

IV.

NOTES ON INCISED SCULPTURINGS ON STONES IN THE CAIRNS OF SLIABH-NA-CALLIAGHE, NEAR LOUGHCREW, COUNTY MEATH, IRELAND. WITH ILLUSTRATIONS FROM A SERIES OF GROUND-PLANS AND WATER-COLOUR SKETCHES, BY THE LATE G. V. DU NOYER, OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF IRELAND. BY WILLIAM FRAZER, F.R.C.S.I., HON. MEM. S.A. SCOT. (PLATES VII., VIII.)

To the north-west of County Meath, about 2 miles distant from the town of Oldcastle, on the estate of Mr Napper, Loughcrew, are a small range of hills, extending about 2 miles east and west, of which the highest ridge, called Carn Bane or Sliabh-na-Calliaghe, rises 904 feet above sea-level, the surrounding country averaging about 300 feet. Being the highest eminence in Meath it affords an extensive prospect over widespread limestone plains stretching south and west across the centre of Ireland, and the Lower Silurian grits and slaty rocks that extend northwards round Lough Ramor, the ridge constituting the line of junction of these two systems of rock. On a clear day the ranges of mountains above Carlingford on the east coast and near Sligo in the far west become visible from its summit, and it is stated that no less than eighteen out of the thirty-two counties in Ireland may be pointed out around the horizon.

From unaccountable oversight, the cairns upon these hills were not recorded by the Irish Geological Survey in its maps until the late Mr E. Conwell directed attention to them, and to the scribed stones they contained. These important scribings constitute by far the most extensive and valuable collection of such prehistoric remains yet discovered in Europe. Owing to Mr Conwell's exertions, a fresh survey of the district was carried out and the cairns inserted on the official maps.

A locality so rich in primitive remains of our earlier inhabitants and their sepulchral cairns might be expected to afford numerous legendary tales, transmitted through tradition, about the people who erected them, and their doings. So far back as the days of the celebrated Dean Swift,

he is stated to have versified one of these stories told to him by his gardener at Laracor, and in the "Letters relating to the Irish Ordnance Survey" by the late Dr O'Donovan, now preserved in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, and which form a mine of information about Ireland and Irish archæology, will be found some of these legends. Thus he writes, in a letter dated Kells, 30th July 1836 :—

"There are three hills about a mile asunder in this parish, having three heaps of stones on their summits, with which the following wild legend is connected. A famous old hag of antiquity called Cailleagh Bheatha (Calliagh Vera) came one time from the north to perform a magical feat in this neighbourhood, by which she was to obtain great power if she succeeded. She took an apronful of stones and dropped a cairn on Carn Bane, from this she jumped to the summit of Slieve-na-Calliaghe, a mile distant, and dropped a second cairn there, from this hill she made a second jump and dropped a cairn on a second hill about a mile distant. If she could make another leap and drop the fourth cairn it appears that the magical feat would be accomplished, but in giving the jump she slipped and fell in the townland of Patrickstown, in the parish of Diamor, where she broke her neck. Here she was buried, and her grave was to be seen not many years ago in the field called *cul a mota* (*i.e.*, back of the moat), about 200 perches to the east of the moat in that townland, but it is now destroyed. She is now a banshee in some parts of Ireland, and is represented in some elegies as appearing before the death of some persons." "On one occasion she turned the celebrated Fin MacCoil into an old man."

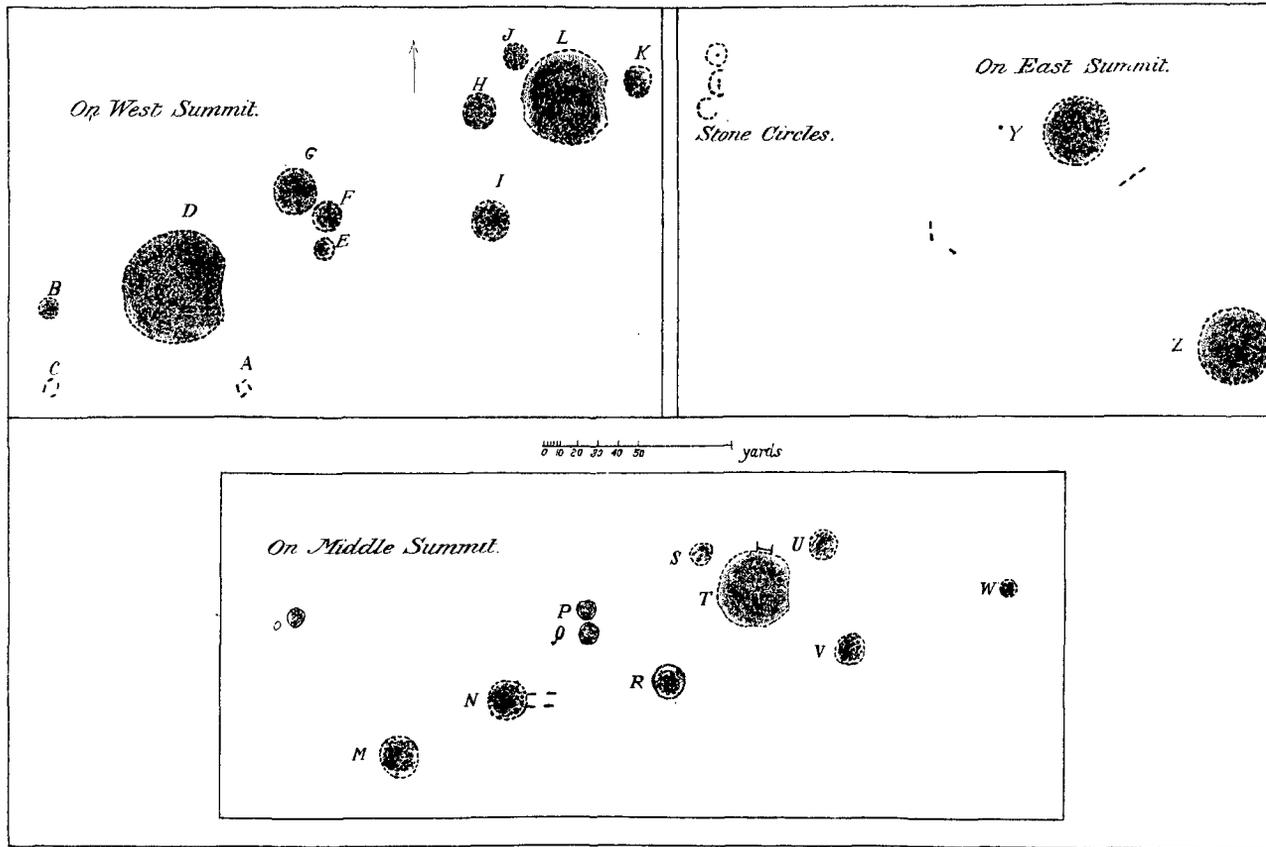
I prefer referring those desirous of investigating Mr Conwell's theories to a little work published in 1873, entitled *Discovery of the Tomb of Ollamh Fodhla, Ireland's Famous Monarch, &c.* This contains a description of the Chair Cairn T, with plan and illustrations of its inscribed stones, not very artistic, but sufficiently exact to convey a fair idea of their peculiar markings. The appendix has short descriptions of the other cairns he found scattered over the Loughcrew hills and their contents, of which I have availed myself. See also *Proceedings of Royal Irish Academy*, vol. ix. p. 355, and an account published in *Journal of Kilkenny Archæological Society*, vol. v. (n.s.), by Du Noyer.

Mr Conwell's work was intended as precursor of a complete description which his removal from Meath to the South of Ireland (as Inspector of Irish National Schools), and his death that occurred soon after, prevented being published.

The object of this communication is to submit an extensive series of original drawings representing most of the inscribed stones found in these cairns, leaving their explanation to future better-skilled commentators. It appears to me useless to attempt any satisfactory explanation of these hidden meanings, if such there be, in the present state of our knowledge, and it is preferable to regard them as decorative and ornamental tracings. They belong to the same class of rude stone scribings found in the great sepulchral cairns of New Grange and Dowth, upon the banks of the river Boyne, and have certain affinities with inscriptions found in Brittany, especially at Morbihan; but little could be gained by conjectural and useless disquisitions, whilst a simple record of the rock scribings themselves will have the positive value of preserving an accurate record of their appearance when first uncovered, for since then each year's exposure has rendered them less apparent, from disintegration of the surface of the stones and weathering, and they have also received ill-treatment at the hands of ignorant visitors.

Mr Conwell has published small woodcuts of the incised stones of Cairn T (for its position see Plate VII.), in front of which the Hag's Seat is situated. They are tolerably correct, but of rough execution; however, they give a fair idea of their appearance so far as could be accomplished on a limited scale. He subsequently prepared some lithographic drawings, for the *Transactions* of the Royal Irish Academy, of the Cairns marked I and U, but they never appeared.

I chanced some time since to have offered to me for purchase the drawings I now possess, which form almost a perfect series of all the scribed stones contained in the cairns. They were drawn by the late G. V. Du Noyer, an officer in the Irish Geological Survey, in art a pupil of George Petrie. His drawings are invariably reliable; and this, combined with his special familiarity with geological matters, renders the present series additionally valuable. I have compared them with Mr Conwell's figures, and have obtained, through the kindness of friends, careful



PLANS OF THREE GROUPS OF CAIRNS ON SLIEVE-NA-CALLIAGHE, CO. MEATH.

rubbings taken from many of the stones (some of which I send with the drawings). These will bear out my statements as to the care with which Mr Du Noyer executed his sketches, and the fidelity of his details. It would not be possible at present to reproduce as perfect a series of representative drawings, even aided by photography; for some markings, as already mentioned, have become irreparably injured from exposure and accidental damage in the course of the past thirty years. Mr Conwell states that, with the intention of future publication, he employed a professional artist to draw, under his own eye and correction, all the curious and remarkable devices on the numerous large stones forming the interior chambers of these cairns, and he adds these important words—"It has proved fortunate we did so at the period when most of them were clear and unmistakable, after being recently exposed, for at our latest visit to the place we found instances, from the effects of subsequent weathering, where it would be now impossible to draw the original devices with accuracy and fidelity.

Mr Du Noyer's name does not appear on the drawings shown, but the memoranda are in his writing, and it is impossible to mistake his artistic handiwork and peculiar touch. He executed numerous archaeological drawings: of these he presented twelve folio volumes to the Royal Irish Academy, and the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland have several more volumes of sketches. A few of the present series have, I fear, been lost. One of these now missing appeared in the *Kilkenny Archaeological Journal*, vol. v., n.s., p. 384, copied in lithograph, and bearing Mr Du Noyer's signature. This I have copied in an ink-sketch.

Enumeration of the cairns, following the arrangement of Mr Conwell, but giving a list of those in ruins, or from which no incised stones were obtained, in an Appendix.

CAIRNS WITH INCISED STONES.

Cairn F (Plate VII.) was $16\frac{1}{2}$ yards across, and about 5 feet of its height still remained. The interior chambers, when cleared out, formed a cross, the shaft of entrance bearing E. 10° N. This passage was 8 feet long, and 2 feet 2 inches broad. The entire length from the commencement of the passage to the extremity of the opposite chamber was 15 feet, and the

breadth across the chambers from N. to S. was 9 feet 4 inches: only one roofing-flag covering the commencement of the passage remained in position, and the entrance was closed merely by loose stones. Across the entrances of the southern and western chambers were laid stones about a foot in height and 3 or 4 inches thick. On the floor of the northern chamber was a rude stone basin, 3 feet 5 inches long, 2 feet 4 inches broad, and 5 inches thick. Under this basin was found a portion of a bone pin and a flint flake. In the S.W. corner of the southern chamber, about a foot from the bottom, amongst clay and stones, was found a round iron-stone ball 3 inches in diameter, and several fragments of bone were scattered on the floor. Two feet outside its circumference are three pillar-stones. It contained seven sculptured stones. The drawings represent—

Fig. 1. Stone *a*.—A stone at S. side of passage, 2 feet broad and 3 feet 2 inches high.

Fig. 2. Stone *b*.—From N. side of passage, 1 foot 4 inches broad, and 2 feet 8 inches high. Mr Du Noyer observed that the scribings were "punched."

Fig. 3. Stone *c*.—On N. side of passage, 1 foot 9 inches wide, 2 feet 4 inches high. The superficial markings are "scraped," not punched on the stone.

Fig. 4. Stone *d*.—On S. side of passage, marked by a transverse series of depressions.

Fig. 5. Stone *e*.—Measures 2 feet 10 inches \times 2 feet 9 inches.

Figs. 6 and 7.—Two loose stones obtained in excavating the Cairn are also figured.

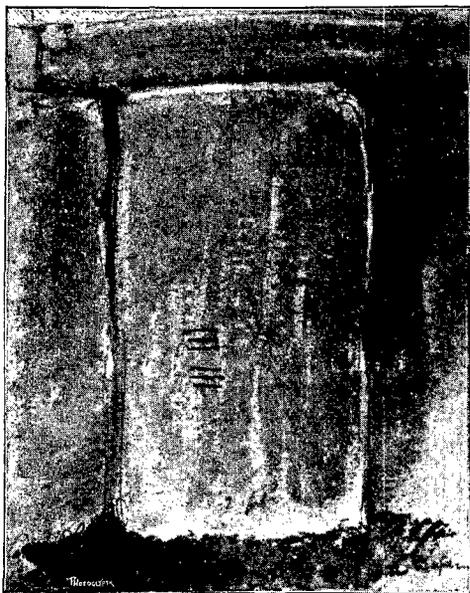


Fig. 1. Stone *a* of Cairn F.

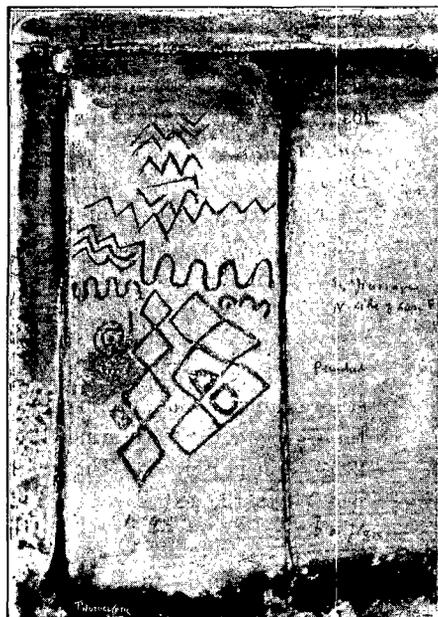


Fig. 2. Stone *b* of Cairn F.

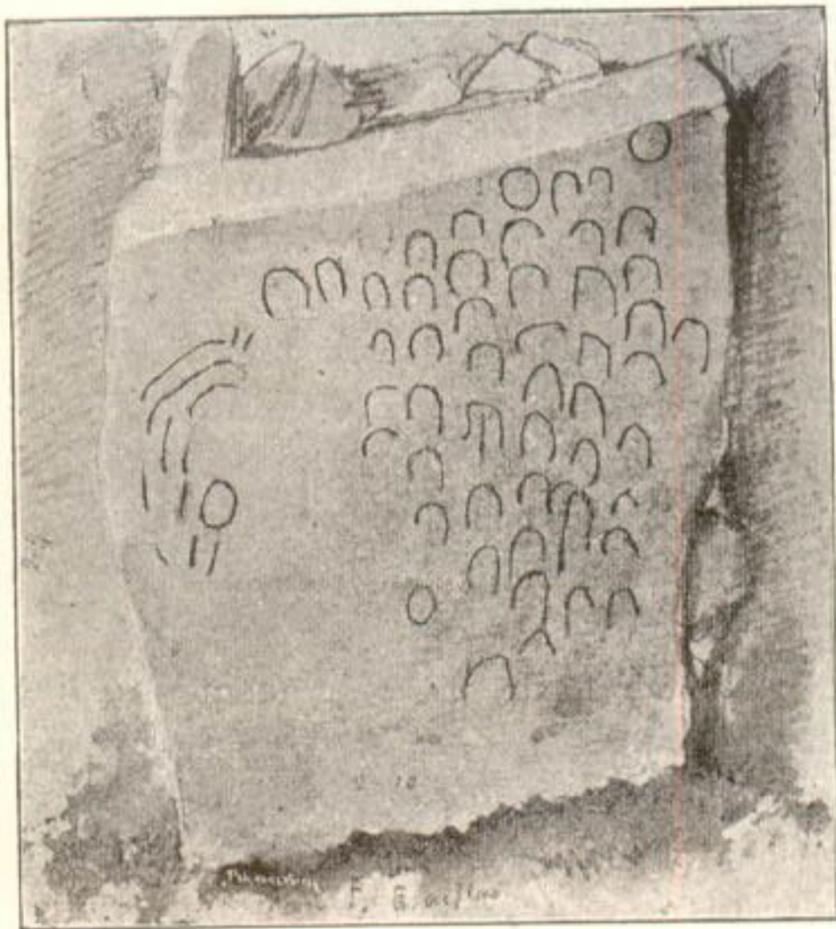


Fig. 5. Stone *e* of Cairn F.

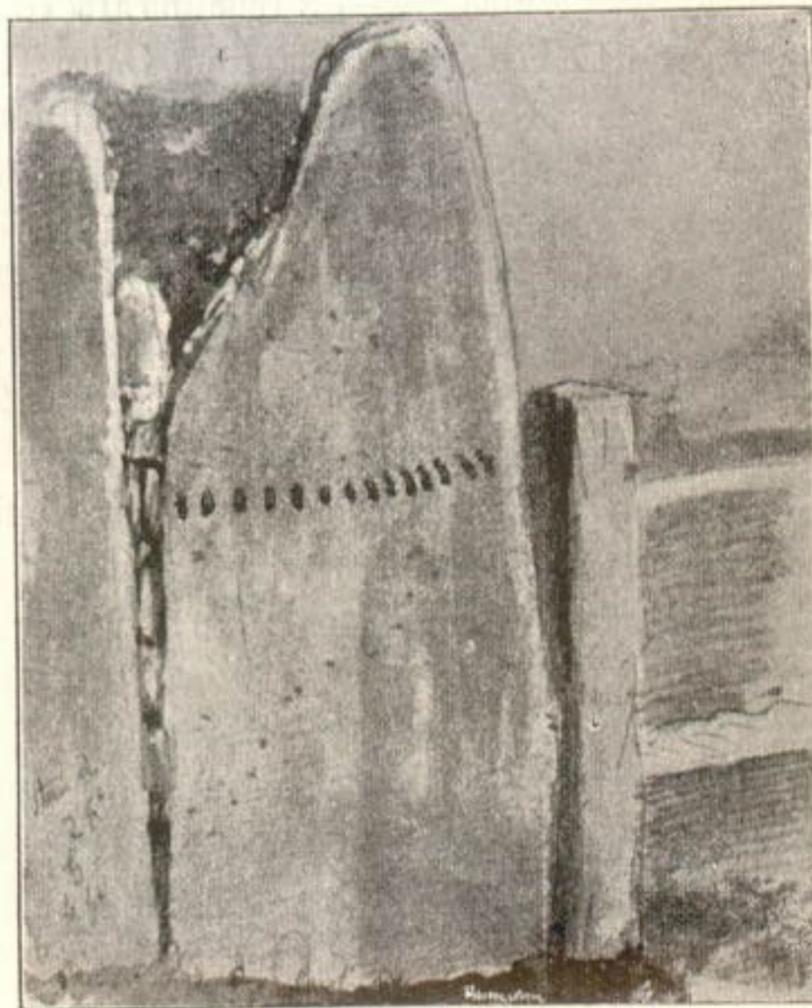
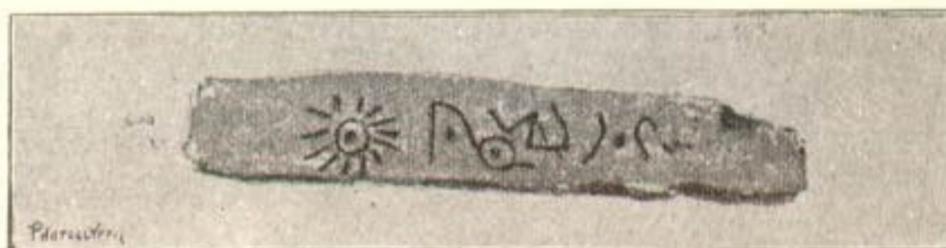
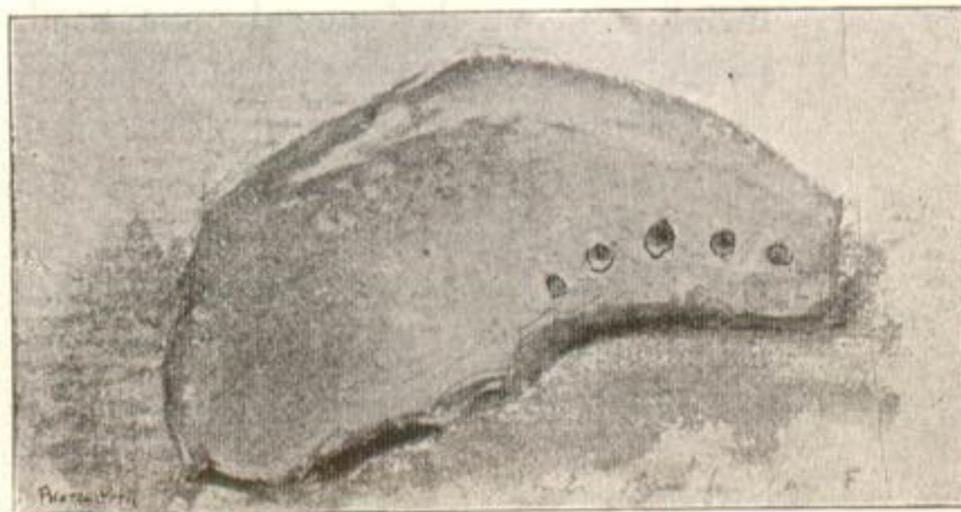


Fig. 4. Stone *d* of Cairn F.



Fig. 3. Stone *c* of Cairn F.



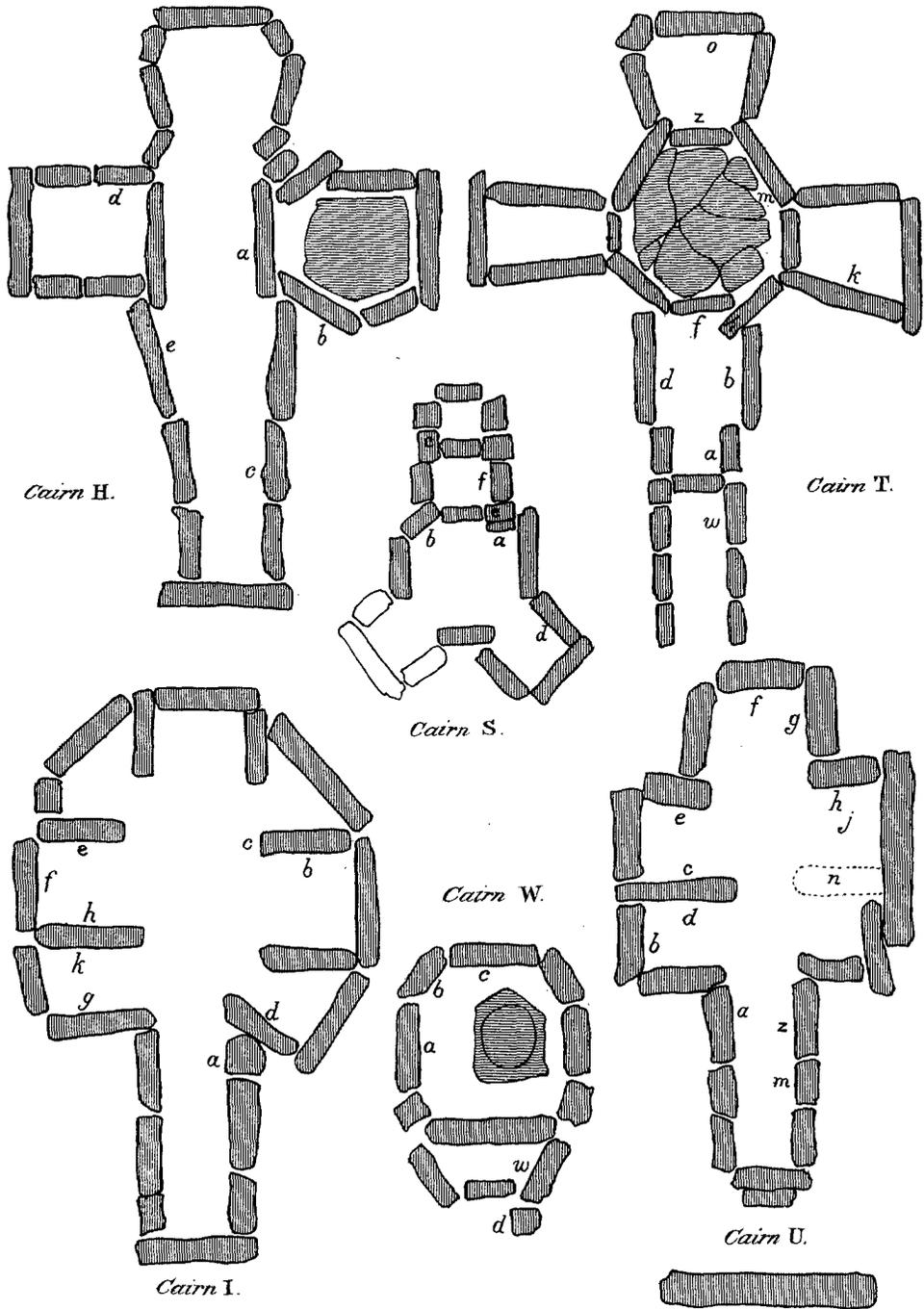
Figs. 6 and 7. Loose Stones in Cairn F.

