

FIG. 1.—THE MUSEUM, CORSTOPITUM, 1913.

VI.—CORSTOPITUM: REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS
IN 1913.

By R. H. FORSTER, M.A., F.S.A., and W. H. KNOWLES,
F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A.

I.—INTRODUCTION.

After three men had been engaged during the first fortnight of July in cleaning up the sites permanently left open, work was begun about the middle of the month on the new reserved area. This was a space of about two acres, bounded on the west by the ground excavated in 1909, on the south by the part explored in 1910, and on the north by the Beaufront road. The work of 1913 thus completed the excavation of the central field of the site, and included a small portion of the east field, where a considerable stretch of the great road leading from Corstopitum to the north was carefully examined. The rest of the east field still awaits excavation, as well as a considerable amount of the field on the southern slope and the bulk of the large west field.

In addition to the work on the reserved area, further explorations were made in the north east part of site XI (the 'forum'), and in the main road to the south of it. The ventilation channels of the east granary were completely cleared, and from one of them came the most important find of the year, the broken altar, with a dedication to *Dea Panthea* (see following page).

The reserved area, as had been expected, produced nothing to compare in spectacular effect with the notable buildings on

NOTE.—All the half-tone illustrations in this report are from photographs by Mr. Forster.



FIGS. 2-4.—ALTAR INSCRIBED *DEA PANTHEA* (4) (see preceding page and page 298).

the main street; but the results, taken in conjunction with those of other years, are of high interest as throwing light on the character and configuration of the Roman town as a whole, and even the buildings uncovered, though for the most part poor in quality, would probably have been thought remarkable if 1913 had been the first year of the excavations. The same may be said of the pottery and most of the other objects discovered: they were fairly plentiful, and in themselves interesting, but for the most part a repetition of what had been found in previous years, and evidence of early occupation was almost entirely lacking, at any rate in the western part of the area. There is some evidence, or rather some reason to suspect, that certain of the ditches examined are of early date, but it is not safe to draw conclusions till further excavations have been made in the east field.

Mr. R. H. Forster again took charge of the work and, as in previous years the planning and measurement was carried out by Mr. W. H. Knowles.

The excavators had not the advantage, which they have enjoyed in previous years, of the help of resident assistants during at least some part of the season. It is hoped that they will have better fortune in 1914, when work will be resumed on an important section of the east field, a part of the site, which may be expected to produce remains of the earliest period of the occupation.

It only remains to place on record once more the debt due to Captain J. H. Cuthbert, D.S.O., not only from those directly concerned in the excavations, but also from all, both in this country and abroad, who are interested in the study of Roman civilization and the early history of Britain.

II.—THE RESERVED AREA.

Before the sites comprised in this area are dealt with in detail, it is necessary to make some general remarks.

In the report for 1909¹ it was stated that the site of Corstopitum had probably been bounded on the north by marshy ground, and this supposition was confirmed and amplified during the past season. The central part of the 1913 area seems to have been occupied originally by a tongue of this marshy land, lying between two stretches of firm ground, one to the east, on which the great north road ('Dere street') was placed, and the other, to the west, forming the edge of the industrial area excavated in 1909. Near the south side of the reserved area there were remains of two or three roughly built retaining walls or terraces, which seemed to mark the limit of this tongue of marsh, and near the north hedge were traces of at least an attempt having been made to cut off the tongue with a clay bank. The intervening space had evidently been filled up in Roman times with mixed earth and a large quantity of rough stones, with a view to the reclamation of the marshy ground and its addition to the available building land of the town. But even if the process was completed, the reclaimed land was not built over or, as it appears, used for any other purpose, and this is in accord with the general evidence of the decay of Corstopitum during the latter part of the Roman occupation.

To the south of the marsh area were the remains of a roadway, running east and west, and of a few buildings of rough character which yielded nothing to indicate their purpose. The important parts of the area excavated were the two stretches of firm ground already referred to. On the western space, besides the foundations of two rough buildings which had been almost entirely destroyed, the remains were discovered of a buttressed building of great length, which will be more fully described on a subsequent page. The eastern space is that occupied by the Dere street, in itself a feature of first-rate importance, and by the foundations, or fainter traces, of buildings which abutted upon it on each side.

¹ P. 44; *Arch. Ael.*, 3 ser. VI, 246.

The north ditch (see report for 1909²), was traced across the entire breadth of the 1913 area, but towards the east investigation was hampered and in the end cut short by the occurrence of water. Almost under the western edge of the Dere street a ditch, running approximately north and south, was discovered and traced at several points. It appears to be a continuation of the more easterly of the two ditches found in 1910 (see report for 1910³), and the general level of its bottom points the same way; but no pottery of any kind was found at the lowest levels,

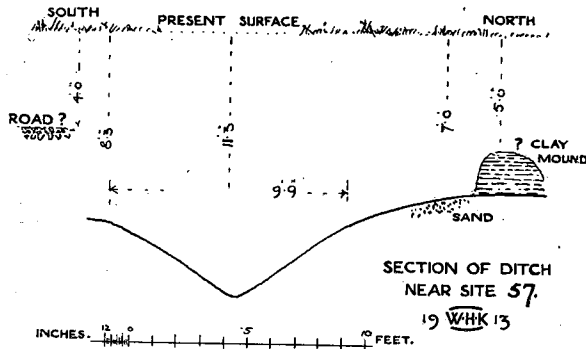


FIG. 5.

whereas the section explored in 1910 yielded several fragments of early Samian. About 140 feet from the southern boundary of the area, this ditch appeared to make a return to the east, and the evidence on the whole may be taken to point, but not more than point, to the existence of an early fort on this part of the site. But the existence of the heavy mass of material composing the three levels of the Dere street made work at deep levels in that neighbourhood difficult and even dangerous, and closer investigation was left till it is possible to test the existence of the eastward return at points further removed

² P. 42; *Arch. Ael.*, 3 ser. VI, 242, and fig. 11.

³ P. 23; *Arch. Ael.*, 3 ser. VII, 165.

from the road. Of the more westerly ditch found in 1910 no distinct traces could be discovered, and it is possible that the existence of the marsh on this part of the site made it unnecessary that it should be continuous. It is noticeable that to the east of the point at which this ditch, if the line found in 1910 were produced, would join the north ditch, the latter was found to be deeper than the section to the west of the same point. It is suggested that this eastern portion is of earlier date than the other, and may have been the outer north ditch of the early fort, adapted and used when the north ditch of the town (as opposed to the fort) was dug. Here again, however, pottery evidence was lacking, and the theory must await the test of further excavation in the east field.

1. *The Dere Street.*

Some controversy has been raised over the use of this title for the great north road, which since the time of Horsley has been generally known as Watling street; but the evidence, which is set out in the Corbridge volume of the *Northumberland County History*, though not absolutely one-sided, is practically conclusive that Dere street was the name commonly used in early times, and there is an obvious advantage in a term which is not liable to be confused with the name of the true Watling street.

