

## Roman Coin at Dronfield.

By REV. W. T. GROOCOK, B.A.

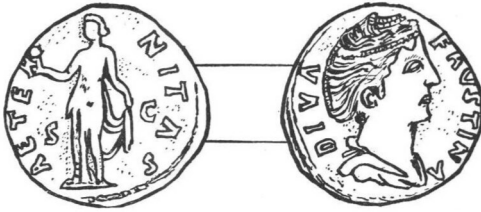


**W**HILST recently altering the lawn in front of the Vicarage at Dronfield, this very rare coin was found about two feet below the surface by the workman employed in digging. As soil and rubble have from time to time been brought for the purpose of levelling the garden, it is of course possible that the coin may have been conveyed here with the imported soil. It is of bronze, and is in a perfect state of preservation. It was struck by Antoninus Pius, Emperor of Rome, in honour of his wife, Diva Faustina. He is said to have issued three hundred and nineteen different coins in her honour. According to the usual custom, the coin would not be issued till after her death. As this occurred in A.D. 141, the date of the coin may be put a year later.

The impression shows the portrait of Faustina. Her hair appears to be outlined with a rope of pearls, which rope is coiled on the top of her head and forms a kind of boss. On the reverse side is an allegorical figure of *Æternitas*, holding in her right hand the orb and in her left the folds of her robe. The letters "S. C." stand for *Senatus Consulto* (by the decree of the Senate), bronze coins being issued by the Senate. The silver and gold coinage alone was issued by order of the Emperor.

There are Faustina coins in the collection at the British Museum, also at Bath, but not one exactly resembles this.

This coin is one of three found by the man working in the Vicarage garden. Two, however, were unfortunately disposed of before they were seen by the writer, who is now trying to recover them. One of them is a Drusus coin, A.D. 80.



ACTUAL SIZE OF COIN.