Cairn H.—Its remains are 18 yards in diameter, and 5 or 6 feet high. It lies $16\frac{1}{2}$ yards from Cairn L, the second largest on the western hill. Du Noyer's plan gives a good view of its entrance-passage and chambers. The covering-stones had disappeared, except half a dozen large overlapping flags upon W. and N. crypts. The entrance-passage, 13 feet long, ran E. 20° S.; it was $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide at the commencement, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide at its inner extremity. The entire length from the opening to the end of the W. chamber was 23 feet, and the distance across from N. to S. measured 16 feet. The southern chamber was 3 feet 7 inches broad, the western chamber 4 feet, diminishing towards its entrance to 3 feet 2 inches, the northern being $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet across, and on its floor was a rude stone basin, 4 feet 3 inches long by 4 feet broad, and about 6 inches in thickness.

Loose stones and earth filled the chambers and passage for about a foot and a half in depth, and then to the depth of 3 feet the passage was packed with fragmentary bones and several small pieces of quartz. Mr Conwell obtained numerous portions of human remains, amongst them eight pieces of jaw-bones, with teeth, &c. From the soft mixture of clay and bones in the chambers, he obtained the end of a bone bodkin, half of a bone ferule, six pieces of bone pins, one of which retained the metal rivet which fastened on a head, the tine of an antler 3 inches long, fourteen fragments of rude pottery (urns), much blackened by fire on their inner surface, ten pieces of flint, 115 sea-shells (limpet and cockle) and 110 broken shells, portion of the intercostal bone of a whale, eight small shining stones, 100 white sea-pebbles and 60 of other colours, also a small brown stone ball and a flake of polished bone 6 inches \times 4.

Underneath the stone basin, mixed with splinters of burned bone, were six stone balls, the largest about 1 inch in diameter, so soft that they scarcely bore to be touched. Mr Conwell states that five appeared to be carbonate of lime and one porphyry: they were possibly steatite.

In the southern chamber and about its entrance were obtained near 5000 flat pieces of bone, many of them polished (of which I send some for illustration): 501 were ornamented with rows of fine transverse lines, 11 perforated at one end, 91 engraved into circles and orna-



GROUND PLANS OF CHAMBERS OF CAIRNS AT SLIEVE-NA-CALLIAGHE.

(Scale, 8 feet to an inch.)

ments of late Celtic designs, and one in cross-hatched lines represented an antlered stag. Of this Mr Conwell published a drawing, but the specimen is now lost. The greater portion of this collection is preserved in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy. There were also found 13 combs, 7 of which were engraved on both sides, but all imperfect. In addition to these, seven very small amber beads were got, three beads of green and blue glass, six bronze rings from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in diameter, and portions of others, and seven iron articles, one being probably part of a saw, another a punch, &c., which may have produced the markings on the bone fragments. It is difficult to understand any connection between these objects found in the cairn and the incised stones. The pieces of bone may represent the stock-in-trade of a comb-maker who used its chambers for his residence at a much later period than their erection for sepulchral purposes.

This cairn afforded five stones with incised sculpturings, the positions of which are shown in Plate VIII. :—

- Fig. 8. Stone *a*.—South face, 4 feet 6 inches long and 2 feet 3 inches high. It formed the threshold to northern chamber, and presents three coiled circles, the largest 11 inches in diameter. A rubbing of part of these circles is sent for comparison with the drawing.
- Fig. 9. Stone *b*.—Lay to right of the stone basin, 2 feet 8 inches at base, 2 feet 2 inches above, and 4 feet high. The surface very rough.
- Fig. 10. Stone *c*.—Middle stone of passage, north side, 3 feet 2 inches broad and 5 feet high. Stone *d*.—Is wanting; it forms the boundary-stone of S. chamber.
- Fig. 11. Stone *e*.—Upper stone of passage, south side probably same size as *c*. No measurements given in drawing.

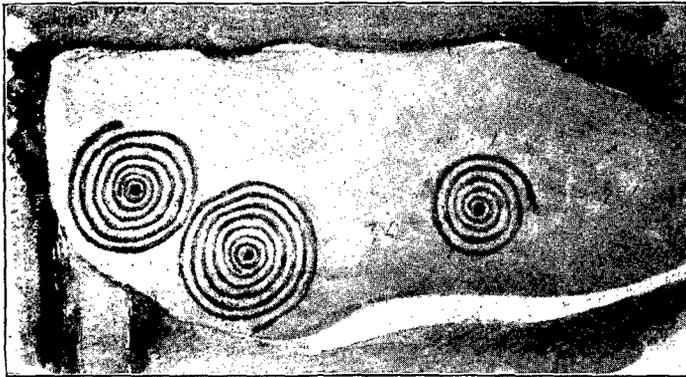


Fig. 8. Stone *a*, Cairn H.



Fig. 9. Stone *b*, Cairn H.

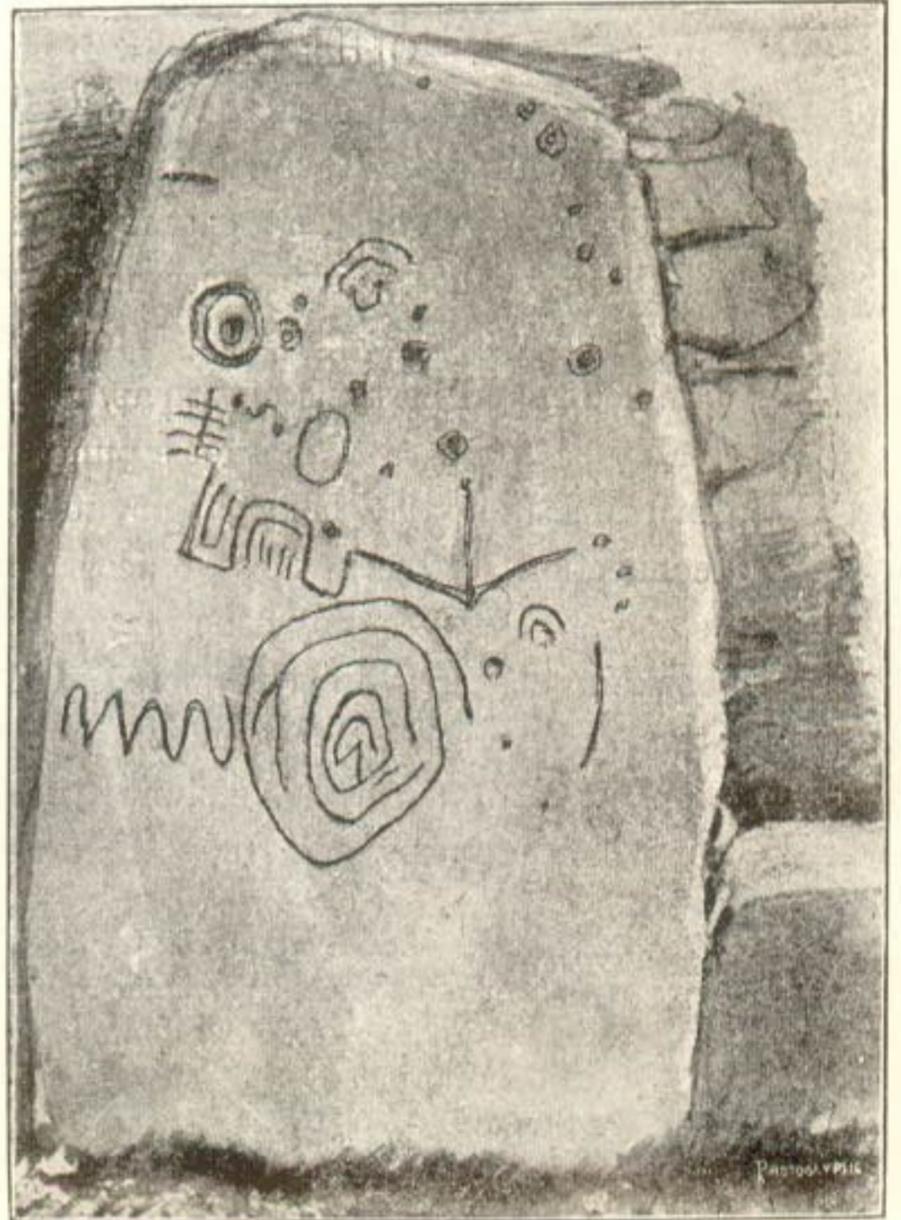


Fig. 10. Stone *c*, Cairn H.

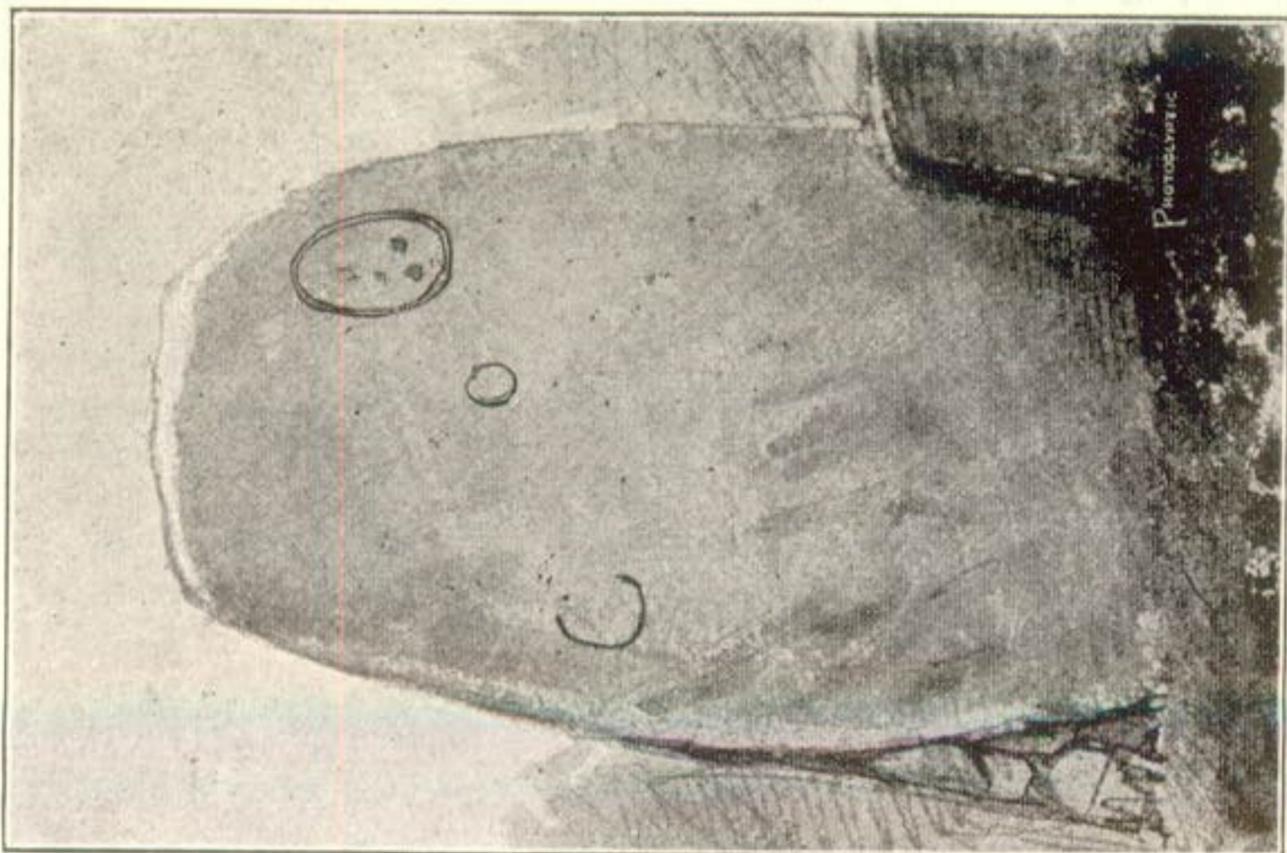


Fig. 11. Stone *e*, Cairn H.

Cairn I.—Lay $64\frac{1}{2}$ yards to east of Cairn F, and 53 yards southwest of L. It was 21 yards in diameter, only 4 or 5 feet of the original structure remained, and the roof being removed, the interior had filled with small stones, through them the long roots of nettles penetrated, and when the cairn was cleared out, portions of the engraved surface of the stones crumbled down, forced out by these roots, before they could be drawn. The entrance-passage lay due east, and was 8 feet 6 inches long and 4 feet 6 inches wide. From the commencement of this passage to the back part of the opposite chamber measured 22 feet, and across the chamber from north to south was 13 feet. The interior consisted of seven compartments, separated by vertical flag-stones, as shown in the plan (Plate VIII.). On four of the floors rested square flags 2 feet across and 2 inches thick, on which charred bones were found; when the flags were raised, a layer of dry small stones was seen that reached about 4 in. in depth, and had scattered fragments of charred bone on top.

In the compartment facing east, on the layer of finely broken stones was a bead $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in diameter, and a pendant $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, made from some kind of stone that had greatly decayed.

It yielded nine stones with incised sculpturings :—

- Fig. 12. Stone *a*.—The upper stone, north side of passage, 1 foot broad and about 3 feet high.
- Fig. 13. Stone *b*.—The divisional slab between middle and upper chambers on north side, 6 feet high and 2 feet 6 inches broad. The edge of this stone also affords markings, and is designated as—
- Fig. 14. Stone *c* in the sketches.—It measured about 12 inches wide. The sculpturing on this stone was concealed to a height of 22 inches by a close-fitting flag, having under it a layer of finely broken stones, mixed with splinters of charred bone.
- Fig. 15. Stone *d*.—A stone bounding the east side of the first chamber north of entrance, 4 feet wide and about 6 feet high. The resemblance which its peculiar waved markings have to similar scribings found in the mound of New Grange on the Boyne is deserving of notice.
- Fig. 16. Stone *e*.—The boundary-stone of lower chamber, south side, on its eastern aspect. Its height was 4 feet, and width about 2 feet.
- Fig. 17. Stone *f*.—At back of middle chamber, S. side. It measured 3 feet 7 inches broad and 3 feet high. The markings on this stone, forming a figure ∞ by interlacing curves around circles, is similar to one found at New Grange.
- Fig. 18. Stone *g*.—Represents the inner surface of eastern boundary-stone of first chamber on south side; it displays numerous markings. Measurement, 3 feet 9 inches wide, and 3 feet 6 inches high.
- Fig. 19. Stone *h*.—Western face of dividing-stone between first and second chambers on south side of Cairn; also the edge of this stone, towards interior of cist. Rubbings obtained from its markings, which resemble the spread-out leaves of a fern, or bones of a flat-fish, were forwarded for comparison, and to illustrate the actual size of the scribings.

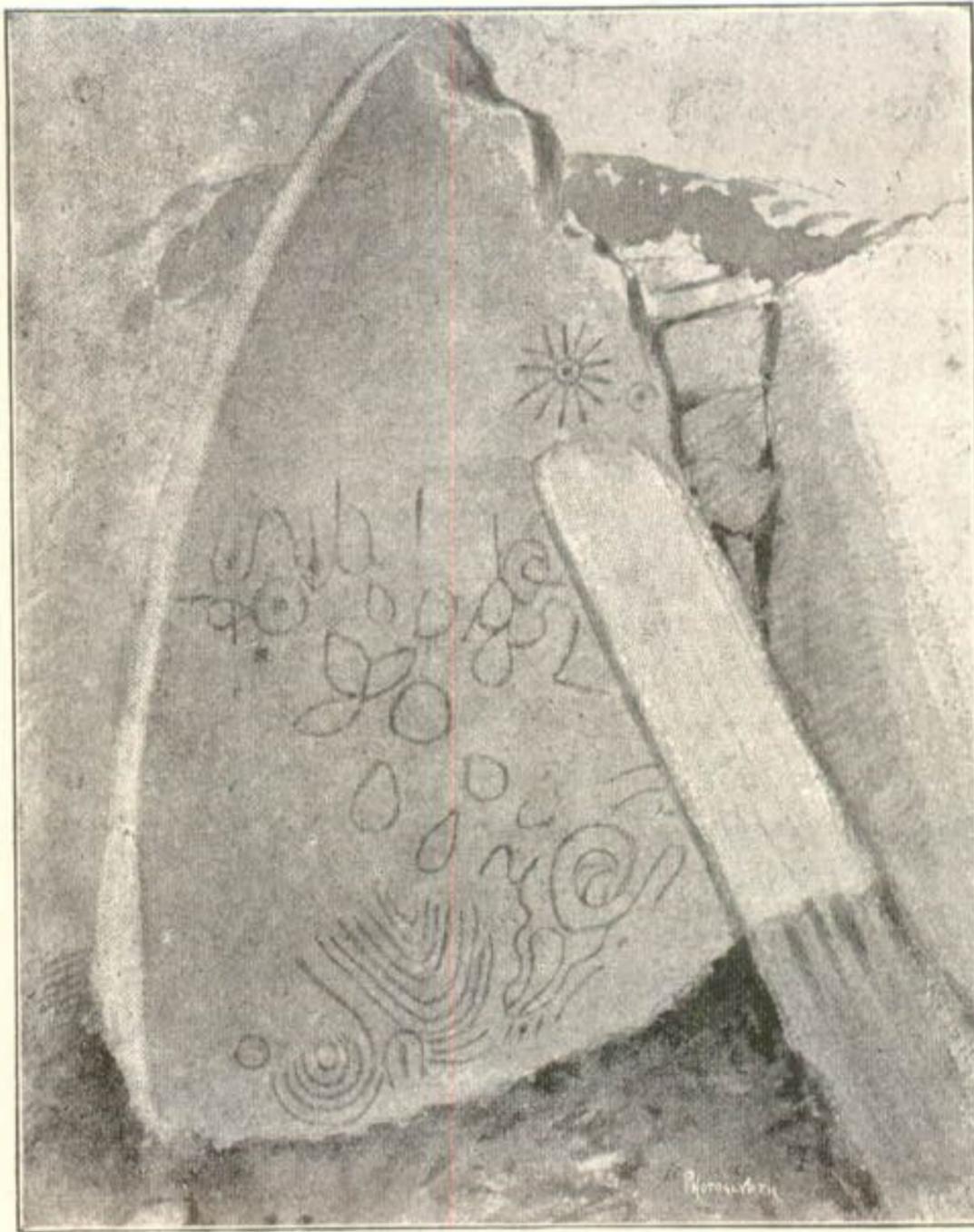


Fig. 13. Stone *b*, Cairn I.

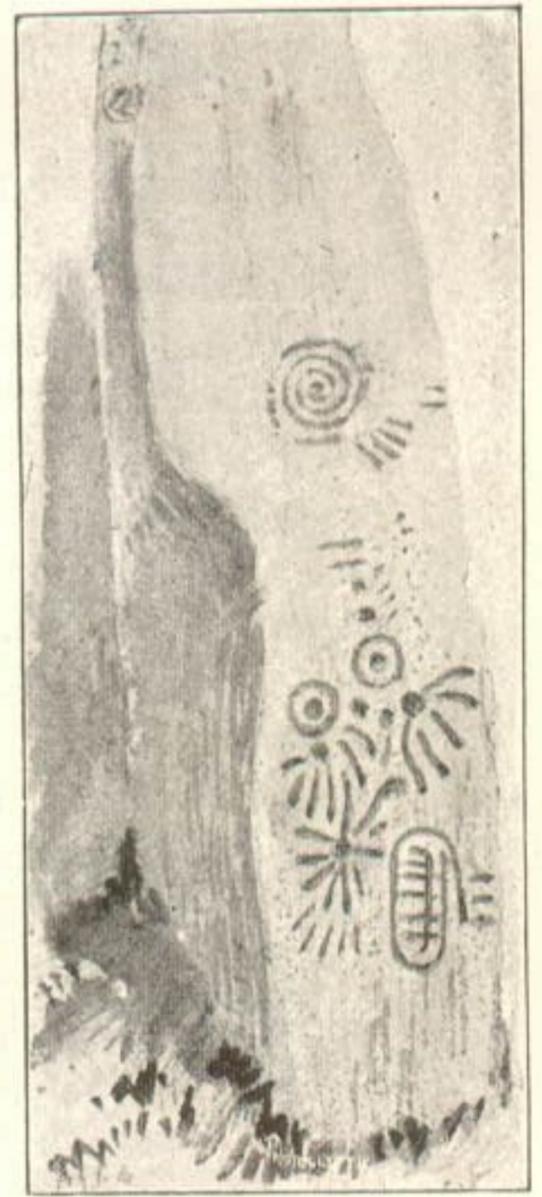


Fig. 14. Stone *c*, Cairn I.



Fig. 17. Stone *f*, Cairn I.

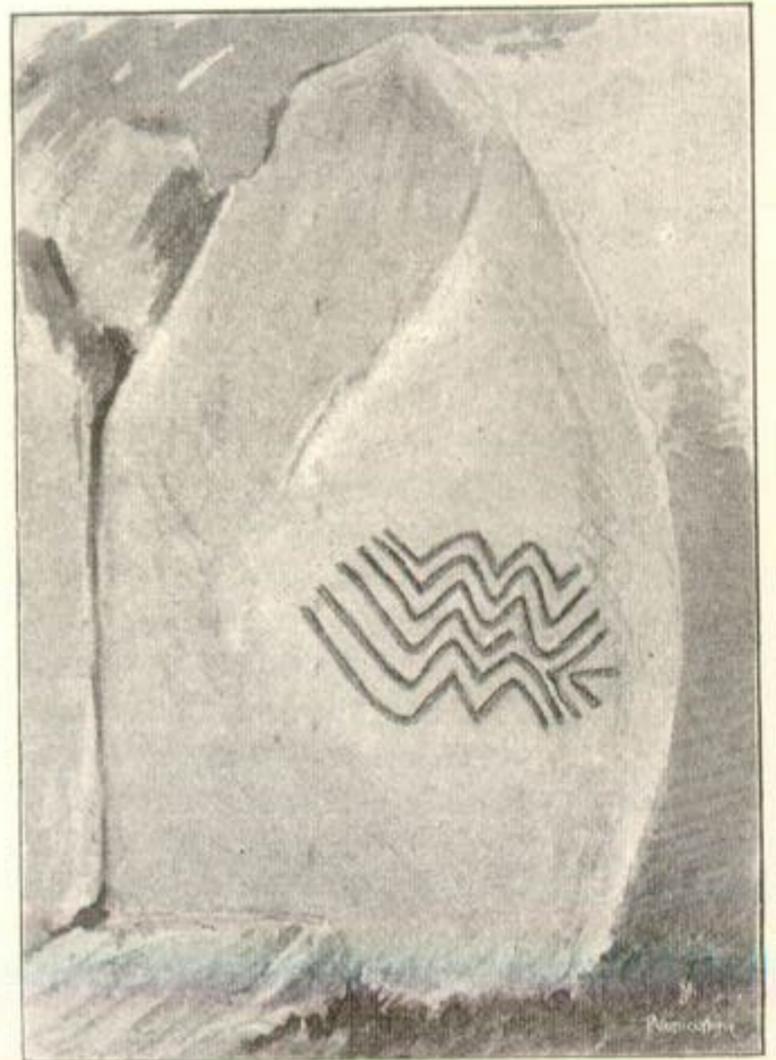


Fig. 15. Stone *d*, Cairn I.



Fig. 12. Stone *a*, Cairn I.



Fig. 16. Stone *e*, Cairn I.



Fig. 18. Stone *g*, Cairn I.



Fig. 19. Stone *h*, Cairn I.

Cairn J (Plate VII.) is situated 23 yards N.E. of Cairn H, and only distant 3 yards to west of L. It is $15\frac{1}{2}$ yards across, and its present remains only 4 to 5 feet high. Twelve large stones mark its circumference. The interior had been much disturbed, and was filled with stones and rubbish. The entrance-passage lay E. 20° S., and was 7 feet 6 inches long, without any upright stone closing its entrance. A roughly-finished stone ball was found near the opening of the passage into the inner chambers.

There were three stones with incised sculpturings in this cairn ; of two I have sketches.

Fig. 20. Stone *a*.—Measures 5 feet in height, and 2 feet 3 inches at top.

Fig. 21. Stone *b*.—Found on west side of Cairn, facing eastward, is 2 feet 3 inches high, and 3 feet 2 inches broad. The markings found on these stones are few and unimportant.

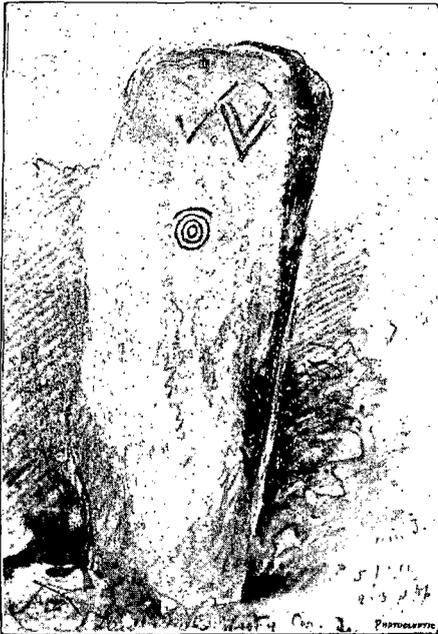


Fig. 20. Stone *a*, Cairn J.



