairn, and the humus is due to dust, to blown fragments of various plants, to the operations of burrowing animals, and to the accompaniments and results of the interments. As the bodies had decomposed long before the interstices had been filled, the small fragments of bone fell or were carried through them to lower levels and thus got scattered. All the bones, being exposed to damp and wet, were much decomposed. Each accumulation of black mould was full of the shells of land snails, among which Mrs. Hughes recognised :—

- Vitrea crystallina*, Müll.
- V. (Polita) alliaria*, Miller.
- V. (Polita) cellaria*, Müll.

*Pyramidula rupestris*, Drap.  
*P. (Goniodiscus) rotundata*, Müll.  
*Hygromia (Fruticicola) hispida*, Linn.  
*Helix (Cepæa) nemoralis*, Linn.  
*H (Cepæa) ? hortensis*, Müll.  
*Buliminus (Ena) obscurus*, Müll.  
*Cochlicopa lubrica*, Müll.  
*Acicula lineata*, Drap.

The bones of animals other than man were very rare. The tooth of an ox, a few teeth of sheep, two canines of fox, and some remains of mice and small insectivora were all we found. Where the human bones occurred there was generally evidence of their having been buried in a small chamber. In several cases large stones were still to be seen built up on one or more sides with a larger stone or stones overlying the bones, but the stones had generally collapsed when the body decayed away and the bones were crushed and scattered, as explained above. The skull was always found so associated with the lower limb bones as to indicate that the bodies had been placed in the chamber closely doubled up in a sitting posture.

In the Section I have shown the relative position of the skeletons.

*A*, the one first found, was that of a child of about seven or eight years old. We found many of its first and some second teeth.

The others, *B*, *C*, *D*, and *E*, were skeletons of adults—some older, some younger. Many of the teeth were much worn, probably by eating gritty food. One had a large carious cavity, but they were generally sound.

The bodies in this cairn had been disposed of by inhumation and not by cremation, as in the case of the smaller mound close by, which we opened last summer.

We did not discover any ornament, weapon, or other object which would fix the age or race of the people buried in it. The manner of interment would suggest that they were older than those buried in the previously opened

tumulus, and that they belonged to the late Neolithic period.

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*a*—Small, generally flat, dry, clean, white fragments of mountain limestone and a few boulders of Silurian sandstone (blue stones).

*b*—Large and small blocks of limestone and Silurian boulders in a dark vegetable mould with very black patches here and there.

*c*—Rough wall encircling the mound.

*d*—Platform of large stones.

*e*—Red clayey earth covering the whole of the surface of the limestone and filling the pipes and fissures in it.

*f*—Mountain limestone, splitting off at the surface into thin slabs.

*A, B, C, D, E*, position of skeletons.

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