

IX.—CORSTOPITUM: REPORT OF THE EXCAVATIONS
IN 1912.

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I.—INTRODUCTION.

Once more the work was begun early in July, and the filling in was not completed till after the middle of October. The reserved area was a long strip, less than two acres in extent, of the field immediately to the south of that in which the granaries, Fountain, etc., are situated, and the excavations were thus linked up with the work of two previous years—on the south with a section of the trial explorations made in 1906; and on the north with sites IV, V, and VI, lying to the south of the main east and west street, which had been partially excavated in 1907.

In this area were found the remains of several buildings, of which some were of great interest, and at least one of considerable importance. Further light was thrown on the industries of Corstopitum by the discovery of a pottery, with a large quantity of fragments of a coarse ware, evidently manufactured on the site from local clay, and of a series of small smithies, in which iron arrow-heads and other articles had been made. The larger finds included an altar, fragments of two inscribed slabs, and a few pieces of sculpture: bronze objects were not very plentiful, but a statuette of Mercury, found during the filling in, was the best thing of its class yet discovered on the site. The pottery

from the greater part of the site calls for no particular comment, but at a low level, under the building on site xli (p. 239), a large deposit of early fragments was discovered, which is likely to prove particularly useful, as many pieces of coarse ware, including a number of rims of *mortaria*, were found in association with early Samian and with coins which give something like a definite date to the deposit. This find is described provisionally on p. 279.

The thick plinth-walls, which were found in 1907 in various places to the south of the main east and west street, were further traced and examined; and though their purpose has not yet been definitely determined, some evidence was obtained with regard to their date and construction, and on the whole such evidence tends to confirm the theory, put forward by Mr. Newbold, that these walls formed a system of aqueducts which at one period conveyed the water supply to the southern part of the town.

Outside the reserved area a certain amount of work was expended on the exploration of the main east and west street, close to the spot where so many important discoveries were made in 1911 in the ballast of the fourth century road; but nothing noteworthy was found, except the lower part of the draped female statue unearthed in the same quarter during the previous season (*Arch. Ael.*, 3 ser. viii—report for 1911—p. 201).

Mr. R. H. Forster was again in charge of the work, and the planning and measurement of the sites was carried out by Mr. W. H. Knowles, who has also drawn and described the architectural details. Thanks are due to professor Haverfield, Mr. H. H. E. Craster, and other friends for their assistance; and we have again to acknowledge the great kindness and hearty support of Captain J. H. Cuthbert, D.S.O.

The work will be resumed in July, 1913, on a portion of the north field, lying immediately to the east of the area explored in 1909 and to the north of that excavated in 1910. Further ex-

ploration will thus be possible of the north ditch, found in 1909, and probably also of the early ditches discovered in the following year. If time allows, additional work may be done on site XI.

II.—THE SOUTH FIELD.

1. *The Streets.*

The south side of the main east and west street, which forms the chief axis and principal thoroughfare of the town, comes obliquely through the north hedge of the field, as shown on the plan, and was traced to the eastern limit of the area. Here as in many other places three levels were observed, each road being composed of rammed gravel and small cobbles, with larger cobbles as a foundation; but, as in the west field, the second and third roads had been laid on the surface previously existing, without any parting of soil or any making up of the level, such was found in front of site XI. Along the south edge were the remains of a good stone channel, which appeared to have been deepened by the addition of courses of stone when the road was raised.

From this street, in the neighbourhood of the east hedge of the field, a street, forty-five feet broad, and approximately at right angles to the other, extended southwards; but in the south east quarter of the reserved area, near the point at which the present surface begins to slope somewhat steeply towards the river, all indications of it disappeared, and it seemed probable that in this direction it had never been completed. Two levels were observed, apparently corresponding with the middle and later levels of the main street; and as the gradient was steeper than elsewhere, the channels of the west side had been enlarged by setting flat slabs of stone on edge against either side of the dressed stone channels, so that in case of storm the drainage from the main street might not flood the surface.

A street, of the average breadth of eighteen feet, extended eastwards from the east entrance of the building on site XLV, but this also was lost in the south east corner of the reserved area: possibly it was never completed, or it may be that at this point there has in early times been some denudation of the Roman levels. From this street several roads or lanes extended northwards, as shown on the plan; but, at any rate during the latter part of the occupation, their northern ends seem to have been blocked by one of the thick plinth-walls already referred to. The chief of them is a broad street lying between site XXXIX and site XL, which, however, does not seem to have been metalled over the full breadth, while at its northern end it is returned eastwards across the north front of site XXXIX, till it is again blocked by the plinth wall.

2. *The Buildings, etc.*

These may be divided into four groups as follows:—

(1) The remains of the east end of the field (see plan, sites XLIII, XLIV, XLVI).

(2) A group of three oblong sites (XXXIX, XLI, and XLII), lying between the main east and west street and the parallel road on the south. The buildings on these sites were partly outlined in 1906, and were completely excavated during the past season. They adjoin on the south the space marked site VI on the plan attached to the report for 1907, which now appears to have been an open area, and not, as was then thought, part of a large building.

(3) A group of buildings, etc. (sites XL, XL north, and XLVII, lying to the west of the broad north and south street). On the north two of these buildings adjoin the main east and west street, and their frontage, which is set back about sixteen feet from the general building line of that street, was excavated in 1907 and then called site V. As, however, the greater part of

these buildings lie south of the hedge and in the 1912 area, it is more convenient to retain the figures used to denote them during the past season.

(4) A large and important building (site XLV), lying between group (3) and the west hedge of the field.

(1) *The Remains at the East End of the Field.*

(A) *Site XLIII.*—The greater part of this site was occupied by a building, or series of buildings, which had unfortunately suffered very severely, the original building having been almost completely destroyed in Roman times, while the remains of the later structure had been to a large extent ploughed out. The trough-like character of some of the traceable foundations suggests latrines, and the site is well adapted for that purpose, as from the south east corner the ground dips sharply and there would be a good fall for drainage. Careful search, however, revealed only a single fragment of what may possibly have been a sewer—a small piece of wall, about three feet long and eighteen inches high, built of thin stones and heavily backed with stiff clay: in these respects it resembled the tank on site II, in which the lion and stag group was found; but the remains were not sufficient to justify a definite conclusion. On the other hand some support is perhaps given to the suggestion by the fact that the easternmost stretch of the supposed aqueduct wall was found close to the north wall of this building and roughly parallel to it; careful examination seemed to indicate that the thick wall had been continued no further towards the east than the point shown on the plan, and the north wall of the building showed an external semi-circular projection or platform, which may possibly mark the place at which the water-supply was introduced.

The ground to the south east and east of the building was trenched, but no other foundations were discovered, and prob-

ably the limit of the town has been reached at this point. The soil here differed in colour from that overlying sites which had clearly been occupied, being decidedly brown instead of black, and resembling the soil of the western part of the area excavated in 1909, in which no foundations of buildings came to light.

In this corner of the site were found the curious small carved figure (fig. 22) which is described on page 275, and a bronze jug (fig. 1) of pleasing design.

(B) *Site XLIV.*—This site was a rough oblong, measuring on the interior seventy-five feet from the north to south, with an average breadth of twenty-three feet: to the north it abutted on the south side of the main east and west street, and on the east it was bounded by the north and south street already described. Between it and the northern part of site XLI was a considerable area in which no remains of buildings were discovered; probably it was an open space.

The oblong already mentioned was enclosed on the south, west, and east sides by the remains of walls of a somewhat rough character: the indications of a north wall were less clear. The existence of a pavement of heavy flags at the south end suggests



FIG. 1.—BRONZE JUG ($\frac{1}{3}$).

an open-fronted structure, similar to some found in the west field in 1911; or it may be that the walls are those of an unroofed enclosure and not of a building proper. The interior had been at least partially paved with flags, but though there was evidence of industrial occupation, the remains gave no definite clue to the particular purpose for which the building had been used.

(c) *Site XLVI.*—This site adjoined the east hedge, and the few foundations discovered possibly extend into the next field. Here again little can be said of the character of the remains, except that they seem to indicate that the site lies upon the fringe of the town and was not of great importance. It produced a fair amount of pottery of mid second century and later types, and had possibly been at some period used for the deposit of rubbish.

(2) (A) *Site XLII.*—This site had been occupied by a building measuring fifty-two feet from north to south by fifteen feet: it had been bounded on the east and west by narrow lanes, and on the south it abutted on the southern east and west street. Apparently the interior had not been divided by party walls, and on the whole it seemed probable that the occupation had been industrial: a number of small hearths or rough furnaces were found, and signs of continued burning were prevalent; near the centre, and adjoining the west wall, was a small tank or receptacle, formed of flags set on edge, with a clay bottom. It measured twenty by thirteen inches, and was twelve inches deep, and there was a heavily burnt deposit close to it on the north.

(B) *Site XLI.*—The building on this site was larger and more important. From north to south it measured eighty-three feet, and on the north, where (as shown on the plan) it was bounded by the thick supposed aqueduct wall, its breadth was twenty-eight feet; but at a point thirty-two feet from the north-east corner, the breadth was increased by an offset eastwards to thirty feet, and this was maintained to the south front, which was in line with the south fronts of the buildings on sites XLII and XXXIX.

The building had been divided into two main compartments by a central party wall, approximately parallel to the west wall, and about twelve feet distant from it. Each compartment had been further divided into chambers of various sizes by cross walls: some of these were later insertions, as indicated on the plan.