Fig. 21. Stone *b*, Cairn J.

Cairn K (Plate VII.) yielded two inscribed stones, of which there are no drawings. It lay $12\frac{1}{2}$ yards N.E. from Cairn L, and measured $16\frac{1}{2}$ yards across. The entrance bore E. 15° N. Thirteen stones remained around its circumference, and at a distance of 20 feet to the S.E. was lying a pillar-stone 6 feet long, 2 feet broad, and 1 foot thick. The interior was filled with rubbish; when cleared out the flag-stones of the central chambers were found displaced. It yielded no objects of interest. There was a drawing of this pillar-stone (not figured) on the sheet containing the Stone, Fig. 76.

Cairn L.—This cairn is only second to Cairn T in importance. Their relative sizes and positions are shown on Plate VII. Mr Conwell described this cairn at some length. It is 45 yards across, and surrounded by forty-two large stones laid on edge, varying from 6 to 12 feet in length, and from 3 to 4 feet high. When investigated, it was found that great quantities of loose stones forming its summit had been removed. Its aperture was shown by the curving inwards of its circumference for 10 yards in length, bearing E. 20° S. The entrance-passage commenced about 18 feet inwards from the outer boundary-line. On removing a large flag-stone, it was found to constitute part of the roof. Many other roofing-stones had disappeared, allowing the chambers to become filled with small stones, and these being cleared out, about forty large plinths were seen, composed of compact sandy grit, the natural stone of the locality. These stones overlapped each other, forming a domed roof, in the same manner as the roof of the great chamber at New Grange is constructed. In overlapping, the great slabs bevelled slightly upwards, and between them were ingeniously inserted thinner slabs, which, when crushed by the great superincumbent weight, served to secure and bind the whole, the roofing rising to about 12 feet above the level of the chamber. The entrance-passage, which was 1 foot 10 inches wide at its commencement, increased to upwards of 3 feet in its middle part, and again contracted to 1 foot 9 inches, where it terminated in the chamber. It was 12 feet long, and the entire measurement from the commencement of passage to the extremity of the western chamber was 29 feet. The greatest breadth across the chambers is 13 feet 2 inches. It contained seven cists, each nearly square, varying in measurement from

2 feet 2 inches to 3 feet 6 inches, and 4 feet 8 inches, the widest being nearly 6 feet across.

A large flag-stone, 8 feet 9 inches long, 3 feet 6 inches broad, and about 6 inches thick, lay on the floor of entrance-passage, extending into the central chamber, as shown in the drawing, which gives a view of this passage looking eastwards (fig. 22). Mr Conwell noticed that the clay on the floor around the W. end of this stone was black-coloured; due, as he considered, to the presence of ashes; and hence he supposed the stone was used for cremation. On the floor of the second chamber, on the north side of the cairn, was found a quadrangular stone slab, hollowed into basin shape in its centre to a depth of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, having a piece taken out of one of its sides. It measures 2 feet 11 inches in length by 2 feet broad, and is about 6 inches in thickness. Mixed with the clay, under this sepulchral basin, were many fragments of charred bone and several human teeth. This stone basin is seen in a pen-and-ink drawing (reproduced as fig. 23) copied from a lithograph which bears Mr Du Noyer's name, published in the *Journal of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society*, vol. v., n.s. Mr Conwell has also given a woodcut of it.

In Chamber 5, opposite the last-mentioned chamber, is another stone basin of oval form, completely filling up its length, and entered by a space only 2 feet wide between two upright stone pillars (the largest-sized basin that was discovered), measuring 5 feet 9 inches long; at a distance of 18 inches from its narrower western end it was 3 feet 1 inch broad, and at a corresponding distance from its eastern extremity 7 inches broader. Upon the side facing outwards to the chambers, a curve of about 4 inches broad had been scraped out of the side of the stone. A raised rim or border, varying from 2 to 4 inches, surrounded it, rising about 1 inch above the perfectly level surface of the stone, which bore marks of being tooled all over with a pick or pointed instrument, with extreme care. When it was raised, several splinters of charred bone were got, and in the damp earth underneath was imbedded upwards of 900 similar fragments; forty-eight human teeth; the pointed end of a bone pin $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches long; a perfectly rounded ball of polished syenite $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter; another round ball, an inch in diameter, streaked with white

and purple; another, somewhat smaller, of brown colour; a finely-polished, jet-like, oval object, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch broad; and eight soft white balls, which became firmer when dried. Mr Conwell has given woodcuts of two of those balls. I would refer those wishing to know his speculations about their nature to his printed paper, page 62.

This cairn contained eighteen stones with incised sculpturings. I possess drawings of the following, viz. :—

- Fig. 22. View of part of Chamber and Passage of Cairn L, looking eastward.
 Fig. 23. View of Chamber and Stone Basin in Cairn L.
 Fig. 24. Stone *a*.—Found in the passage, 5 feet high and 3 feet wide. The series of oval markings measure 12×14 inches.
 Fig. 25. Stone *b*.—Also in the passage, south side. This stone is 4 feet 8 inches high, and 1 foot 10 inches wide.
 Fig. 26. Stone *c*.—On north side of passage; no measurements recorded, but it appears to be above 5 feet high.
 Fig. 27. Stone *d*.—South side of passage, above 6 feet high. It is marked by a series of semicircles, one outside another at slightly increasing distances. Above this, a remarkable flower-shaped figure. Mr Du Noyer has preserved an enlarged pencil-sketch of these markings, and I have a recent photograph of them. The semicircles are 11 inches wide, and the flower is 5 inches across.
 Fig. 28. Stone *e*.—Upon north side of passage, 3 feet 3 inches wide, and 6 feet high, and 1 foot 3 inches thick. At the lower part of this sketch, a group of the markings is carefully re-drawn. They differ materially from the other inscribed patterns, appearing like simple pits or depressions. It may be worth noting that on several huge stones in Co. Leitrim, forming portions of structures known as "Beds of Dermod and Grainia," I recognised somewhat similar markings as natural hollows produced by the excavatory powers of the "*Echinus Lividus*."
 Fig. 29. Stone *f*.—South side of passage, 5 feet 8 inches high, by 3 feet 5 inches wide. It is situated next to Stone *d*, which is seen in the sketch.
 Fig. 30. Stone *h*.—A boundary-stone to a chamber in the cairn, 5 feet high, 3 feet 10 inches wide, and 1 foot 1 inch broad. In addition to pits like Stone *e*, it has a wheel-shaped scribing.
 Fig. 31. Stone *i*.—Another boundary-stone, 4 ft. 6 in. high, by 5 ft. 3 in. wide.
 Fig. 32. Stone *l*.—Boundary-stone at side of flag-stone dish, in northern chamber.
 Fig. 33. Stone *l*.—Edge of the boundary-stone marked in Fig. 22.
 Fig. 34. Stone *m*.—Eastern boundary of chamber, with oval dish at S. side of chamber, 4 feet 10 inches deep by 3 feet 1 inch high.
 Fig. 35. Stone *g*.—Recess at end of Cairn, facing east at end of chamber, 3 feet 3 inches long, and 3 feet 6 inches high.
 Fig. 36. Stone *s*.—One of the projecting stones, over the northern Cist, of roof. The carving measures 8 inches by 5, and is produced by clearly scraped lines.
 Fig. 37. Stone *x*.—On north side of Cairn, next to the boundary-stone *l*, and on the sketch marked by two circular scribings.
 Fig. 38. Stone *y*.—A stone marked with pits, 1 foot 11 inches high and 3 feet broad, found in excavating Cairn L, lying on the ground to the east of the entrance-passage to the chamber.

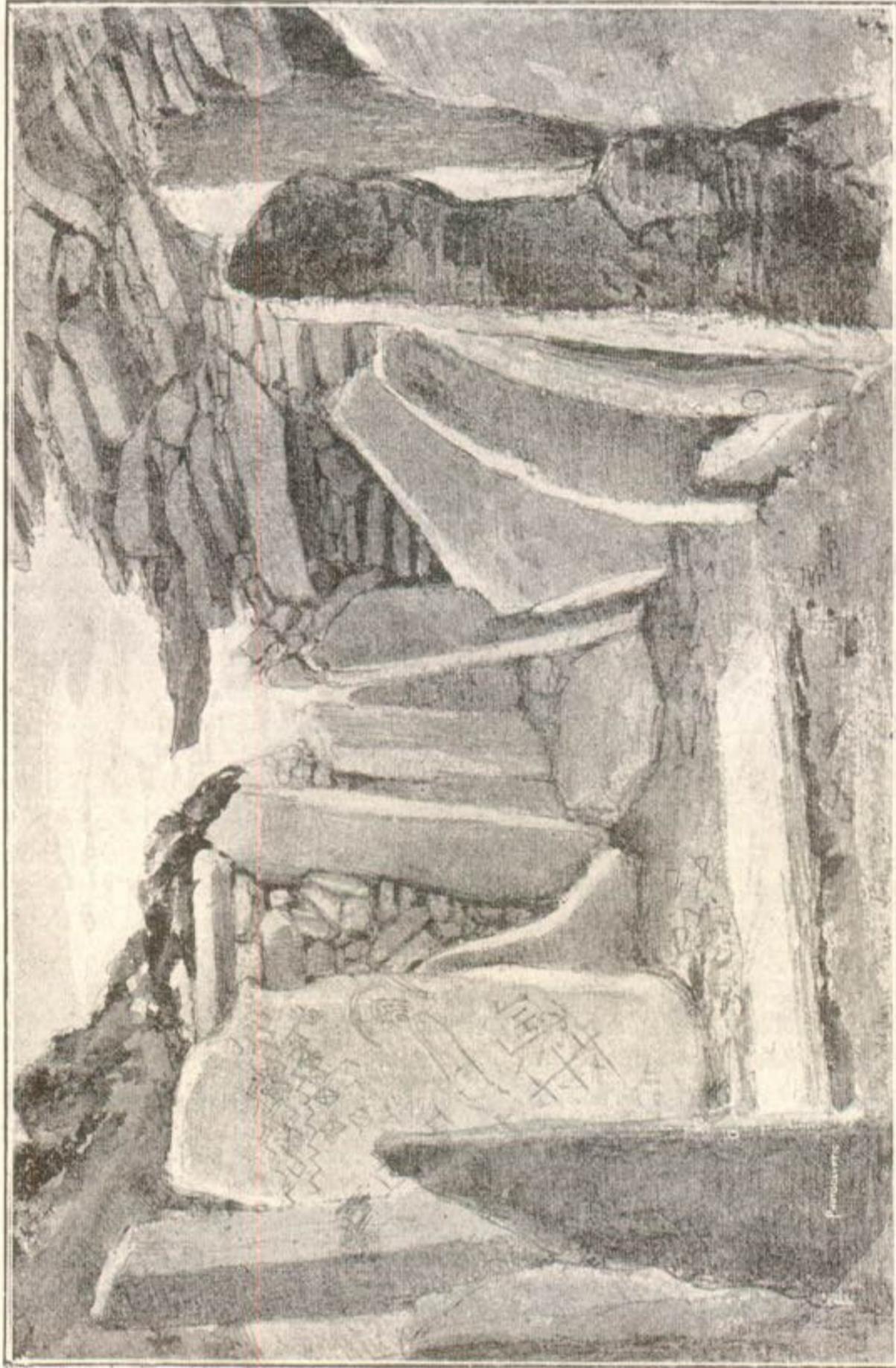


Fig. 22. View of Part of Chamber and Passage of Cairn L, looking eastward.



Fig. 23. View of Chamber and Stone Basin in Cairn I.

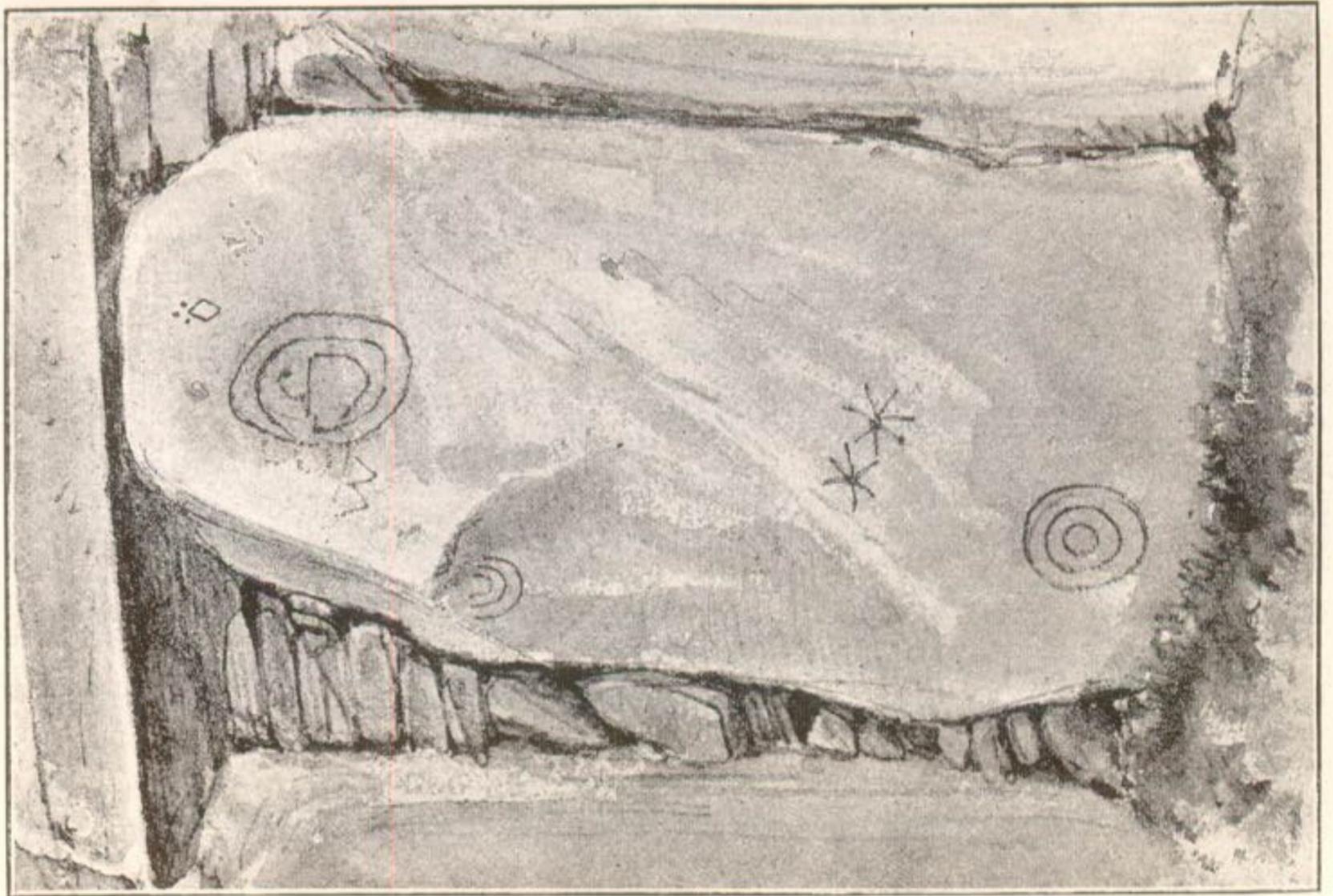


Fig. 26. Stone c, Cairn L.



Fig. 24. Stone a, Cairn L.

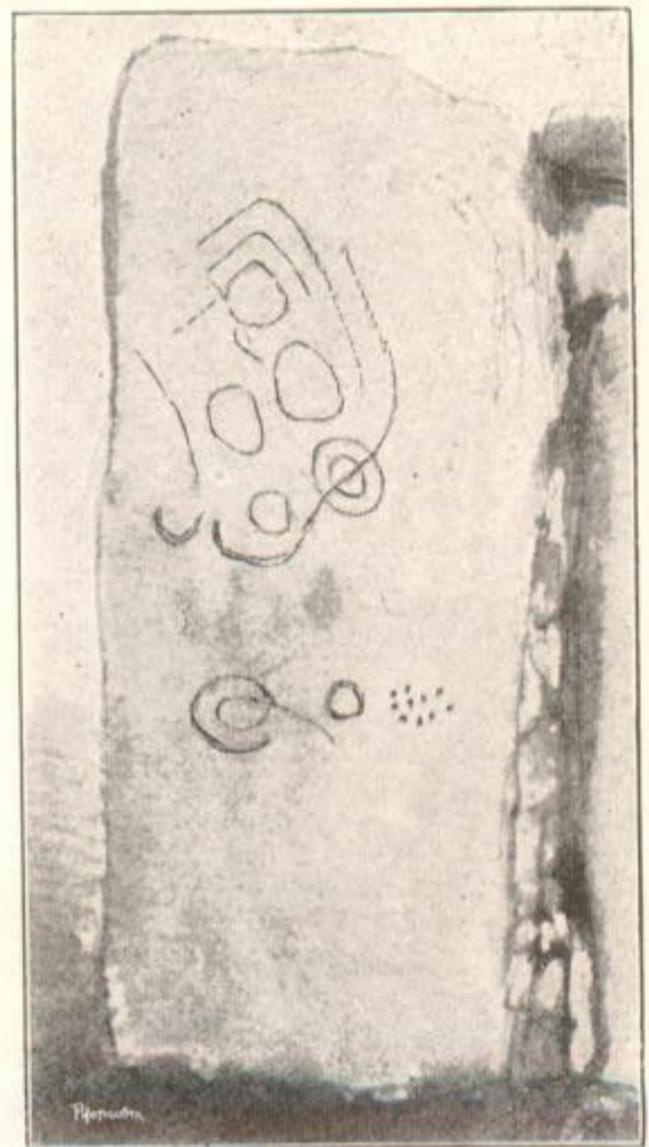


Fig. 25. Stone b, Cairn L.

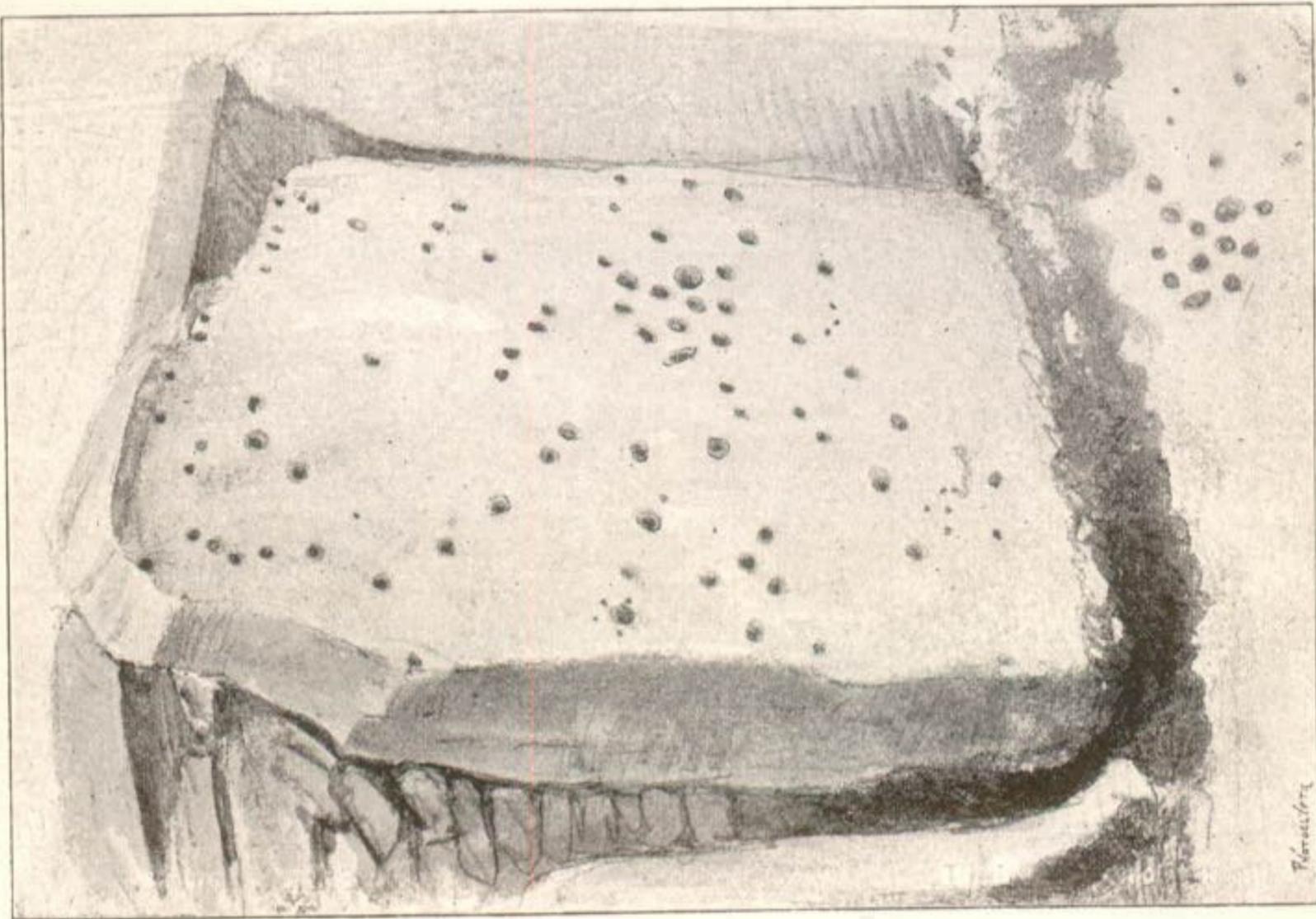


Fig. 28. Stone *e*, Cairn L.

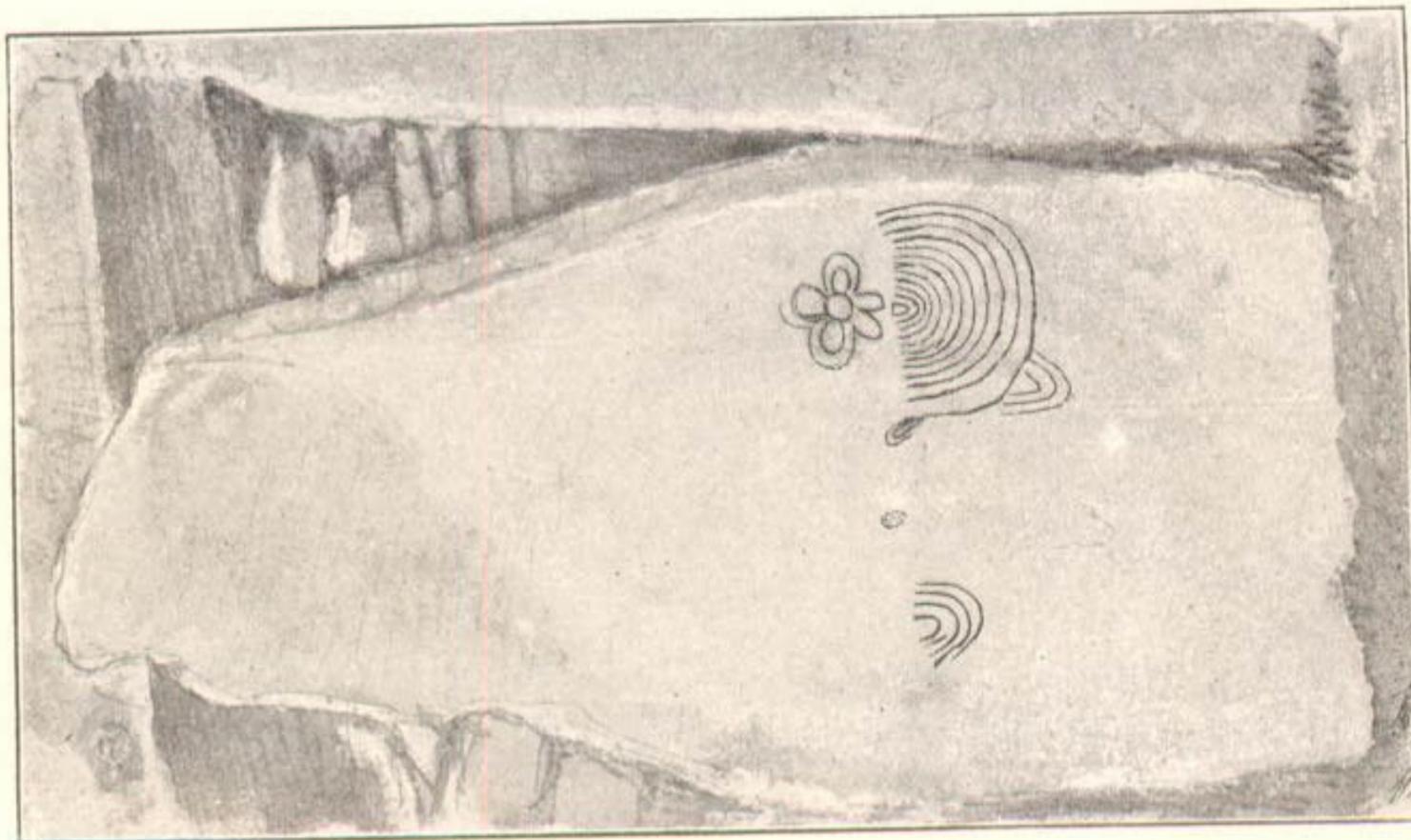


Fig. 27. Stone *d*, Cairn L.