The stretch of road examined during 1913 was the northward continuation of the part found in 1910. In the report for that year (p. 168), it was stated that this stretch of road seemed to belong to the middle and later periods only, but the past season's work has corrected this conclusion, and there is no doubt of the existence of three levels, as in the main east and west street and elsewhere. There is also little doubt that this branch of the Dere street formed the principal exit from the town towards the north, and this tends to confirm the suggestion put forward



FIG. 6.--'DERE STREET' LOOKING NORTH.

The trees show the field lane, given by MacLauchlan as the course of the road.



FIG. 7.--'DERE STREET'—GUTTER OF EAST SIDE.

in the report for 1911⁴ that we ought to regard Corstopitum as a road-centre rather than as a town standing on one particular road.

Perhaps the most important result of this part of the work was the correction of the conjectural line of MacLauchlan, who notes as 'evident traces' the line of the wooded lane at the west end of the Corchester school grounds. Actual excavation has now proved that the correct line runs a little farther to the east, through the western part of the school cricket ground. The point is not of any great importance, except as emphasizing the necessity for excavation even where 'evident traces' are said to have existed.

The road itself was similar in character and construction to those described in former reports, though its average breadth, about 22 feet, is less than that of the east and west street or the stretch of the Dere street adjoining the bridge. This, however, is just what might be expected, as the traffic leaving Corstopitum for the north would never quite equal that which entered it from the south and west, and (as was shown in 1911) there was what may be termed a 'loop line' for through traffic (report for 1911⁵).

As elsewhere, three levels were found, their surfaces being at an average depth of one foot three inches, two feet, and three feet nine inches below the present ground level: there was no parting of soil or decayed vegetation between the different layers, such as has been observed at some other points and each successive remaking has been placed on the surface of the pre-existing road. In each case the mode of construction has been the same, a foundation of heavy cobbles, with a mixture of smaller cobbles and gravel above, and a surface of gravel rammed very hard; but the foundation and workmanship are best in the lowest and worst in the highest road.

⁴ P. 8; *Arch. Ael.*, 3 ser. VII, 143.

⁵ *Ibid.*

Each road has had a fair camber, and has been edged with stone channels, though in the case of the middle road these were hard to trace and on the lowest level they were almost entirely missing. This, however, is quite natural, since channel-stones would stand more usage than road surfaces, and on a remaking they would, no doubt, be lifted and replaced at the higher level. The channels of the latest period (probably after A.D. 360) were

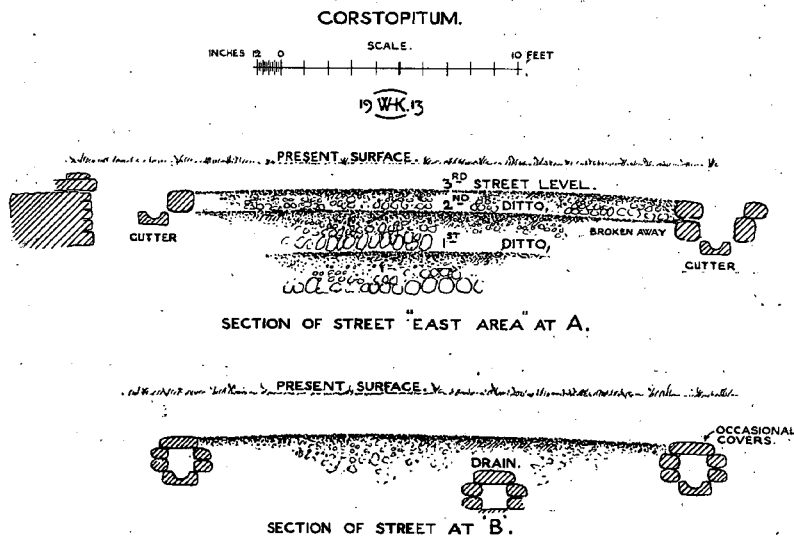


FIG. 8.

fairly continuous, though sinkages had made the lines irregular, and they had been edged on each side by heavy kerb-stones, as was found to be the case with the late channels of the 'Stane-gate' in the west field. Here, too, many of the stones were apparently re-used blocks from some abandoned building. The coins found in these late channels and on the corresponding road surface were of the second half of the fourth century, and from one of the channels came an interesting vase of thin

greyish-brown ware, which had evidently lost its rim in Roman times, as the broken edges of the mouth were worn smooth and rounded. The vessel was ornamented, just above the widest part, with a band of 'runnering.'⁶

Within a few yards of the north hedge, as shown on the plan, a branch of the earliest level drain, on the west side of the road, was found to slant into the centre and then continue for several feet, approximately under the centre line of the roadway. This drain, which was of well constructed masonry, was at first somewhat perplexing, but the clue was found just to the south of the point to which the drain was traced. There the foundation of the earliest road was found to consist, not of large cobbles, but of roughly dressed blocks of stone of considerable size, and when some of these were removed, water was found in the space which they had occupied. It was clear that at this point the original road had been carried over a line of permanently marshy ground which rendered specially careful construction necessary in order to secure a firm bed.

It is noticeable that the road had been carried over the north ditch, and this supports the suggestion that the eastern part of the ditch was of earlier date. Nothing was found to militate against the idea, which has been put forward in several reports, that the lowest level of this and other connected roads is not later than A.D. 140. the year when Lollius Urbicus began the advance beyond Hadrian's Wall and inaugurated the 'flourishing time' of Corstopitum, and it is not impossible that this road dates as far back as the days of Hadrian. If this be so, the

⁶ This form of ornament has sometimes been described as 'engine-turning (a totally different thing), or 'roulette-pattern.' I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. J. H. Mott, of Messrs. Doulton and Co., for the information that 'runnering' is the correct term for a method of ornamentation produced by an embossed or incised cylinder, held in a forked handle, and applied to a vessel while the latter is revolved on a wheel or lathe. The process and the name are in use to-day.—R. H. F.

portion of the ditch in question must have been made before A.D. 140, and possibly before A.D. 120; but it must be understood that the suggestion is at present a suggestion only, to be confirmed or negatived by further exploration. One point, however, may be mentioned, as possibly bearing on the question. If the suggested fort did in fact exist and went out of use at or before the time when the road was made, it is quite natural to find its western berm used as the site, or part of the site of the road.

2. *The Buildings adjoining the Dere Street.*

On the east side many traces of foundations were discovered, as shown on the plan, and classed together as site XLVIII; but most of them were so rough and fragmentary that any detailed description would be merely confusing, especially as the portion of the reserved area on this side of the road was limited. They appear to belong to the middle or late period of the occupation.

Of one, however, somewhat clearer remains were found, just to the south of the return of the early ditch. It has been a plain oblong building, measuring 40 feet from north to south by 22 feet from east to west. On the west side, close to the road, part of a wall of very fair masonry was found standing from two to three feet high. It seemed to be contemporary with the middle period of the road, but the building must have been destroyed before the latest period, as the heavy kerbstones of the highest level were found partly resting on the remains of the wall. There was some trace of a doorway at the point shown on the plan.

