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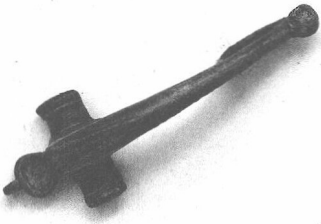

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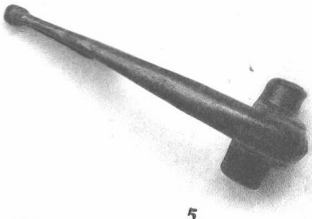

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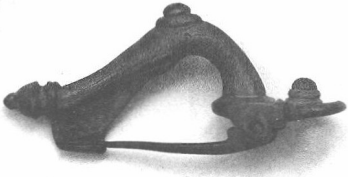

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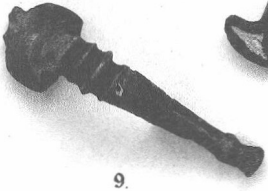

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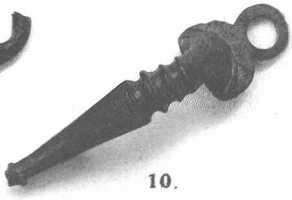

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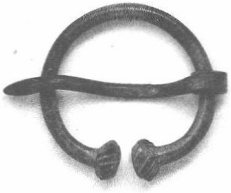

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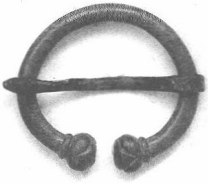

13.

RELICS FROM DEEPDALE CAVE.

Romano-British Objects from Deepdale, Autumn, 1891.

By John Ward, F.S.A.

THE objects—all of bronze—depicted on the accompanying collotype plate (Plate IX.), were, with a number of others, sent by Mr. Salt, of Buxton, to be illustrated and described in this journal, as far back as the middle of December, 1891. They, however, came too late for the 1892 volume; and pressure of work necessitated their being held over till the present (1894) one. With them, Mr. Salt sent written particulars and a rough section of the spot where they were found; and each object had fastened to it a ticket, specifying the date, and in most cases the depth, at which it was found. None of them were found *in* the cave. They came from a space of about eight square yards on the slope below the entrance of the cave, and nearer the bottom of the valley than the latter. They were all found in the autumn of 1891, and at various depths, some as low as five feet.

Those illustrated on the plate are shown two-thirds of their linear size. They are so well depicted that any lengthy description is superfluous. They are characteristically Roman—such a series as may be seen in any museum of antiquities of that era.

No. 1. Although much worn, this coin must have been one of very considerable beauty. The laureated head to the right, with curly hair, thick moustache, and flowing beard, suggests the

Emperor Pertinax, whose short reign was begun and ended in 163 A.D. All that can be made out of this inscription is LV PERT AVG, which probably was originally, IMP CAES P HELV PERT AVG. The reverse is difficult to make out. It seems to be a draped, standing, female figure, and holding in the right hand a spear. The letters SVL IFE, can be traced.

No. 2. This is an interesting and fairly well preserved coin of Antoninus Pius. It commemorates the pacification of Britain, and the seated figure of the reverse is the origin of that of Britannia on our copper coinage since the time of Charles II. The head of the obverse is to the right, with the inscription ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P TR P COS XVII. The figure of the reverse is a soldier seated on a rock, with his right hand holding a standard, and the left resting on a shield. Above is the word BRITANNIA.

No. 3. A nicely-turned bronze pendant. Its former use is uncertain, but the inner side of the upper part of the loop is worn, indicating that it was suspended. Found November 20th, 1891, at a depth of four feet.

No. 4. A fibula of the simplest and most elegant form of the cruciform harp-shaped variety, devoid of its pin. It is almost exactly like one Mr. Bailey engraved on Plate XII. of Vol. XIII. of this journal, except that this has the usual loop at the butt end, by which it was secured from loss by means of a cord. On both is a V-shaped raised decoration starting from the spring of the bow. (November 3rd, 1891; five feet deep.)

No. 5. A still simpler and decidedly better wrought example of the above variety. It has lost its pin, and has no suspensory loop. The bow is perfectly plain, and makes a most graceful curve round the cross-bar. It still retains traces of gilding. Found October 28th, 1891.

No. 6. An unusual form of the common harp-shaped variety, still retaining its pin. The width between the bow and the pin is unusually great, giving the fibula a decidedly clumsy appearance. There is a small boss on the summit of the bow, and another on the plate which covers the hinge. This plate it will be noticed

extends beyond the boss: this portion is perforated to form a lunate suspensory loop. Found October 21st, 1891.

No. 7. Bronze pin with neat turned head. Found November 3rd, 1891.