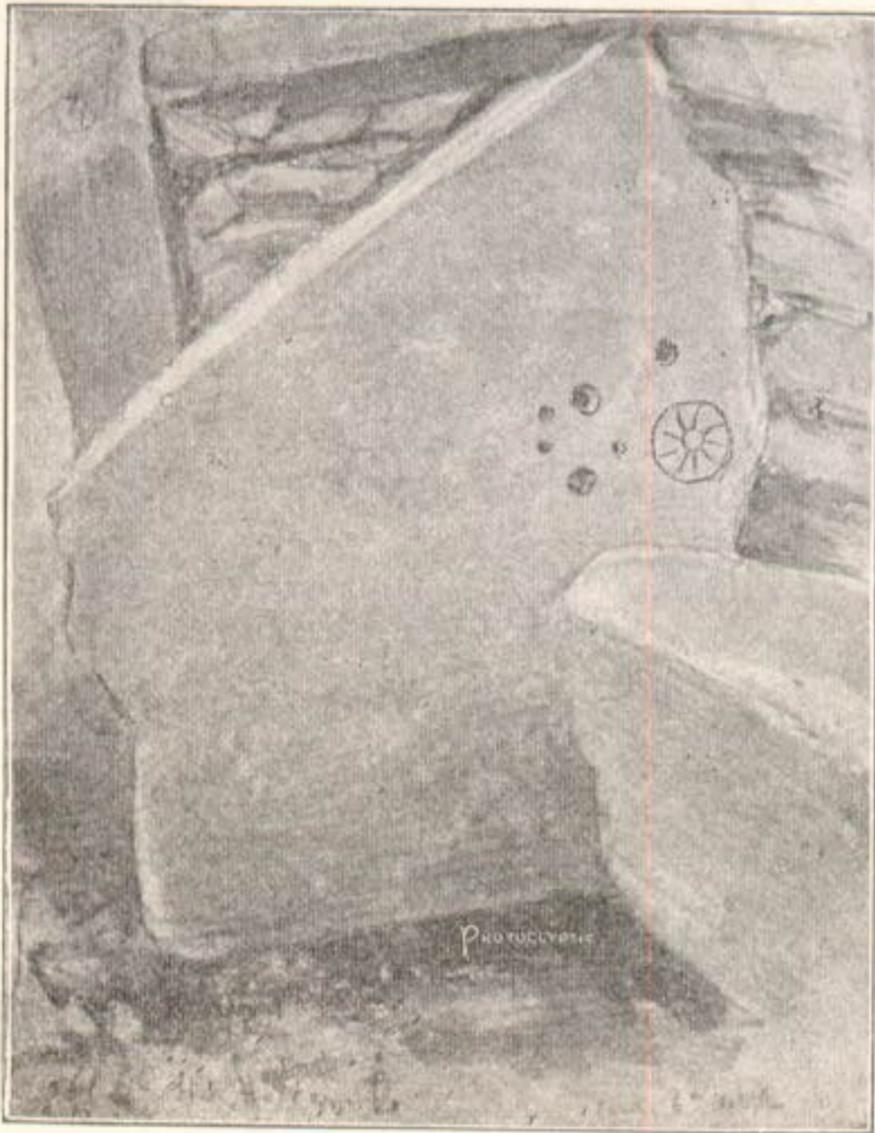


Fig. 30. Stone *h*, Cairn L.

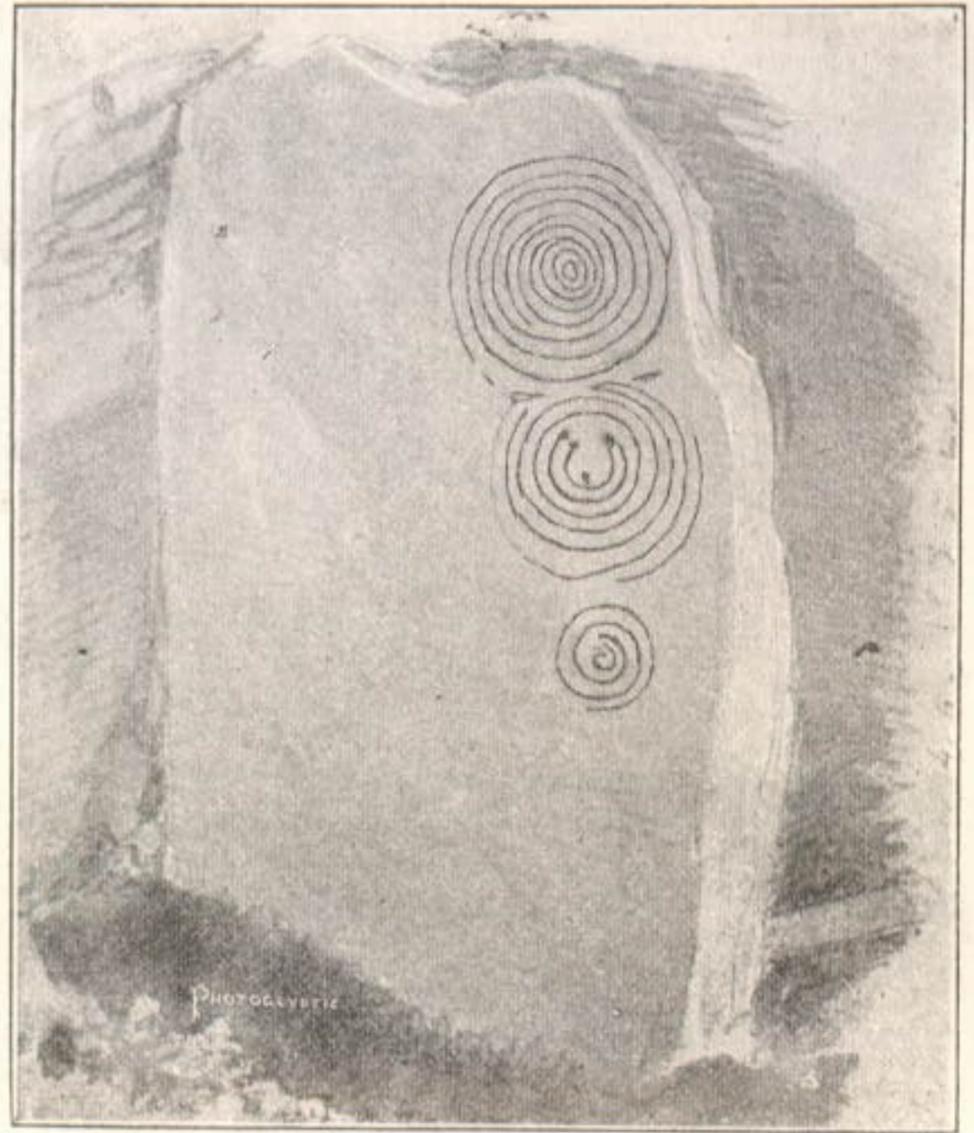


Fig. 31. Stone *i*, Cairn L.

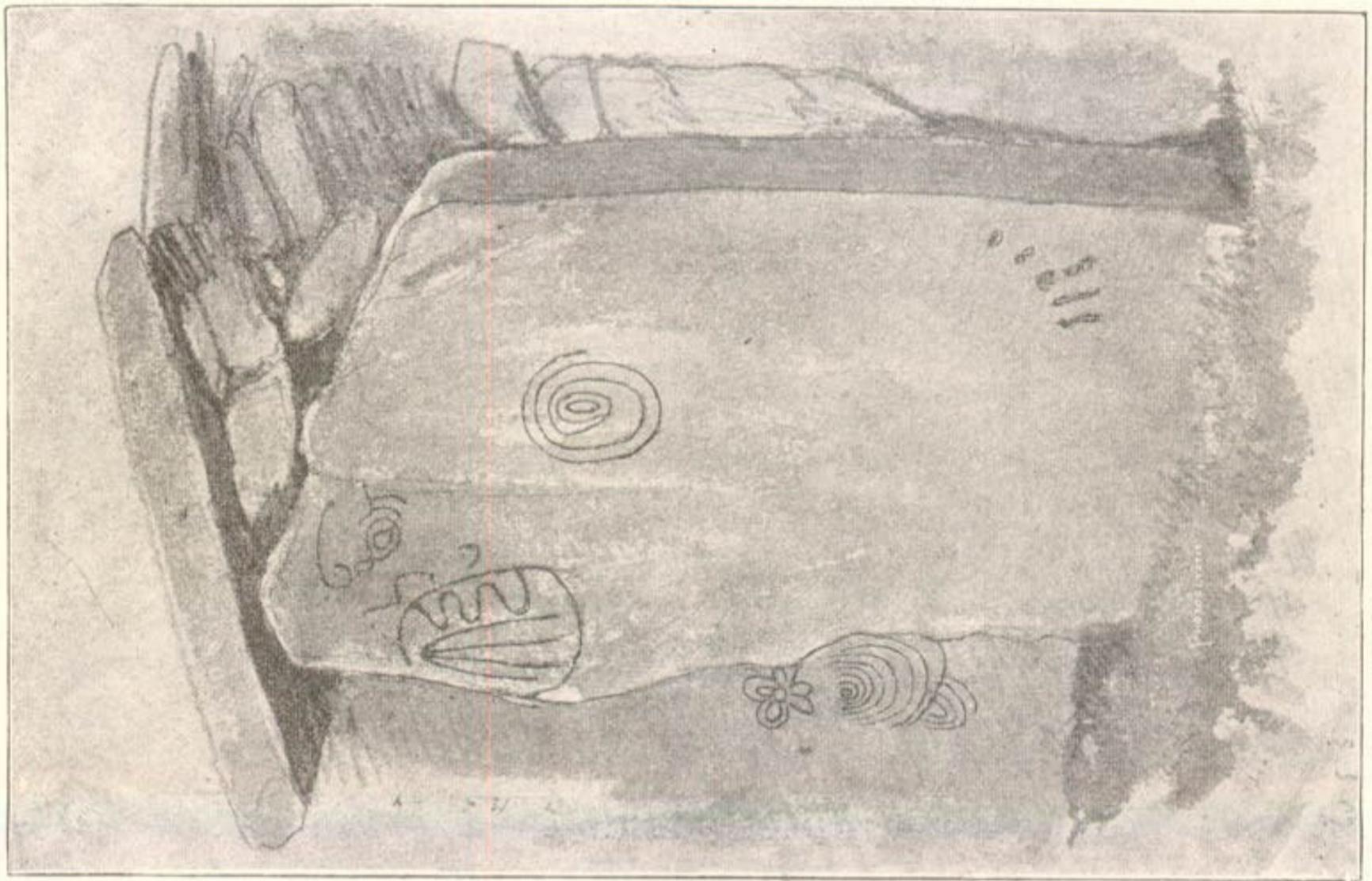


Fig. 29. Stone *f*, Cairn L.

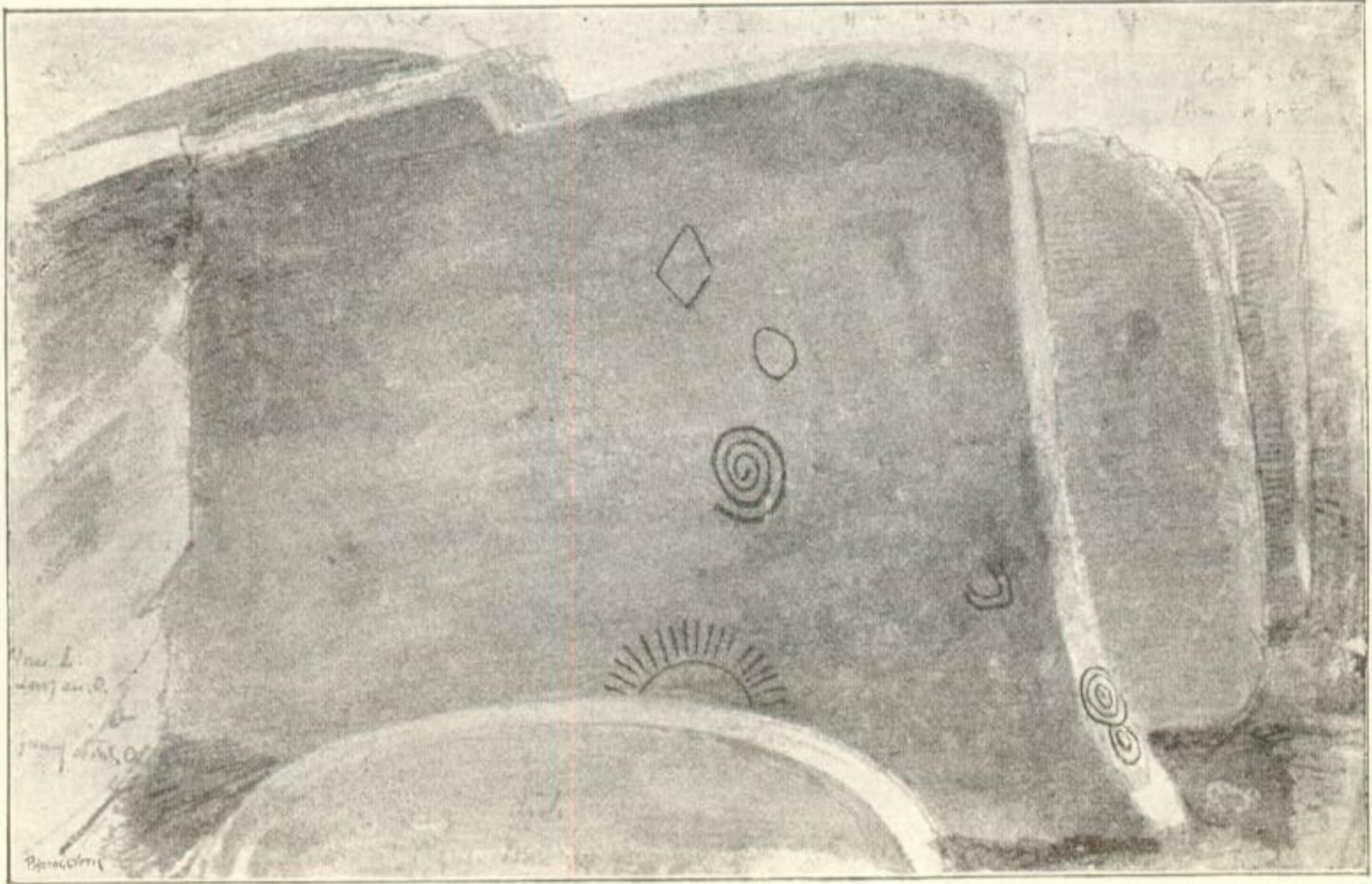


Fig. 32. Stone 1, Cairn L.



Fig. 33. Edge of Stone, see Fig. 22, Cairn L.

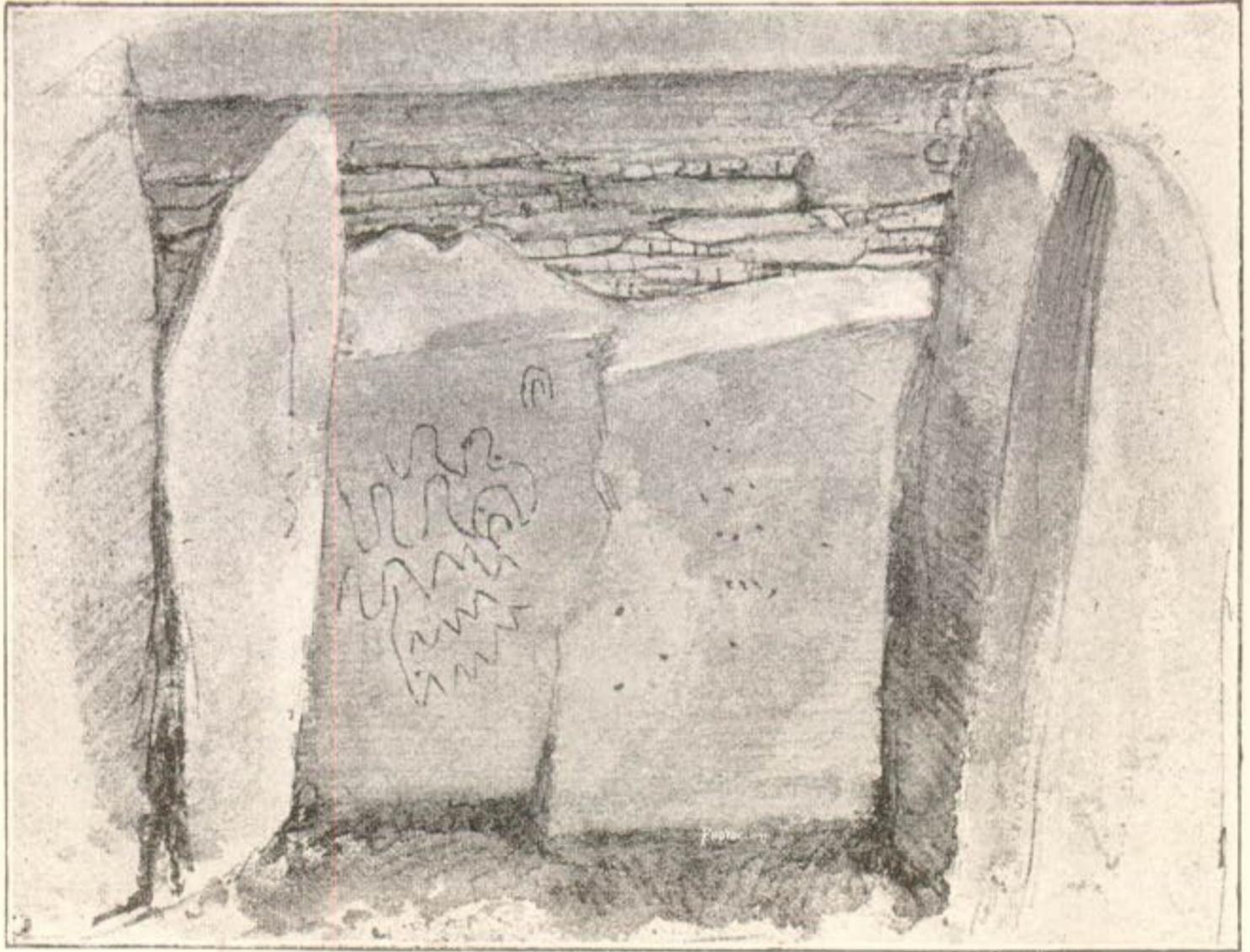


Fig. 35. Stone *q*, Cairn L.



Fig. 34. Stone *m*, Cairn L.

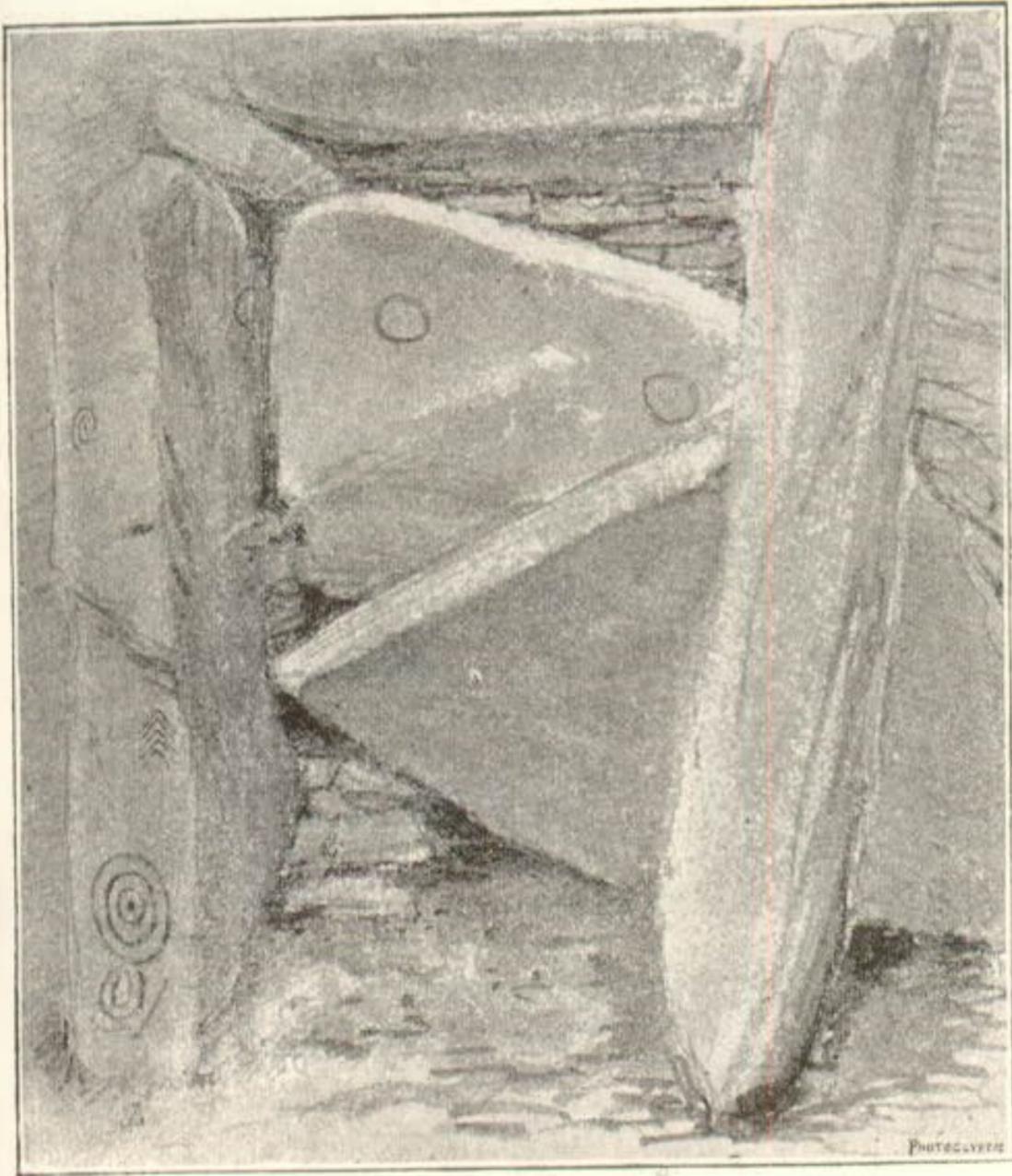


Fig. 37. Stone *x*, Cairn L.

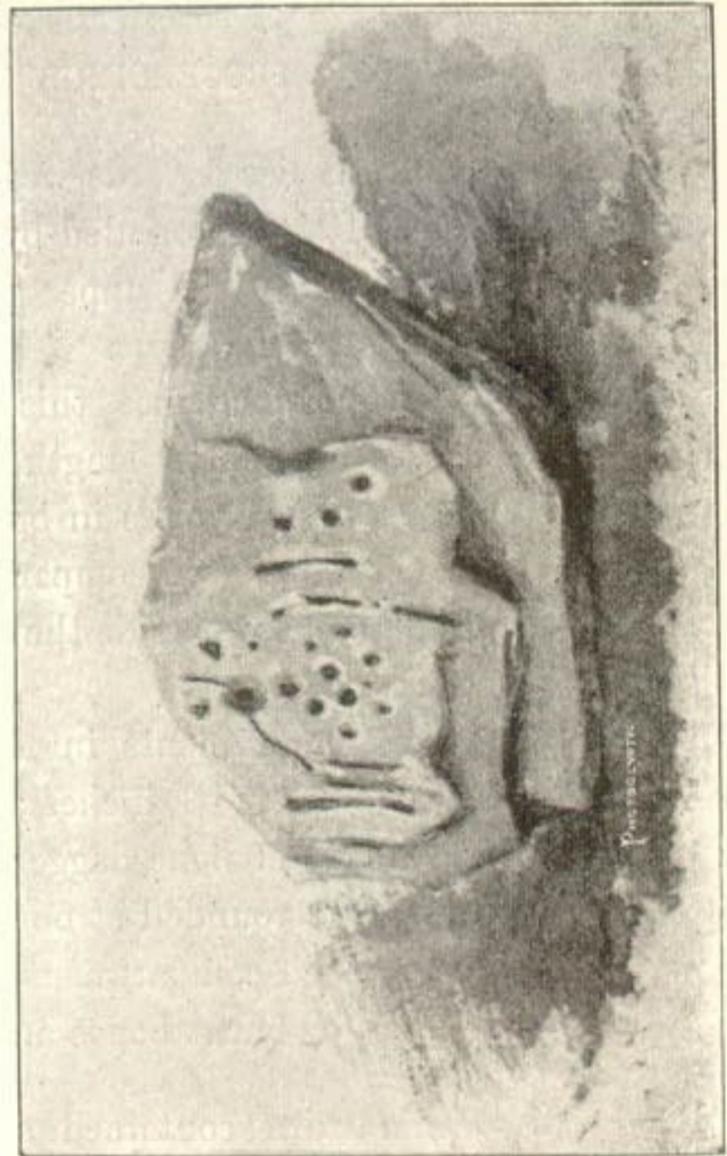


Fig. 38. Stone *y*, Cairn L.

