

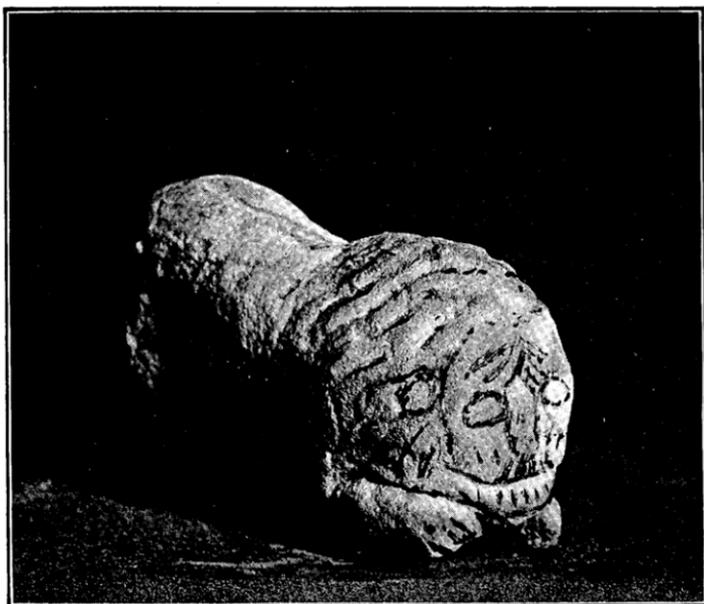
ART. XX.—*Recent finds, Mediæval and Romano-British, in and near Carlisle.* By L. E. HOPE.

Read at Carlisle, Sept. 8th, 1904.

DURING the present year, excavations for several extensive new buildings have been in progress in Carlisle, in all of which some remains of archæological interest have turned up. The two which have proved most productive are those on the site of the old Victoria Hotel in English Street, opposite the gaol, and on that of some shops in Castle Street called Swan's Premises, at the east corner of the cathedral grounds.

At Swan's Premises was found a small rectangular trough of red sandstone, 19 ins. long at the top and tapering to 11½ inches at the bottom, 7½ ins. deep and 9 inches across the top. It is difficult to conjecture what may have been its use; it is not ornamented in any way, and seems to have been portable, as it is slightly hollowed at the ends as if for grasping by the hand. It was found at a depth of 7 ft. 6 in. below the surface and with it were associated some Mediæval green-glazed potsherds, one curious piece being the neck or rim of a jar—4½ ins. across the top—with a small round spout-hole and two handles. This jar has been decorated with something resembling human arms and hands in high relief; these ornaments probably formed loops for passing a cord or strap around the neck of the jar. An iron axe-head was also found at a depth of 4 feet amongst made earth, and is perhaps comparatively modern.

At a depth of 7 feet was found a small earthenware bottle 2¼ ins. high and 3 ins. across. This bottle is apparently of the Mediæval green-glazed ware.



SCULPTURE OF LION (ROMAN)

Found at Swan's Premises, Carlisle. TO FACE P. 267.

At a lower depth of 9 feet to 11 feet were found many fragments of Samian and other Romano-British ware, amongst which is a very perfect little jar or cup, with a handle, $4\frac{1}{2}$ ins. high, of dark grey ware and of the design which is generally attributed to Late Celtic. A small sculptured stone, representing a lion devouring something, was found at this depth; this appears to have been broken from a larger stone and is of the type often seen on Roman sepulchral monuments.

A number of Roman coins were found here at depths varying from 6 feet to 11 feet and range from the reign of the Emperor Trajan to that of Constantine the Great. The most interesting is the first brass or sestertius of Antoninus Pius, with the rare reverse of Britannia. It is not in good condition but the portrait of the Emperor on the obverse and the figure of Britannia on the reverse are clearly distinguishable. This coin is supposed to be the origin of the figure of Britannia on our present-day coinage, and was struck under Antoninus to commemorate the successes of his proprætor in Britain.

The excavations on the site of the old Victoria Hotel produced several objects of Romano-British date, chief in interest of which is an example of the rare first brass of the Emperor Vespasian with the reverse of *Judæa Capta*. This is said to be the most interesting of the whole series of Roman coins; it was struck under Vespasian to commemorate the subjugation of Judæa. At a depth of 8 feet a very fine bronze spoon (*cochlear*) was found; it has been finely engraved and silvered, and is partly covered by a black patina which, on analysis, proved to contain traces of silver. Near the same depth an almost perfect jar of Samian ware was found; it is $3\frac{3}{4}$ ins. high and of a very unusual form, being a globular-shaped vase; the wide part of the jar has a laid-on or slip design representing the leaves and stem of a plant, a familiar decoration of some of the small saucer-shaped vessels of Samian. As the slip has been roughly put on, the objects

look almost like fishes. These objects have been presented to Tullie House by Major Spencer C. Ferguson.

At these excavations and at the depth of about 6 feet were discovered the remains of a large oak tank about 6 feet long by 4 feet wide, presumably of Romano-British date.

In excavating during 1903 for cellars at Messrs. Robinson Bros.' buildings, and at the site of the old Coffee House in English Street, the usual fragments and potsherds of Romano-British wares were met with; Major Ferguson secured a perfect little vase-shaped jar of dark grey ware, $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. high. A very fine gold coin of the Emperor Nero was also found at one of these places: the obverse has the head of Nero and the legend—*Imp(erator) Nero Cæsar Aug(ustus) P(ater) P(atr)ia*), and on the reverse—*Salus*.

An old thatched house, which stood at the junction of the Newcastle and Glasgow roads on Stanwix Bank, has recently been demolished, and in digging for foundations for new buildings a quantity of potsherds and fragments of Romano-British date were found at a depth of only 2 feet. Much of the soil was undisturbed and the potsherds lay on the clay. These include Samian ware, black, grey, and terra cotta ware, and portions of amphoræ and mortaria. One or two pieces are interesting; one, the base of vessel with nipped-in sides, is of cream-coloured clay; it has been painted a darker colour outside and black inside. Another is a third portion, intact, of a triple vase of dark grey ware. Part of a Samian vessel shews a spirited combat between gladiators and wild animals.

Two or three Roman coins were found, including a first brass of Trajan and a second brass of Hadrian.

At nearly the same depth half of an iron cannon-ball was found, 4 ins. in diameter. It is probably one of the shot fired at the Rebels in 1745. About the same level was found a large millstone about 28 ins. in diameter and



(1)



(2)

1.—Cochlear or Spoon of Bronze, formerly silvered. Found at Victoria Hotel, English Street, Carlisle, 1904.

2.—Bronze Toilet Article (Earpick ?) found at Victoria Hotel, English Street, Carlisle, 1904.

TO FACE P. 268.

a stone hopper about 12 ins. in diameter and 12 ins. high; the two were probably used in conjunction and are of comparatively modern date.

A find of Pre-historic age may be reported—that of a bronze socketed celt—discovered at Brough, Westmorland, in February, 1904. It is $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. long, of the type attributed by Prof. Boyd Dawkins to the late Bronze age; it was found while carting away a hillock near Swindale Grange.