

ART. XXX.—*Bone Spear or Harpoon Head from Terra del Fuego, found on peat near Crosby-on-Eden.* By T. H. HODGSON.

Read at Douglas, September 25, 1894.

THE bone spear head, of which a drawing is here given (Plate I.) was found about the year 1875 by Charles Bryan, gardener at Newby Grange. He put it by, and only mentioned it when he was reminded of it by the excavations of the Roman wall in the summer of 1894. Another was found with it of similar size and shape, but having serrated edges, this has, unfortunately, been lost. They were found in the flat ground, immediately below what is evidently the bank of an ancient estuary; the soil is peat, imbedded in which are numerous trunks of large trees, principally oak. They were lying on the surface of the peat; it was a very dry summer, and it is probable that they had been exposed by the shrinkage of the peat. The field is a very secluded one, distant from roads or houses, and seldom visited, and it is difficult to suppose that there is any possibility of them having been brought there recently. I have no knowledge of the field having been ploughed, and there is no sign that it has been, indeed most of the flat ground where the spear head was found would not bear the weight of the horses until it was recently drained—much of it would not carry them now.*

NOTE BY THE EDITOR.—The missing harpoon head has since turned up, and is depicted in Plate II. Both of them were exhibited at Burlington House, before the Society of Antiquaries, on December 6th, 1894, and were unhesitatingly pronounced by Sir A. W. Franks, K.C.B., Sir John Evans, K.C.B., and Mr. C. H. Read, F.S.A., to be typical specimens of harpoon heads in use at the present day by the natives of Terra del Fuego. How they came to be lying on a peat bog in Cumberland, in or about 1875, is at present a mystery.

*A field road leads from the east angle of the field in which the harpoon leads to a point midway between Newby Grange and Batthouse.—Ordnance Map (6 inch) Sheet 17, S.W.