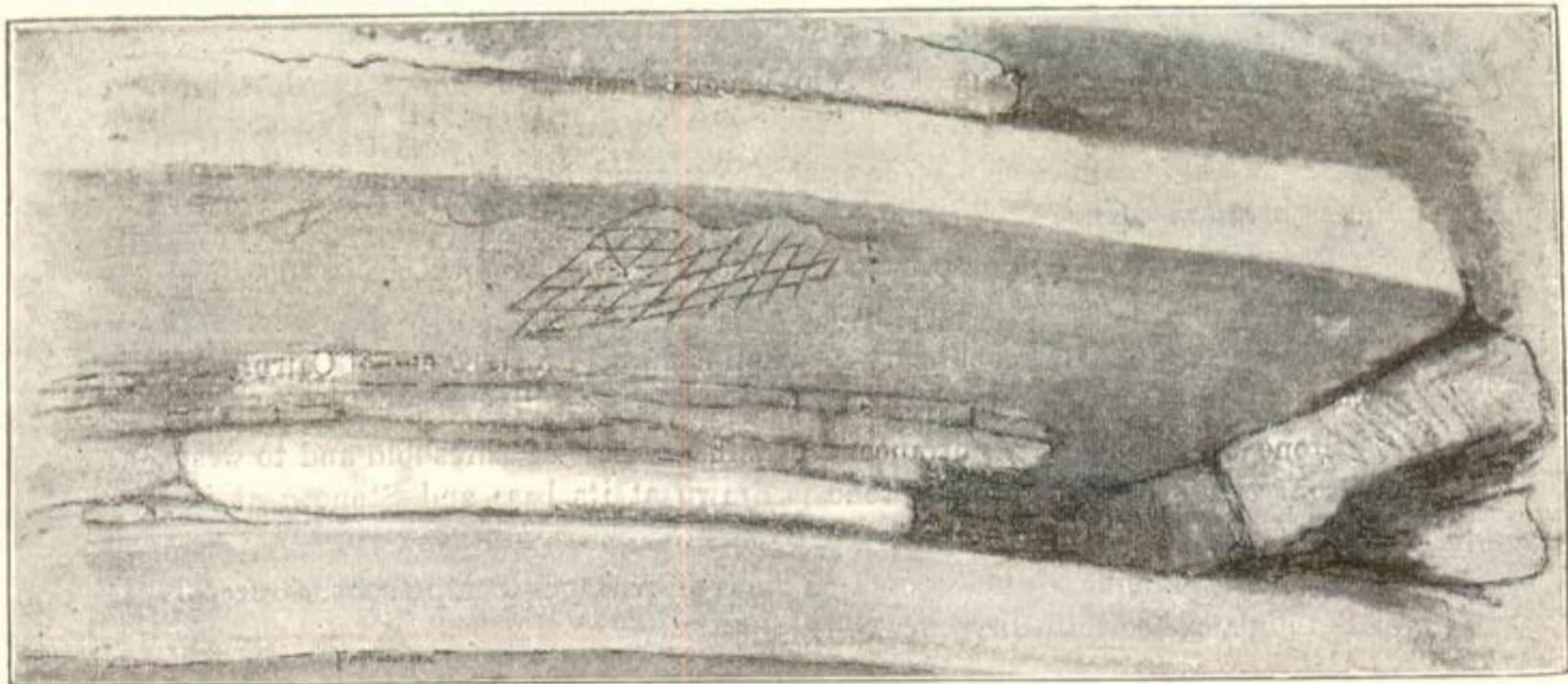


Fig. 36. Stone *s*, Cairn L.

Cairn S lies 5 yards west of Cairn T and 51 yards from R (see Plate VII.). It is surrounded by thirty-three large stones in a circle $18\frac{1}{2}$ yards in diameter. The upper portion is gone, exposing the upright stones forming the chambers.

The entrance into this cairn, differing from the others, bears W. 10° N. The entire length of the passage and chambers is 15 feet. The passage, which varies in breadth from 2 feet 3 inches to 2 feet 7 inches, is divided into two compartments, each about 2 feet square, by transverse upright stones: outside the entrance of the passage was found a flint arrow-head.

The compartments in the passage were filled with charred bones to the height of 18 inches; on the top of which, in one chamber, was found a rude bone dagger, and in the other chamber a piece of bone, tooled and rounded at one end, nine inches long: nearly covering the floor of each compartment was a thin flag-stone, underneath which were splinters of burnt bones and pieces of charcoal.

This cairn contained six stones with incised sculpturings, none of which have as yet been figured or described. They form typical representations of the sculpturings found in these cairns.

A plan of the cairn, showing the relative positions of the incised stones, is shown in Plate VIII.

- Fig. 39. Stone *a*.—At northern side of chamber on entrance, 2 feet 8 inches high \times 1 foot 6 inches wide, narrowing at base to 1 foot 3 inches, where it rests on some flat stones placed to support it.
- Fig. 40. Stone *b*.—At south side of chamber, a pyramidal-shaped stone 3 feet high and as broad at base, tapering above to near 1 foot.
- Fig. 41. Stone *c*.—At S. side of passage, between its two chambers, between which a divisional stone is seen; it measures 3 feet in height.
- Fig. 42. Stone *d*.—Northern boundary of small chamber to N.E. end of Cairn. It measures 2 feet 8 inches high \times 2 feet wide.
- Fig. 43. Stone *e*.—Boundary to entrance of chamber at side of threshold and to west of Stone *a*: the low threshold stone is drawn at its base and Stone *a* at its eastern side, 3 feet 3 inches high.
- Fig. 44. Stone *f*.—Bounding the second chamber in passage, looking south, 3 feet 3 inches high \times 1 foot 5 inches broad.

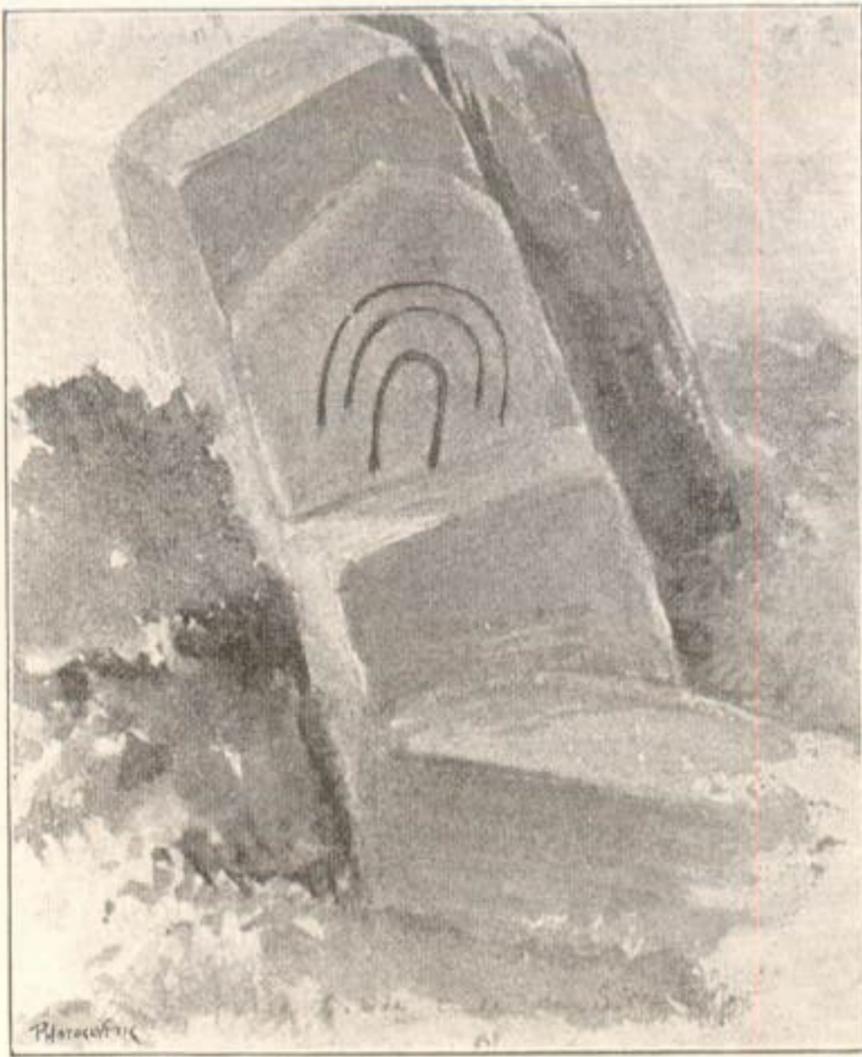


Fig. 41. Stone *c*, Cairn S.

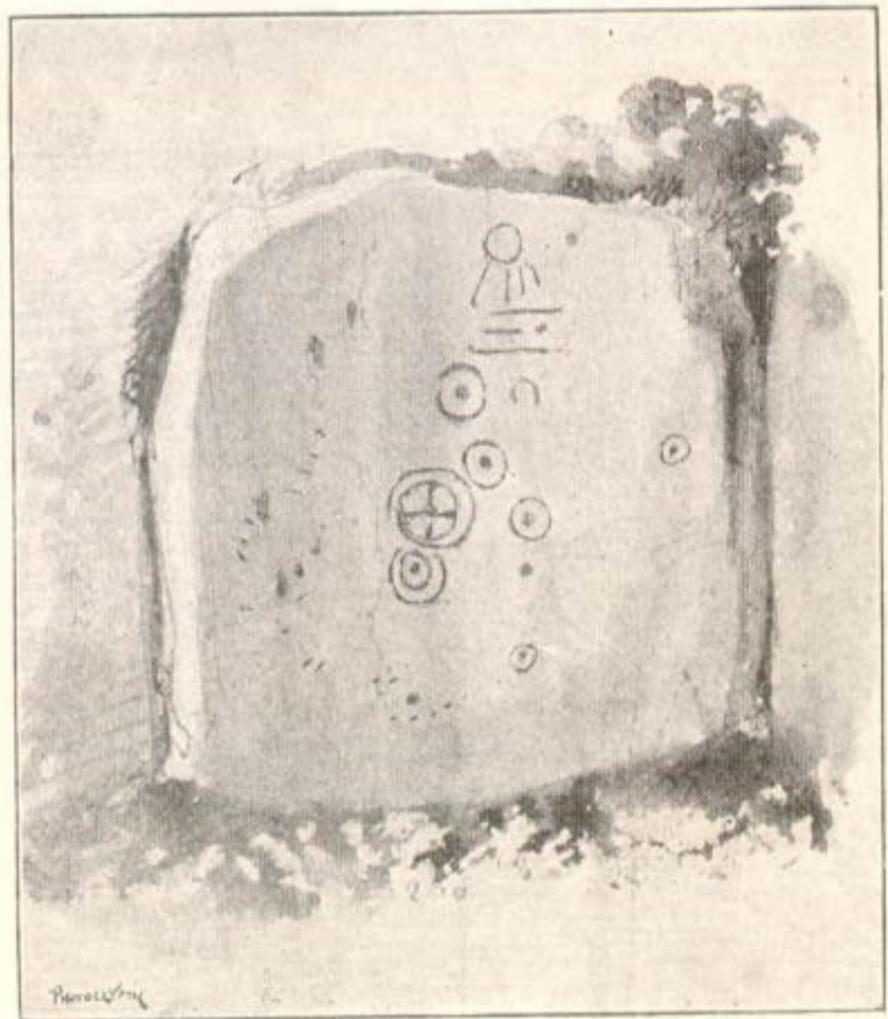


Fig. 42. Stone *d*, Cairn S.

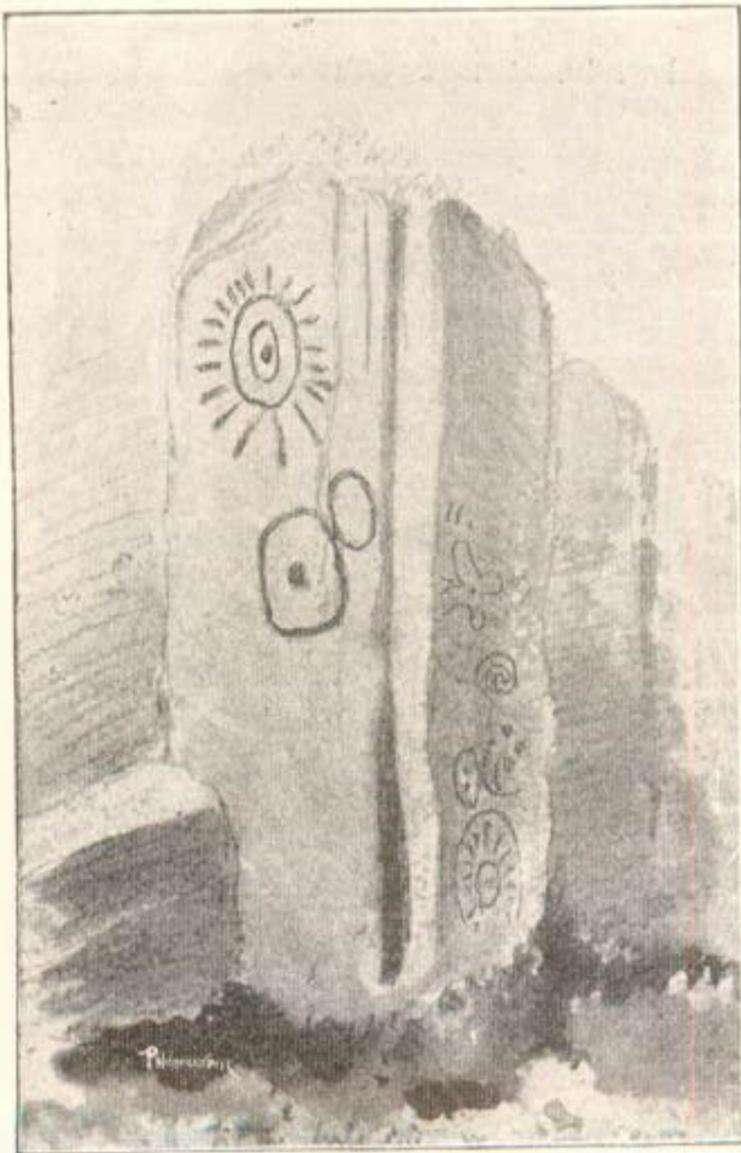
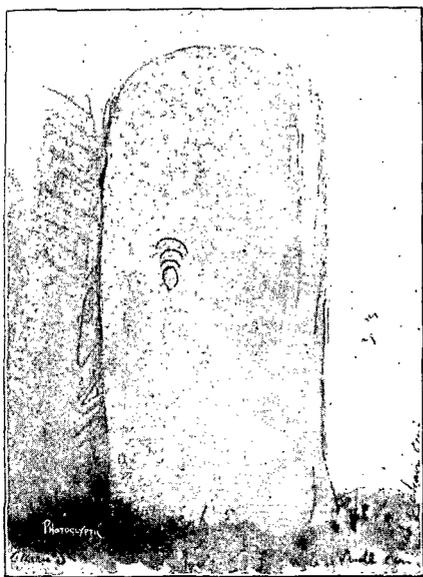


Fig. 43. Stone *e*, Cairn S.



Fig. 39. Stone *a*, Cairn S.

Fig. 44. Stone *f*, Cairn S.Fig. 40. Stone *b*, Cairn S.

Cairn T.—Situating on the summit of the highest peak of the range (Plate VII.) specially named Sliabh-na-Calliaghe. Its remains are still perfect, rising in elevation twenty-one paces on slant height from base to summit. It extends $38\frac{1}{2}$ yards in diameter, and is enclosed in a circle of thirty-seven stones laid on edge, varying in length from 6 to 12 feet. The mound is constructed of loose stones of Lower Silurian grit, the rock of the locality. Inside the retaining-wall, apparently going round the entire base of this cairn, is a piled-up layer rising from 3 to 4 feet in height and about 2 feet in thickness of sparkling quartz, a rock which, unless obtained from glacial boulders by the builders of the cairn, must have been brought from some locality upwards of 50 miles distant.

On its eastern side the circle of large stones curves inwards for a distance of 8 or 9 yards to the commencement of the passage leading to the inner chambers; it bears E. 10° S. The entrance to the passage

was closed by two irregular blocks of stone when first explored in 1865, inside of which was dropped three other large blocks of stone, filling up 5 or 6 feet of the length of the passage; on the outside of the entrance was placed a loose layer of lumps of quartz. All the roofing-flags covering the passage and more than two-thirds of what originally covered in the central octagonal chamber had disappeared, leaving the passage and central chambers filled up with stones. The imperfect portion of roof that remained, formed by about thirty large flags overlapping each other, rises to 10 feet above the level of the floor. The floor of the central octagonal chamber was covered by two large and three smaller flags; on raising these, fragments of charred bone, small pieces of charcoal, and broken stones were found. The three cists or chambers are each about 4 feet square. The passage was 17 feet long, and averaged 3 feet broad; from the commencement of the passage to the furthest extremity of the opposite chamber is 28 feet. The transverse measurement from N. to S. is 16 feet 4 inches, the central octagonal chamber being about 7 feet wide in every direction.

The cairn had been well plundered in past ages. A bronze pin was found in the stones at the entrance of one of the chambers, and in another a heap of charred bones surrounded by a circle of earth and covered with a slab, above which were alternate layers for about 2 feet of finely broken and coarse stones, amongst which were human teeth and pieces of bone.

This cairn contained twenty-eight stones with incised sculpturings, all of which have been described, and most of them shown by woodcuts in Mr Conwell's pamphlet. I have drawings of twelve stones and the plan (Plate VIII). On the north of the cairn, about 4 feet inwards from its circumference, is the large stone popularly called the "Hag's Chair" (fig. 45). It measures 10 feet long, 6 feet high, and 2 feet 6 inches thick, weighing about 10 tons. The ends are elevated 9 inches above the seat, and the back has fallen away by a natural fracture of the stone. The cross carved upon the seat of this chair and others found upon the upright marginal stones in the cairn and in Cairn S were cut by men engaged in the Trigonometrical Irish Survey. Mr Du Noyer has given a representation of this great chair and its markings. The pencil lines drawn about three-fourths of its height show the extent to which it was covered by soil and turf.

There is also preserved a pencil-sketch of the upper aspect of the stone, and a plan of the passage and its chambers.

Fig. 45. The Hag's Chair, Cairn T.

Fig. 46. Stone *a*.—North side of passage, beyond first transverse lintel stone, 4 feet high, 14 inches in breadth, and 15 inches in receding depth. The plans of Du Noyer and Conwell differ somewhat at this part (Stone 23 of Conwell).

Fig. 47. Stone *b*.—North side of passage next the octagonal chamber, 5 feet 7 inches high, 3 feet 9 inches broad, and 10 inches thick. (No. 22 of Conwell.) The edge of Stone *b* is shown at side of same drawing, being the end of first stone of octagonal chamber (part of Stone 21 of Conwell).

Fig. 48. Stone *d*.—On south side of passage opposite to *b*. It measures 4 feet in height, 3 feet 5 inches broad, and 9 inches in thickness (Stone No. 6 of Conwell).

Fig. 49. Stone *f*.—Lintel stone across passage at entrance to octagonal chamber, 2 feet 5 inches wide, about the same height, and 7 inches thick. At its side is shown another end view of Stone *b* already mentioned (Stone 27 of Conwell).

Fig. 50. Stone *h*.—Facing S.W. at north-east side of octagonal chamber, 5 feet 8 inches high, 3 feet 6 inches wide, and 1 foot thick (Stone 21 of Conwell.)

Fig. 51. Stone *k*.—At east end of northern recess, facing west, 4 feet 5 inches in height, 3 feet 4 inches in its widest part across, and about 5 inches thick (Stone 20 of Conwell).

Stone *l*.—This drawing of the scribings and rude markings at present visible on the stone I owe to E. C. Rotheram, Esq. It is accurately copied from repeated measurements (not figured). The stone is 4 feet high, 3 feet wide, and 1 foot thick: it occupies the western side of north recess, opposite Stone *k*. (Stone 17 of Conwell.)

Fig. 52. Stone *m*.—At south-east corner bounding octagonal chamber, between northern and terminal recess, 5 feet 2 inches high, 4 feet wide, and 9 inches thick. (Stone 16 of Conwell.)

Fig. 53. Stone *o*.—Head-stone of terminal western recess, 4 feet 4 inches high, 3 feet 5 inches wide, and 9 inches in average thickness. (Stone 14 of Conwell.)

Fig. 54. Stone *o.o*.—Roof stone of recess at western end, marked in plan *o.o*. A recent photograph of some of the markings on this stone was sent for comparison. Its numerous scribings of flower, star, and wheel shape are of much interest.

Fig. 55. Stone *w*.—At end of outer portion of passage, north side, the third from entrance, 3 feet 6 inches high, 2 feet 8 inches broad, and 9 inches thick. (Stone 24 of Conwell.)

Fig. 56. Stone *x*.—Second stone of entrance-passage, south side. It sinks out of sight below a horizontal covering slab: the portion visible measured 3 feet 6 inches in height, 2 feet 3 inches broad, and 6 inches in thickness. The wheel-shaped scribing at lower part of stone measured 14 inches across. (Stone 1 of Conwell.)

Stone *y.a*.—Terminal boundary-stone of entrance portion of passage, south side, 4 feet high, 2 feet wide, and 6 inches thick (Stone 4 of Conwell). It is the fourth stone on south side (not figured).

Fig. 57. Stone z.—Small stone facing east at mouth of western recess, 2 feet 9 inches long, 2 feet 4 inches broad, and 5 inches in thickness. On the reverse of this drawing Mr Du Noyer has given a pencil-sketch of the wheel-shaped ornament, and at its side is figured a cross incised on a pavement slab, evidently of modern workmanship (Stone 29 of Conwell).

I also transmitted some rubbings from portions of the markings upon Stones O, O.O, and X, and copies of three contributed by Mr Rotheram from Stones K and O, obtained recently.



Fig. 45. The Heg's Chair, Cairn T.

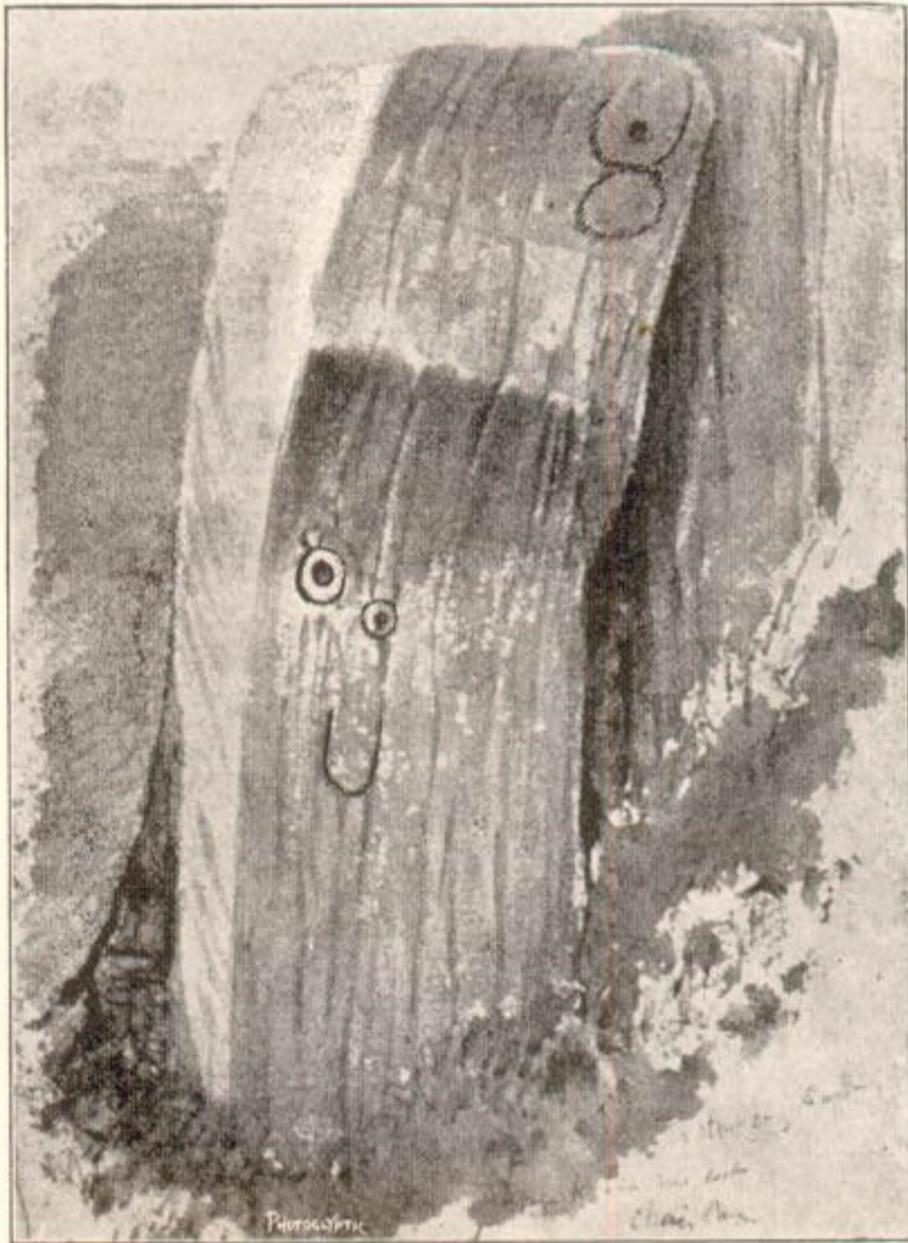


Fig. 46. Stone *a*, Cairn T.

