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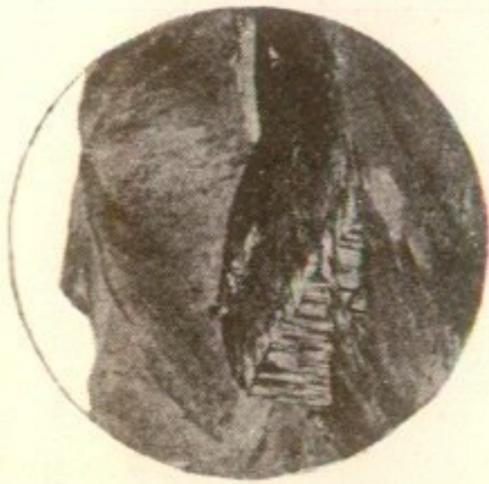
NOTICE OF REMARKABLE GROUPS OF ARCHAIC SCULPTURINGS IN DUMBARTONSHIRE AND STIRLINGSHIRE. BY JOHN BRUCE, F.S.A. SCOT. (PLATES V., VI.)

Auchentorlie.—Early last year, while Mr Donnelly and myself were investigating the remains of a fort showing signs of vitrification on the summit of Ardconnel Hill, on the estate of Auchentorlie, Bowling, parish of West Kilpatrick, we discovered a most important group of cup- and ring-marks on the surface of a white sandstone rock lying in a basin to the north-west of Ardconnel, measuring about 54 feet in length and 22 feet in breadth. This rock has a geological as well as an antiquarian interest, surrounded as it is by trap rock, the sandstone rock lying in a basin or hollow in the hills 450 feet above the sea, and open only to the river Clyde towards the south. Sloping gently towards the south, the rock when found was almost covered with turf of varying thickness. The importance of the group when uncovered (permission for which was kindly granted by the proprietor, Mr. G. J. Fergusson Buchanan) was at once recognised, and a careful drawing of the whole

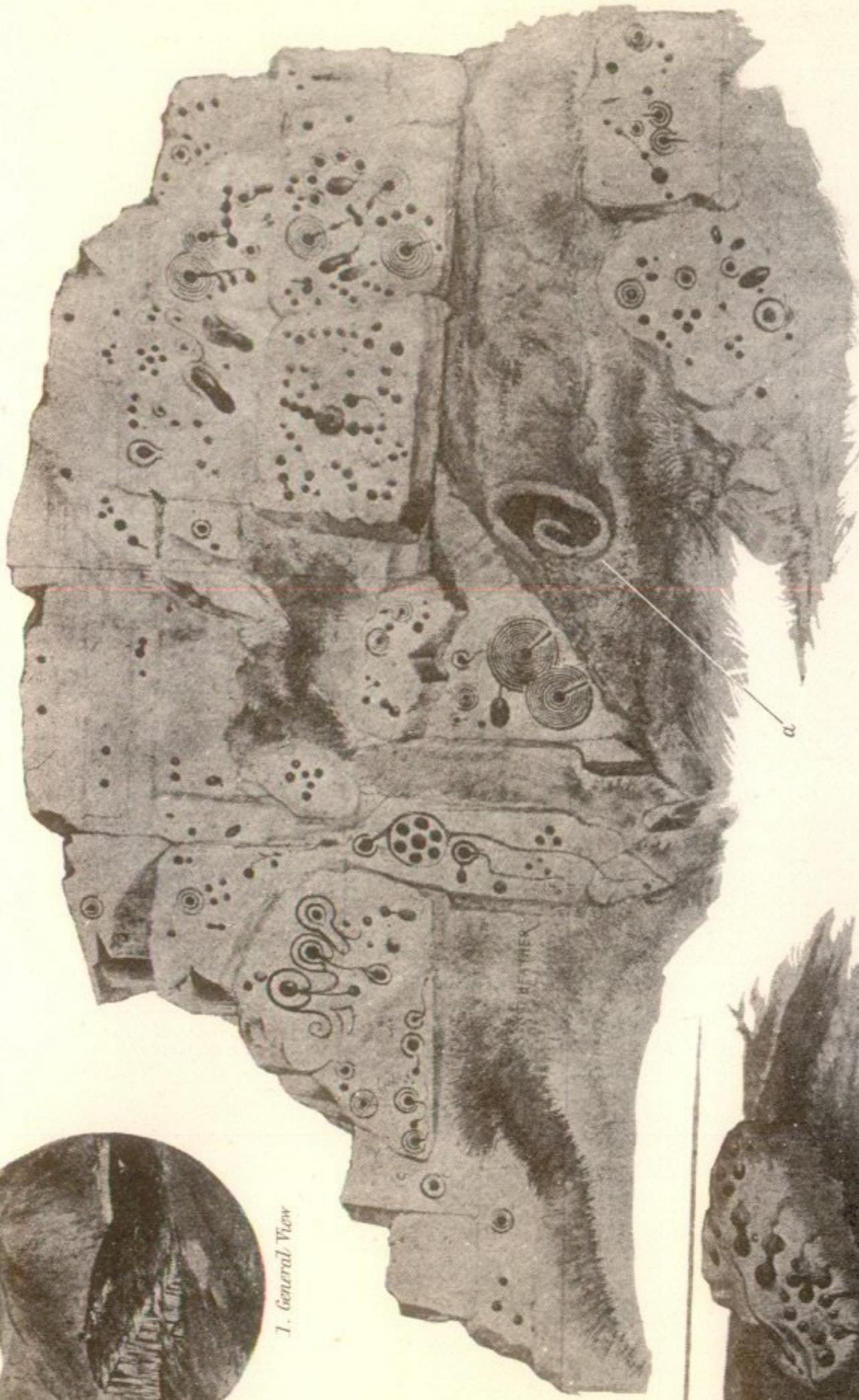
made by Mr Donnelly (Plate V.). The sculpturings are very numerous, exhibiting a great variety of designs, and the execution is very perfect, the cup-markings, as a rule, being deep, some of them measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth and 3 inches in breadth, and showing clearly the method employed in producing them, viz., by the use of a sharp-pointed tool, and not by rubbing or grinding. When these are counted over they fall into the following classification :—