A little to the north of the north ditch a street of poor quality led eastwards from the Dere street: the remains of a wall were found on its south side (see section 'A'), but they were very fragmentary, and may have been merely a penning or support for the side of the street.

Probably more light will be thrown on all these foundations when the adjacent portion of the east field is excavated.

On the west side of the Dere street more substantial remains were uncovered (sites XLIX, L, and L north), but though the form of the buildings was clearer, there was still a tantalising lack of any clue to their purpose.

Site XLIX.—This had been occupied by a building of slightly irregular shape, 47 feet from east to west, with a breadth of 20 feet at the end abutting on the road diminishing to 17 feet. Apparently the original building belonged to the middle period, possibly the early part of the third century, as a *denarius* of Commodus in fair condition was found on the earlier of its two floors and under the later pavement. Both floors were of rough flagstones, but the later one was of very poor quality. Such masonry of the original building as remained was of moderate quality, but the north wall and the north-west angle were very poorly built and were clearly of the last period. Part of the south wall had been damaged—presumably at the time of the disaster which seems to have befallen Corstopitum about the middle of the fourth century—and had been subsequently repaired, several feet of the external face having been rebuilt with flat stones placed in herring-bone fashion.

Site L.—The building on this site was very puzzling. It measured 49 feet by 20 feet and abutted closely on the road. Its foundations, which were about six feet below the present surface, seemed to be of the same period as the lowest level of the Dere street, but there had been some subsidence at the east end, which was immediately above the suggested angle of the early ditch, and this part of the building was entirely filled with stones, though it was not clear whether this had been done to remedy the sinkage, or whether it was simply the result of the collapse and abandonment of the structure. In the eastern part of the building a large number of heavy and roughly dressed stones were found, and their level and arrangement suggested that they had been placed there to raise the floor. As shown on the plan,

the remains of another wall were found abutting against the north wall, and making a return southwards, which forms the west wall of the building. These foundations were at a somewhat deeper level than the rest and it is possible that they belong to an earlier building, part of which was utilized on reconstruction.

Site L North.—Separated from site L by a narrow strip of pavement, probably a yard, were the foundations of another oblong building, or walled enclosure, measuring 52 feet by 22 feet. The east wall was represented by fragmentary foundations only, and the same may be said of the greater part of the south and west walls. Elsewhere the masonry was composed of fairly large stones, and a small amount of flag pavement remained in the interior.

Other rectangular foundations were found a little farther to the north, as shown on the plan; they lay at a level corresponding to the earliest period of the Dere street, and the masonry remaining was of large, well-dressed stones. The wall, however, did not seem to be of sufficient thickness to carry any substantial superstructure, and it is probable that we have here the remains, not of a building, but of an enclosure. Some burnt stones found close to the inside face of the south wall suggest an industrial site, possibly a smithy, for which a position at the entrance of the town would be very suitable.

It is disappointing that no definite evidence should have occurred of the use to which these buildings or enclosures were put; but as they line the main road leading to the Wall and the northern forts, it is possible to conjecture that they were store-houses or yards used in connexion with the supply service of the troops composing the frontier garrison. If that were so, they would go out of use gradually, as the garrison was diminished, and evidence of their purpose would accordingly disappear.

3. *The Western Sites.*

On the west side of the tongue of marsh already described were the remains of one large and important building (site LVI), fragments of three smaller buildings, and the remains of three roadways, as shown on the plan. Of the last mentioned, two stretched north and south, and it may be that these were no more than cobbled yards or alleys used in connexion with the adjoining buildings. The third, which runs east and west, was wider and somewhat better made, and it may have been linked up with the road on the south side of site LII (see plan); but if so, the connexion has been ploughed out. At the point shown on the plan, a stretch of rough but heavily built drain was met with, together with a few pieces of small columns. Some of these had been built into the retaining wall of the road, but the best specimen, which is four feet in height, was found standing in an upright position, but not on any foundation. Apparently, it had been brought to this spot in late Roman times to be worked in as building material, but its use had not been found necessary and it had been left standing where it was.

Site LIII.—Of this building, if a building it ever were, the remains were so fragmentary that beyond recording that the walls shown on the plan were rough and probably of late date, no description can be given. A fairly complete stone mortar was found on this site.

Site LVII.—The buildings on this site had been of poor quality and the remains found were fragmentary. Apparently they had been almost completely destroyed in late Roman times. The longer building showed on the west side what appeared to be the foundation course of a single buttress: no trace was to be found of the foundations of the north end. It is possible that the place was a temporary storehouse, of the same date, and used for the same purpose, as the long building on site LVI.

Site LVI.—The building on this site was the most interesting

discovered during the year, and its area exceeds that of any building previously found, except the 'forum.' It has been a long, narrow building, measuring 142 feet from north to south, with a breadth of 26 feet, and it has been somewhat irregularly buttressed, the average distance between the buttresses being nine



FIG. 9.—SITE LVI.

feet, and their projection two feet. Unfortunately, the whole building had been very badly wrecked, and that this was done in Roman times is shown by the fact that a heavy pavement of large flat stones, evidently belonging to the latest period, had been carried right across the south end of the building for a space of about ten feet from the south wall, and at a level of about eighteen inches above the foundations.

At the north end the destruction has been even more complete. Foundations and slight remains of masonry were found where shown on the plan, but the northern extremity could only be traced by means of the bed of clay, about six inches thick, which underlay the whole building, forming at once the bed of the wall-foundations and the floor. This bed ended in a definite straight line as shown on the plan, and it is fairly certain that such line marks the extent of the building in that direction.

Unfortunately, very small remains of the walls were left at any point. Here and there two or three courses remained in position, but generally there was nothing above the masonry foundation course, and in parts even that was missing. This made it impossible to find any clue to the number and arrangement of the doors, but it seems probable that a building of such length would have several, and perhaps most, if not all of them would open upon the paved space, or street, to the east.

The walls had been no more than two feet thick, and even such meagre remains made it clear that the masonry had been of poor quality, the stones generally small in size and roughly dressed, and the whole showing signs of hasty or unskilful construction. At the south end, about the middle of the interior, was the foundation of a central wall, parallel with the east and west walls and extending for a distance of thirty feet from the south end. This foundation showed traces of buttresses on the west side, and it was thought at first that it had originally been the west wall of a small buttressed building, which had been subsequently thrown into, and formed the south-east corner of the larger structure; and this would explain the position of the single buttress of the south wall (see plan). But as the work progressed, traces of a similar foundation, in line with the other, were found in the centre of the northern part of the building, and on the whole, it seems better to regard both foundations as forming part of the internal design, either as parts of a long

central party wall, or (as no trace could be found of any connexion between them) as two separate party walls, which divided the ends of the building into separate chambers, while the central portion remained open for the full breadth. As shown on the plan, the north end of the building has been carried right across the filled-in north ditch.