At the north end of the building there had been a depression of considerable depth: the east and west walls and the central party wall were found to slope sharply downwards, and the foundations of the north wall lay at a depth of about three feet below the general foundation level of the rest of the building. This was due, no doubt, in some degree to subsidence, but on the whole it seemed probable that this part of the building was erected over a depression which had never been completely filled in, and that the slope of the foundations was to a large extent the result of design.

This depression or hollow was found to extend westwards, across sites XXXIX north, XL north, XLVII, and along the north side of site XLV. Cuts were made across it in two or three places, and these afforded satisfactory evidence that the depression was not a ditch but a natural hollow or small valley, originally running westwards towards the Aydon burn. A further portion of its course was found when the rubbish pit area, north of site III, was examined in 1907, and a similar, and probably confluent, valley occurred just north of the Stanegate in 1911 (*Arch. Ael.*, 3 ser. IV—report for 1907—p. 245, and VIII—report for 1911—p. 140). Indeed, it seems fairly certain that most, if not all, of this southern part of the site owes its configuration to the Roman occupation and to subsequent weathering or agricultural operations. The excavations of 1906 showed that the brow of the slope towards the river, on the south edge of the town, had been to some extent denuded, and originally extended further to the south than it does at present. The work of the past season indicates that

what is now a comparatively flat area to the north of the brow had originally been furrowed by a small valley or clough, by which part at least of the surface drainage of the higher land to the north-east (still the highest part of the site) had been carried to the Aydon burn, and it is probable that the natural drainage of the northern part of the site found its way by a similar valley to the same stream. These valleys interfered with the development of the site, as the town extended, and accordingly they were filled up and levelled, the surface water being dealt with by means of the street drains and channels and to a large extent diverted to flow southwards into the Tyne.

The trenches made on sites xxxix and xl north showed that the bottom of the valley or depression was at these points about fifteen feet below the present surface, but on both sides of the centre line there seems to have been a considerable area of made ground: on the north this was found to extend as far as the south courts of the building on site xi (report for 1910, p. 12); to the south it covers the greater part of the area explored in 1912, and most of the buildings described in this report have from four to six feet of made earth below their floor levels.

With regard to the building on site xli, no very clear evidence was forthcoming. Of the pottery Mr. Newbold writes:—

‘The fragments of pottery would indicate an occupation from the Antonine period onwards. The quantity of fourth century wares is small in proportion to the rest. The nature of the pottery and other small finds is consistent with lower class life, probably of a military character.’

This agrees with the floor levels, of which there were clearly two belonging to the building as distinguished from levels at a greater depth than the foundations. About the centre, at a depth of from three to three and a half feet below the surface, there was a cement floor, three to five inches thick, lying on a heavy black layer, with another black layer immediately above; further to the south a floor of rougher character, but apparently of about

the same date, was found at a depth of two feet three inches. In this latter quarter, as well as in other parts of the building, rough floors of chippings or of thin flags occurred at a depth of about fifteen inches. It is possible that the earlier floor belongs to the Antonine period, and the other to the second half of the third century.

A little to the south of the centre of the building trial pits were sunk in two adjoining chambers, to find the depth of the made earth below the foundation level. These pits revealed two levels, of dates previous to the erection of the building.

(1) A band or thin layer of gravel and lime about four feet below the present surface and a few inches below the foundations of the west wall, under which it extended. Over it was a black layer, and from its surface came a sherd of a Samian bowl (Dr. 37), with a lion and other animals in the free style of decoration.

This layer evidently dates from before the building, but is probably not much older.

(2) A deposit three feet nine inches below the floor of the building, from six to seven feet below the surface, and immediately above the undisturbed gravel. It underlay both chambers and extended under the main west wall, but was thickest and most prolific under the western chamber.

This deposit produced a large quantity of early Samian and other pottery, which is dealt with by Mr. Newbold in a subsequent section (p. 277).

(c) *Site xxxix.*—This was a large and important site, measuring one hundred and four feet from north to south, with an extreme breadth of fifty-three feet. It formed a single *insula*, bounded on the south, east and west by streets, and on the north by a paved and drained area which may be regarded as a street or an open yard or court, enclosed on the north and east sides by part of the supposed aqueduct wall.

The site had been originally occupied by two buildings—

probably dwelling-houses—divided by a passage eighteen inches wide. Unfortunately the northern building had been so badly wrecked, partly from having been built over the filled-in hollow, that its internal arrangements could not be completely

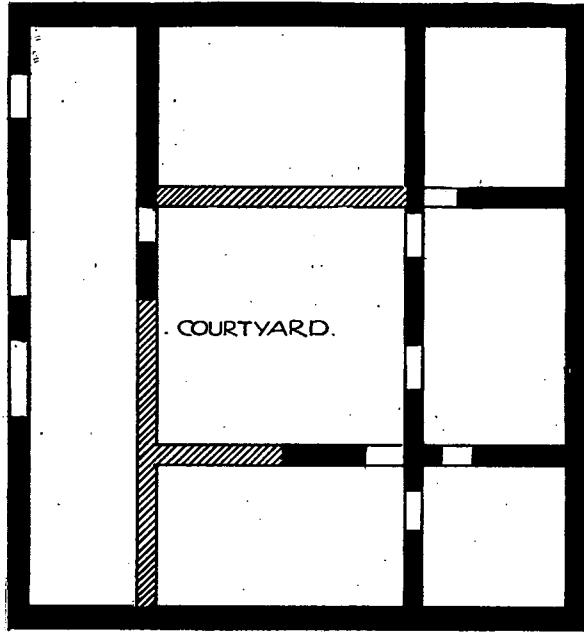


FIG. 2.

made out. There appeared, however, to have been an entrance in the centre of the north front opening off the court, and here two sill levels were clearly discernible. In the north west corner was a chamber, measuring sixteen feet by eleven feet, which contained the remains of a hypocaust, extending over the larger

part of the room, but not over the south east angle, which was filled up with chippings. The *pilae* were roughly built, and the main flue curved from about the centre of the south wall, where the furnace-opening seems to have been situated, to the north east corner.

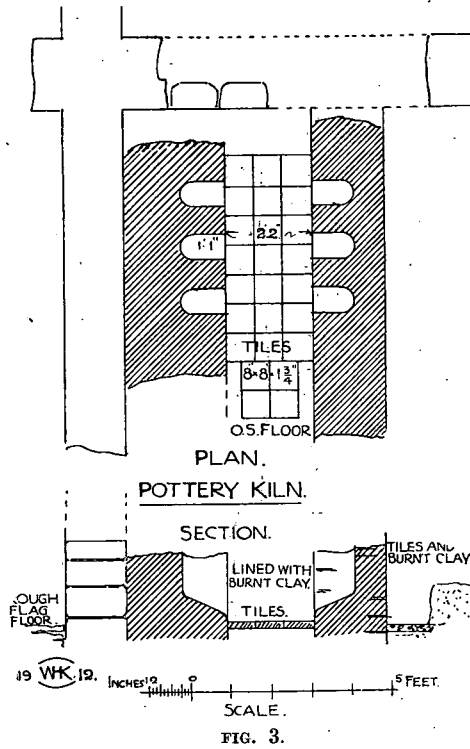
The remains of the southern building were much clearer, but at the same time complicated by successive alterations and reconstructions, and by the adaptation of at least a part of the structure for the manufacture of pottery.

The original building which was probably erected about the middle of the second century, seems to have been a house of fairly simple design, measuring forty-nine feet from north to south and forty-five from east to west, with a forecourt or wide corridor, about nine feet in breadth along the whole of the west side (see fig. 2). The house proper consisted of a central hall or court, entered near the north west corner from the forecourt, and surrounded by chambers on the north, east, and south. Probably there had been a doorway leading from the street on the south side into the forecourt, but at this point all but the barest traces of the foundations had disappeared. No hypocaust was found, and the house may have been warmed by an open fire in the central court.

At some subsequent date—probably during the third century—the house had undergone a considerable amount of reconstruction. The original forecourt or corridor seems to have been incorporated in the house, and a new and narrower forecourt built on the west side: the central court or chamber was done away with, and the rooms were generally rearranged. The most important alteration, however, which may have been made at this time or perhaps at a subsequent date, was the establishment of a pottery in the northern half of the house. In the north-east room two small tanks were found; constructed of flags set on edge and abutting against the north wall: they were filled with clay,

apparently unworked, and a considerable heap of the same material was found near them, lying on the later floor level, which was eight to twelve inches above the original floor, the latter being about two feet nine inches below the present surface. The adjacent chamber to the west showed similar levels, and in

each of these rooms, on or above the later floor, a large quantity of broken pottery was found, which had evidently been manufactured on the spot from clay found in the neighbourhood. The ware was coarse, and most of it of a yellowish brick-red colour, but some fragments had been fired in a muffled kiln and showed a dull purple. Several types of vessel were represented, the most noteworthy being flat dishes, some of which had been of large size.



The kiln adjoined the west wall of the second of these rooms (see plan and fig. 3). It was nine feet long and two feet two inches wide, and was floored with flat tiles, eight inches square and one and three quarter inches thick: the sides were of masonry, with two flues, six and a half inches wide, on either side. Apparently the ends had been stopped and the top domed

with clay at each firing, as a large quantity of burnt clay was found in the kiln, as well as broken pottery of the same character as already mentioned; and in order to gain access to the north end, a portion of the original north wall of the house had been taken down, and rebuilt in the space which had previously divided this house from the building on the northern half of the site. To the south of the brick flooring, and on the same level, was a floor of clay, two inches thick, lying on a layer of good *opus signinum*.

The discovery is of particular interest, as confirming the indications found in previous years of the manufacture of pottery at Corstopitum; but the quantity of fragments unearthed was so large that it has been thought advisable to defer a more detailed description, which, it is hoped, will be included in a future report.