Twenty-two sets of concentric rings round a central cup, the rings numbering from 2 up to 9; 73 single cups having no rings; 33 sets of cups having no rings except in one instance, the groups containing from 2 to 7 cups; 26 single rings with a central cup; 9 oval-shaped basins, some having a ring, or sometimes a raised rim. This gives a total of 163 different sculpturings. The most striking features of the group are the great variety of the figures, particularly the set to the left embracing the Jew's-harp form, measuring 12 by 7 inches across the cup, the set of 7 cups within a ring, which is particularly interesting, as the arrangement is symmetrical, the 6 cups surrounding a central one, also the frequent basin-like depressions which occur. The set of 7 cups measures 9 by 8 inches in diameter, and the cups vary from 1 inch to 2 inches in depth. The two sets of concentric rings, placed in contact but without intersecting each other, are notable for the accuracy with which they have been executed and the freshness of their appearance, many of the other markings being considerably weathered. The two sets measure 32 inches across, and the space between the cups $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The upper series of rings measures 19 inches in diameter, and the other 20 inches. About 80 yards north-east of this group there is an outcrop of similar rock which has been quarried away, leaving but a small part remaining on which there are several cup- and ring-sculpturings (figs. 1 and 2), quite unmistakable, but considerably weathered compared with the other group. This rock presents us with a variation of the usual position, some of the cup- and ring-markings appearing on a nearly vertical face with the duct or central groove leading upwards, the diameter of the rings varying from 7 to 8 inches.

In the left-hand lower corner of Plate V., a drawing is shown of a sandstone boulder found on a ridge about 300 yards to the north of the



1. General View



2. Sloping Rock Surface, showing Archaic Sculpturings
a. Turf-rolled back

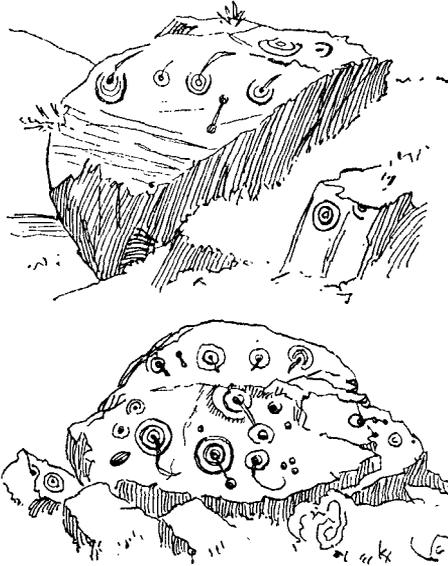


3. Boulder with cup marks, S.W. from
Greenland Farm House.

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large group, the markings showing cups alone. A similar boulder (fig. 3) on the Hill of Dun, about 1 mile eastward and just above Bowling