It is fairly certain that the building was designed as a storehouse, and from its size we may put it down as an official building. It seems impossible, however, to give it definitely the name of a granary, though it may have been temporarily used for housing grain: its buttresses give it, on the plan, some resemblance to the undoubted granaries found at Corstopitum and elsewhere, but it seems likely that their purpose was to allow a roof of so wide a span to be carried on thinner walls than would be necessary without such strengthening. There was no trace of sleeper-walls or any other arrangement for supporting a raised floor, such as is regularly found in permanent granaries, and the remains, as they exist, certainly suggest that the building was somewhat hastily and cheaply erected, to serve the requirements of an unusual and perhaps a temporary emergency. Stores were to be housed on a large scale, to supply the needs of a force which was not expected to use Corstopitum as its base for very long, but was an addition to and not a replacement of the garrisons for which the place ordinarily catered. Further, the building was erected after the north ditch of the town had been filled up, and cannot therefore be of early date; it was also, at least in part, destroyed before the last period of the Roman occupation.

The evidence thus points with some distinctness to the time of Septimius Severus as the only period which (so far as our present knowledge goes) fulfils all the conditions. In A.D. 208 Severus invaded Caledonia with a large army, and Corstopitum must have been one, at least, of his principal bases of supply. He is said to have lost fifty thousand men in the course of the campaign,

and though the figure is an obvious exaggeration, it tends to show that his army was of exceptional size, and in that case exceptional measures would be needed for its supply. But it is reasonable to suppose that the emperor did not expect a prolonged campaign, and therefore the need for exceptional measures would only be temporary, even if the result had been the permanent occupation of the whole of Scotland.

Corstopitum could not have been used as a permanent supply-base for more than the district which it had already supplied under Pius and Marcus Aurelius; a more northerly base would have been needed for the country to the north of the Antonine Wall. Thus it would have been merely a waste of time and money to erect another huge storehouse of a substantial character, when the need for it would pass away in a comparatively short time: a cheap and somewhat flimsily constructed building would serve the same purpose, so long as that purpose subsisted.

It seems probable therefore that in the remains of this large building we have a trace of one of the most striking events in this history of Corstopitum, and possibly of the presence of one of the most remarkable figures of Roman imperial times. The indications too, are consistent with subsequent history. In A.D. 211 Severus returned to die at York, and Caracalla abandoned the territory which he had overrun, bringing back the frontier to the line which had been maintained since the great disaster at the beginning of the reign of Commodus. The old resources of Corstopitum would be sufficient to deal with the same business with which it had dealt before, and this great building would be allowed to go to ruin, and in time to be used as a quarry, especially when the town was repaired in the time of Theodosius.

A *denarius* of Severus in good condition was found close against the footing course of the west wall, in a layer of firmly packed gravel and chippings which seemed to be of the same date

as the building. It may, no doubt, have worked its way down, and by itself would be inconclusive; but perhaps it may be regarded as corroborative evidence.

III.—WORK ON OTHER SITES.

Site XI.—Some work was done at the north end of the east range and the east half of the north range of the 'forum,' where in 1910 only the foundations had been cleared, leaving the spaces between the inner and outer walls undisturbed. The earth on these spaces was run through, but no new light was thrown on the origin and history of the building, except that the mass of pottery unearthed made it more than ever clear that this part of the site had been extensively used as a rubbish-heap, and must have lain unoccupied for a considerable time.

In the north-east corner court was found a broken statue of Jupiter, nude and carrying a thunderbolt of conventional pattern in the right hand. The figure is about 19 inches high, and the work of poor quality.

4. *The East and West Street.*

Further cuts were made in this street in the hope of discovering more fragments of sculpture in the ballast used for raising the roadway in the fourth century, but with the exception of a small, worn capital of coarse grit, nothing of the kind was found. However, in the metalling of the latest road, immediately in front of the entrance to the 'forum,' a portion, probably amounting to about half, of a necklace of fine plaited gold wire was discovered. The fastening-hook at one end was perfect, and strung on the wire were a blue glass bead and an amethyst—the latter an example of 'tallow-cutting,' without facets.

Site IV (The Pottery Shop).—Some investigation was made of the level below the clay floor on which the burnt pottery was found in 1907, but the time available did not allow of any very

definite results. The pottery found was clearly of the second century, but could not be more closely dated. Two *denarii* of Hadrian were found under the clay floor, and a bronze medal with the busts of Commodus and Crispina came from the same level. An examination of the foundations of the wall abutting on the street showed them to belong, apparently, to the period of the middle level of the roadway, the construction of which has been provisionally assigned to the time of Septimius Severus, though it possibly might be put somewhat earlier. At any rate, it seems likely that the front wall of the building cannot be earlier than the latter part of the second century, and this makes it probable that the clay floor, on which the pottery was found, can hardly be earlier than the very end of the second century, and may belong to the third. However, further excavation is desirable, and as much of the soil previously heaped on the site has been moved, ought not to be difficult.

The East Granary.—As already stated, the ventilation channels of this granary were cleared, the paving-stones, where they remained *in situ*, being lifted and replaced. A number of coins were found, nearly all being of the latter part of the third century or later; but the most important find was the upper part of a carved altar, to which reference has already been made (p. 279). Diligent search was made for the missing lower part, but without success: possibly it may be built into one of the sleeper walls that supported the floor, but careful inspection failed to discover any indication that this was the case.

IV.—GENERAL REMARKS.

One season's preliminary exploration and seven years of systematic and sustained work under the Corbridge Excavation Committee have done much to help the awakening of interest in the early history of Britain which has been one of the features of recent times. Thirty years ago the Roman Wall was almost un-

heard of, except amongst a few students of Roman antiquities: twenty years ago its remains were visited by comparatively few; and even ten years ago the site of Corstopitum was known only because the Ordnance Survey had dotted an irregular oval on the map. The city itself was supposed to be lost for ever, and no one realized that its remains still existed, and that those remains were to have a definite value in the discovery of the history of the Roman occupation of Britain.

Contrast this with the position to-day. Public interest has been aroused in the priceless relics of antiquity which the country possesses, and it may be claimed that of those relics the material records of the Roman occupation are equal, if not superior, to any in interest.



FIG. 10.—BRONZE (♁) FOUND IN HEAP SOUTH OF SITE XI.

The upper part of an altar, mentioned in the Introduction, is extremely interesting, and the dedication, *DEAE PANTHEAE*, is not common. Apparently the goddess indicated was regarded as a combination of the divine qualities of the many deities of the old mythology, and so may be compared with the *Dea Syria* of the verse inscription found at Caervoran.*

* *Lap. Sept.*, 306. *Corp. Insc. Lat.*, VII, 759. Compare also the altar to *Silvanus Pantheus*, found at High Rochester. *Lap. Sept.*, 550. *C.I.L.*, 1038.

The two bronzes figured on this and the preceding page (figs. 10 and 11) are the most interesting that the site has yet produced.



FIG. 11.—BRONZE ($\frac{1}{4}$) FOUND ON SITE XI.