Of the southern part of the reconstructed building little can be said, as the remains were meagre and difficult to trace; but the pottery discovered, other than that manufactured on the site, indicates that the occupation continued till towards the end of the fourth century.

(3) *Sites XL, XL North, and XLVII.*

(A) *Site XL.*—This site, which was separated from site xxxix by a broad street, and bounded on the south by the southern east and west street, had been occupied by a building of moderate size but evidently of some importance. Here again reconstruction and alteration obscured the original design and purpose of the structure.

The first phase seems to have been a simple oblong building, measuring on the interior twenty-four from east to west and fifteen feet eight inches from north to south, with a doorway, five feet wide, in the centre of the east wall, a doorway three feet five inches wide in the north wall, close to the north east corner, and at the west end an apse, eight feet wide and four feet two

inches deep. As will be seen by the plan, the building is not aligned with the other buildings fronting on the same streets, and on the south side were the remains of a wedge-shaped pavement or low platform filling the angle thus formed. The east front seems to have had some kind of light portico or verandah,



FIG. 4.—SITE XL.

with four columns, possibly of wood, three bases or post-stones being found approximately in position, and the external face of this wall had been plastered.

The construction of this original building was highly interesting. The walls were set on a layer of clay and cobbles, and though only 22 inches thick, were composed of a core of very good concrete, with a facing of V-shaped ashlar stones,

giving a fairly wide wedge of mortar between each pair. The internal faces of the walls, including the apse, had been plastered. The threshold of the east door had been grooved for iron, and fixed in the concrete threshold of the smaller side door was the iron socket for the pivot or door-hinge, with the iron spindle still remaining in it (fig. 5).

The floor appeared to have been of earth, but one or two lines or groups of small, thin flags were found, and these covered a series of what might be taken to be irregular drains or gutters

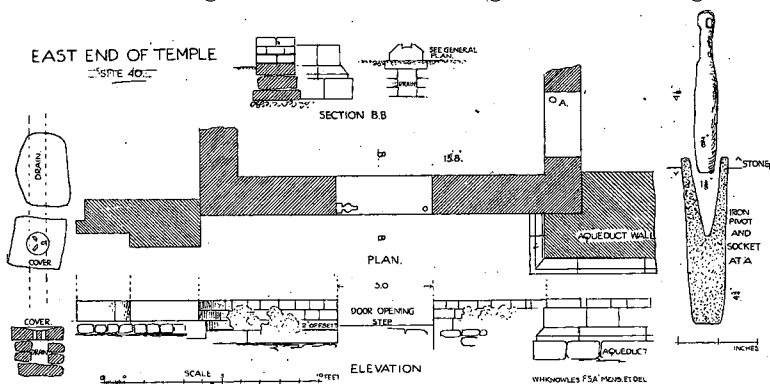


FIG. 5.

of an extremely puzzling description: they were, for the most part, faced with stone on one side only, and seemed to be arranged on no definite plan. It is just possible that they were for the purpose of keeping the floor dry, but it is difficult to see why this should be necessary, unless part of the walls consisted of an open arcade, instead of plain masonry. This might be possible, if the suggestion that the building was a temple be accepted, but there is not sufficient justification for such a conclusion, though the peculiar orientation may perhaps be evidence tending in that direction. Apart from this, and a certain suitability of size and design, there was no clue to the true char-

acter of the structure; but it would possibly be too rash to say definitely that such an identification is out of the question.

The pottery found in the building was mostly of the third and fourth centuries, the proportion of Samian fragments being very small. The character of the masonry, however, rather indicates a date of origin about the middle, or probably not long after the middle of the second century, and the rarity of Samian fragments may only mean that the building was kept clean during the earlier part of its existence. See p. 279.

At a later time, however, and for some reason which can not be conjectured, the building underwent considerable alteration. The floor-level was raised, and the two doors already mentioned were walled up. A new entrance must have been made, and it seems probable that this was done at or near the north west corner, where the original wall had almost entirely disappeared. If the later entrance were in this position, it must have been reached by a narrow passage running along the north side of the building, or possibly by a door in the wall opposite to it.

To this period of reconstruction may be ascribed two buildings which seemed to have some connection with the remodelled structure. To the west was a building of slightly irregular shape, averaging twenty-one feet in length and ten feet in breadth. Its foundations were about six inches nearer the surface than those of the original building, and were not laid on clay and cobbles. The south side of this structure followed the street line, and its eastern corners were connected with the western corners of the original building by short lengths of rough walling, which were probably no more than stoppings, to prevent user of the space between the buildings. Remains of a furnace were found near the west wall, and a drain, leading from the cistern on site XLVII ran under the north end.

Adjoining the north end of this building, and stretching eastwards, parallel with the north wall of the original building, were fragmentary foundations, which may possibly represent some

kind of forecourt connected with the remodelled building: to the north these foundations could not be traced, but a large worn step and a small area of flag pavement perhaps indicate the site of an entrance.

(B) *Site XL North*.—The remains found on this site linked up with the eastern building on site v (see report for 1907 general

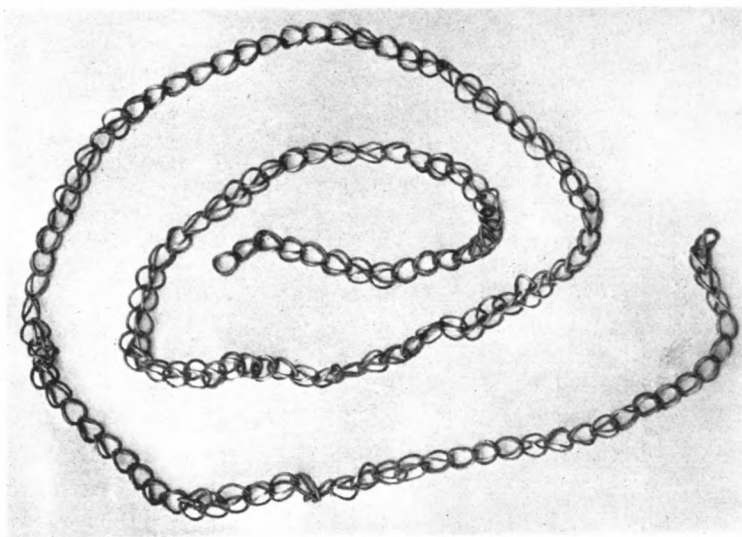


FIG. 6.—GOLD CHAIN FROM SITE XL NORTH ($\frac{1}{2}$).

plan). The complete structure fronted on the main east and west street, and may have been a house, with a workshop behind: the two short lengths of walling shown on the plan, near the south end, may have been stone benches or tables. The centre part of the building had been carried across the filled-in hollow already mentioned, and there had been some sinkage in consequence; and in this part of the east wall were two openings, three feet in breadth, which had been walled up.

A chain of fine gold wire (fig. 6) was found on this site, between two courses of the outer face of the east wall.

(c) *Site XLVII.*—The southern part of this site was occupied by a tank or cistern (fig. 7), which stood in the angle formed by

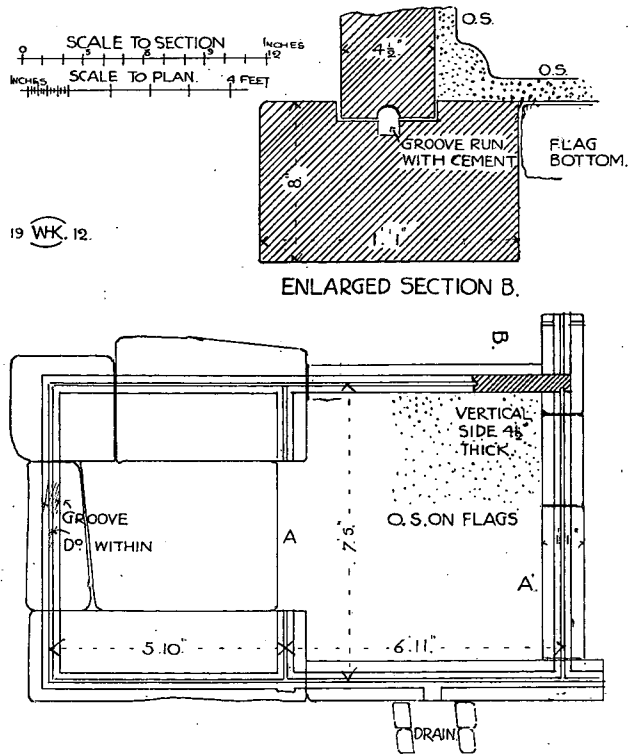


FIG. 7.

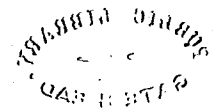
the southern east and west street, and a narrow lane running northwards. The original cistern had measured seven feet five inches by five feet ten inches from centre to centre of the vertical sides; but afterwards it had been extended eastwards to a total length of twelve feet nine inches. The bottom had been formed

of large flat stones, double sunk or grooved to take the sides and ends, and for a cement filling to form a joggle joint. The sides, of which only one short piece remained *in situ*, had been four and a half inches thick and also grooved for cement. The bottom had been covered with *opus signinum*, with a quarter-round fillet. The later extension had been partly carried out with old materials: some of the stones forming the eastern edge of the bottom appeared to be portions of slabs originally used for the sides.

Unfortunately nothing was discovered which threw any light on the question of the water-supply, which may possibly have been introduced by a wooden trough. It is noticeable, however, that the drain which formed the outlet from the Fountain tank (site VIII), so far as it has been traced, points in the direction of this other cistern, and possibly there may have originally been some connection between the two.