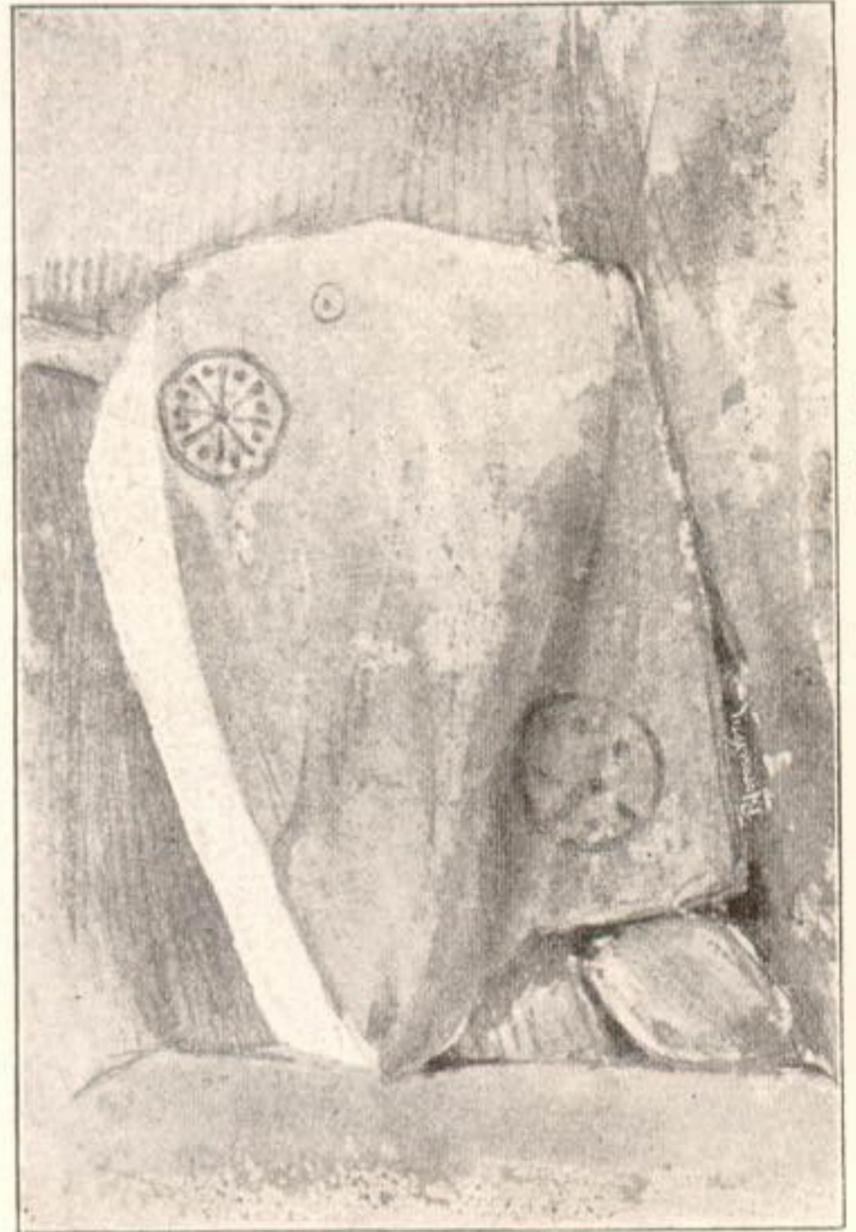


Fig. 57. Stone *z*, Cairn T.

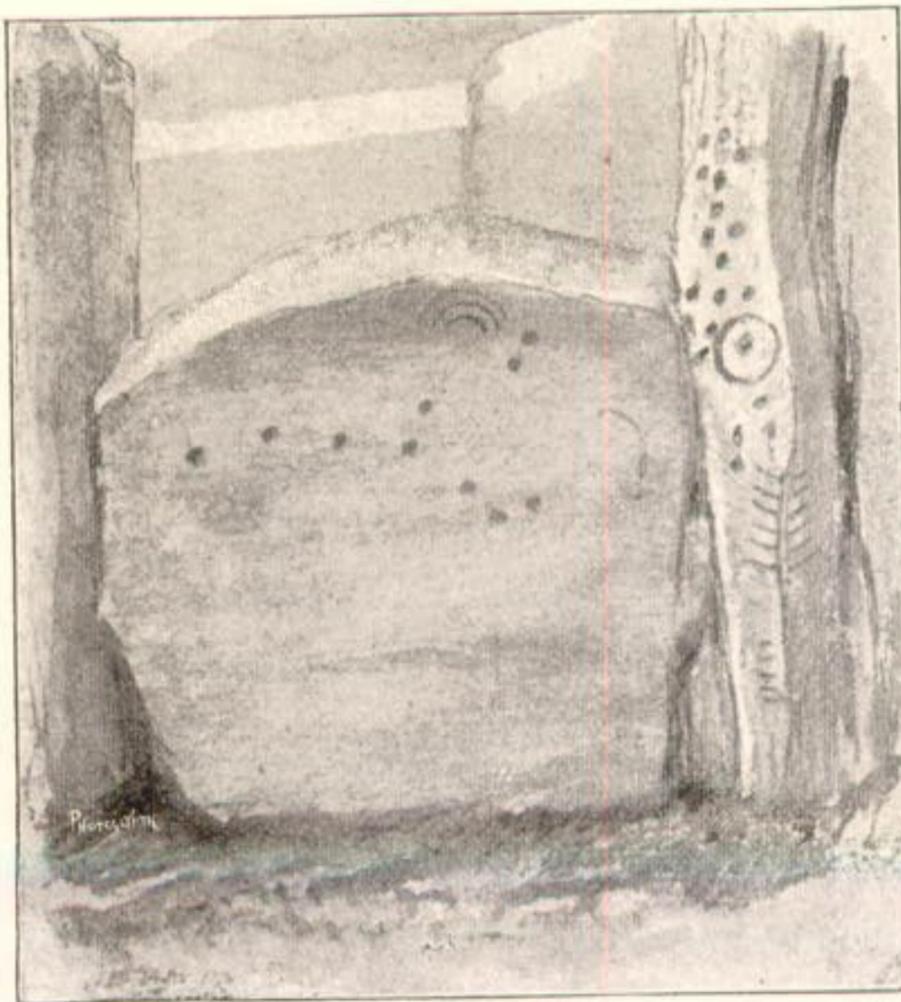


Fig. 49. Stone *f*, Cairn T.

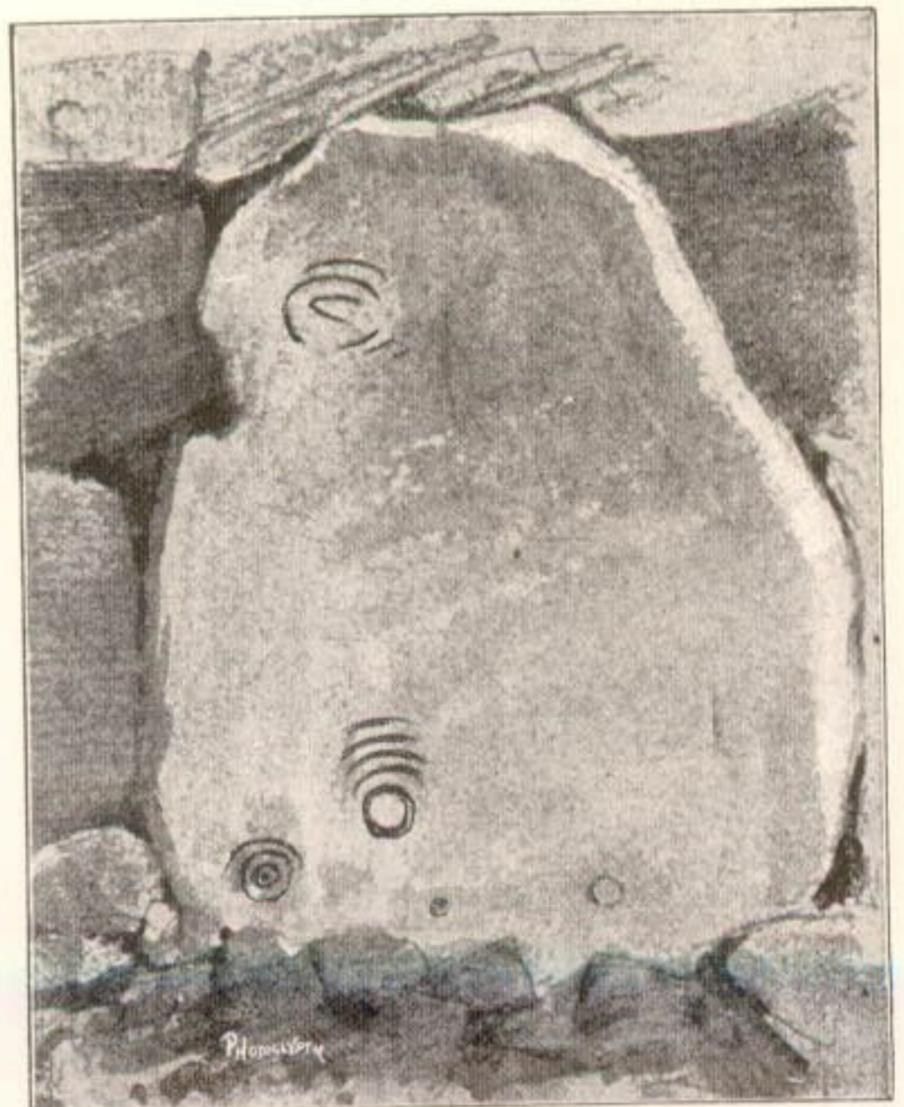


Fig. 52. Stone *m*, Cairn T.

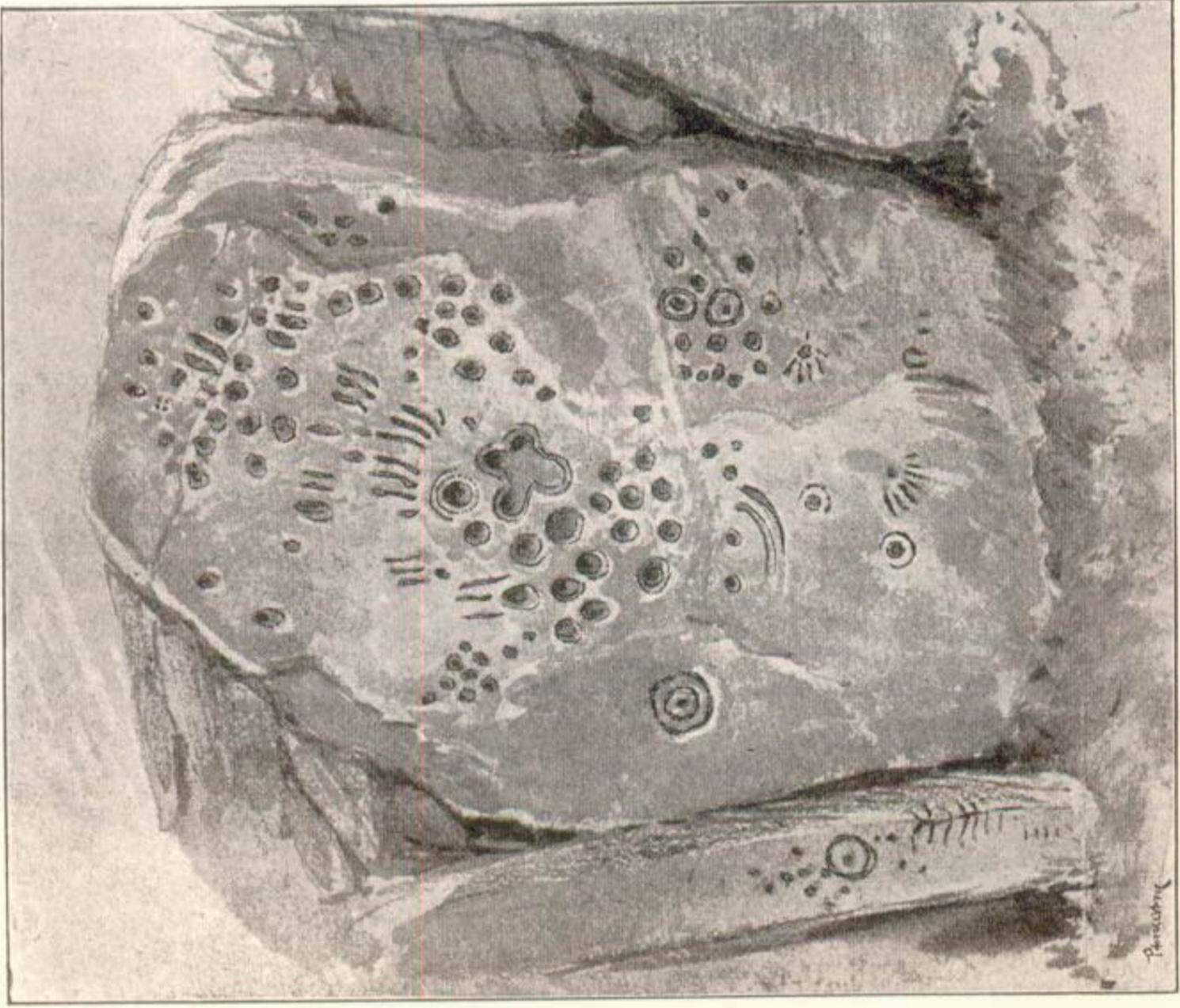


Fig. 47. Stone *b*, Cairn T (with edge of Stone *h*).



Fig. 50. Stone *h*, Cairn T.

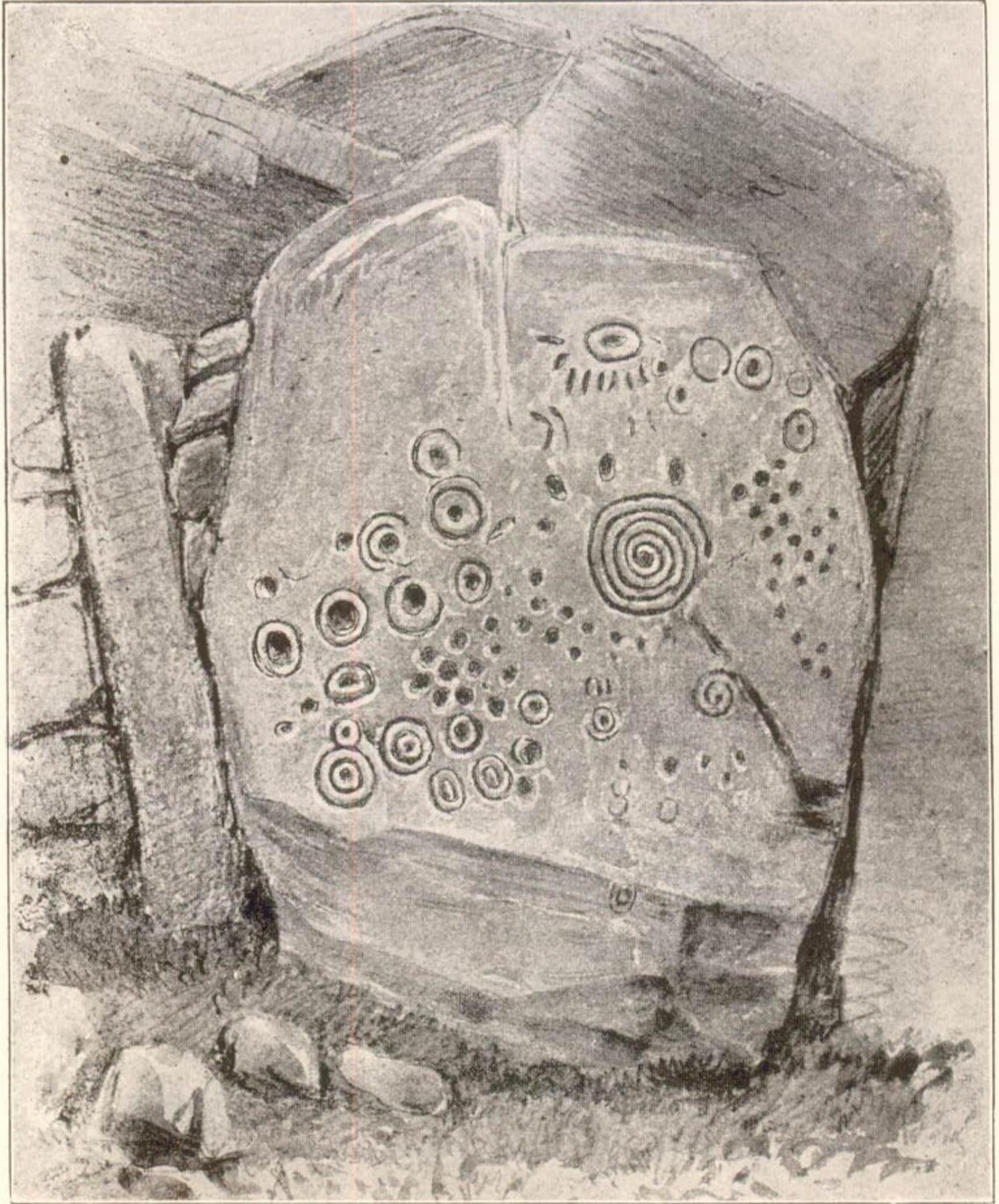


Fig. 48. Stone *d*, Cairn T.



Fig. 51. Stone *k*, Cairn T.

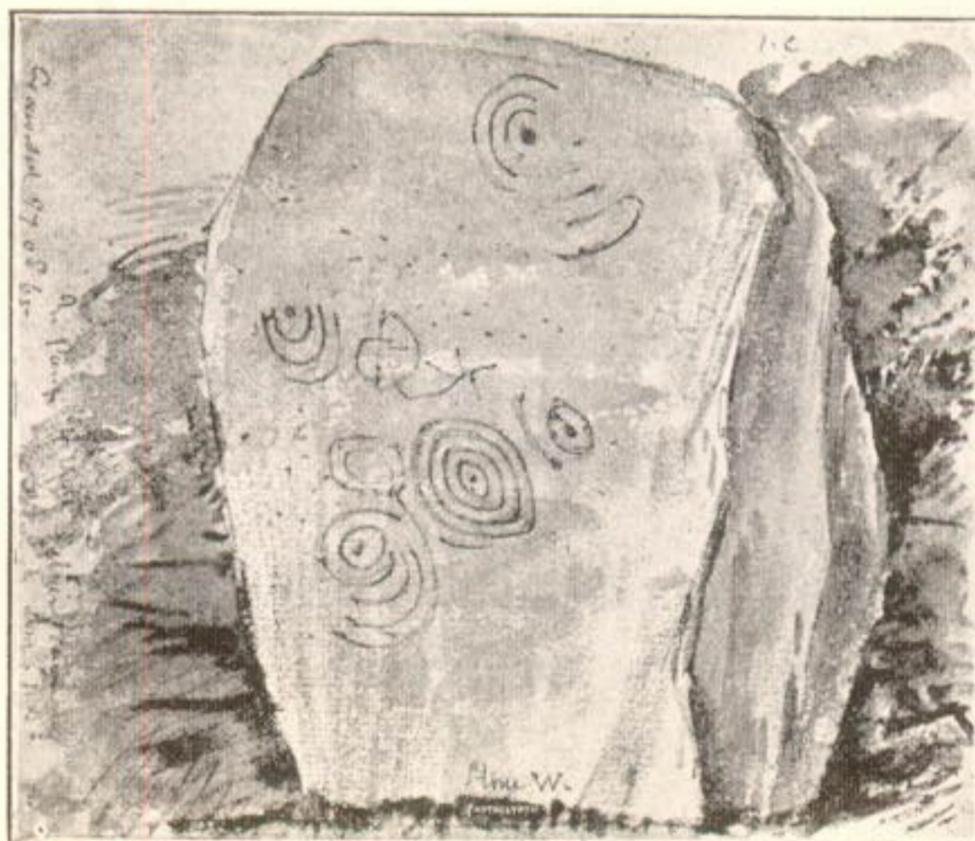


Fig. 55. Stone *w*, Cairn T.



Fig. 54. Stone o.o., Cairn T.

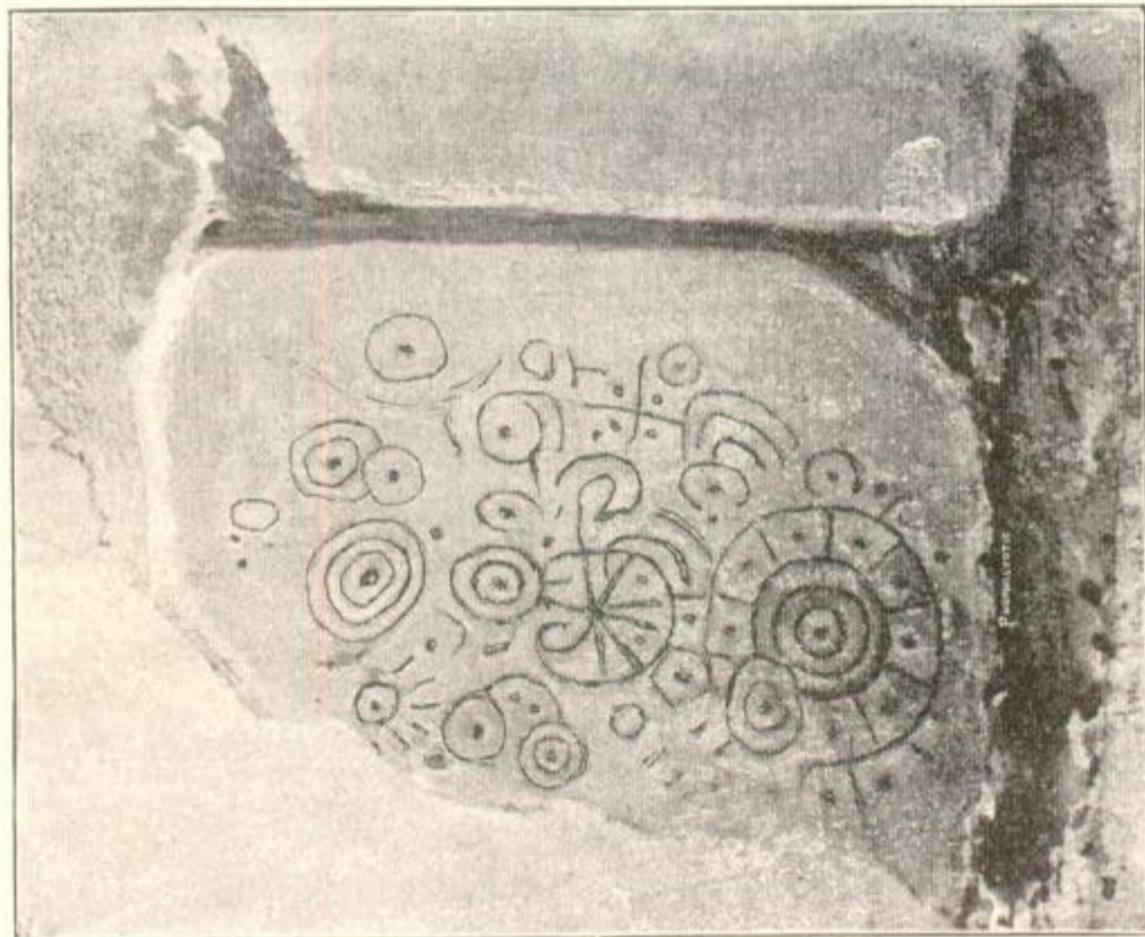


Fig. 56. Stone x, Cairn T.

Cairn U.—Situating 14 yards from Cairn T, and 46 yards east of Cairn S, as shown in Plate VII. There are sixteen of its base stones remaining, and nearly 2 feet inside the circumference is a stone opposite the commencement of the passage, 8 feet 2 inches long, 2 feet 4 inches broad, and 1 foot 8 inches thick. The cairn was only 4 or 5 feet high, and $14\frac{1}{2}$ yards in diameter. The tops of the upright stones were visible, and the chambers half filled with loose stones and earth. The passage ran E. 20° S., and was 9 feet in length, from its commencement to the end of the opposite chamber was 20 feet, and the breadth across the chambers 10 feet; one of the chamber stones was wanting, and another was found displaced. From 12 to 18 inches of the earth forming the floor of the chambers was thickly mixed with splinters of burnt bone.

It afforded thirteen stones with incised sculpturings. I have the following drawings, also a plan of this cairn drawn to scale (Plate VIII.), and rough field sketch.

- Fig. 58. Stone *a*.—At eastern end of passage, south side, third stone from entrance, 3 feet 11 inches high, 3 feet wide, and 5 inches thick.
- Fig. 59. Stone *b*.—Terminal stone of first recess on south side. About 5 feet wide, and from 3 feet to 3 feet 6 inches high.
- Fig. 60. Stone *c*.—Boundary-stone between the recesses on south side of chamber, 4 feet 5 inches high, by 2 feet 10 inches broad in widest part, of irregular shape, ending in a sharp apex. The drawing represents its eastern aspect.
- Fig. 61. Stone *d*.—Same stone on its western side.
- Fig. 62. Stone *e*.—Boundary-stone at east end of second crypt, south side of chamber. About same width, and rather higher than last stone.
- Fig. 63. Stone *f*.—At eastern end of terminal recess. 1 foot 10 inches wide and a foot and a half high.
- Fig. 64. Stone *g*.—At north side of terminal recess.
- Fig. 65. Stone *h*.—Eastern boundary of crypt on north side of central chamber.
- Fig. 66. Stone *j*.—Large boundary-stone of the recesses at north side of central chamber, 8 feet in length. Mr Du Noyer has written underneath the sketch, "Singularly like the sculpturings from the Dolmen of Gavr-inis," in the Morbihan, Brittany.
- Fig. 67. Stone *l*.—Northern side of passage, third stone from entrance. About 3 feet in length and 5 feet high.
- Fig. 68. Stone *m*.—Middle stone on north side of passage.
- Fig. 69. Stone *n*.—A detached stone found in clearing out the Cairn.

