edge to arch and jambs. There is one small votive cross on the west jamb. The nave and chapel have embattled parapet. The Perpendicular windows have the usual labels. There is a small late 15th century doorway on the north of the Chapel, probably the private entrance from the Grange. The quaint (fig. 39) little bell-cote on the west gable is probably of 17th century date.

(*To be continued*).

Sandhurst, Berks.

By Capt. G. A. Kempthorne, Royal Army Medical Corps.

INTRODUCTION.

THE parishes of Sandhurst and Crowthorne are situated in the south eastern corner of the County of Berkshire. The Blackwater river on the south, and its tributary the Wish brook on the east, forming, respectively, the Hampshire and the Surrey boundaries. The Chobham ridges terminate northward in the gravel capped plateau of Easthampstead Plain, from which three main spurs are thrown out in a south westerly direction, abutting on the northern and eastern borders of the parish. That on the east terminates in the rising ground on which the Royal Military College stands, the central one is named in the ordnance map, Poppy Hills, and the western one, Lodge Hill, has been chosen for the site of the Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum. The latter spur is prolonged nearly across the breadth of the parish as a ridge which rises abruptly at one spot to a height of three hundred feet, forming a conical hill named Edgbarrow. Beyond this it ends in the irregular mass of Longdown Hill with its subsidiary spurs, Scotland Hill, Hurt's Hill, and Cock-a-dobby. The parish boundary on the west

crosses the eastern extremity of the Finchampstead Ridges, an outlying portion of which, Ambarrow Hill, rises boldly to front its companion on the neighbouring ridge. The total area is about 4,536 acres, and the population 7,201. To this Sandhurst contributes 3,936 and Crowthorne 3,265.

The alluvial soil of the Blackwater valley affords a strip of land suitable for the operations of farming, and devoted mainly to meadow and pasture; but the remaining three quarters of the parish consists of hill, down and moor. Here heather, ling and gorse abound, while plantations of Scotch fir made in the early part of last century have converted much of the waste into woodland.

Not long since all this latter area was a wilderness. In James I.'s reign there were only twenty-three houses in the whole parish, all collected on the southern border. In 1807 there were thirty-six and a population of 222. The district now contains three large public institutions. The Royal Military College, which arrived in 1807, Wellington College, the foundation stone of which was laid in 1856, and Broadmoor Asylum, opened soon after. Crowthorne, which owed its existence as a small village entirely to the two latter, has of late years developed to a startling extent as a residential district, and since 1894 has been an independent parish.* Meanwhile Sandhurst proper has expanded eastward; and this end of the village, thanks to the present Rector, has now a Church of its own.

CHAPTER I.

The District in the Earliest Times.

In very early times, at a date which we cannot even approximately fix, a race of men who used flint axes, knives and arrow-heads, made the Blackwater valley their temporary home. Later, as the occupation of the district became permanent and the tribes acquired some kind of central organisation, the inhabitants made a refuge for themselves and their cattle during war time on the neighbouring plateau, the earthern ramparts of which remain to this day. Cæsar's Camp, as it is popularly though inaccurately called, crowns the summit of a spur projecting from the northern side of Easthampstead plain, the peculiar contour of which gives the camp much the shape of an oak leaf. It has a double rampart except on the naturally

* The civil parish of Crowthorne was created on Sept. 30th, 1894, by an Order of the Local Government Board (No. 31,571).

weak south side, where there is a triple defence. The ditch was formed by digging along the side of the hill and throwing up the earth on the exterior to form a parapet; the inner rampart, which was probably surmounted by a stockade, being made with earth taken from inside. The length of the Camp is about 600 yards and its greatest breadth 250. There are entrances at the north and south ends, and the remains of a shallow well exist near the former, which was described by Dr. Stukeley, the antiquary, as early as 1724. About half a mile to the south ran a very ancient track, afterwards utilized by the Romans, which terminated westward at the British town at Silchester, and if continued eastward leads towards the better known, though very similar, entrenchment on St. George's Hill, near Weybridge.

When the Romans came into Berkshire they found the country occupied by the Belgic tribe of Attrebates, whose capital at Silchester became under the imperial rule the large and important municipality of Calleva Attrebatum. From this place they made a series of military roads, five of which have been identified. The old Celtic track was thoroughly taken in hand, and became part of the main route from London to the West. Its surface was metalled, embankments and bridges were made, ponds were formed for water supply where necessary, and rest-houses built at intervals along its course.