The outflow, on the other hand, could be more clearly traced. A drain ran from the southern side of the later extension, curved to the east, passed to the south of site XL, and fell into a drain running southwards from the main east and west street. Another drain was traced from the north-east corner, under the western building on site XL, and so (as shown on the plan) to a junction with the same north and south drain. There was no sign of an outlet from the tank into this latter drain, which may have been used to take the surplus water from the original cistern, and abandoned when the extension was made and the more southerly drain constructed.

A little to the north-east of the cistern was a walled area which linked up with the western building, marked on the 1907 plan as site v. Here again the northern part, which abutted on the main east and west street, may have been a house, or two houses with a narrow space dividing them; but the southern part lying, within the area of the 1912 excavations, was pro-



bably an enclosed yard, and was certainly used for manufacturing purposes. As will be seen by the plan, the enclosure contained several small furnaces or smiths' hearths, with suitable anvil-bases and tempering tanks, and the indications of iron-working were very clear. From the floor level of this area came a very large number of arrow heads in every stage of manufacture, from the short length, just nipped from the heated bar, to the finished implement. Most of these arrow-heads were about three inches in length, with four sided points, three quarters of an inch long, and socketed shanks: arrows fitted with them must have had considerable weight and penetrative force. In the same deposits were found several partly manufactured spear-heads and other iron weapons or tools. There was little to give any clue to the period at which the manufacture was carried on, but the coins seem on the whole to suggest the end of the third and early part of the fourth centuries.

(iv). *Site XLV.*—This site lay at the west end of the reserved area, and the greater part of it was occupied by the remains of a building of considerable importance, the general character of which may be seen by a reference to the plan. The principal part of the structure was an oblong building, measuring externally thirty-six feet from east to west and forty-five feet from north to south. This appeared to have been divided along its shorter length into three sections, which for convenience may be termed a nave, fourteen feet wide internally, and two aisles of about ten feet: there was, however, no trace of foundations between the nave and aisles in the eastern half of the building, and it is possible that the vacant spaces, and perhaps the centre of the nave itself, were arched over; at any rate there seemed to be a broadening of the foundations at the necessary points, on which the responds of such arches might have been built. It is, of course, quite feasible to consider the main building as divided into a western and eastern half, the former consisting of three



FIG. 8.—SITE XLV FROM NORTH WEST.

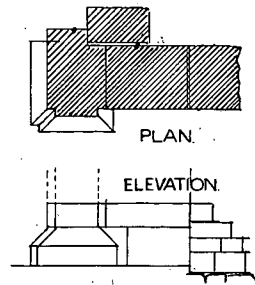
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chambers, and the latter of an open court. This would, perhaps, present a closer analogy to the praetorium of a fort; and the fact that the staircase to the sunk chamber (to be mentioned presently) is approached from the middle of the centre chamber, which, if this theory is correct, ought to be a *sacellum*, is certainly not a difficulty. The point, for the present, must be regarded as undecided, and the terms 'nave' and 'aisles' are to be taken as used for convenience of description only.

The aisles were divided into two unequal halves by cross walls,* of which only the foundation course remained in the north aisle, and an apse had, at some time after the building of the main west wall, been added to the end of the nave, extending its length by eight feet. Under the western half of the south aisle, and approached by a flight of steps from the centre of the western part of the nave, was a sunk chamber, originally vaulted, which will presently be described; and abutting against the north wall of the north aisle was an annexe, of contemporary date, consisting of two chambers, with a curious twisted passage between them. There was also a building (or possibly a yard), the character of which could not be determined, a little to the west of the northern part of the main building; and part of the space between them had been made into a hypocausted chamber, which will be referred to later. The main building appeared to have had three doorways in the east wall—one about six feet wide opening on the centre of the nave, and fronting the end of the east and west street which passed to the south of sites XL,

*Prior Richard, in his description of St. Wilfrid's church at Hexham, says *corpus ecclesiae appentitiis et porticibus undique circumcinxit, quae per parietes et cochleas inferius et superius distinxit*. The plan of Wilfrid's church must ultimately have been derived from a Roman model, and it is possible that these cross-walls correspond to the *parietes* mentioned by prior Richard, *inferius et superius* signifying the parts farther from and nearer to the sanctuary (44 Surt. Soc. publ., p. 12).

XXXIX, XLI, and XLII; one opening on the end of the north aisle, and one at the end of the south aisle: this last is perhaps doubtful, as at this point only the foundation course remained, but it is reasonable to suppose that the design was symmetrical. On the north side of the north aisle door the base shown in fig. 9 was found in position, and seems to indicate that the original east front had a façade of an ornamental character. There had also (see plan) been a narrow forecourt along the whole of the east side of the building, including the north annexe; but this appeared to be an addition made in the latest period of the occupation, to which also may be assigned a low stone platform, measuring about six feet by four, and constructed mainly of re-used material, found in the centre of the eastern part of the nave.



ATC ADMINISTRATIVE
BUILDING ? SITE 15.
FIG. 9.

Nave and Aisles.—The main west wall was two feet six inches thick, with a footing course three inches wider, resting on a bed of clay and cobbles. This wall was of good ashlar masonry. The apse, which had not been quite truly set out, was butted against the west wall and composed of hard rubble concrete, and for the height that remained without ashlar, though it is possible that at the time of its construction the ground level to the west of the building had risen, and the remaining part was intended to be below the surface; the foundations had been laid partly on rubble and partly on clay and cobbles.

The rest of the nave and aisle walls exhibited one peculiar feature, which so far has not been observed in any other building examined. The footing course consisted of large flat stones, about six inches thick, each stone extending right across the breadth of the wall and forming at either end a footing of irregular width, as the ends of the stones had been left undressed. The

general foundation level throughout this part of the building was from two feet to two feet six inches below the surface, and the interior walls were mostly laid on beds of cobbles and sand or rubble. Deeper cuts showed that an earlier building had existed on at least part of the same site, but this had been so completely destroyed when the building just described was erected, that no idea could be formed of its extent or plan.

The North Annexe.—The north-east chamber had originally been about twelve and a half feet square, and may possibly have had an arch on the south side, opening into the north aisle: at a later time the west wall had been altered, as shown on the plan, so as to give direct access from the north aisle to the passage in the centre of the annexe, and so to the outside of the building on the north. This part of the site seems to have been sloping to the north—*i.e.*, to the natural hollow already mentioned, which here appears to have curved southwards, and the foundations of the north wall were found to lie further below the surface. Traces of earlier foundations occurred below this chamber also, and the natural sand was about eight feet below the surface.

The passage in the centre of the annexe was about five feet wide, and had originally been floored with hard white concrete, from three to twelve inches thick. Over this had been laid, at a subsequent period, a flag pavement, at the north end of which was a gutter of two stones, one of which had been cut from a piece of base moulding.

The chamber on the west side of the passage measured thirteen feet by eleven. The foundations of the north wall were four feet below the surface, but the floor level had been rather more than a foot higher. The interior faces of the walls had been plastered above the floor level.

Hypocaust Room.—This room measured internally eight feet by eleven. Its east wall was the west wall of the chamber just described; on the west it was bounded partly by the

east wall of the outer building mentioned above and partly by an added wall which was returned across the north end; the south wall also was a later addition. Two floors of *opus signinum* laid on flags were found. The upper one, which was about a foot below the surface, covered a rough channelled hypocaust of late date: between the cement, which was somewhat soft, and

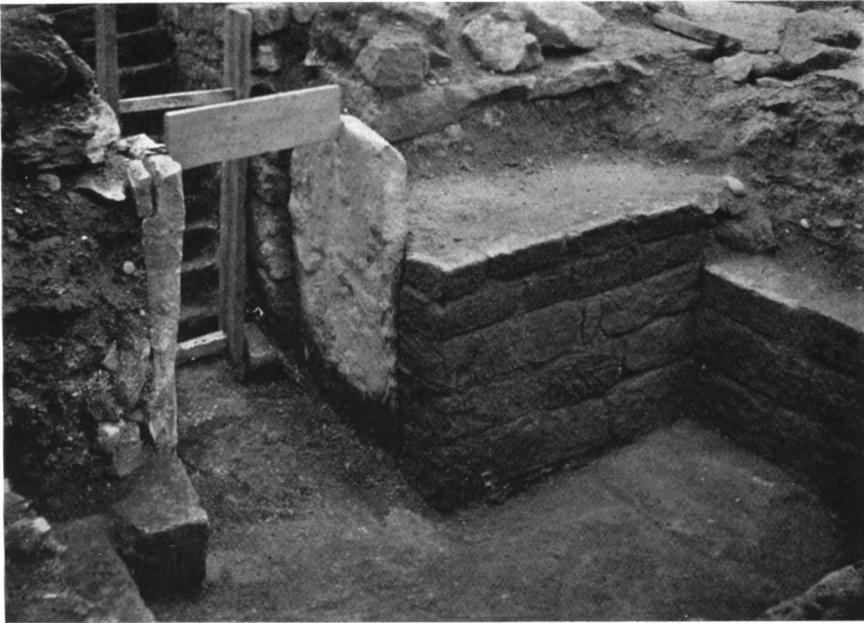


FIG. 10.—SITE XLV. SUNK CHAMBER.

the flags a coin of Valentinian I. was found, showing that there had been some reconstruction after A.D. 360.

This floor and hypocaust were cleared away, and the lower floor bared; it lay a foot lower, and was of extremely hard *opus signinum*, three inches thick, laid on flags of large size. Beneath it was a hypocaust consisting of a single flue with one straight

and one bow-shaped side, extending from a furnace-hole in the north wall to a recess in the south which would, no doubt, be fitted with box-tiles. The furnace-hole, which had been arched with brick, measured two feet two inches by two feet, and the flue-opening was nine inches wide.