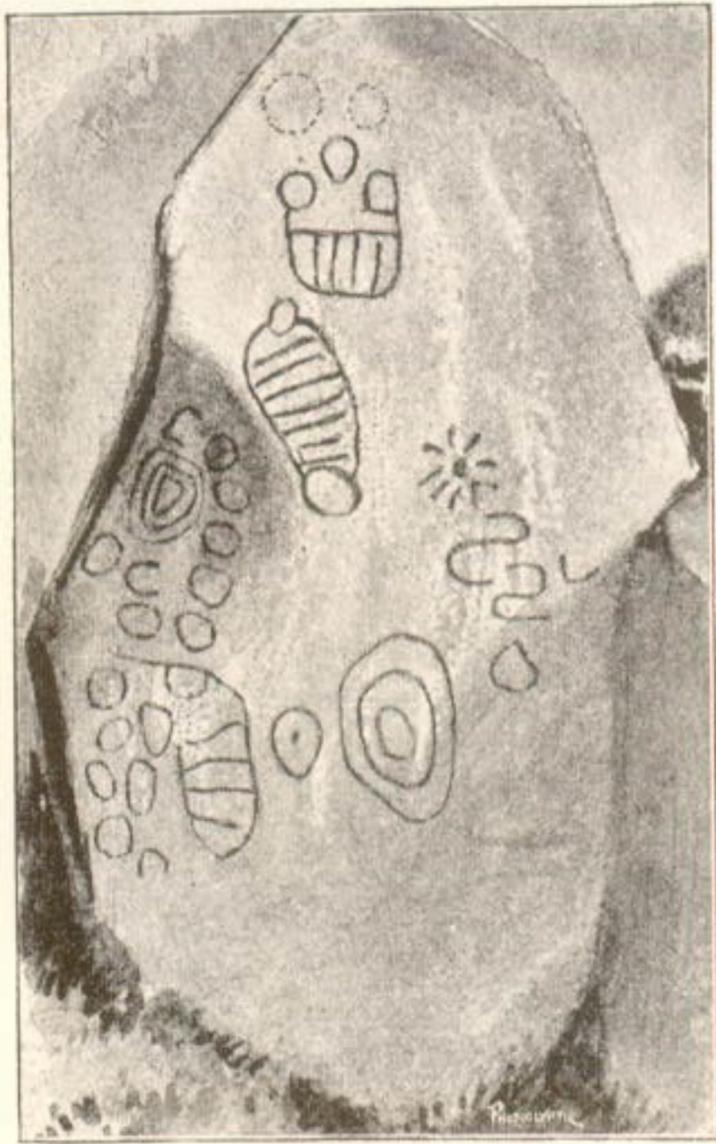


Fig. 60. Stone c, Cairn U.

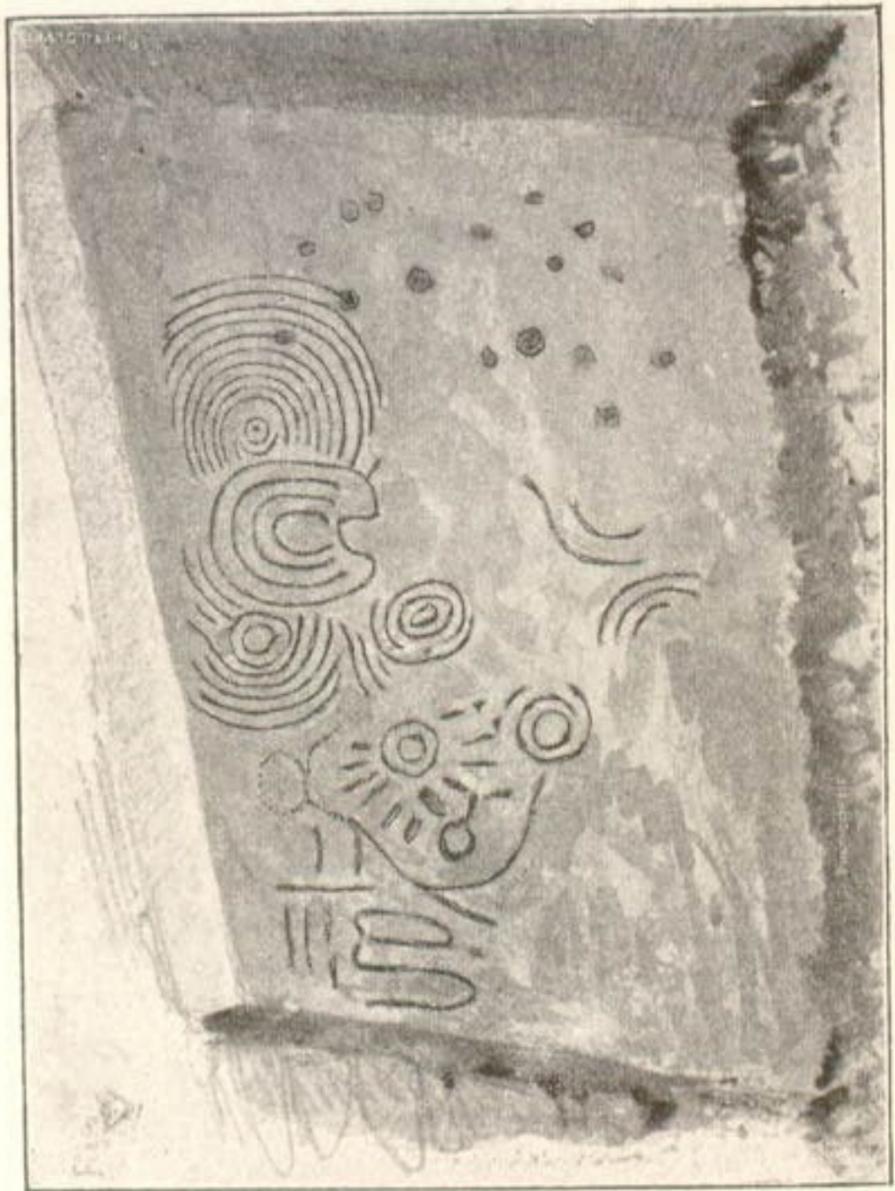


Fig. 59. Stone b, Cairn U.

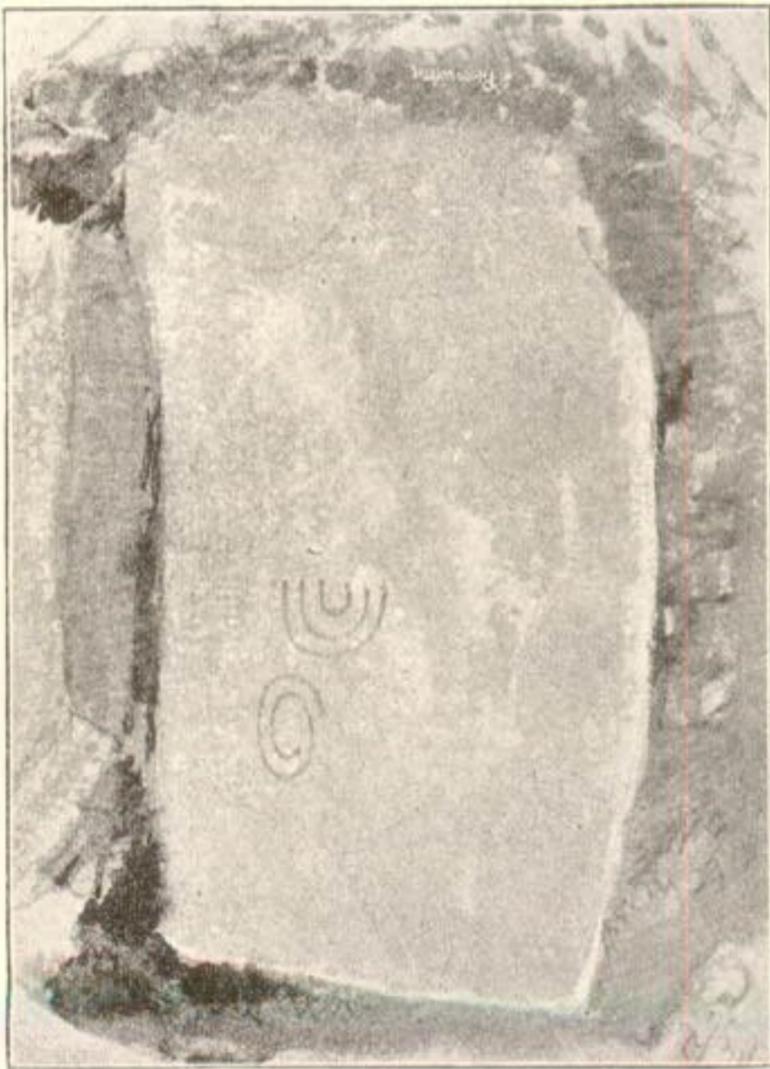


Fig. 67. Stone l, Cairn U.

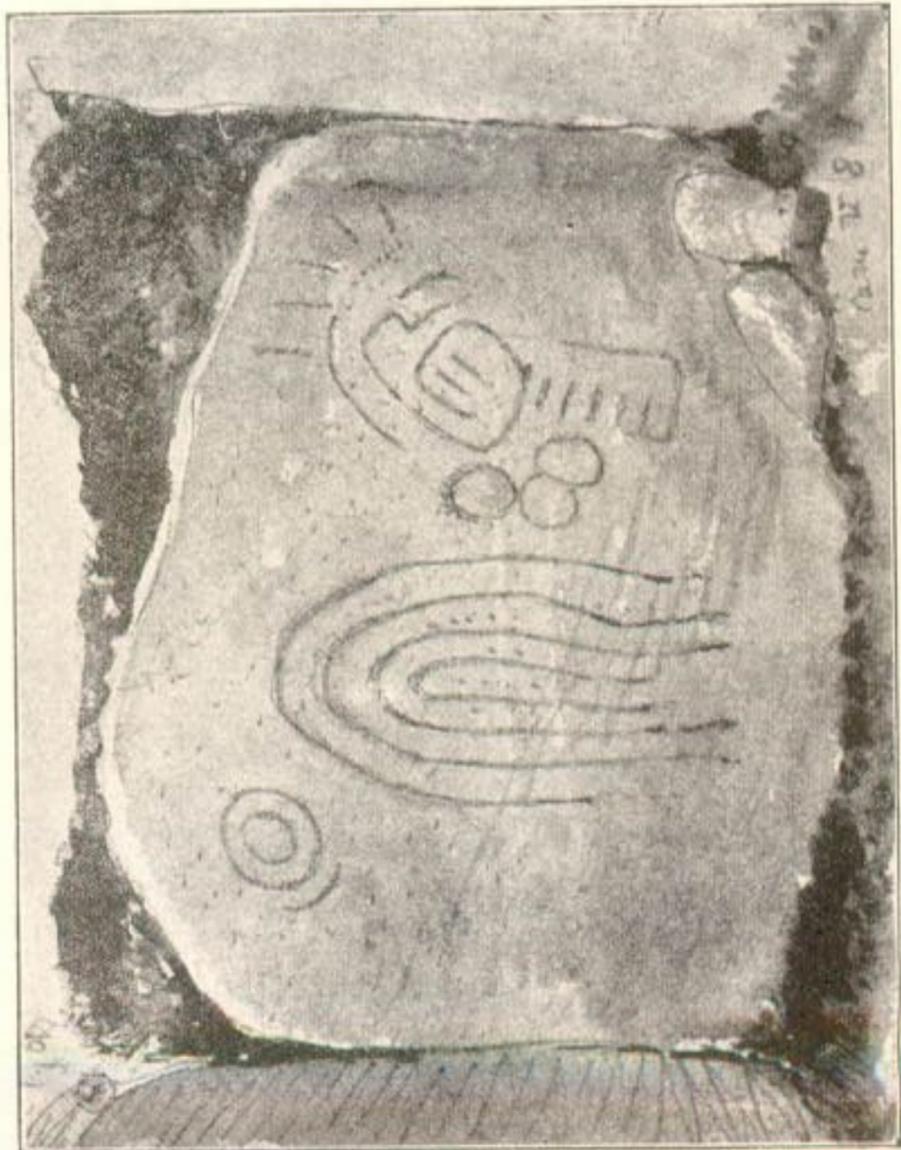


Fig. 63. Stone f, Cairn U.



Fig. 64. Stone *g*, Cairn U.

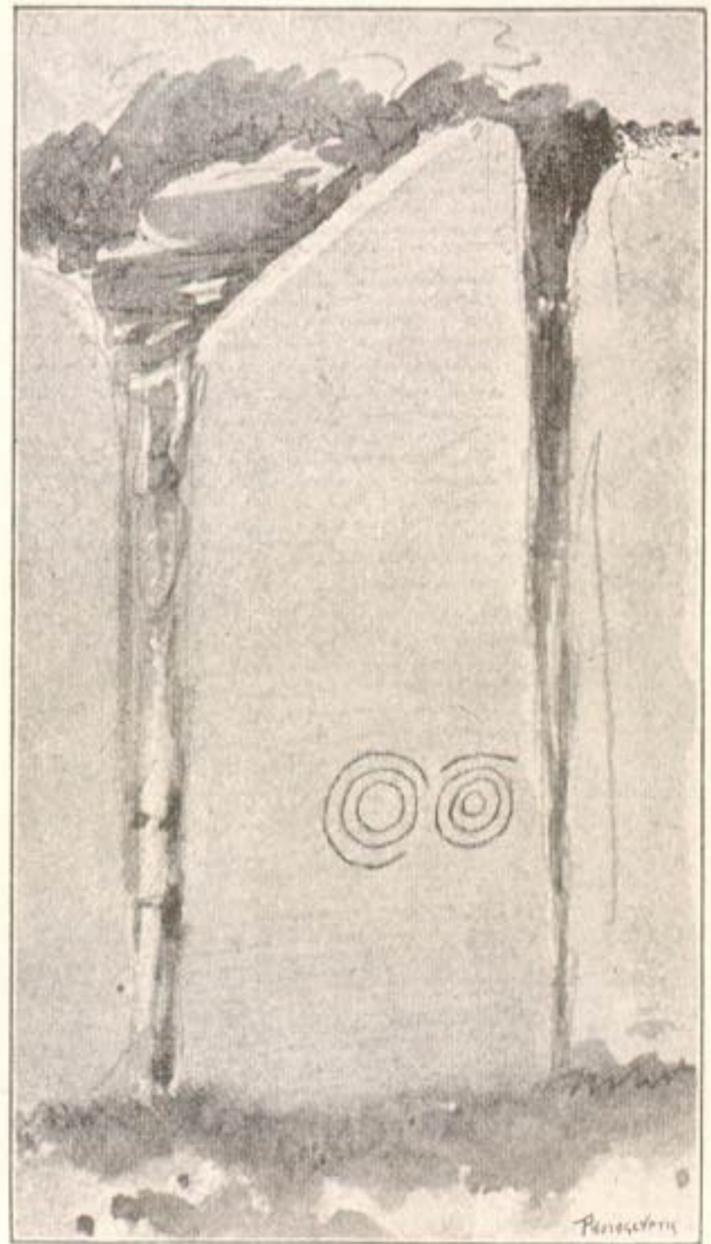


Fig. 68. Stone *m*, Cairn U.



Fig. 61. Stone *d*, Cairn U.

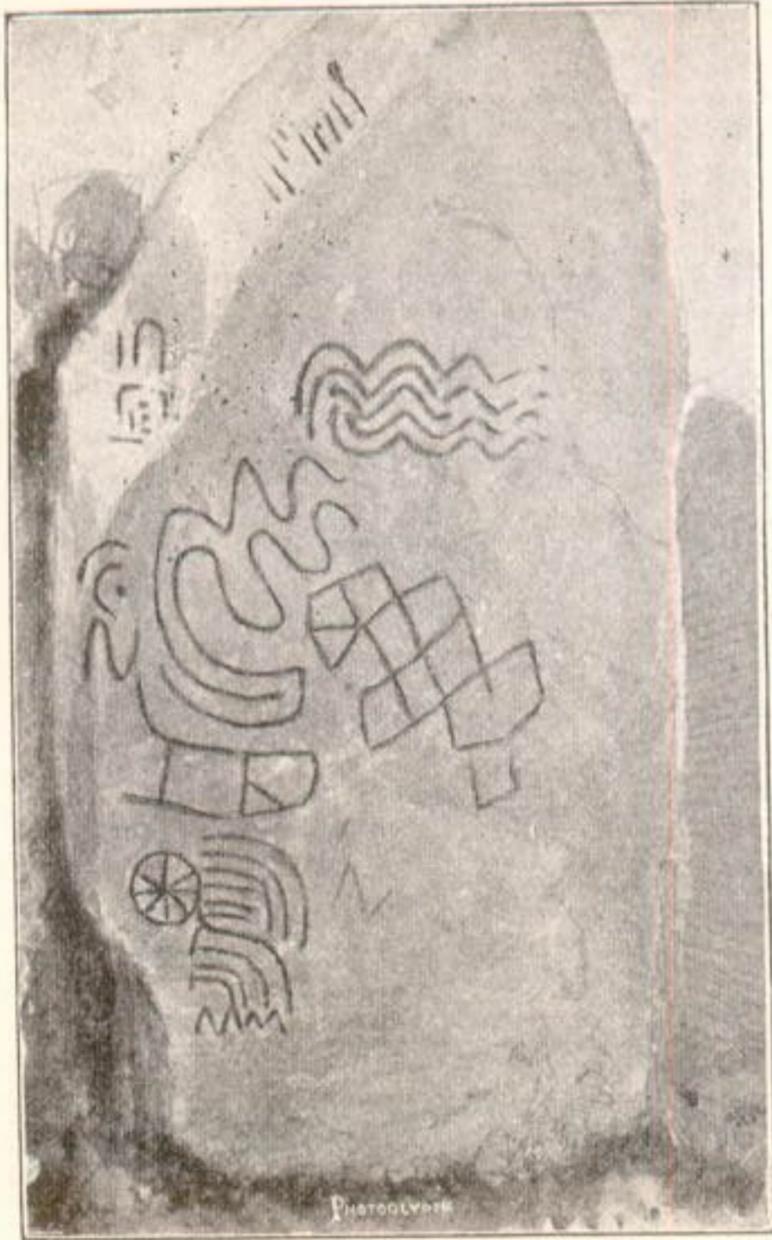


Fig. 62. Stone e, Cairn U.

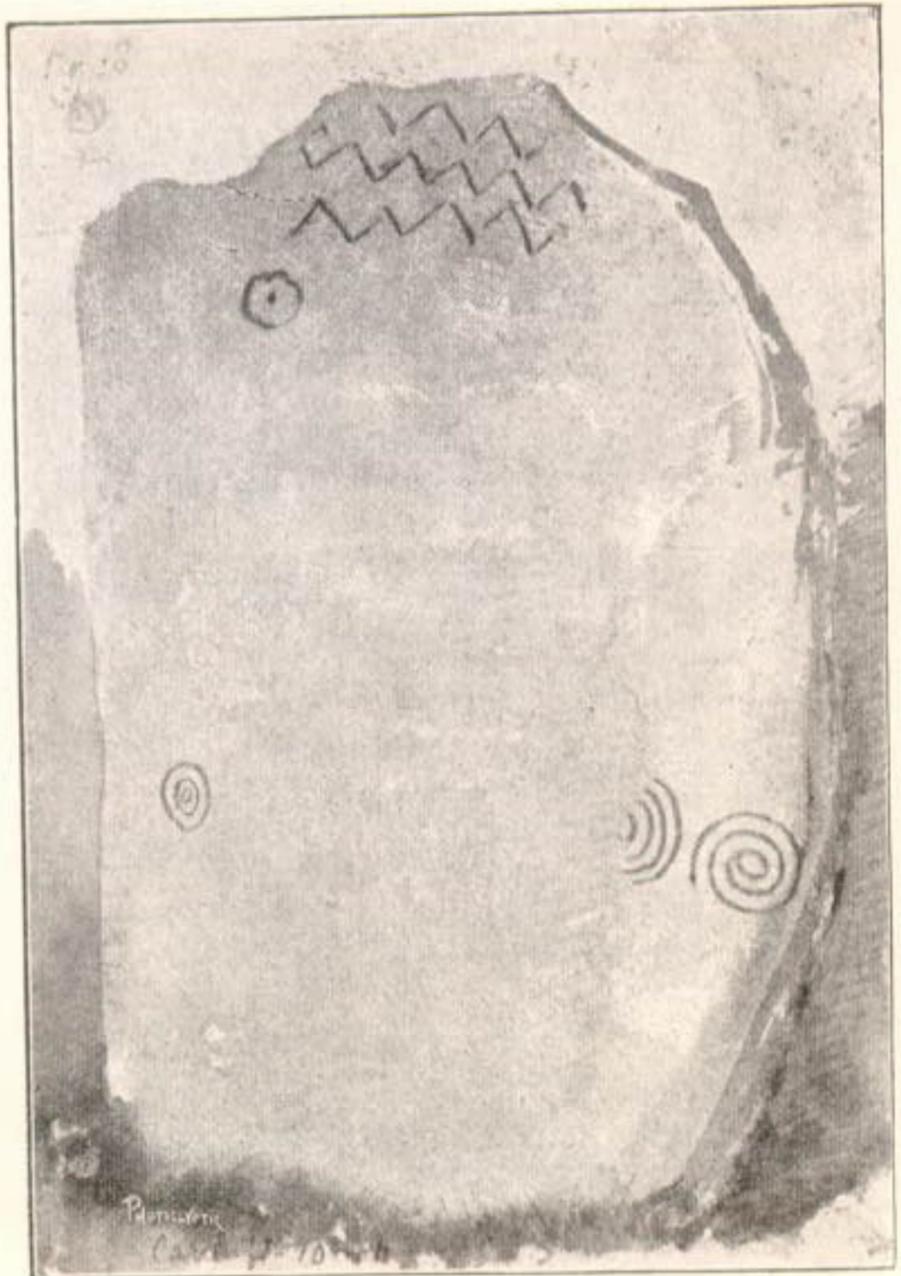


Fig. 65. Stone h, Cairn U.

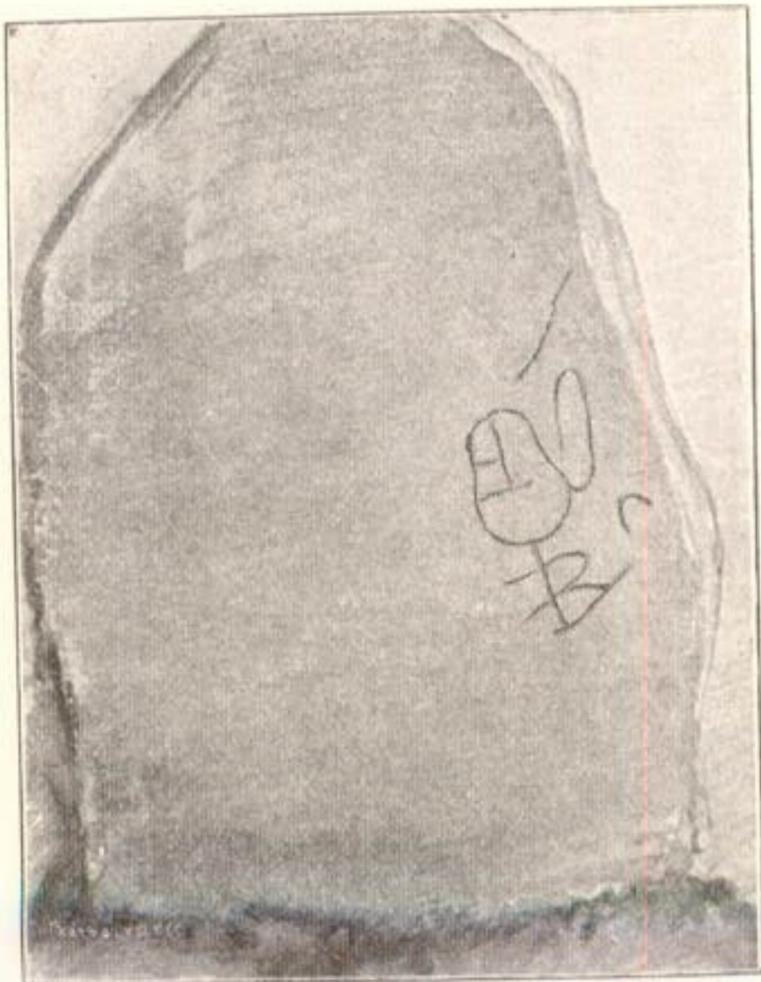


Fig. 58. Stone a, Cairn U.

