



STONE IMPLEMENTS FROM LANERCOST PARISH.  
B—Axe-hammer. C—Thin-butted celt.

TO FACE P. 135.

ART. XV.—*Stone Implements found in the Parish of Lanercost, Cumberland.* By the LADY HENLEY.

THESE three implements, hitherto unpublished, were found within recent years in the parish of Lanercost. Two are axe-hammers, one a thin-butted celt. One axe-hammer and the celt were found in the same neighbourhood, at the north end of the parish; the other on the Naworth estate.

A.—Axe-hammer of blue whinstone, found at the north end of Lanercost parish in 1926 among "road-metal" in a farm-yard, and now in private possession. Length  $7\frac{3}{8}$  inches, breadth 4 inches, thickness  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inches; weight 3 lbs. 15 ozs. The stone might be described as leaf-shaped, with a rounded butt, somewhat like that from Chapel Ridding, Windermere, figured on p. 20 of Mr. W. G. Collingwood's *Lake District History*; but our specimen is broader in proportion to its length and more squat in outline than that. The hole is of hour-glass shape, measuring one inch in diameter in the middle and widening to two inches at each end.

The nearest parallel in Mr. Reginald Smith's monograph on "The Perforated Axe-hammers of Britain" (*Archæologia*, lxxv, 77-108) is perhaps that from Towthorpe, Yorks. E. R. (fig. 32), much resembling another Yorkshire specimen found, with a bronze dagger, in a grave at Ganton, Yorks. E. R. (fig. 31). It is now fairly well established that stone axe-hammers in general belong to the Bronze Age: "those (axe-hammers) of stone which are datable clearly belong to the Bronze Age" (Smith, *op. cit.* p. 83).

B.—Axe-hammer of roughish grey stone, found on the Naworth estate. Length  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches, breadth  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches,

thickness  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches. Weight, 9 lbs. 2 ozs. The hole is very slightly hour-glass shaped. The implement is now at Askerton Castle.

As the photograph shows, this implement is of a different type from A; instead of having a rounded butt and a leaf-shaped outline it has a square butt and a bulge in the outline opposite the hole. This is in fact a rude example of the type exemplified in a specimen from Peterborough (Smith, fig. 47) which Mr. Smith describes as "undoubtedly of Danish origin"; a similar but less rude example from Westerdale Moors, Yorks. N. R., is shown, *ibid.* fig. 40. Its probable date is late in the Bronze Age.

C.—Thin-butted celt of smooth-grained bluish-grey stone, with fine sharp edge, notched at the blunt end as if to fasten it in a cleft stick. Length  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches, breadth  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, Thickness  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Weight 1 lb. 9 ozs. Found in 1929 near Luke's House, on Wintershields farm, 2 feet below ground in a permanent fell pasture which has not been ploughed within memory, and now in possession of Mr. Ben Gamble, Askerton Keep.

This is a typical example of one of the commonest patterns of polished stone implements. It closely resembles the well-known specimen found in Ehenside Tarn, which was discovered complete with its wooden haft (Evans, *Ancient Stone Implements of Great Britain*, p. 139, fig. 92.).\*

\* [As to chronology: if the British Bronze Age dates (very roughly) 2000-500 B.C., both its beginning and its end doubtless fall a good deal later than this in Cumberland. The thin-butted celt is a "neolithic" type; but, in a country poor in metal, such an implement might well have been made in the Bronze Age. It was only towards the end of that "Age" that bronze became common.—Ed.]