

TREASURE-TROVE

NOTE : *The negotiations between the Treasury and the British Museum for the modification of the administration of Treasure-Trove have now been concluded, and the results are set forth in the Circular which we print below, and of which copies may be obtained on application to the Director of the British Museum. The widest publicity is desired for the modifications, of which the chief are that the finder now gets the full value of the find without any deductions, and that, after the right of the Crown has been established, the administration is in the hands of the British Museum.*

Objects of gold or silver which have been hidden in the soil or in buildings, and of which the original owner *cannot be traced*, are Treasure-Trove, and by law the property of the Crown.¹ If, however, the finder of such objects reports the find promptly, and it is decided that it is Treasure-Trove and therefore the property of the Crown, he will receive its *full market value* if it is retained for the Crown or a museum. If it is not retained, he will receive back the objects themselves, with full liberty to do what he likes with them ; or, if he wishes it, the British Museum will sell them for him at the best price obtainable. The only way in which a finder can comply with the law and also obtain these advantages is by reporting the find promptly to the proper authority.

The proper authority is the Coroner for the District in which the find is made, for he is the authority who enquires ' of treasure that is found ' and ' who were the finders.' (Coroners Act, 1887, section 36.)

Any one, therefore, who finds such objects should report the find to the Coroner, either direct, or through

¹ Unless (as in some rare cases) the " franchise of Treasure-Trove " has been expressly granted to a

subject, in so far as finds in the particular locality are concerned.

the local Police, or by writing to the Director, British Museum, London, W.C.1, who will communicate with the Coroner.

Coins and other ancient objects of copper, bronze, or any metal other than gold or silver are *not* Treasure-Trove and finds need not be reported to Coroners. But the British Museum is glad to hear of such finds and, if finds are reported to the Director, will in suitable cases arrange for purchase or sale.

Any further information may be obtained by applying to the Director, British Museum, London, W.C.1.