The statuette of Mercury (fig. 10) has some artistic merit; it was found in one of the spoil-heaps, and the site from which it came is uncertain. The small bronze bust was found on site XI. It evidently represents a barbarian—probably a Teuton—though some authorities suggest that the features are of a mongolian type. The bust is hollow, and seems to have been a *balsamarium*, or vessel for holding perfumes. The bottom is missing, but there has been a hinged lid on the top of the head, and two rings, to which a chain was no doubt attached.

ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENTS.

BY W. H. KNOWLES, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A.

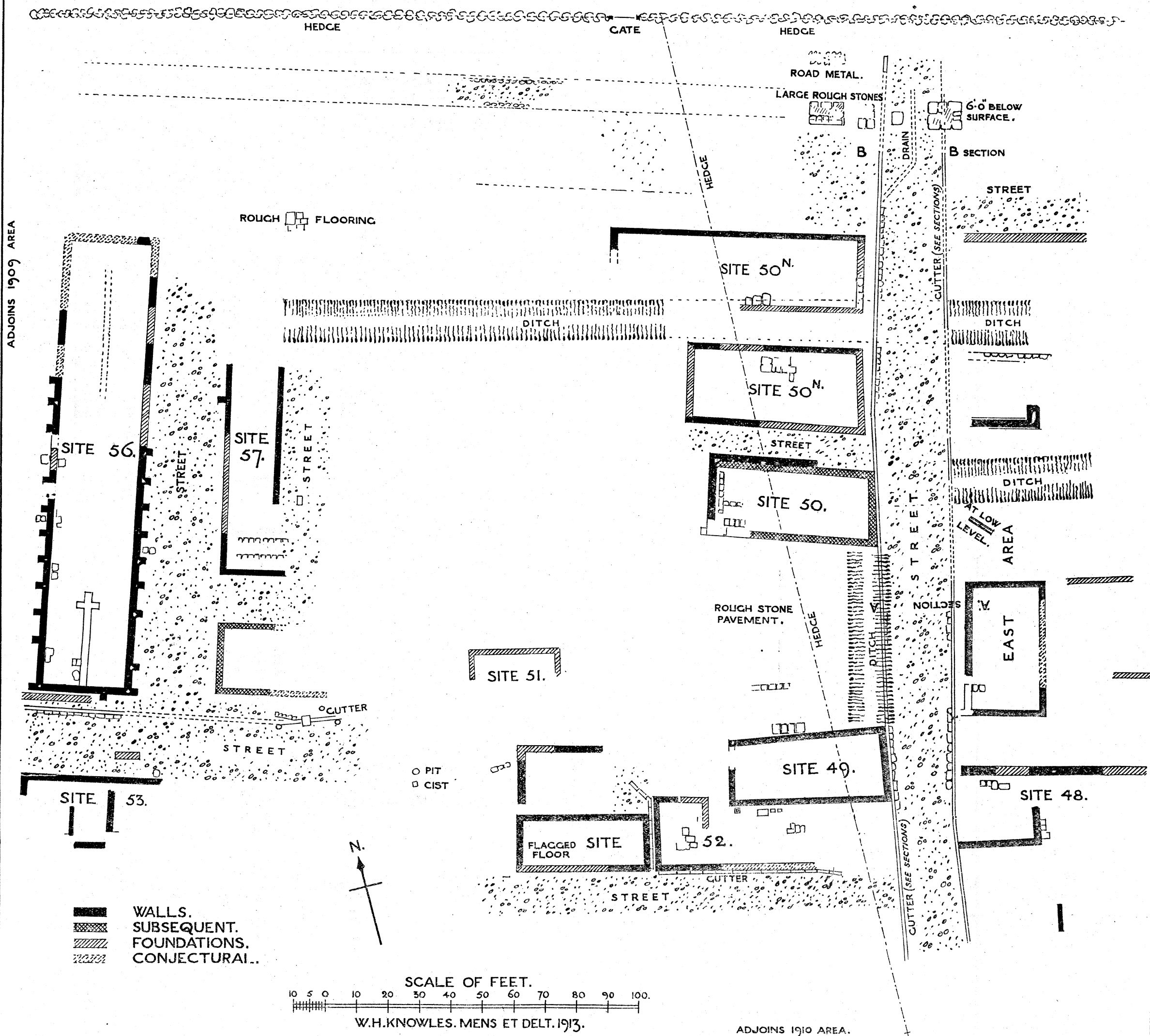
Some architectural fragments obtained from various sites during 1912-14 are delineated on figs. 12-15. They do not possess much architectural merit, but differ in shape from those previously illustrated. The capital (fig. 12) found on site XL during 1912 has an abacus 15 inches square with a round necking mould and is carved with upright leaves in the bell. The shaft of the column, a portion of which is worked on the stone is $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter. Another unfinished capital was discovered of similar design. The second stone on fig. 12 is worked in the form of a respond 11 inches diameter on the top, and 9 inches from front to back. It is ornamented with a scale pattern over a human head.

CORSTOPITUM (CORBRIDGE). PLAN OF EXCAVATIONS 1913.

← TO HEXHAM.

MODERN ROAD.