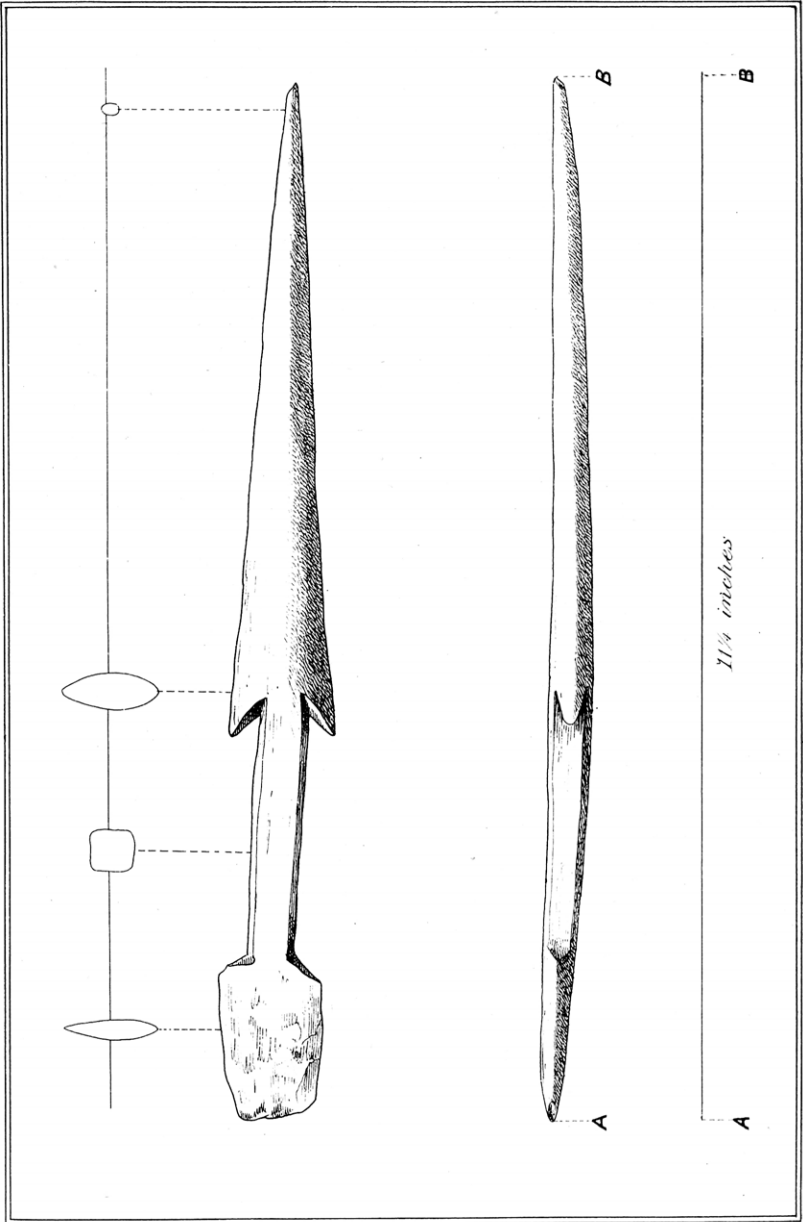
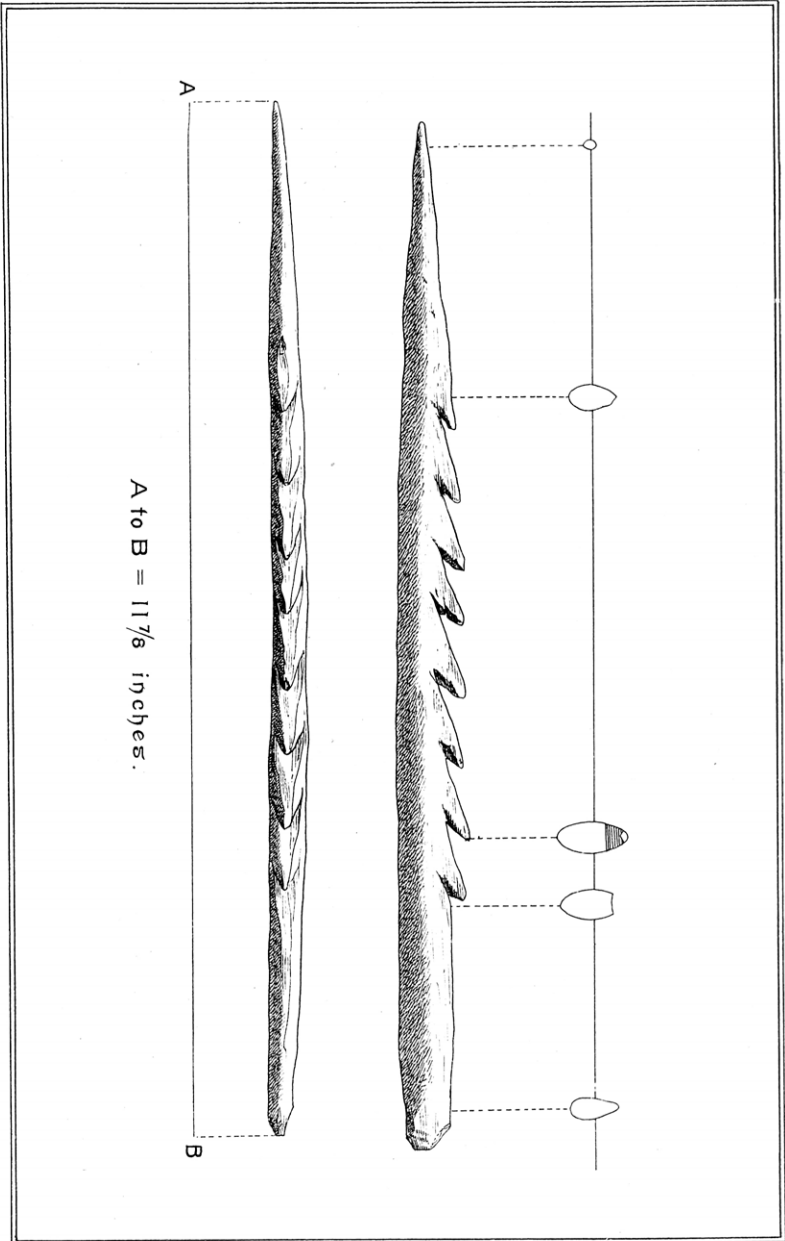


PLATE I.

BONE HARPOON HEAD.



A to B = $11\frac{7}{8}$ inches.

PLATE II.

BONE HARPOON HEAD.