

seems to consist of augite, hornblende, olivine and silica. Its form is remarkable, being of the type known as "thin-butted" the narrow end ($1\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide) tapering so as to form a second sharp cutting-edge. The sides are convex, or slightly oval in shape, and the one side has a more pronounced bulge than the other, where the extreme thickness is nearly an inch and a half, its contour being something after the shape of a cricket-bat. Where the sides meet, the edges have been chamfered off by grinding. Each end has been worked to a fine cutting-edge and the whole polished.

This particular type of celt is assigned to the period which may be described as about the end of the middle-Neolithic, and not later than *circa* 3000 B.C. Whether these "green-stones" were carried here by the glacial-drift, traces of which are found in Derbyshire, or whether they were imported for the purpose of weapon-craft is difficult to say; but they appear to have been held in high estimation by our Stone-age predecessors. Since Britain was at that period a part of the Continent of Europe, the latter supposition is by no means improbable. British jet has been found in very early graves in Spain, whilst in some of the oldest British graves have been found beads of that peculiar blue-colour now identified as ancient Egyptian.

H. Ryde.

IV.

REPTON PRIORY.

The following points have been brought to light since the appearance of Dr. Hamilton Thompson's article in the *Journal* for 1923.

In clearing space for an oak staircase to the top gallery of the west wing, it was found that the Prior's Chamber had originally a barrel vault like that of the outer slype immediately below it. This vault was destroyed when

Repton School was founded in 1557; at that time a passage was cut through the south wall and the Prior's Chamber to give access to the Guest-Hall, which was turned into the Big school (now the school library) and a graded "causey" was built up to the new Tudor doorway on the first-floor level.

The south wall is 7 ft. thick to take the thrust of the two superimposed vaults and has then a 4 ft. set-off which allowed extra width to the Prior's Bed-Chamber above and access to the garde-robe in the south east angle of the wall.

The splayed head of a Norman window was found in the east wall of the Prior's Chamber, matching a corresponding Norman window (the only one which remains intact in the whole wing) in the west wall.

An interesting feature is the remains of the Monastic roof. The south bay contains a semi-circular braced truss supporting early purlins. Here all the timbers of the truss and the rafters are blackened by ancient wood-smoke, indicating an open central fire. There is also an example of sound wood-work of the Tudor period in the oak-framed, brick-nogged partition on the east side of the passage into the Big School.

H. Vassall, F.S.A.

V.

DISCOVERY OF A VIKING-AXE AT REPTON.

When I was having a deep trench dug outside the walls of the crypt at Repton, in order to get a better view of the masonry, an interesting discovery was made at a depth of 6 ft. of an ancient axe-head in the S.W. angle outside the chancel. I submitted the piece to Professor Baldwin Brown, who pronounced it without hesitation to be a Viking axe, and therefore in all probability a relic of the visit of the Danes in 874 A.D.—the first outside evidence of that visit which has yet come to light. The Professor