TO CORBRIDGE. →

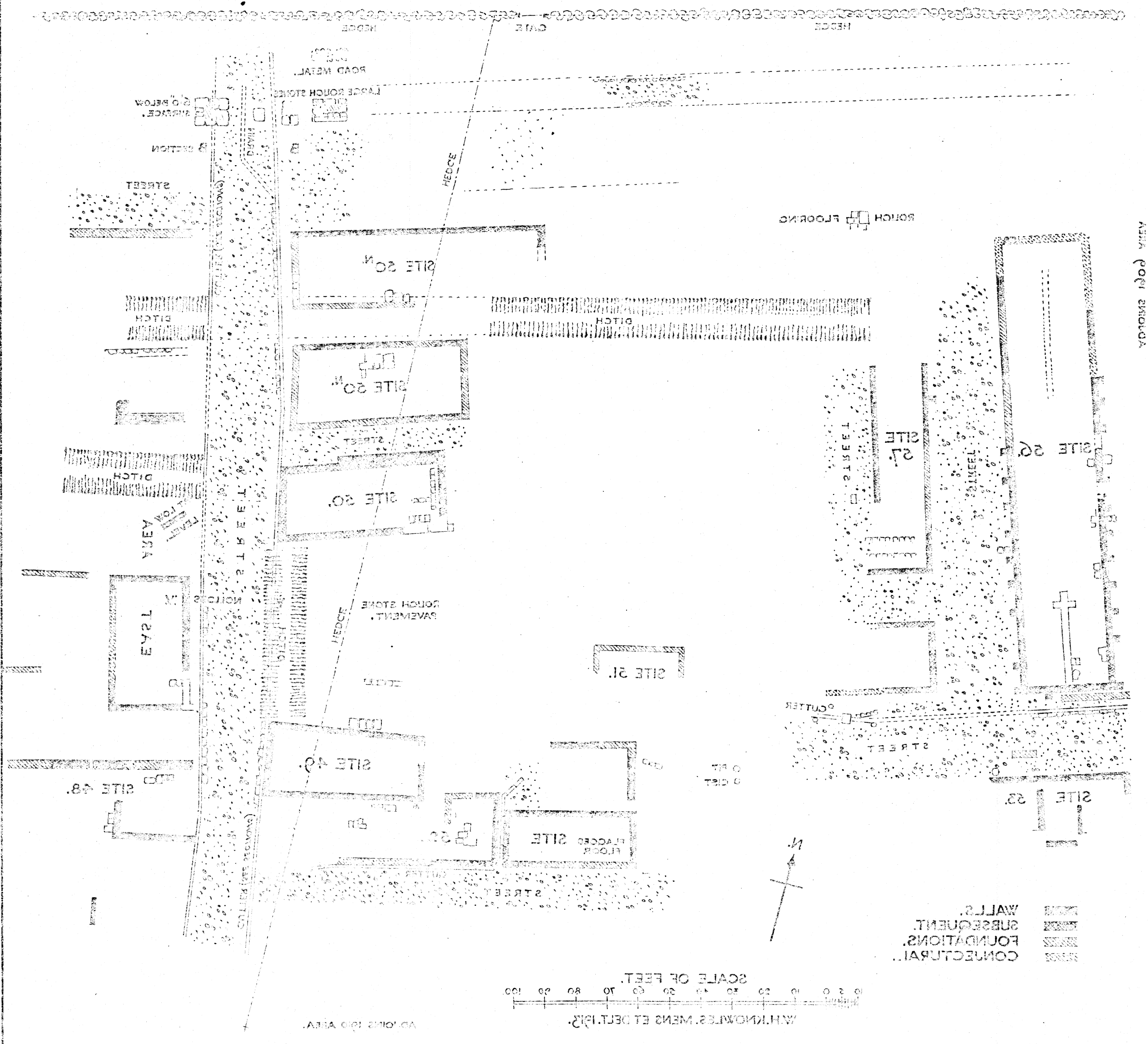


SCALE OF FEET.
 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100.
 W.H.KNOWLES. MENS ET DELT. 1913.

ADJOINS 1910 AREA.

CORSTOPTITUM (CORBRIDGE). PLAN OF EXCAVATIONS 1915.

← TO HEXHAM. MODERN ROAD. → TO CORBRIDGE. →



WALLS.
SUBSEQUENT.
FOUNDATIONS.
CONJECTURAL.

SCALE OF FEET.
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

AD. JONES. 1915. AREA.

AD. JONES. 1915. AREA.

The back portion of the stone is not dressed, but the stone, if it served the purpose of a respond, would be built into the wall and so account for its apparently unfinished condition. It will be remembered that a portion of a shaft with scale pattern but 13 inches in diameter was previously found (see fig. 12 of the report for 1908).

The cornices or string courses 1, 2, 3, 4 (fig. 13), were found whilst further excavations were being conducted in front of 'the

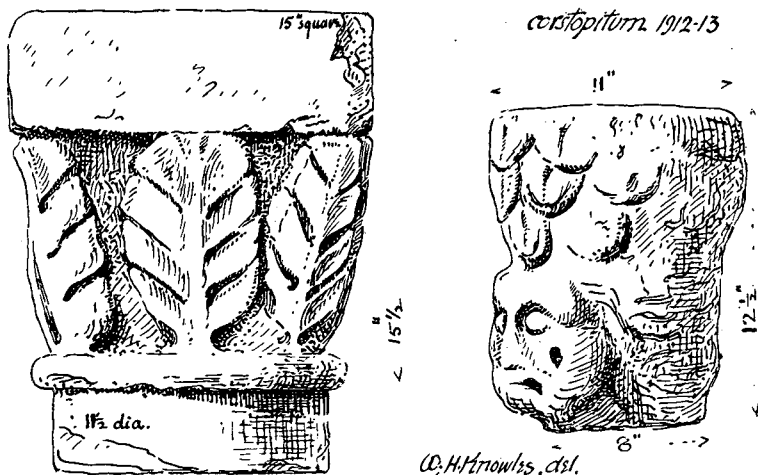


FIG. 12.

forum.' Like other sections already recorded they are strikingly different from pure classic forms. No. 5 is a square base found on site XL in 1912. No. 6 is a base of a column, it has a double torus over a square plinth and was discovered on site XLV. Nos. 7, 8 and 9 is a pilaster with groove on each side to receive a panel. It probably formed part of a low screen or verandah. See the illustration of the screen to the fountain plate VI in the report for 1907. No. 10, found in front of 'the forum,' may be a voussoir; it is somewhat like those depicted in fig. 4 of the report for 1911.

