

VI.—CORSTOPITUM: REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS IN 1914.

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

I.—INTRODUCTION.

A few men were employed during the early part of July in cleaning up the granaries, etc., and removing the abundant crop of weeds which had sprung up there during the spring—a yearly necessity which may be commended to the notice of those who ask the excavators to account for the accumulation of soil.

Regular work was begun on July 20th, and continued till the end of September, though with a smaller staff than has usually been employed. Even before the outbreak of the war labour was scarcer than in previous years, and the number of men engaged never exceeded sixteen. The shortage, however, was to a large extent counterbalanced by the open character of the sites excavated, which made it possible to leave nearly all the soil close to the trenches from which it had been dug, thus saving a great deal of work as compared with previous years, and also shortening the time required for refilling at the end of the season.

The area originally reserved was a space of about two acres in the north part of the east field, adjoining the 1913 area on the west, and bounded by the Beaufront road on the north and east. Of this area, however, a strip on the north and east was found to lie outside the town, and the rest, except to a small extent at the west end, showed no trace of any foundations whatever. It was therefore insufficient to occupy even a limited number of men for the usual period, and as the Committee considered it inexpedient to curtail the work and throw men

out of employment,¹ arrangements were made to take over a space of about three-quarters of an acre, lying immediately to the east of the area excavated in 1910, and to the south of that portion of the 1913 area which lay in the east field. In this report these areas will be referred to as the First Reserved Area and the Second Reserved Area respectively.

In respect of architectural remains, the results of the season's work were even more meagre than has been the case in other outlying portions of the site. The most interesting discovery was a rough circular building which, though at first provisionally named a 'temple,' revealed on further excavation absolutely nothing to confirm its title to that character. Fragmentary remains of masonry were found adjoining the east side of the Dere street, and some better-preserved foundations occurred at the south end of the Second Reserved Area, but these were of that indeterminate class which has tantalized the excavators on several other parts of the site.

On the other hand, much work was done, which, though not striking to the eye, may certainly be considered as of first-rate importance, and an appreciable amount of light has been thrown on the early history of Corstopitum, and perhaps of the north of England during one of the most obscure periods of the Roman occupation. The returns of the early ditches, discovered in 1910 just to the west of the northern section of the Dere street, have been traced in an easterly direction across the east field, and in case of the outer (here the northern) ditch, the work was carried as far as the curve which formed a return towards the south. The return of the inner ditch was probably almost reached, but it appeared to lie just outside the ground available for excavation. Though it is perhaps too early to state

¹ It may be mentioned that most of the men employed were over the age limit for enlistment. The few exceptions have joined the Colours since the completion of the work.

as a definitely proved fact that these ditches belong to an early fort, the opinion expressed in previous reports² that such a fort existed on this part of the site has received very strong confirmation. It is, however, safer not to be too dogmatic on the subject till the north and east sides of the suggested fort have been examined, though a late first-century occupation of some part of the east field may be taken as practically certain.

In addition to the tracing of these ditches, a third ditch was discovered; lying to the north of, or outside, those already mentioned. It appeared to have been used for sanitary purposes. More important still was the discovery of the remains of a clay rampart, inside the sanitary ditch but outside the others, and apparently of considerably later date than the early fort.³ If we may judge by surface indications in the part of the field not yet excavated, this rampart has continued round the east end of Corstopitum in approximately the line shown by Maclauchlan.

In connexion with the work on the Second Reserved Area, a portion of the northern section of the Dere street was traced and examined, thus linking up the parts discovered in 1910 and in 1913 and completing the survey of this portion of the great road from the northern limit of the town to a point very near its junction with the main east and west street.

Some examination was made of the roadway on the west side of courts 2 and 3 of the west range of the building on site XI. A few pieces of carved stonework were found, including what appeared to have been part of a large statue, possibly of Hercules, but the stone was too much worn and battered to make the identification in any way certain. About five feet to the west of the outer edge of the foundation course of the build-

² *Arch. Ael.*, VII, 168, Report for 1910; *Arch. Ael.*, XI, 283, Report for 1913.

³ For convenience this term will be used in the rest of this report, it being understood that the identification is at present only suggested or provisional.

ing on site XI, a wall of rough masonry was found: it was about three feet high, and coincided in length with the west side of courts 2 and 3. Apparently it had served as a retaining wall to support the side of the later levels of the road, and possibly also as a boundary wall for a late occupation of the site of these unfinished courts.