The Sunk Chamber.—This was one of the most interesting structures yet discovered at Corstopitum. It measured internally eight feet ten inches by six feet three inches, and the floor, which was of large flags laid on the undisturbed sand, was five feet six inches below the floor level of the main building: the height of the chamber therefore, whether it was vaulted or ceiled with

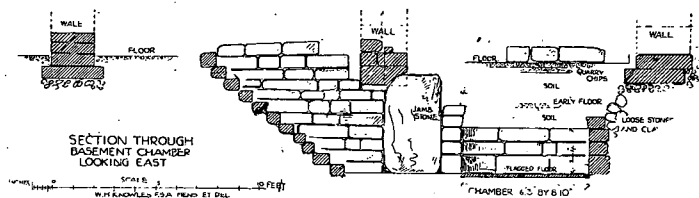


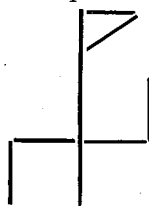
FIG. 11.

flat stones, could not have exceeded five feet. The walls were twelve inches thick, there being one course a foot thick, two of eight inches each, and two oversailing courses of six inches. No voussoirs were found, or anything to suggest an arched vault, and it is probable that there were at least three more oversailing courses, which would leave a space sufficiently narrow to be covered with flat stones. (See fig. 11.)

The doorway, two feet seven inches wide, was in the west end of the north wall: the jambs were single slabs of stone, measuring four feet ten inches by two feet ten inches, and no trace was found of pivot-holes; there may have been a wooden door-frame, or the place may have been secured by a cover over the mouth of the stairway. The stairway was of the same breadth as the

door, and had side walls of rougher masonry than the walls of the chamber. There were eleven steps, averaging about six inches in height, the average breadth of the tread being about seven inches. (See fig. 11.)

This chamber, which was slight in construction, had been wrecked and filled up before the end of the Roman occupation. The large altar, described by professor Haverfield on p. 263, was found lying head downwards on the stairs, the inscribed face being against the east wall of the stairway. At the foot of the stairs was found the broken inscribed tablet described on p. 267. On one of the stones of the second course of the west wall, near the south west corner, was a mason's mark.



Mr. Craster has pointed out that in Mackenzie's *History of Northumberland* (ed. 1811, vol. II, p. 301) the following notice is given under Corbridge:—

'About five or six years ago, Mr. Richley of Corbridge Mill, in digging for stones, found a staircase of hewn stone. In order to discover the apartment to which it led, he dug about two yards further, but did not reach it.'

This, however, cannot have been the staircase on site XLV, or Mr. Richley could not have failed to discover the *Discipulina* altar.

The Character of the Building.—That this building was of some importance is evidenced by the fact that a street led up to its eastern entrance, and the remains discovered point to the same conclusion. Its ground-plan bears some resemblance to that of the church found in the course of the excavations at Silchester; but though the suggestion is tempting, there is nothing but this resemblance to support it, and all the material evidence points the other way. The altar found on the stairway must certainly have occupied a prominent position in what has been termed the nave, and two pieces of sculpture, found just within the west wall were certainly not church ornaments. These were (1) a part of a relief, about three feet high and two

wide, with a nude figure—apparently Hercules—brandishing a club, and a smaller draped figure which has not been identified



FIG. 12.—RELIEF OF HERCULES FROM SITE XLV ($\frac{1}{8}$).

(fig. 12); and (2) portion of a partly draped male figure, sculptured in the round, which may have represented a deity, or perhaps a genius.

It may be regarded as fairly certain that the building was an official one, and used for administrative purposes—as a court house, or government offices, or both combined. Probably it was an adaptation of the typical *praetorium* or *principia*, as found in forts, to the needs of a place which, though closely connected with the army and perhaps under military government, was not a fortress properly so called; and accordingly the sunk chamber may be compared with those found at The Chesters, South Shields, and elsewhere. The resemblance between this building and the Silchester church is sufficiently accounted for by the fact that, just as the civil basilica was the model adopted for early churches of large size, so government buildings of this character would naturally be copied in the construction of churches of less importance; and it may also be suggested that the sunk chamber, or strong-room, became in the process the *confessio* or underground relic chamber, an example of which still exists in St. Wilfrid's crypt at Hexham.

The Probable Date of the Building.—In a subsequent section Professor Haverfield suggests that the altar and inscribed slab found in this building date from the time of Severus (pp. 117 foll.). That date would suit the other remains discovered. The peculiar foundation course already mentioned is unlike anything found in buildings which can be assigned to the Antonine period, and certainly seems to be later: the inscribed slab, in point of size, workmanship, and quality of stone, is far inferior to the fine tablet erected by a *vevillatio* of the Sixth Legion under Calpurnius Agricola, and in this respect fits the time of Virius Lupus, as Professor Haverfield suggests. This would indicate a date during the reign of Severus, and probably before that emperor's arrival in Britain. There seems to have been trouble in the north about this time, which would account for the presence at Corstopitum of a *vevillatio* of the Sixth Legion. The pottery from this site was scanty and of little value for dating purposes, but nothing

was found which would be inconsistent with a date as late as the end of the second century, though earlier fragments occurred in connection with the older remains, which may accordingly belong to the Antonine period. The coins found were all later than A.D. 200.

The date of the apse cannot be determined, but it may have been added fairly early in the third century; and, as we have seen, there was some reconstruction after A.D. 360.

3. *The Plinth Walls or Supposed Aqueduct.*

The course of these puzzling walls may best be seen on the plan. Probably there was at one time a connecting length across the north front of site v; but if so, it has been destroyed, or its foundations have not yet been discovered. It is possible that the original system included only the walls to the west of the broad street between sites xxxix and xl, and that all to the east of this line is an addition.

It may be said at once that these walls are unlike any defensive work: their shape is too irregular, and their foundations could never have supported any heavy weight; apparently they have been built on what was the surface of the ground at the time of their erection, with a small amount of cobbles and rubble laid down where necessary to make up the level. They appear to be of fairly late date—perhaps the second half of the third century, and must have been built after the buildings described in this report.

The width varies from four feet six inches to three feet four inches, and in most parts there is a plain chamfered plinth on one side, but this is missing for some distance on either side of the angle to the north of site xxxix, and for a short space where the wall is thinnest there is an offset on the side opposite the plinth.

Particular attention may be given to the stretch of wall just to the east of sites xl and xl north. At the north end, excavated

in 1907, there appears to have a rounded angle, forming a junction with the lost section along the front of site v; and immediately to the south of the angle there has been a thickening of the wall, covering an area of about nine feet broad and at least thirteen feet long, which may have supported or enclosed a tank or cistern: the floor of this space is on the same level as the platform

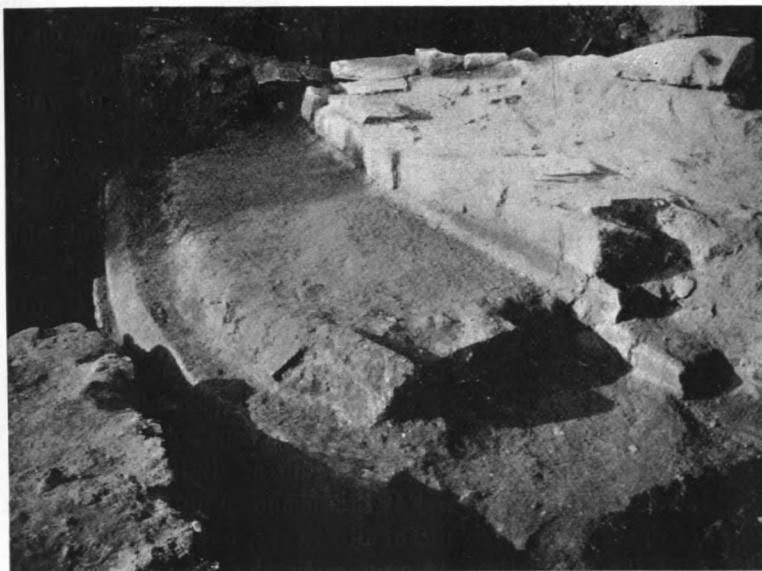


FIG. 13.—PROJECTION FROM PLINTH WALL.

of the Fountain (site VIII). Abutting against its west wall were the remains of a masonry projection in the form of a segment of a circle, with a chamfered plinth on the curved face (fig. 13): this may well have been the base of another fountain or water-pant, the overflow from which would be taken by the drain (see plan) which was found a little further to the south. The remains of somewhat similar semi-circular projections occur beside the angle

of the plinth wall, close to the north-west corner of site XLI and contiguous to it at the north end between sites XLI and XLII and at the north end of site XLIII.

