The cist was discovered while excavating in a field for building sand. It was situated on a grass-covered slope, declining with a north-eastern exposure towards the banks of the Deveron. There was no tumulus nor any apparent mark of its existence above ground.

Some years ago another cist was discovered close by it in a line towards the south-west. It contained bones and an urn (a sketch of which was exhibited). Numerous other cists have been found in the same field, containing urns and bones, generally in a good state of preservation. Great care was taken in opening the cist. It was about 3 feet below the surface of the ground to the covering stones. The excavation made in laying down the cist would appear to have been circular; about 6 feet in diameter. In excavating, two stones were first reached, one towards the west 2 feet 8 inches by 2 feet 6 inches, and the other on the east 1 foot 8 inches by 2 feet 2 inches. They were laid above the ends of the cover of the cist. That cover was 4½ feet in length by 3 feet 7 inches at the broad end, 1 foot at the narrow end, and 2 feet 11 inches about the middle, the whole of an irregular heart shape, 7½ inches thick at the thinnest part, and 10½ at the thickest.

The cist was formed in the usual manner, with two stones set on edge
forming the sides, one at the foot and another at the head. The bottom
was paved with one large flat stone irregularly shaped, with smaller ones
carefully laid to complete the causewaying. Where the head had rested
was a stone, the whole breadth of the cist, raised like a pillow at an
angle of about 30°. The dimensions of the cist were 2 feet 4 inches in
width by 2 feet 4 inches in depth.

The cist contained the remains of a skeleton, lying in a line from east
to west, the head being in the east end. Of the skull only one of the
parietal bones remained in preservation. The skeleton was in a con-
tracted position, as if lying on the left side, with the legs bent upwards
at the knees and thighs, and the arms crossed over the ribs. The bones
were so much decayed as not to be removable without fracture, but by
carefully removing the superincumbent sand which had completely filled
the cist by gradual percolation, most of the bones were uncovered and
seen in their original position on the causewayed floor of the cist. The
thigh bone measured 1 foot 5\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches in extreme length.

The cist also contained an urn, lying on its side as if across the neck.
It appeared as if it had fallen into that position from the perpendicular,
the bottom towards the north; the bottom of the urn was separated by
fracture from the body of it, and lay at a distance of about 2 inches
therefrom. It contained one of the pieces of a flint which had been
split into two, and a whitish yellow powder, which dyed the part of the
pavement on which it had so long rested. The urn when taken out was
completely filled with the gravelly sand which had filled the rest of the
cist. It broke into several fragments on being lifted, but on being recon-
structed was found to be of the following dimensions, 8\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches high, cir-
cumference at the top 21 inches, at the contraction 19 inches. (A sketch
of the natural size was exhibited.)

In excavating to come at the cover of the cist some pieces of charcoal
were found. Some were also found near the skeleton in the cist. It is
reported also that, on afterwards lifting the flag with which the bottom
was paved, considerable quantities of charcoal were found. Some remains
of a darkish fibrous-looking substance like dry moss were also found beside
and under the remains of the body. What it had been, whether hair,
wool, or vegetable matter, could not be discovered.

Mr Shand, the farmer in Forteath, deserves great credit for having
left the cist untouched after discovering it, until it should be carefully
opened and examined.

There were present at the opening of it, Dr Taylor, Leochel Cushnie; Mr Smart, minister of Cabrach; and Mr Christie, minister of Kildrummie. The urn taken from the cist formerly opened close by it, is in the possess-
ion of Mr Taylor, Boghead of Lesmurdie. Its dimensions are 6½ inches high, diameter of the mouth 6¼ inches, of the bottom 3½ inches, and circumference of the narrowest part 19 inches.