Figs. 1 and 2. Rock Sculpturings north-east of the main group.

village, shows 3 cups only. To the north of Greenland farm, which

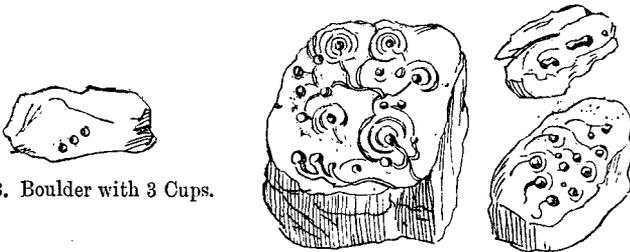


Fig. 3. Boulder with 3 Cups.

Fig. 4. Three Cup-marked Boulders north of Greenland farm.

lies a quarter of a mile immediately north of the sculptured rock, 3 cup- and ring-marked boulders were found, having been built into a wall

now removed (shown in fig. 4). The markings are well executed, and exhibit a different design from those already referred to. At the same time a most peculiar stone was found built into the wall. It is in shape much like a large cheese, 3 feet in diameter, and of sandstone common to the hill (see fig. 5). It is marked on top only with pittings or small cups. A hole 4 inches in diameter and $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep has been bored into it. At the foot of the perforation there is a cone $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches high rising from the edge to the centre, and round this cone are a series of cups, 1 inch in diameter and half an inch deep, cut into the vertical side of the hole. These peculiarities are all the better seen from the fact that the stone has been split in two, almost across the centre of the cylindrical hole. Dr Christison, Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, who examined the stone carefully, was so much struck with

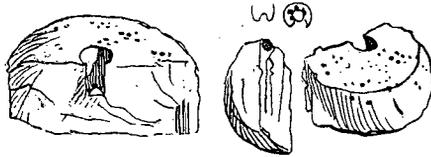


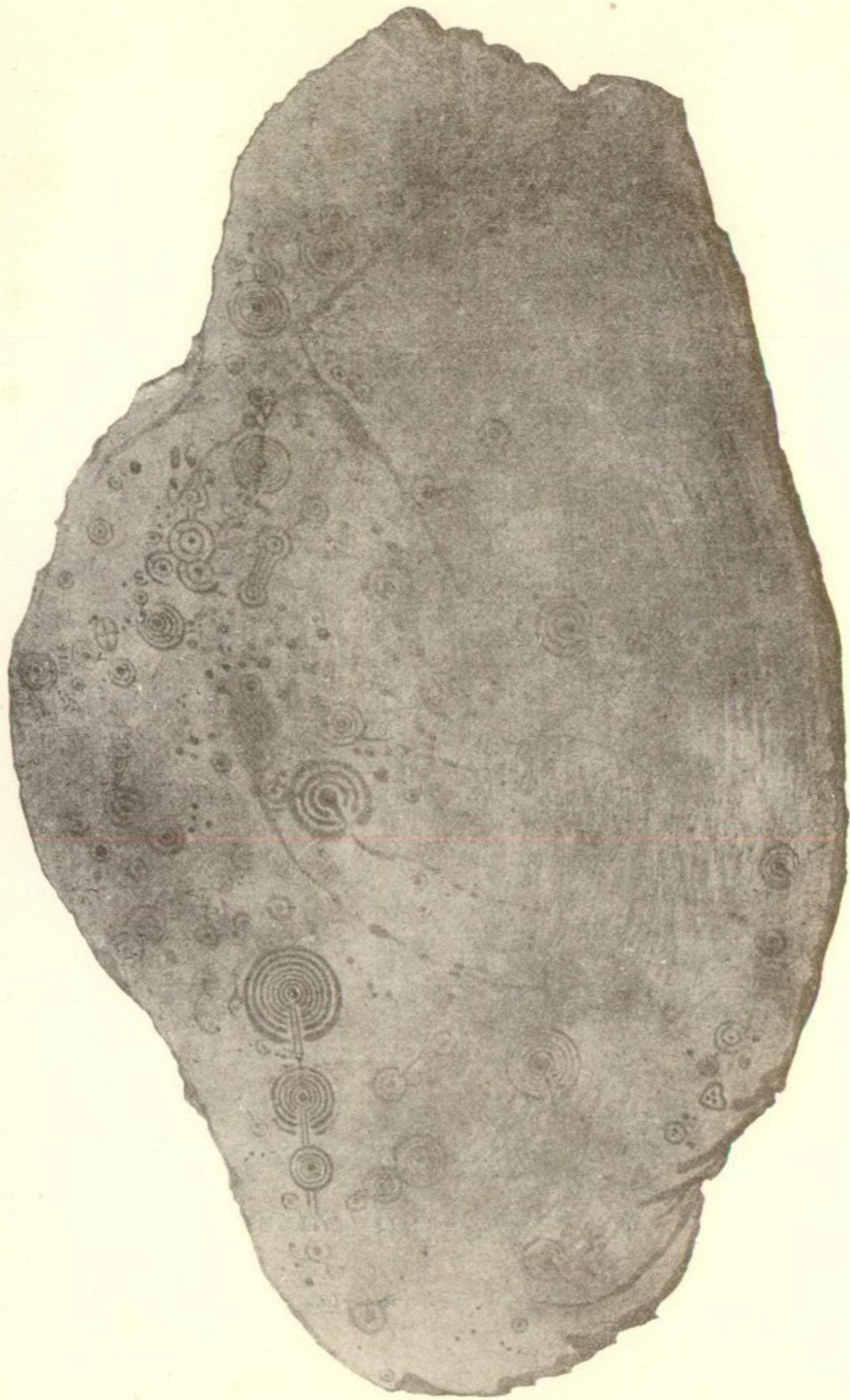
Fig. 5. Stone partially perforated.