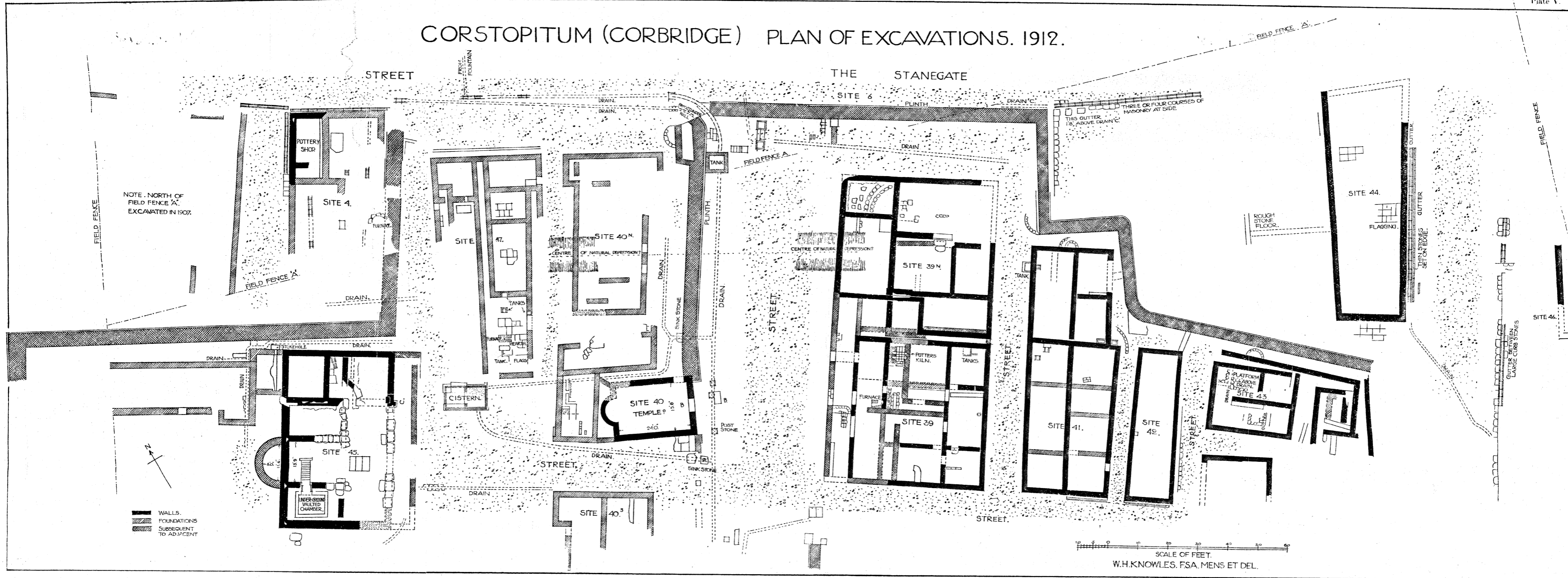
On the east side of the thick wall, opposite the south end of the suggested tank, was another tank, or catch-pit, as shown on the plan. This had received the surface water from a section of the main east and west street, and had an outflow into a drain which ran southwards, past the east front of the building on site XL, and so, apparently, down the hill towards the river.

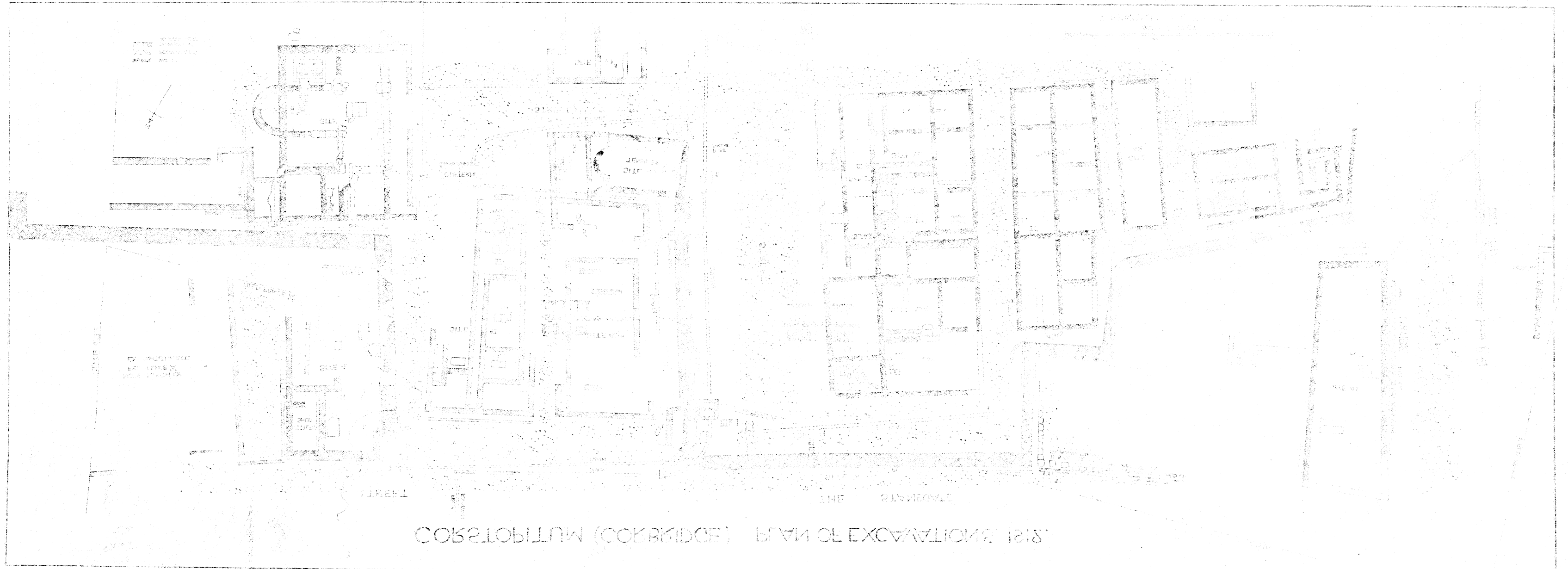
On nearing the building on site XL, this stretch of wall is deflected a little to the east and slightly thickened: its end then abuts against and partially encloses the north-east corner of the building (fig. 5), which is clearly the older structure, and the chamfered plinth is returned across that part of the end which does not touch the corner. The thickened portion of the wall might give room for another small cistern or pant, and its overflow may have been taken by the sink-stone at the point, as shown on the plan, where a drain passes under the wall.

To the west of site XLV the thick wall (see plan) makes a return southwards, but a few feet to the south of the angle all trace of it disappeared. A long stretch of similar walling was found in 1906: the north end of this is shown on the plan, to the south of the south-west corner of site XXXIX, but this was a broken end, and its connection, if any, with the other walls of the same character was not made clear. Possibly further light may be thrown on the question when the area south of sites XL and XLV is excavated.

On the whole we may venture to say that the suggestion of a system of aqueducts is the only theory yet propounded which will explain the facts observed, though the available evidence is not at present sufficient to put the matter beyond doubt and several difficulties remain to be overcome, or to necessitate the discovery of a different explanation. The chief question to be

CORSTOPITUM (CORBRIDGE) PLAN OF EXCAVATIONS. 1912.





CONSTANTINIAN (COVBRIDGE) PLAN OF EXCAVATIONS, 1818.

solved is the source and method of introducing the water-supply: apparently it must have come from somewhere to the north of the main east and west street, and how (if at all) it was brought to the south of that street is at present a matter of conjecture only, though it is possible that further excavations in the street itself, and particularly in the part immediately to the south of the Fountain, may be useful. It is also difficult to understand why the walls were, for the most part, built with a chamfered plinth on one side, though something may eventually be deduced from the fact that, as a general rule, the plinth seems to have been on the more accessible side of the wall. On the other hand the angles need present no difficulty: in fact they would in some cases be of use in checking the pace of the water at the ends of the steeper gradients.

INSCRIPTIONS.

BY PROF. F. HAVERFIELD.

(1) Almost perfect altar, forty-five inches high, seventeen inches wide, with six lines of about two and a half inch letters; the sides are unfinished, some rough stone being left as if for the ornamentation usual on the sides of altars, and the top is also not fully dressed; at the bottom of the front are marks of burning. This altar was found lying on its side, with the base uppermost, on the steps leading down to the cellar in building XLV, the western of the two apsidal buildings, in July (see p. 257 and fig 14).

Disciplinæ Augustorum leg. ii Aug.

To the discipline of the Emperors, erected by the Legio II Augusta.

A very similar inscription dedicated *disciplinæ Auggg.*, that is, to Severus and his sons (A.D. 209-211), was found many years ago at Castlesteads (*C.I.L.* 896; *Eph. Epigr.* ix, 605; *Arch. Ael.*, xxiii, 21). This inscription was altered to read *Augusti* (instead of *Auggg.*) after 211, when Severus was dead, Geta murdered, and only Caracalla survived. On an African inscription



FIG. 14.—ALTAR TO DISCIPLINE FROM SITE XLV ($\frac{1}{8}$).

(See pp. 257 and 263).

found at Timgad Severus is called *Vindex et conditor Romanae disciplinae*. It is, therefore, possible that our altar was set up early in the 3rd century, and the lettering does not forbid this view but rather tends to favour it. *Disciplina*, however, is a goddess who was not worshipped only in the age of Severus. She is found on coins of Hadrian and perhaps of Pius¹ and some of the coins of Hadrian shew the same spelling as our stone, *discipulina*. The only other examples which I know of this dedication are supplied by two forts in Roman Africa, neither of which gives any clue to date (*C.I.L.* VIII, 9832 and 10657) and an altar found at Birrens in 1895 in the 'headquarters' building (*Eph. Epigr.* IX, 1228), which belongs rather to the reign of Pius than of Severus.

While, therefore, it is probable that our altar may date from Severus, it cannot be called quite certain. All that can be positively asserted is that it is not earlier than the first pair of joint Augusti (161-169 A.D.). But if the time be doubtful, one may venture a more confident assertion respecting the place of this altar. Both the plan of the building in which it was found, and the vault and steps leading to it, and also the dedication itself, suggest that, though not precisely a normal headquarters building, it was something very similar.