The direction the road took along the northern boundary of Crowthorne parish is shown in the ordnance map. Until the gardens of the new houses on Duke's Ride were formed, the causeway could be plainly seen as a ridge running through the heather. The substratum, which consisted of finely pounded gravel mixed with ferruginous clay, was found by the builder of at least one of these houses to afford an admirable ingredient for his mortar. We may still see the cutting the Roman engineers made through Circle Hill in the Walter Recreation Ground, and from this point eastwards the road follows one of the forest rides as far as Bagshot, over what was a hundred years ago a barren moor. It passes about three-quarters of a mile south of Cæsar's Camp, and here, at the head of a ravine and a little off the road, stand a number of thorn trees of great age called Wickham Bushes. This spot has long been known as the site of an ancient settlement owing to the broken fragments of pottery and tile and other relics which are found lying about. At one place a small spring rises, and close by have been found evident traces of a house of the period of the Roman occupation. It does not require much imagination to suppose this to have been a rest

house for the use of travellers along the road. It would make a convenient halting place between the station near Staines (Pontes) and the town of Calleva; and, judged by modern standards, is about a day's march from either. One comes across just such a place in India in the 20th century. A single storied bungalow, timber built in the present case, with a tiled roof, and a floor of hardened mud. Three to four rooms, each with a minimum of furniture, and on the wall a list of prices signed by the local magistrate. The house would probably be in charge of the cook, one of the subject race, who was sufficiently paid by the profits he made on the travellers' meals. The latter would bring their own bedding, and for dinner and breakfast no doubt the dak-bungalow chicken was as familiar to the Romano-Britain as to the Anglo-Indian of past and present days. Close by there must have been a few outbuildings, wattled and thatched, for the servants; a shop where grain was sold; a shed for stabling the government post horses; and perhaps a blacksmith's forge. The guest's dinner was served on a plausible imitation of Samian, a red glazed ware; and at one time the house possessed a rather elegant dinner service of chocolate coloured pottery, embossed like a Christmas cake with figures in white clay. The ordinary household utensils and those used by the servants were of red or black earth, chiefly the latter, and were either quite plain or ornamented with a very simple pattern such as might be made with a pointed stick or a piece of string. A very favourite one was a network design. Large amphoræ holding a gallon or more for storing wine, ampullæ with narrow necks and fat bodies for serving it in, and jars with wide mouths and narrow bases for keeping solid food. Fragments of mortaria are also common. These were saucer-like vessels of coarse black or whiteish clay, studded inside with small bits of quartz, in which meat and vegetables could be pounded up. In the Wellington College museum there is one of the stones from a handmill for grinding grain, such as is used in the East at the present day. Examples of all these are to be found in the museum case at the College,* and by comparison with the perfect specimens in the Silchester collection it is quite easy to re-construct them. Iron knife blades, keys, bolts, hinges, a candlestick, and a horseshoe have also been found, a few simple personal ornaments of

* In 1878 the Rev. W. Goodchild read a paper of absorbing interest before the College Natural Science Society on local antiquities which was printed by request and subsequently re-printed in Hunt's Guide to Wellington College, 1902. It was owing to the interest aroused among the boys by this that the collection was started.

bronze, and coins ranging in date from A.D. 117 to 383. There was no need to fortify the place. Berkshire enjoyed perfect peace under the Roman rule, and at no time was there apparently a large garrison at Calleva. The compound may well have been inclosed by a blackthorn hedge to keep out wild beasts, from which have descended the thorn bushes dotted about the clearing.

A few years after the date of our last coin the Roman legions were withdrawn. They had been in the country nearly four hundred years, and no doubt there was a class of educated Britains who had for some time been hinting that they could run the country quite as well themselves. A few pages of history follow, which might be studied to advantage elsewhere at the present day. The effect on our part of the country seems to have been the gradual decay and final abandonment of the town of Calleva. As a result the Roman road fell into disuse and its very origin was forgotten. The causeway on the heath remained, however, untouched up to the end of the eighteenth century, the wonder of the rustic inhabitants, who thought it was the work of the devil. The walls of Calleva still stand, and the whole of the area they inclose has now been excavated by the Society of Antiquaries, to whose efforts we owe the magnificent collection in the Reading museum.

The site of Wickham Bushes was investigated in 1783 by Mr. Handasyd, of Hurst, F.S.A., who carried off several barrow loads of broken pottery. The local tradition at this time is worth mentioning, as it suggests an origin for Sandhurst village. "The inhabitants of the neighbourhood," he says, "have a tradition that here stood a town, but that Julius Cæsar, whom they magnify to a giant (for stories lose nothing by telling), with his associates, laying the country waste the poor inhabitants were obliged to fly and seek an asylum in the valley beneath."* Julius Cæsar was, of course, never in these parts. The dates on the coins alone show that the place was occupied during, and not before the time of the Romans. Neither do such excavations as have been made lend support to the idea that the settlement was one of any size. That the post was destroyed however during the troubled times which followed the Roman evacuation is quite possible.

*Archæologia vol. vii.

(To be continued.)