its peculiarities, that he has asked the proprietor of the estate for permission to place it in the Society's Museum, and we are hopeful of securing it for the Collection.

Cochino.—While Mr Donnelly was engaged on a drawing for the Helensburgh Naturalist and Antiquarian Society of this group (which was discovered some years ago by the Rev. Mr Harvey, and reported to the Society by him),* which drawing is now reproduced in Plate VI., he noticed two features which had not hitherto been observed, viz., a cross within an oval border and a sculpturing resembling two pairs of foot-prints, which, curiously enough, show only four toes each, both being incised in the rock, casts of which can now be inspected, prepared by Mr Adam Miller, Helensburgh.

The cross has rarely been found in the British Isles in juxtaposition with cup- and ring-markings, but it occurs at New Grange in Ireland,

* See the *Proceedings*, vol. xxiii. p. 130.



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where a stone has been found showing concentric circles around a central cup; a double ring with a cruciform pattern in its centre, and another ring with numerous straight star-like radii diverging from the outer surface; also on a cist stone found at Aspatria, Cumberland, where some rings with crosses cut in relief—raised, and not incised—were observed, a feature common on Scandinavian stones (Sir J. Y. Simpson's *British Archaic Sculpturings*, pp. 76, 137), so that the Auchentorlie example is only the third hitherto reported in the United Kingdom.

In connection with the footprints, there are two sculpturings in the Auchentorlie group having a general resemblance to footprints, but closer examination leads us to the conclusion that they are oval-shaped basins, and we have described them as such.

Incised Boulder, Shemore Farm, Luss.—Through the courtesy of Mr George Colquhoun, farmer, our attention was drawn to a schist boulder incised with markings. The markings are rudely executed, and do not show anything like the symmetry and accuracy of the Kilpatrick groups or examples.

Carnock, Stirlingshire.—A sandstone rock in the Gosham Park on this estate has been found to bear a few much weathered cups with concentric circles. These have been drawn from the rubbings taken by me, through the courtesy of Mr Duncan, forester to the proprietor, Mr Hugh M. Shaw Stewart, M.P. Other markings were observed close by the picturesque ruin of Bruce Castle. These will be dealt with in a succeeding report if found to be of importance.

[The Society is indebted to Mr Bruce for the use of the blocks (Figs. 1-5) which form part of the illustration of this paper, and to Mr Donnelly for the drawings from which the lithographs of Plates V. and VI. have been prepared.]