(2) Two fragments from a large military slab, the one ten by eleven inches the other fourteen by eleven inches, with well-shaped letters three inches high and elegant leaf-stops. Found on site XL, the eastern of the two buildings with an apse. The inscription appears to have begun either with a dedication or with the names and titles of emperors; of this no more survives than part of an S. Then followed (fig. 15):

M[IL LEG.] II ☞ [AVG. ET XX] V. V ☞ FE[C. SVB C]VRA ☞ [SEX.
CALPVRN.] AGR[ICOL]AE ☞ . . .

. . . set up by the soldiers of the legio ii Augusta and the legio xx Valeria Victrix, under command of Sextus Calpurnius Agricola . . .

¹ Domaszewski *Religion des römischen Heeres*; p. 44.



FIG. 15. — FRAGMENTS OF INSCRIPTION MENTIONING CALPURNIUS AGRICOLA ($\frac{1}{8}$) (p. 265).



VEX
LEGV
SVBC
LV

FIG. 16 ($\frac{1}{8}$). (See p. 267).

For Calpurnius Agricola I may refer to the report for 1911, (*Arch. Ael.*, VIII, p. 186). He appears to have governed Britain somewhere about A.D. 163.

(3) Half of a large ansate slab nineteen inches high, seventeen inches broad with two and a half inch letters, much inferior in style to those of no. 2 and more like no. 1. Found lying loose at the foot of the steps of the cellar on which inscription no. 1 was found, much burnt at the bottom (see p. 257 and fig. 16).

This plainly mentioned a vexillation of legion VI, serving under an officer whose name contained the letters LV. Probably that officer would be of the same rank as Calpurnius on inscription no. 2; that is, he would be the governor of the province. The only known governor whose name suits is Virius Lupus who governed Britain under Septimius Severus and Caracalla, probably soon after A.D. 1907. He is mentioned



FIG. 17.

on two other British inscriptions, both from Yorkshire, one found at Ilkley, the other at Bowes. If this identification should be correct, it would agree well with the date suggested above for altar no. 1 which was found very near it. That altar, being unfinished, was perhaps thrown away before it had come into full use, that is, very soon after it was made.

(4) Building stone, ansate, eight and a half inches high, nine and a half inches wide with letters a little less than one inch other two and a bit more roughly (fig. 17). Found close to site XLV. It bears the inscription:

LEG . XXX . V . V

COH . VII

This, as it stands, would mean 'the 30th legion Ulpia Victrix, cohort vii.' The 30th legion was raised by Trajan in A.D. 98; its earliest history is somewhat obscure, but about 120 it was established at Vetera, the Roman frontier fortress on the lower Rhine, and apparently remained there almost uninterruptedly for many scores of years. Its only known movements were to the east. About 225 it sent a vexillation to a Persian war, and in the 4th century, in the year 359, it appears on the same frontier, whether as permanently stationed there or not, we cannot tell.

The Notitia Dignitatum (*Occ.* vii, 108) has a rather obscure reference to its later presence on the Rhine, but neither the date nor the bearing of the entry is quite certain.² In Britain no trace of it has ever been found.³ But there is no obvious reason why a vexillation of this legion should not have been sent here on some emergency.

There is, however, some difficulty in connecting this stone with any such detachment. It is pretty certain that the inscription, as originally cut, bore the letters LEG XX V V; that is, it referred to the well-known British 20th Legion. Afterwards—how long afterwards we cannot tell—somebody inserted a third x between G and XX, and he did this in a somewhat cramped or rude fashion, so that the intruded letter is not so regularly cut as the others. It has been suggested that this was done by the original stone-cutter, who either wrote XX at first by mistake or was afraid, as he came near the end of the line, that he would not have space for all the letters in it. This is not very probable. There was no good reason why a stone-cutter should have blundered

² O. Schilling, *De Legionibus I Minervia et XXX Ulpia*, pp. 53, 74; Ammian, xviii, 9, 3; Ritterling, *Westdeutsches Korrespondenzblatt*, 1893. 140.

³ A Colchester urn of 'Castor' ware bears the letters (among others) LEG XXX. But this is generally thought to be a German import.


either in the lettering or in the spacing of so simple a text; while, so far as the spacing is concerned, there was no difficulty, since the second v could have been omitted (as sometimes happens) or could have been carried over into the next line. It is to be noted further that the inscription itself suits much better a cohort of a British legion than a detachment from another province.



FIG. 18.—VICTORY, WITH CIRCULAR INSCRIPTION (‡) (p. 270).

The form of words adopted is, of course, very common, but it seems to be used rather for the former than the latter case.

We are, in the end, reduced to an estimate of probabilities in deciding the interpretation of this little text. But probabilities seem to suggest, not that a vexillation of the 30th was in Britain, but that the stone was set up to the 20th and afterwards some traveller or soldier from Germany, perhaps a stray man from the 30th, added the third x for *auld lang syne*. For anything more definite we must await further discoveries.

(5) Small fragment of stone with very large letters, found on site XL near inscription no. 2. The letters which survive are OS , part apparently of COS, the title Consul from the name of some emperor.

(6) Fragment of oblong slab with carving in low relief, much worn, about twelve inches by nine. The original sculpture seems to have consisted of a circular wreath with an inscription in (probably) three lines, upheld on each side by a winged Victory. One Victory survives, very crudely carved, and of the inscription only the letter C—apparently the commencement of the first or possibly of the second line. Bits of somewhat similar wreaths, bearing inscriptions and supported by Victories, were found in 1907 and 1908 near the 'Fountain' (report for 1907, *Arch. Ael.* 3 ser. iv, p. 267, and fig. 14; report 1908, p. 95). These were from triangular stones which had served as pediments for some small façade. The new find differs both in shape and probably also in inscription. The two former pieces bore the name of the twentieth legion; this may have been erected by a C(ohors) of auxiliaries. It was found lying loose during the filling in, in soil which came either from site XXXIX or possibly from site XL.

(7) Small building stone, five and a half by nine inches, bearing the letters XXXI formed by rows of dots. I mention this for completeness; I suspect that it is an attempt at ornament, not a number.

(8) On the hough of a Samian dish, scratched in before the vessel was baked, . . . MORTARIO. The vessel on which this was scratched appears to have had the shape of a 'pelvis' or 'mortarium,' and the graffito seems therefore peculiarly worth notice.

(9) Small leaden 'seal,' similar to those figured in *Arch. Ael.* 2 ser., VIII, p. 57, inscribed on one side LXX, with smaller illegible letters below, and on the other side QVR with a semi-circle

over the v. This obviously belonged to the twentieth legion, like a similar 'seal,' found at Corbridge in 1910. (Report for 1910, p. 37.)

Potters' Stamps.—As before, only the stamps on decorated pieces are here fully included. These are fewer than usual; all except the first are on bowls of shape 37.

OFCEŃ, stamped inside the bottom of a bowl of shape 29, found deep down under site XLI (p. 93). The stamp appears to be complete, but G might be read instead of c, as the lower part of this letter is worn. The stamp is not in the lists of Déchelette.

ADVVO . . . part of *Advocisi*, found on site XL. The stamp belongs to the middle or later 2nd century and has been found on several occasions at Corbridge. See report for 1911, *Arch. Ael.*, p. 56, etc.

'*Cinnamus.*' A bit of the stamp of this potter, with the letters . . . *mann.*, was found on site XLIV.

Paternus. The monogram of this potter appears on two pieces found on sites XLII, XLIII.

Tetturu. A stamp which appears read thus, occurs on a piece found on site XLIII. The letters are cursive, written backwards on the space below the decoration, and are raised.

. . . NNIVSF. These letters occur in a small label across the plain rim of a bowl ornamented in free pattern; the style of the letters is good. The bowl was found on site XI, S.E., in 1911.

CONDO . . . (N retrograde). This stamp occurs, incised on a small label below the decoration, on a bowl decorated with miscellaneous small objects and animals crowded together in a perhaps German style. The bowl was found on site XXXIX N.

Of stamps on plain ware one may be mentioned particularly—
L . TER . SECV . . . , was found on the deep level of site XLI, from which other early pieces came (shape XVIII). This first century stamp has also been detected at Castle Cary on the Wall of Pius (Macdonald, *Roman Wall in Scotland*, p. 374) and is one of the evidences for the Flavian occupation of that fort. Other pieces found on site XLI at or near the same deep level were stamped OFLVCAN, OFAPRO, OFCALVI, OFSATARR . I, DRAVCVSE, . . . MONTANI (AN tied together), PACATVE, TASGILIV (written backwards), and DIICVMINVS, besides the OFCEŃ mentioned above.

SCULPTURES, ETC., IN STONE.

(1) Bas-relief of Hercules contending with the Hydra, to the left an attendant; site XLV. See above p. 258 and fig 12.

(2) Torso (neck to knees) of a half-draped male figure in the round (24 ins. tall), doubtless a Genius or Bonus Eventus, found on site XLV. See p. 258 and fig 19 opposite.

(3, 4) Figures of boar, badges of the twentieth legion. One



FIG. 20.—BOAR OF THE TWENTIETH LEGION (‡).

in fig. 20; the appearance of a figure facing it is probably deceptive.

(5) Two exceedingly coarse and much damaged figures of winged Cupids.

(6) Architectural fragment, carved at the end with a curious, unclassical pattern (fig. 21).

SMALL OBJECTS IN METAL AND BONE.

Smaller metal and bone objects which possess interest and are well preserved were fewer this year than usual, and my account of them must be very brief.

Bronzes.—The best pieces were a ewer found on site XLIII, and figured on p. 235, and a statuette of Mercury, detected during the filling in (p. 230).