No. 8. An S-shaped or dragonesque brooch. These are by no means common. There is one in the Corinium Museum at Cirencester, and another was found in the Victoria Cave at Settle, and is illustrated in Professor Boyd-Dawkins' *Cave Hunting*. Both are almost identical with the present example. One extremity of this is broken off, but the dragon-like head of the other is still perfect, and retains its settings of enamel, as also does the body. There may be no reason to doubt that these brooches were manufactured in Roman Britain, but there is something quite un-Roman about them. The grotesque head recalls the ancient Scandinavian and Danish art: indeed, the general shape closely resembles that of brooches found in Gotland and other places under Northern influence. Found November 3rd, 1891; five feet deep.

Nos. 9 and 10. Two common harp-shaped fibulæ almost exactly alike. Both lack pins; the summit of the bows are ornamented with a series of transverse concave mouldings; the suspensory loop of these is broken off. November 3rd, 1891, five feet deep; and August 24th, 1891, three feet deep, respectively.

Nos. 11, 12, and 13. Three plain penannular brooches, terminating in slightly chased knobs. No. 12 was found on November 20th, four feet deep; and No. 13, on November 3rd, 1891.

The others, submitted by Mr. Salt, consist chiefly of much rusted iron objects. The largest of these was a flat bar about three inches long terminating in a loop holding a ring. There was another, but smaller ring, similarly held; also a well-shaped hook, perforated at its upper extremity by a small round hole, as though intended to be attached to a chain; a well-preserved needle about three inches long, oval in section, with slit-like hole and similar in general shape and size to the modern bodkin; a

leaf-shaped arrow-head about 2 7½ inches long; and an iron nail, 2 7½ inches long. Among the bronze objects were the pin of a penannular brooch; a finger-ring formed of a coil of wire; a fragment of sheet-bronze chased with a fine basket-work pattern; and an illegible second brass coin. Besides these there were a small cylindrical green glass bead, and a bone needle which originally must have been about six inches long.

I feel sure that if all the objects found in the dark surface soil were carefully examined, they would indicate that the cave was inhabited both before and after that period.

The various excavations made by Messrs. Salt and Millett, although obviously made with most commendable care, cannot be regarded as fulfilling the requirements of recent science. This is no fault of theirs. It would have been impossible for them single-handed to have carried out the well-known system of the one-foot parallelopipeds of the Kents' Cavern excavation at Torquay, which the writer adopted in that of Rains Cave, and described in the second report thereon. It would have been foolish to have attempted it without the regular employment of a proper staff of workmen; and this would have necessitated an expenditure of—well, say, £200. Rains Cave is only about one-tenth the size of that under consideration; and were it not that those who did most of the manual work, did it as a labour of love, and (living close by) could conveniently devote spare odd hours in the work, it could not have been accomplished at the low cost it was to the Society. Had this cave been excavated as Messrs. Salt and Millett have conducted theirs at Deepdale, the results would have been practically *nil*, for the objects then discovered, unlike those of the latter cave, were few and of no intrinsic value. The reward of the one work was an interesting history; that of the other so many objects of marketable value—curios. What scientific value attaches to the Deepdale work, is mainly due to the circumstance that the "finds" themselves, as a whole, proclaim their own origin and age: they are as distinctly Roman as the electric telegraph is Victorian. The prime end of scientific cave-digging is not to find relics of the past, but to ascertain the

circumstances under which these relics came to be where they are found. This in a measure can be done in the process of digging on the spot; but in its fulness it is a subsequent work of the study, arrived at by the careful collation and analysis of notes, plans, and sections made during the work on the spot.

Messrs. Salt and Millett will, I feel sure, not take it that I am seeking to disparage their work and discoveries, when I say that their chief result has been to indicate, rather than interpret, the archæological interest of the cave. It is to be hoped that before long there will be a movement to raise funds for its systematic excavation, headed, be it hoped, by this Society; and then it will be found that the practical knowledge and experience of these two "cave-hunters" will be of the greatest service and value. Meanwhile, it would be well if they kept intact the portion of the cave most suited for this purpose I think few will disagree with me in suggesting that this should be all, or at all events, much of the First Chamber, not only because it is nearest the entrance, but, still more important, because the deposits of its floor show no signs of having been undermined and consequently broken up, as is the case with those of the Second Chamber. Mr. Salt has recently found bones in the cave earth under twelve inches of stalagmite, and it is extremely likely that objects of human manufacture—few and far between, perhaps, it is true—also exist; this earth bearing witness to the contemporaneity of man with very different physiographical conditions from the present. Bone caves are our chief manuscripts of the very early history of our kind, and they are not too plentiful to be lightly neglected.

More than two years ago Mr. Salt made a trial hole in the floor of the small cave—a mere creep hole—on the opposite side of the valley. He found that the surface soil was like that of the larger cave, dark and containing bones and potsherds. This apparently rested upon a red-yellow cave earth, without an intervening stalagmite sheet. In this earth he found bones, and at a depth of five feet a fragment of black pottery. Just recently, he wrote to say that he hoped shortly to do a little more digging here.