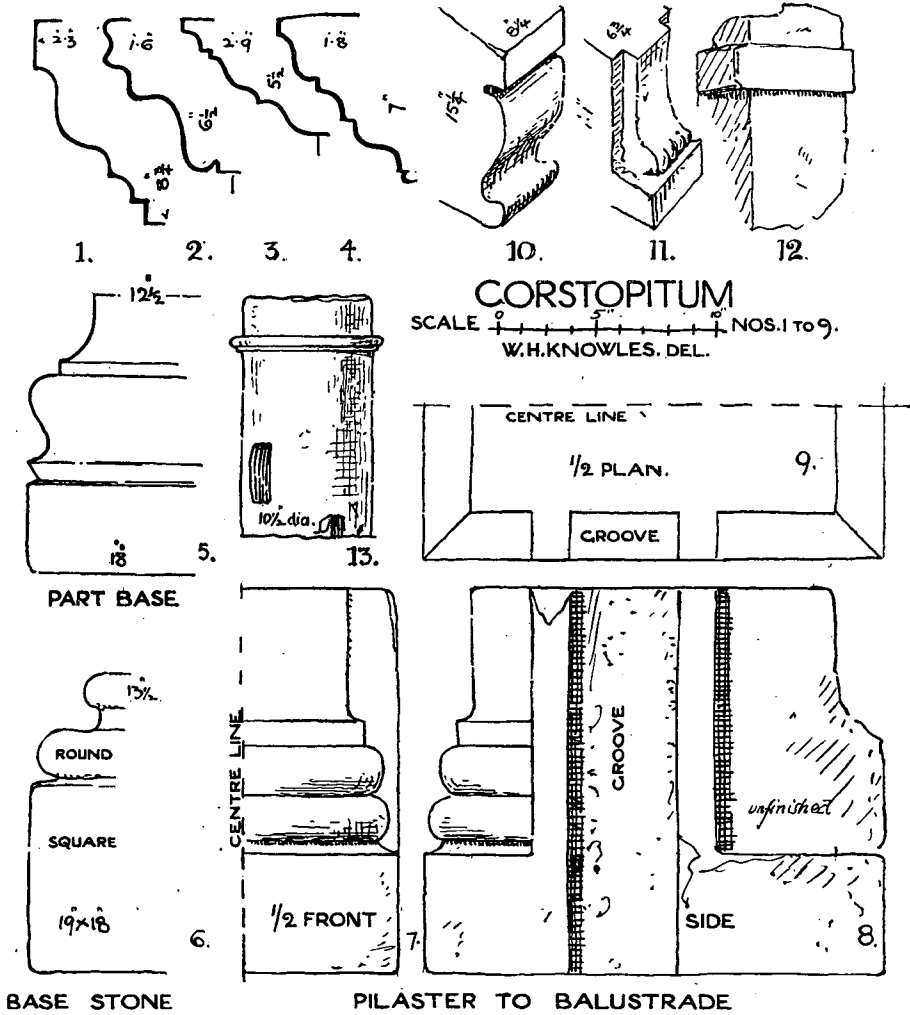
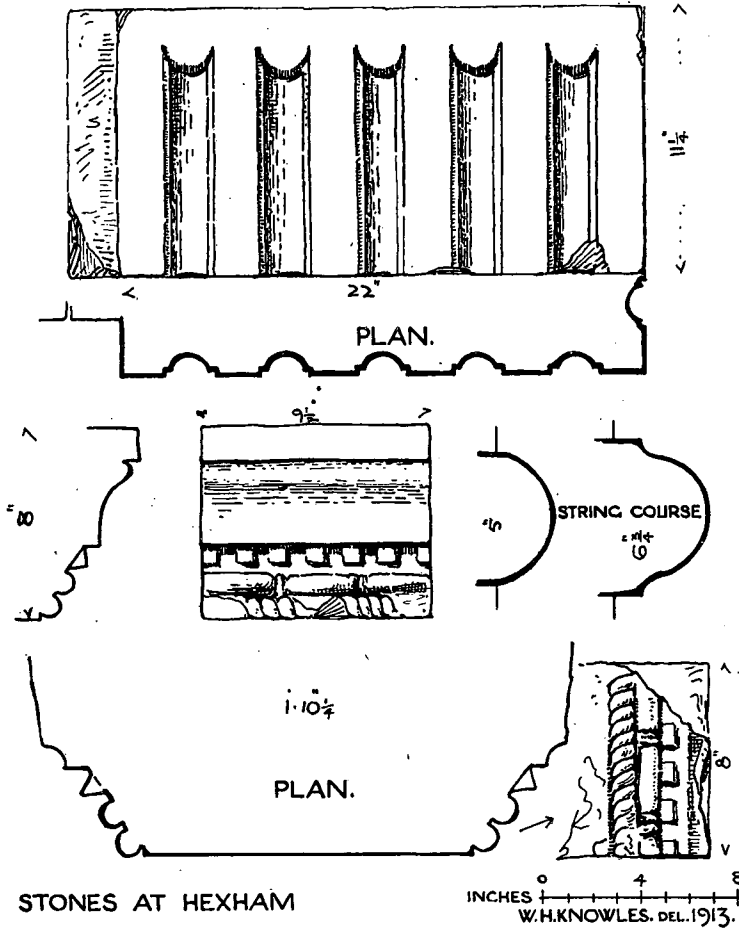


FIG. 13.

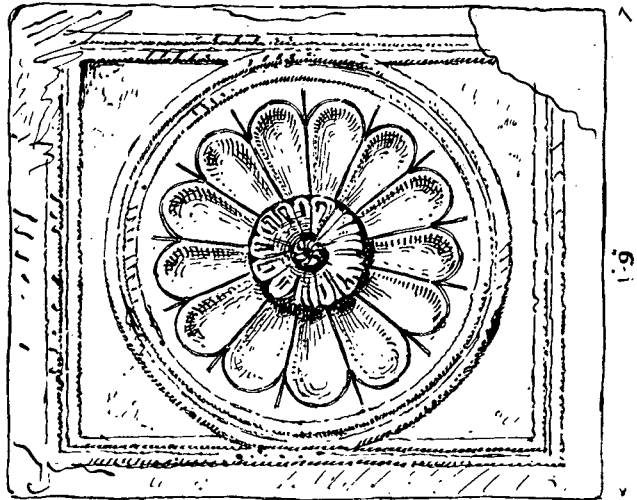
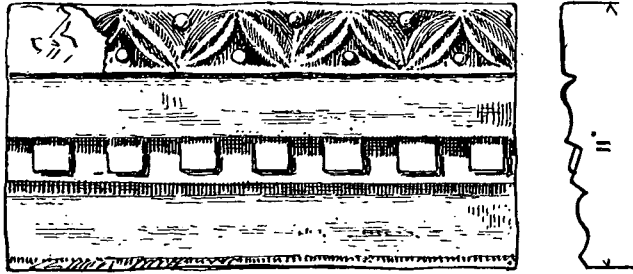
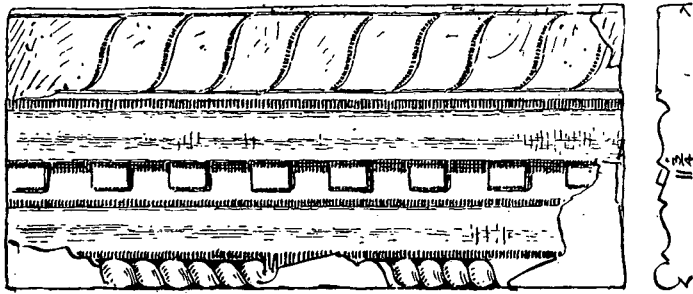
Nos. 11, 12 and 13 were also unearthed whilst exploring the front of 'the forum.' No. 13 is a portion of a small column with neck moulding on which is a dowel or mortice hole.



STONES AT HEXHAM

FIG. 14.

The stones shown of figs. 14 and 15 were discovered at Hexham priory whilst the new nave was in course of erection during the



STONES AT HEXHAM

W.H.KNOWLES, DEL. 1913.

FIG. 15.

year 1906. They are here introduced because there is now no longer doubt as to the fact that they were brought from Corstopitum and used as building material at Hexham during the Saxon period, and also on account of their general excellence and importance.

The two upper stones, fig. 15, are portions of bands or string courses of delicate and refined workmanship. The first is 25 inches in length. The upper member is relieved with a V shaped incised pattern, and has below a dentel course and cable moulding. The second stone is 21 inches long carved with a leaf-shaped ornament arranged chevron fashion with pellets in the angles, and below a dentel course. The panel stone is 24 inches by 21 inches. The centre formed of thirteen hollowed or dished members enclosed and divided by an incised line, and in the centre a carved boss. The enclosing and marginal members have been chiselled away but there are indications which suggest that it was a double cable moulding. Both of the lower stones on fig. 14 have cable and spindle ornaments and a dentel course.