FIG. 19.—TORSO OF A GENIUS ($\frac{1}{8}$).



FIG. 21 ($\frac{1}{2}$). (See opposite page.)

Bronze Fibulae.—Five bow-*fibulae* were fairly perfect. Two of them show the plain 'double bow' type, which has been already figured in the report for 1908, fig. 19; even more similar specimens are shown by Jacobi, *Saalburg*, plate L, 8. One of our pieces has been gilt. Another find was a 'knee' *fibula*, such as was figured in the report for 1910, fig. 16. A fourth, which has been silvered in part, resembles one shown by Curle (plate LXXV. 5) and indeed a general resemblance between the Newstead and Corbridge finds was once more fairly clear in this year's finds. A fifth *fibula* was of the same type as that shown in report 1910, fig. 20, without its studs. Two other *fibulae* claim notice. One shows the *svastika* or *gammadion*, which was very commonly used on Roman brooches in the 2nd century. Examples have been found at Zugmantel, Pfünz, the Saalburg, and elsewhere in abundance. The symbol has also been placed on Roman altars; for instances in the north of England see *Lapidarium* nos. 366, 546, 553. Lastly, a small circular 'disk' brooch shows a figure in low relief, unfortunately damaged, of a man standing in front of a horse holding its bridle in his left and a whip (?) in his right hand.

Bronze Mountings, Handles, etc.—Five pieces belong to the handles or attachments of small bowls and vases. Four bits of pierced work seem to be decorations of leather, possibly horse-trappings. Another piece, a bronze mounting, closely resembles one figured by Curle (*Newstead*, plate LXXVI, 19). Yet another fragment, of some interest, bears an outlined figure of Victory holding out a wreath and advancing (or standing still) in face of a strong breeze; the figure is shown in bronze against a tinned white background.

Enamels on Bronze.—Only two enamels deserve note, a circular stud, with dots outlined in white, as in report for 1908, figs. 21-24 (the lower left-hand piece), and a seal or perfume box (see Curle *Newstead*, plate LXXXI, 6, 10).

Arms and Armour.—The list includes three bronze spurs, of which only one, however, preserves the actual spur, and the gorget or neck-piece of a helmet. A small bronze head, resembling that figured by Mr. Curle on plate LXXVII, 11, and not unlike that found at Sandy and figured in the *Proceedings* of the Society of Antiquaries of London for 1905, seems to be an ornament of harness rather than of armour, though its weight, even in its imperfect state, is 4 oz. avoirdupois and it is somewhat unnecessarily heavy for either purpose. A small bronze finial has been taken to be the metallated tip of a sword scabbard or dagger sheath; its end, however, is square and not (as usual) rounded (cp. report, 1910, *Arch. Ael.*, fig. 36). I may add here a reference to the iron javelin points, arrow-heads and other iron objects found on site XLVII., and noticed by Mr. Forster above, p. 250. Some of the arrow-heads are three-pronged, like those described in the report for 1908, fig. 32 (cp. report for 1910, *Arch. Ael.*, VII, 190).

Bone.—Two bone objects seem worthy of mention. One, which is not without its parallels elsewhere, is carved with a small sphinx; showing only the forepart—face, breast, and feet. It belonged perhaps to the handle of a small knife; it might also have formed part of the ornament on the front of a small casket. The other piece, 4 inches long by $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches, is more remarkable. It bears in low relief a female figure with a large rounded cap or



FIG. 22 (†).

other headress; she is fully draped and holds in her lap what seems to be a small parcel of fruit, though it is not very skilfully carved; probably she was meant to be thought of as seated, though the foreshortening is not very clearly shown; the lower part of the figure has not survived. Probably we may see in this figure one of the three 'Matres' or Mother Goddesses,¹ who were worshipped widely under various names in Gallia Cisalpina, in many parts of Gaul and also in Britain. In origin they were either a Celtic or a German triad and probably Celtic rather than German; their worship seems to have been imported into Britain, not to have been native there. They are usually represented as seated, fully draped, holding on their laps a basket or group of apples or similar fruits and wearing on their heads a large round cap, something like that shown on our bone figure; there are, however, naturally many small differences in detail, and many of the reliefs are too imperfect to show details fully. Occasionally, these 'Matres' were represented separately, or rather single figures occur occasionally which have much the same dress and attributes as the goddesses proper. Whether these are strictly 'Matres' or something akin, may perhaps be doubted² but need not here detain us. In the present case we might wonder whether the workman at Corbridge made three separate bone carvings of the three goddesses and two are lost or have still to be found, or whether he carved one by herself. (See fig. 22).

THE POTTERY.

BY P. NEWBOLD, B.A.

Site XXXIX.—Apart from the peculiar ware manufactured in this building in the third or fourth century, the pottery recovered from this site covers the usual period, from the mid-second to the end of the fourth century, the later types being abundant. The amount of Samian found was unusually small for so large

¹ On these goddesses see *Arch. Ael.*, xv., p. 314, and *Bonner Jahrbücher*, lxxxiii, pp. 1-200.

² *Journal of Roman Studies*, ii. 138.

a building, and both shapes and stamps belonged to Antonine times or later. Among the stamps one—IVLI NVMIDI (Juli Numidi, NV tied) on a Dr. 31—is noticeable, as this potter's name occurs thus in full only in Britain. Five instances are recorded in *C.I.L.*, VII, while only two, from Poitiers, both in an abbreviated form, are noted in all Gaul and Germany (*C.I.L.*, XIII, 1072).

Site XL.—The pottery found in the building itself seems to belong to the third and fourth centuries, the typical late wares, including a good deal of Castor, being especially common. A few pieces may date from the end of the second century. The proportion of Samian is very small, and includes a stamp of Advocisus (Dr. 37), and one of Habilis (Dr. 33). Below the floor level of this site, at a depth of six and a half feet from the surface was a stratum, which also underlay the neighbouring structures and produced pottery of the late Flavian and Trajanic times. (See pp. 231 and 239).

Site XLI.—The large amount of late first and early second century pottery found at a deep level below this building is described on p. 279.

Site XLII.—There is nothing in the pottery to indicate a pre-Antonine date. The quantity of sherds and of Samian stamps, occurring in so small a building, would seem to point to a continuous occupation during the latter half of the second and the whole of the third and fourth centuries.

Site XLV.—The not large quantity of pottery covers a period from the mid or late second century to the end of the fourth. The fragments are few for so large a site, and of little value for dating purposes, owing to the proximity of the Roman ground level to the modern surface, and the consequent disturbance of the débris by the plough.

Under the building, and in conjunction with earlier levels, was found pottery of the late Flavian-Trajanic type.

The pottery found in and around the other sites covered the usual period of Corstopitan prosperity and decay—from the



FIG. 23.—EARLY SAMIAN WARE (3).

middle of the second century onwards. Beside the angle of the plinth wall, north of site XLI and close to the main east and west street, were discovered two complete single-handed beakers of the type figured in Curle's *Newstead*, p. 256, fig. 31.

Underlying a great part of the reserved area of 1912, and separated from the Antonine level generally by some four feet of made ground, lay an occupation level, which was examined by trenches at various places, and produced everywhere pre-Hadrianic pottery. Some pits sunk on site XLI (see p. 231) proved especially fertile in pottery, and brought to light some exceptionally interesting fragments, including some twenty-five potters' stamps on Samian ware, of which seven are on form 27, and sixteen on varieties of form 18. These stamps are sufficiently described by professor Haverfield on p. 271. There were also others, more broken or less certain and less legible.

Exclusive of the above, the early level in site XLI produced the following fragments of Samian:—

Shape 33	...	...	...	...	8 pieces.
Shape 18/31	...	...	...	...	50 to 60 pieces.
Shape 27	...	...	...	...	26 pieces.
Shape 35 and 36	...	...	...	...	6 pieces.

Of shape 15, with quarter-round moulding, there were six pieces, possibly all belonging to one vessel; two pieces of globular vases, and nine (mostly belonging to one vessel) of a straight flanged bowl (see Curle, *Newstead*, plate xxxix, no. 11).

Of the coarse wares, the most striking are a number of *mortaria*, mainly of buff clay, though a few are red, with unusually wide, flat rims, of undoubtedly Flavian date, to judge from similar vessels found at Newstead and elsewhere. These *mortaria*, for the most part, have grit and pebbles on the upper surface of the flange as well as in the interior. This is a further indication of an early date.

This level also produced a considerable amount of 'rustic' ware, flat-rimmed bowls, of the types 4 to 7 figured in the report

for 1911, plate II, 'rough-cast' cups, of type 73 figured on plate XI of the same report, and rim contours typical of the end of the first century and beginning of the second.

In spite of the occurrence of several pieces of Samian of shape Dr. 29, this early deposit appears on the whole not to go back in date as far as the campaigns of Agricola, but rather to belong to the latest years of Domitian and the early years of Trajan.¹ One Samian decorated vessel has a remarkable and very unusual



FIG. 24.—SAMIAN BOWL (3).

shape, the contour of the side being transitional between forms 29 and 37; but it shows an exceptionally broad plain rim. Fragments of a bowl of very similar form were found at Nether Denton in 1911, and Knorr (*Die verzierten Terra Sig. gef. von Rottenburg*, 1910, Taf. VIII, 7, 8) figures two pieces of somewhat the same shape.

¹ Mr. Craster writes: 'The eleven copper coins found in the deep levels of site XLI were all in very bad condition, and I can only with certainty identify three of them. One is Titus, the other two are Domitian.'

NOTE.—The coins found in 1912 are held over for collective treatment with those which may be found in the present year's (1913) excavations.