FIG. 1.—SAMIAN BOWL FROM XXIII. E.

The pottery unearthed during the season, especially within the limits of the early fort, is of considerable importance, and largely augments the evidence of an occupation during the closing years of the first century. The proportion of first-century coins found on this part of the site was above the average, and a small hoard of first-century silver and bronze

coins was a noteworthy feature. Very little carved stonework came to light, and the only inscription found had been scratched on an ordinary brick before firing. We are indebted to professor Haverfield for the note on this subject which appears on a later page.

The work was again superintended by Mr. R. H. Forster, and the measurement, planning, etc., were carried out by Mr. W. H. Knowles. We have again to record the never-failing kindness and interest of Captain J. H. Cuthbert, D.S.O., which continued even after he left to rejoin his regiment at the beginning of the war. We have also to thank Mr. J. P. Bushe Fox and Mr. Donald Atkinson for valuable help in connexion with the pottery, and Mr. H. H. E. Craster for a note on the small hoard of coins mentioned above.

At the time of writing the question of continuing the excavations in 1915 remains in suspense. If it should be considered advisable that the work should be resumed without interruption, the area to be dealt with will be a portion of the south field, immediately to the east of sites II and III, excavated in 1906 and 1907, and south of the western part of the 1912 area. If it should be necessary to suspend operations till the end of the war, it is hoped that the Committee will then be able to resume their work and carry it to completion. A considerable part of the east field still remains untouched, and a fair amount of work will be necessary in the field immediately to the south of it. The unexcavated part of the south field is indicated above, and in the west field a large area awaits examination.

II.—THE FIRST RESERVED AREA.

This, as has already been stated, consisted of the northern portion of the east field, and included a large section of the northern boundary of Corstopitum. It will be convenient to deal with it under three headings, viz. :—(1) The ditches, (2) The

clay rampart, and (3) The circular building and other foundations.

1.—The Ditches.

These were three in number, as shown on the plan, and may be named (a) the inner ditch, to the south, (b) the outer ditch, next in order to the north, and (c) the sanitary ditch, which lay nearest the north hedge of the field.

(A) *The Inner Ditch*.—This was a *fossa fastigata*, or V-shaped ditch, of an average width, from tip to tip, of sixteen feet, the bottom being about ten feet below the present surface. It appeared to be connected with the more easterly of the

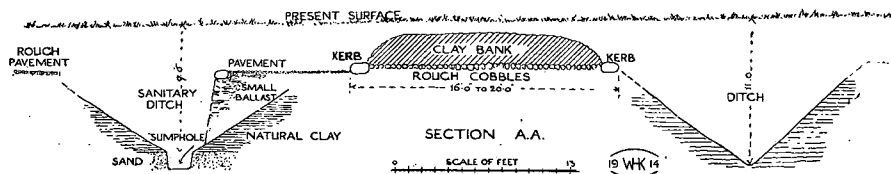


FIG. 2.

two early ditches found in 1910, just to the west of the northern section of the Dere street,⁴ but is not actually a continuation of the return of that ditch which was traced in 1913.⁵ With this return (see plan) the ditch examined in 1914 is not exactly in line, and there appears to be a gap just at the point where the circular building occurs, the latter being certainly of later date than the ditch on either side. The eastward return of the 1910 ditch does not continue eastwards under the circular building, but appears to curve to the south and so come to an end. The western end of the adjacent (1914) ditch has not been exactly ascertained, as it appears to be just outside the reserved area;

⁴ *Arch. Ael.*, VII, 165, Report for 1910, p. 23.

⁵ *Arch. Ael.*, XI, 283, Report for 1913, p. 7.

but the whole suggests that at this point there was a gateway, resembling in principle, though not in exact detail, the gateways of the earliest fort at Newstead,⁶ and giving an entrance not directly at right angles to the general line of the defences, as in the later forts at Newstead and the forts on Hadrian's Wall generally, but in such a manner that the approach to and passage through the gate were flanked by the adjacent rampart.

All traces of the ramparts belonging to either section of the ditch have disappeared: the ditch has been filled up in Roman times, and the material composing the ramparts was probably used for that purpose. Accordingly, the plan of the gateway cannot be recovered, but it seems possible that a roadway at least twelve feet wide may have existed here, though it is safer to treat the point as not definitely established, and wait till it is possible to examine the still unexcavated sides of the early fort area, as unfortunately the boundary dividing the 1913 and 1914 reserved areas ran almost exactly over the critical place.