The most important, from a structural point of view, are three fragments of a square pier or pilaster with delicate flutings filleted on the sides. The flutings are worked on at least two sides, and on one side a portion of the stone is recessed and intended to be bonded into the adjoining wall. Clearly the piers flanked a colonnade or occupied the position of pilasters at the side of a large opening. The width on the face is 22 inches, consequently the order of which they formed part must have been at least 18 feet in height and if they carried a typical classical entablature the whole may have attained to 25 feet from podium to cornice. The stones are evidence of a structure of importance either erected or intended at Corstopitum, suited only to a building of the character of 'the forum' where also some architrave and other mouldings of purer design; that is with some resemblance to recognized classical forms have been found, as compared with the generality of finds such as are delineated on fig. 13 and elsewhere.

INSCRIPTIONS AND SCULPTURED STONES.

BY PROF. F. HAVERFIELD, F.S.A.

1.—The only inscribed stone found during the year was the top of an altar which was extracted in September from a ventilation passage in the east granary (site no. VII). Search was made for the lower part, but in vain; probably the altar had been used in some restoration or repair, and had been broken up for the purpose. Its cornice was 15 inches square. The lettering above the cornice was $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches tall, and that on the shaft of the altar $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches. The lettering appears to be (see fig. 1): (a) above the cornice F, preceded by B or P or R, with a leaf-stop between; (b) on the shaft of the altar:

DEAE PANTHEAE.

The meaning of the two upper letters is quite uncertain. If we suppose them to have been BF, we might suggest *Bonae Fortunae*; if RF, *Reduci Fortunae*, though the much more usual order in that dedication is *Fortunae Reduci*. The lower inscription, though imperfect, was plainly one of the cases in which the epithet 'Pantheus' or 'Panthea' (here Panthea) was attached to the name of a definite god or goddess. So we have on altars found in Rome, in Spain, and at High Rochester (*Lapid.* no. 550), the dedication 'Silvano Pantheo,' and many similar dedications to other deities might be quoted, especially from Italy. In each case it seems that the worshipper regarded the deity whom he was honouring, as combining for the moment the general attributes of all deities. What goddess was thus universalised on the Corbridge fragment, it is, of course, impossible to say. It is curious and unusual—though no doubt only an accident—that her name here followed instead of preceding the epithet 'Panthea.'

The other three sides of the altar bear heads which are the remnants of small figures set in niches. One is clearly a head

of Mercury, with his winged cap. The other two heads lean on one side and are covered with Phrygian caps. Sir A. Evans and Prof. P. Gardner agree in suggesting to me that they belonged to two torch-bearers, such as occur very commonly on Mithraic ornaments, standing one on each side of Mithras with legs crossed. The Mithraic torch-bearers, however, almost invariably have their heads upright. Among Cumont's exhaustive collection of these figures, there is not one which shows a head so much askew as on the Corbridge examples.* The 'Attis' of funeral monuments is perhaps a better parallel.

2.—Of sculptured stones the only ones to which attention should be called are (1) a rude torso (fig. 16), head to knees, eighteen inches tall, of Jupiter with thunderbolt, found in the north-east corner of site IX; (2) a rude torso (eight inches high) of Mercury with his Caduceus, found on the same site;



FIG. 16—FIGURE OF JUPITER
(ABOUT $\frac{1}{2}$).

* I have to thank Mr. R. H. Forster for readings and for photographs of the stone, and Mr. G. S. Smart of Corchester School for illustrations.

(3) a rudely sculptured head, surmounted by a circular pillar or capital of scale ornament, the whole about 13 ins. high, and somewhat resembling a Caryatid, and perhaps even more like a corbel; (4) a small stone incised very rudely with a sitting figure, probably a *jeu d'esprit*.

POTTERS' STAMPS AND SMALL OBJECTS.

BY PROF. F. HAVERFIELD, F.S.A.

One hundred and ninety-seven potters' stamps were found on bits of Samian ware; many, of course, were illegible or very imperfect. Among the two hundred, twenty-four were on decorated Samian, of the shapes 30 and 37, but chiefly (and unless otherwise stated below) of shape 37:—

1.—*Albuci* was represented by two pieces, from sites XLVIII and LIII.

2.—*IVNA*, part of *Banni* retrograde, was found once near Dere Street.

3.—*Cinnamus* was abundantly in evidence; eleven specimens were found, three on the east area, three on site LI—one apparently of shape 30,—one on site LIII and four in subsidiary trenching of site XI. Of these latter, one was of shape 30 and was decorated by a 'Venus' in a shrine (D. 184, inside D. 1098).

4.—Three instances of *Cobnertus* occurred, one on site LI (retrograde), one on the east area, and one (perhaps of shape 30) also on the east area.

5.—*Comprinnus* occurred once, with his stamp incised in small letters on a raised label inserted into a medallion which is decorated with a running stag(?). Only PRINNI (NN reversed) was on the label. This piece was found in the north of site XI.

6.—*DIVIX F*, apparently on a bit of shape 30, occurred on site XI.

7.—The imperfect stamp MAMM... occurred in raised

letters on a small label on the rim of a fragment found on site XI. The piece appears to be German; the ovolo was coarsely designed, without its proper 'tongue.'

8.—*Paternus* was represented by six pieces, from sites XI, LIII, LVI, the east area, the north ditch and Dere street.

Two pieces were scratched with unimportant *graffiti*, . . . *ato* and *aud* . . . Both might be part of proper names, the former of Bato or Cato, the latter of Audax.

Among the bronze objects mention should be made of a small, almost perfect statuette of Mercury (fig. 10) which is better work than most Roman bronze statuettes found in the north. Still more interest attaches to a small bronze head representing a moustachioed barbarian with a very elaborate arrangement of hair above the forehead (fig. 9). It is hollow; traces indicate that it was originally hung up and that its top was closed by a small lid with hinges. Similar bronze objects are to be seen in the British Museum and in the museum of St. Germain-en-Laye; it is usually supposed that they were used as incense or perfume boxes, and they have been entitled 'balsamaria.' Prof. Gardner tells me that the hair on our piece is done in the Numidian fashion; the features, however, do not seem to be African, nor is it quite clear what nationality they may represent in the barbarian world known to the Romans. The object was found in a bank of upcast on the east side of site XI, and must have been thrown out in some previous year. Among other pieces of bronze may be noted two late 'cross-bow' fibulae, one of the thin, probably earlier type, and one of the thicker and later type. Only six fibulae were found in all; none added a new type to the Corbridge collection. I may also mention a bronze stud, apparently copied from a pecten shell (?ancient) and an iron object which may possibly have been part of a fish-spear.

Interest also attached to another fragment of the Corbridge 'appliqué' ware. This piece very closely resembles the mould

found some years ago, which was christened after Mr. Harry Lauder. It is not, however, struck off that mould, but taken from one which slightly differed from it. It shows the head and body of the god there figured, with tunic, skirt and shield; the folds of the tunic, however, are less skilfully indicated, the shirt was apparently shorter, and the shield somewhat differently ornamented. All this goes to show that the fragments which we have found of this ware do not represent an isolated effort of a potter made just once, but something like a small class of products.

Lastly, I may note a small piece of a very thin gold chain, found lying loose in the soil (fig. 17 and p. 297).



FIG. 17—FRAGMENT OF GOLD CHAIN.