

XIX.

DOVERIDGE CHURCH TOWER.

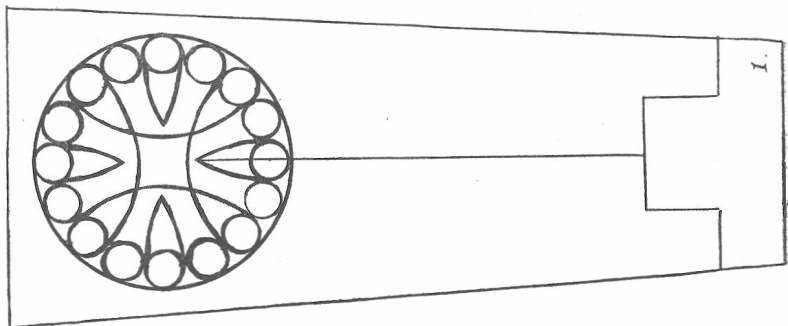
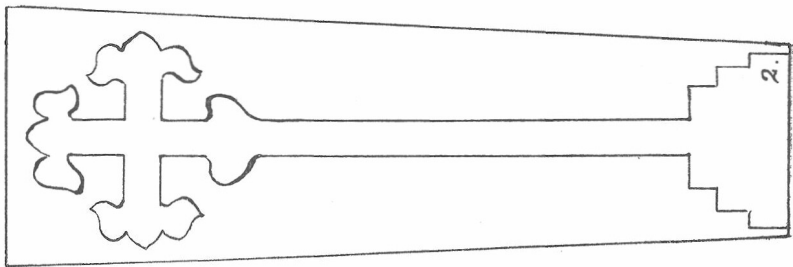
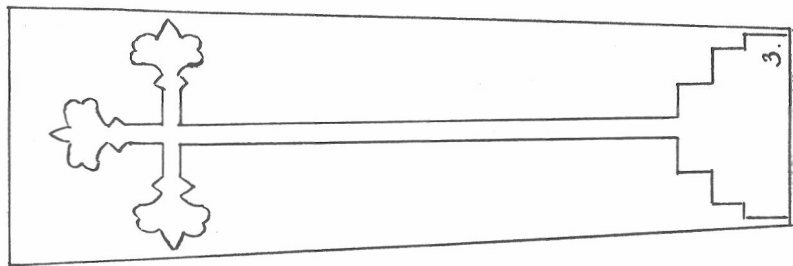
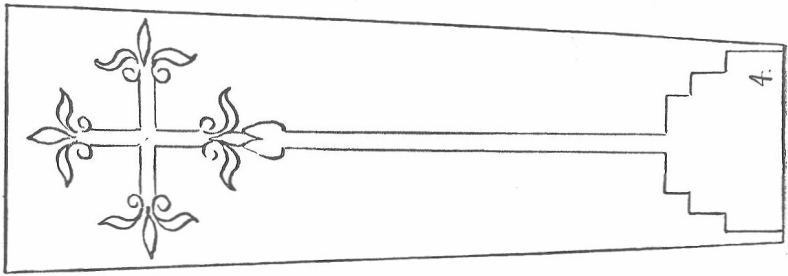
During the past year certain necessary repairs were done to the tower of Doveridge church, in which, owing to a variety of causes, bad settlements had taken place. In course of removing the lead gutter it was found that it had been laid on a number of pieces of fourteenth century grave covers. At least fourteen had been used for this purpose, one side at the end of each being rounded, forming a corbel table to carry the parapet above. It would appear that this was done about the end of the fifteenth century. After rubbings had been taken, they were covered with a concrete belt in place of the lead, to tie in the top of the tower. To have removed them would have caused too much disturbance of the old work. Of the eight rubbings taken, two are the bases of crosses. The rest show portions of heads. Of these, one is a wheel, the others all display the same motif, a combination of fleurs de lys, in two distinct styles. No. 1 is a very rude piece of work, and the sculptor has failed to secure anything like regularity in setting out the small circles of which the pattern is composed. The drawings given will sufficiently indicate the styles of the heads.

C. C. Thompson.

XX.

WHIBBERSLEY CROSS.

It was reported at a meeting of the Council some time ago that Whibbersley Cross, near the old Chesterfield-to-Curbar road, had fallen from its base and was lying half-hidden in the rank grass; and that one of our members, Mr. J. F. Woodhead, had very kindly offered to have it put back at his own expense. When the Secretary wrote to the Marquess of Granby's agent for permission for this to be done, he received a reply to the effect that the Estate



Office had the matter in hand, and that instructions had been given for the cross to be restored. We have pleasure in recording that the work has now been completed. Whibbersley Cross is on Leash Fen near the junction of Baslow, Brampton and Barlow parishes, not far from the top of Pudding-Pie Hill above Old Brampton.

W. J.

XXI.

ROMAN REMAINS AT LITTLE CHESTER.

Few vestiges of the Roman fort at Little Chester are now to be seen and it was in 1721 that the well-known antiquary Dr. Stukeley wrote his account and gave a plan of this ancient fortification. He traced the wall all round, he says, and gives the size of the fort as five hundred by six hundred feet or nearly seven acres.

Professor Haverfield and Mr. John Ward went carefully into the question and agree that Stukeley's plan shows fairly accurately the position and size of this fort. It is remarkable that since 1721 little in the way of Roman building has been found at Little Chester, perhaps because so large a portion of the site has been and is encumbered with farm-houses and cottages, several of which date from the 17th century. The lower portions of the walling of the cellars of what is known as the Manor House are almost certainly of Roman date.

Also, when the Great Northern Railway bridges and the modern cottages in Old Chester Road and City Road were built, it is certain that Roman walls, floors, pottery etc., were discovered but unfortunately these finds do not seem to have been properly recorded.

During the erection of a new sports pavilion on the Derby School playing-field in September, 1924, the foundation work of which was being carried out under the superintendence of the Borough Surveyor, further