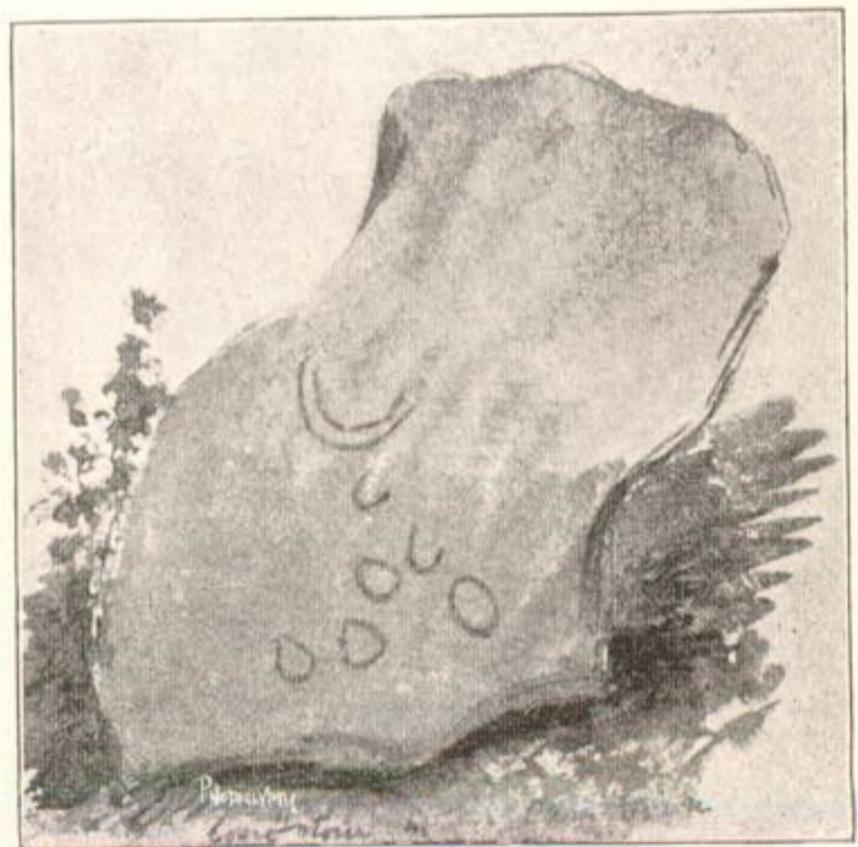


Fig. 69. Stone n, Cairn U.

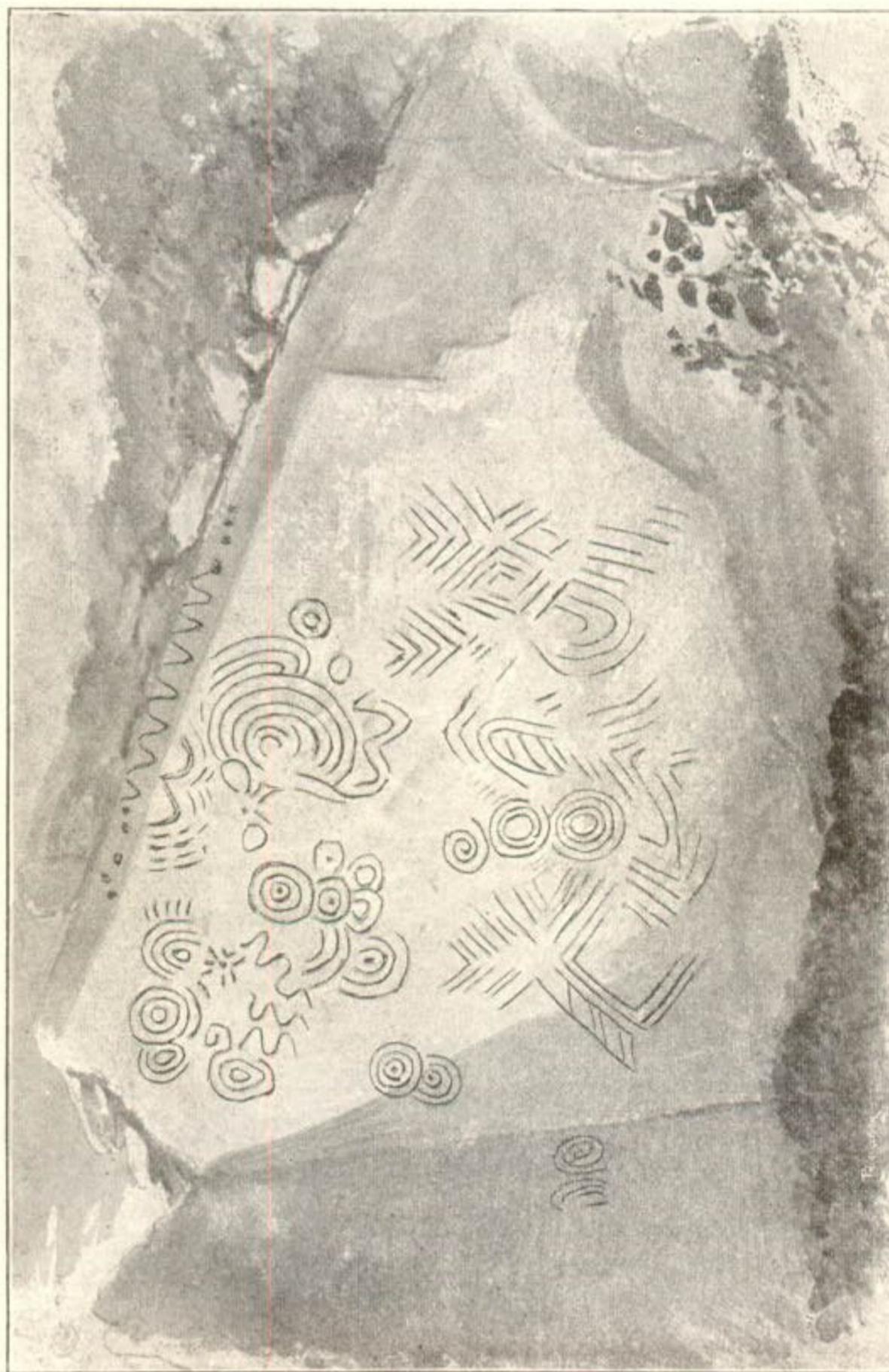


Fig. 66. Stone *j*, Cairn U.

Cairn V.—Eleven yards in diameter, situated 39 yards S.E. of Cairn T and 51 yards south of U (see Plate VII). The upright stones forming the chambers were bare, from the removal of the smaller stones of the cairn; its greatest length was 21 feet, bearing S.E., and in breadth 10 feet.

About a yard outside the circumference on N.W. side was an upright pillar-stone 5 feet above ground, 5 feet 6 inches broad, and 1 foot 6 inches thick.

I sent a lithographic plan of the cairn and its chambers, unpublished.

Four of its stones had incised sculpturings.

Fig. 70. Stone *a*.—East face 3 feet wide and 2 feet 3 inches broad.

Fig. 71. Stone *b*.—In small cist east of chamber. About 4 feet high and 3 feet broad.

Fig. 72. Stone *c*.—Four feet 2 inches high and 4 feet 6 inches broad, facing westward.

Fig. 73. Stone *d*.—Large stone, standing outside, and detached from the Cairn, described above.



Fig. 73. Stone *d*, Cairn V.

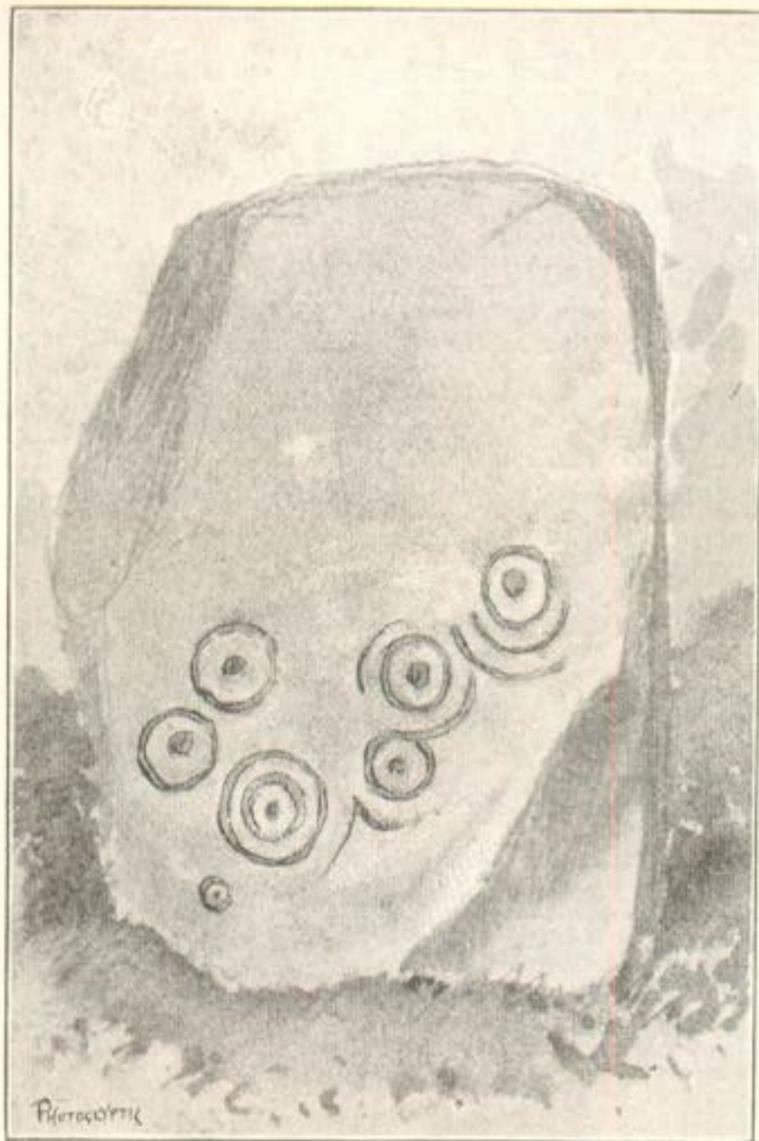


Fig. 70. Stone *a*, Cairn V.

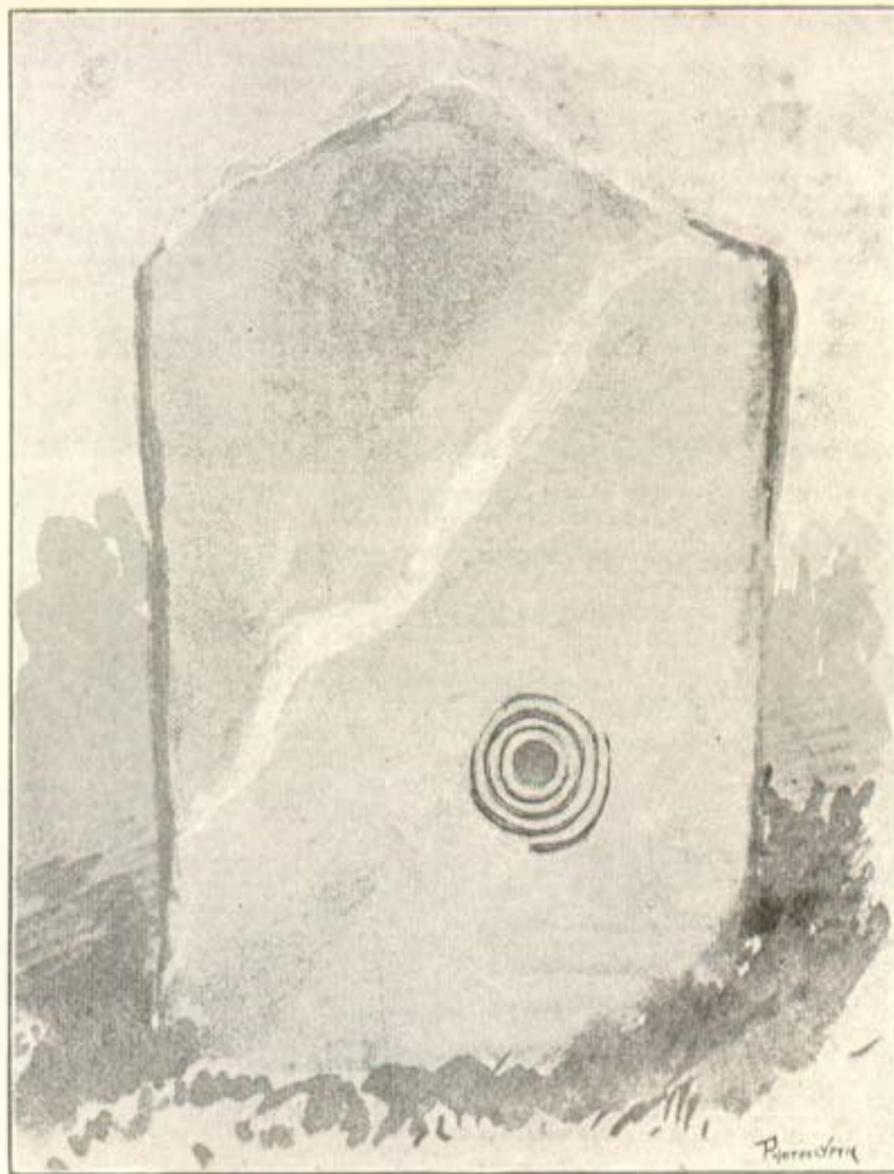


Fig. 71. Stone *b*, Cairn V.

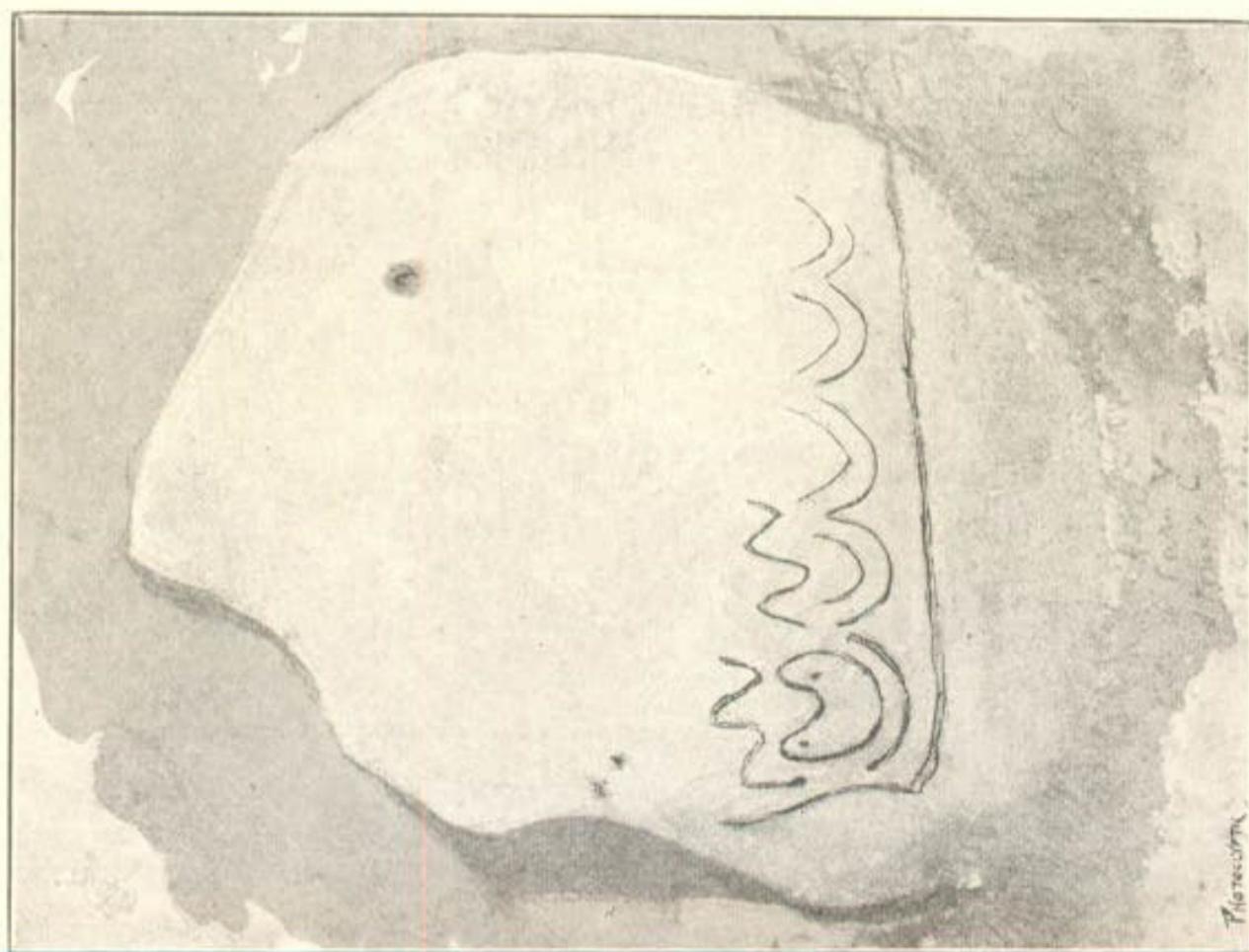


Fig. 72. Stone *c*, Cairn V.

Cairn W.—The “Pot” Cairn, 128 yards east of Cairn T, as shown in Plate VII. It is seven yards in diameter, and its remains are now nearly level with the ground. It contained a single chamber, formed of eight flag-stones placed on end, and, unlike all the other chambers explored, the earth appeared to have been dug away below the surface for its construction. A layer of charred bones 6 inches in thickness covered the bottom of the chamber; when cleared out, a stone basin $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet square and 9 inches thick was found hollowed out from the sides to the centre for a depth varying from 3 to 4 inches; when raised, splinters of charred bones were observed underneath it. Du Noyer’s plan shows an antechamber, and one stone apparently of a passage pointing due south. It had five stones with incised sculpturings, shown in the plan on Plate VIII. by letters *a* to *e*; of these I have:—

Fig. 74. Stone *c*.—Facing south. Its surface was noted as “rough and chipped.”

Fig. 75. Stone *d*.—Appears to form one of the passage stones, 1 foot 7 inches high, and about a foot wide.

Stone *e*.—Top of stone at side of antechamber, showing six small cup-markings (not figured). Drawing of the Stone Dish or “Pot” found within the Cairn (not figured).



Fig. 74. Stone *c*, Cairn W.



Fig. 75. Stone *d*, Cairn W.

There is also a drawing of a Stone with depressed markings found in a field between western and middle summits of the hills facing W. 30° S., 4 feet in height.

On the eastern peak called Patrickstown are three stone circles.

Fig. 76. Stone *a*.—Thirteen feet from the circumference of the most perfect or northern circle was found an upright stone standing N. 20° W., with remarkable scribings. These were best seen, Mr Du Noyer states, by the setting rays of the sun, 30th October 1865. The stone is 5 feet 4 inches long, 3 feet 4 inches high, and 1 foot 2 inches thick.

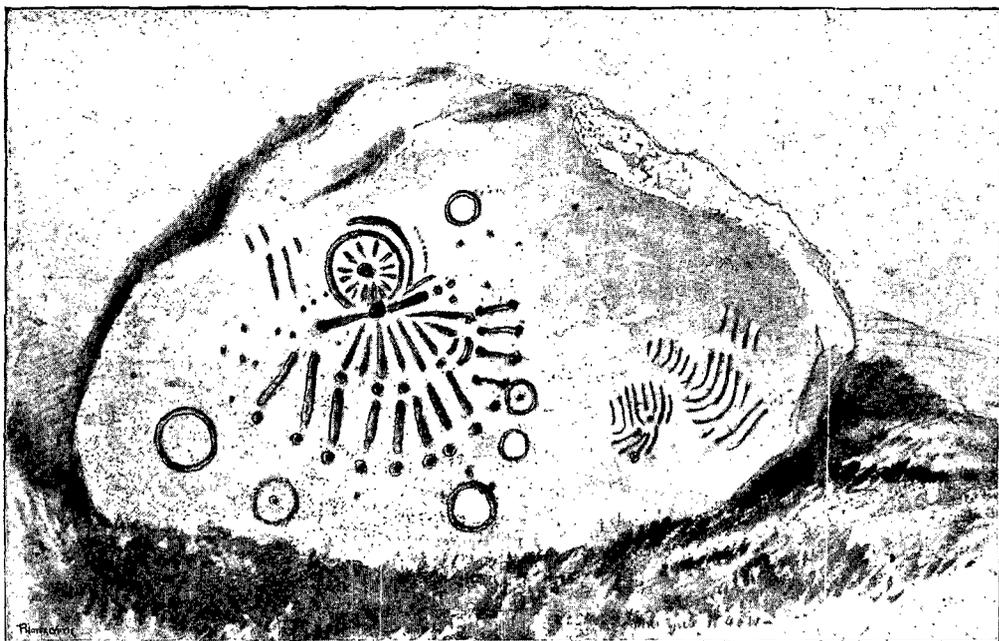


Fig. 76. Stone, near the northern circle.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF CAIRNS HAVING NO INSCRIBED STONES AT LOUGHCREW.

(See the general Plan on Plate VII.)

- Cairn A lies 66 yards S.E. of Cairn D ; nearly all its stones are removed. Four large stones remain to mark its circumference, which is 7 yards diameter.
- Cairn A² is in a plantation 130 yards S. of Cairn D ; 9 yards in diameter, but nearly level with the ground. One large stone, standing upright on its circumference, bore some traces of sculpturing, which were not drawn.
- Cairn A³.—Very conspicuous on S. scalp of hill, 60 yards S.W. from Cairn D, close to southern wall of deer-park. Its remains consist of a debris a foot or two high, covered with grass, and 22 yards in diameter.
- Cairn B.—Its remains are 46 yards W. of Cairn D ; and 7 yards in diameter. The loose stones are nearly all removed, leaving in its centre three large flags laid on edge, that form a chamber 12 feet in length and 2 feet broad, pointing in the direction E. 20° S. In clearing this chamber, several fragments of charred bones were found.
- Cairn C.—Its remains, 5 yards in diameter, are 60 yards S.W. of Cairn D. The site is marked by four large stones, nearly all the rest of the cairn being removed. Twenty-five feet N. of it is a prostrate pillar-stone, 7 feet long, 3 feet 6 inches broad, and 1 foot thick.
- Cairn D.—Diameter of base, 60 yards ; its N. and E. sides were intact, but on S. and W. for nearly 100 feet round the base, and extending inwards for 25 yards towards its centre, the loose stones of the cairn had been removed. It rose in a sloping ascent, 25 paces from base to summit. Around it, laid on edge, were fifty-four large flag-stones in a circle, still perfect, and on the E. side those marginal stones curve inwards for 12 paces in length. towards a point E. 20° S., when the entrance to the chambers begins. At it appeared undisturbed, excavations were commenced, but the stones fell in dangerous masses, so it was cut across, but no discovery resulted, although about midway down, portions of skulls and teeth of oxen and deer were obtained among loose stones.
- One hundred and five feet N.W. of this cairn, on the escarpment of the hill, was a pillar of quartz rock, 8 feet high, 3 feet broad, and 2 feet thick, broken across a little above the ground. Mr Conwell gives some data, probably contributed by Mr Du Noyer, about the nearest quartz rocks, which are at Howth, 50 miles distant S.E., Wicklow, 60 miles S.E., Donegal, 90 miles N., Sligo, 90 miles N.W., and Galway, 100 miles W. Possibly it was a glacial boulder brought by ice current from Donegal.

- Cairn E.—About 5 yards in diameter. Traces alone remain.
- Cairn G.—Diameter, 21 feet; only 1 yard from Cairn F, and $34\frac{1}{2}$ yards from D. Traces sufficient to indicate its site, and eight large marginal stones alone remain.
- Cairn M.—About 650 yards to the south-east of Cairn L. Crowning the knoll called Carricbrac are the remains of a cairn, 22 yards in diameter, and about 4 feet high. It has no boundary-stones or chambers.
- Cairn N.—On top of a second knoll, 572 yards east of M. It measures 22 yards across, and not above 2 feet high of small stones remain. Four large stones outside this cairn mark an avenue 16 yards long, pointing east, seven yards wide at the entrance, and diminishing to 4 yards wide as it approaches the cairn. One of these stones, standing upwards of 6 feet above the surface of the ground, is inscribed with forty-eight cup-hollows.
- Cairn O.—In the valley below the two knolls, 352 yards N.E. from Cairn M, and 279 yards N.W. from Cairn N, are the remains of a cairn 11 yards in diameter. Three prostrate stones, each about 4 feet by 3, mark the site. One upright stone, 3 feet 9 inches in height and breadth, and 1 foot thick, apparently mark its circumference. On its western face are twenty-eight cups, ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in diameter, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch deep.
- Cairn P¹.—Its remains are 143 yards N.E. of Cairn N. It measured 8 yards in diameter.
- Cairn P².—About 22 yards northwards are six large stones, probably the remains of a cairn, one of which is 6 feet 6 inches long, 5 feet 6 inches broad, and about 2 feet thick.
- Cairn Q.—Nearly all its stones are removed; its remains are $4\frac{1}{2}$ yards across; it lies 38 yards northward from P².
- Cairn R¹.—Its remains are only 2 or 3 feet high, and 11 yards across; it lies 242 yards from Q, passing up the hill in an easterly direction.
- Cairn R².—Sixteen yards south of last, and 55 yards S.W. from T. It is 9 yards in diameter, and about 2 feet high. Ten boundary-stones remain, and outside the cairn, at a distance of 3 to 4 yards, lie 5 large stones.
- Cairn Y.—On the top of the Hill of Patrickstown stood a conspicuous cairn, measuring 33 yards across. It was removed some years since.