It may, however, be claimed that there is evidence of the existence of such a gateway, and such evidence points to an early date. This is corroborated by the pottery found in the lower part of the ditch. The number of fragments was not large, but they included two pieces of Samian of shape 29, and generally indicated that the ditch had been open during the last years of the first century. A few coins of Vespasian and Domitian were found close to the bottom of the ditch.

This ditch was traced eastwards to the point shown on the plan, but unfortunately the reserved area did not include the return southwards. This, however, must be fairly close to the point reached, unless the inner ditch ran on and coalesced with the outer, leaving the east side of the early fort protected by a single ditch only, and this is not very likely, as the east side would by nature be somewhat weaker than the others.

⁶ Curle, *A Roman Frontier Post and its People*, p. 23.

(b) *The Outer Ditch*.—This ditch was of about the same dimensions, depth, and form as the inner ditch. It appears to correspond to the western 1910 ditch, and continues the line of the north ditch examined in 1913.⁷ At a point 200 feet from the east side of the Dere street it bends slightly to the south, and from this point for about 100 feet eastwards it is parallel with the corresponding part of the inner ditch. To the west of the same point the two lines converge, but this is clearly due to the suggested gateway on the line of the inner ditch. On approaching the east hedge of the field the outer ditch curves round to the south, and evidently continues in that direction as one of the east ditches of the early fort.

In the case of this ditch also the pottery evidence was not very plentiful, but the fragments occurring at or near the bottom were of the same early date as those already mentioned in connexion with the inner ditch.

(c) *The Sanitary Ditch*.—The existence of this ditch had not hitherto been suspected, as on the west side of the early fort it was the ditch corresponding to the outer ditch that had been used for sanitary purposes. The ditch now noted was of somewhat smaller size and apparently of limited extent. Towards the west it was traced nearly up to the boundary of the reserved area, but beyond that line the marsh mentioned in previous reports⁸ would render its continuation impracticable. At the east end it curved round in much the same manner as the outer ditch, and appeared to continue beyond the line to which the excavations were carried.

In the central part of the length examined this ditch seems to have been dug in a bed of natural clay; where this occurs 'sumps' or narrow, straight-sided holes, have been sunk at

⁷ *Arch. Ael.*, xi, 283-4, Report for 1913, pp. 7 and 8.

⁸ *Arch. Ael.*, vi, 246, Report for 1909, p. 44; *Arch. Ael.*, xi, 282, 288, Report for 1913, pp. 6 and 12.

intervals from the centre of the bottom through the clay to the underlying gravel, to allow liquid sewage to drain away. This certainly suggests that the original purpose of the ditch was sanitary rather than defensive. The filling consisted mainly of sewage matter, which still smelt strongly when exposed to the air. It had been sealed up with a covering of stiff, well-puddled blue clay, and along the greater part of its course a cobble pavement, apparently of the same date as the clay rampart (to be described presently), had been laid over a little less than half its breadth, there being about eighteen inches of made earth or small ballast between the cobbles and the top of the clay covering.

Unfortunately, none of the cuts made through this ditch produced any pottery or other remains except two small pieces of opaque white glass bracelets. In view, however, of the cobble pavement above referred to, and of the fact that the clay with which it was sealed was of much superior quality to that forming the clay rampart, the ditch appears to have been connected with the early fort rather than with any later occupation of this part of the site.

2.—*The Clay Rampart.*

This was another new and important discovery, though traces of the rampart had been found in 1909 and 1913 without their real character being appreciated. The rampart has consisted of a mass of yellowish-brown clay of comparatively poor quality, ranging from sixteen to twenty feet in breadth, and in places remaining to a thickness of about two feet: where this is the case, the upper surface is within a few inches of the present surface of the land. What the original height was we can only guess, but there were indications that at the base the sides were not very far from perpendicular. The clay had been laid on a thin bed of fairly small cobbles, with a kerb of rough stones at

each edge, but in many places the clay had overlapped the kerb, either owing to careless construction or to the pressure of the mass above.

In the eastern part of the stretch examined the clay rampart followed a line roughly parallel with that of the outer ditch, and round the curve it seems to have been enlarged outwards by a thick layer of heavy cobbles, resting on clay, which may possibly indicate the addition of some rudimentary form of corner bastion. In the west part of the 1914 area the rampart edges away from the line of the outer ditch, and there is little doubt that the cobble pavement, found near the hedge on either side of the Dere street in 1913, and also the similar pavement with traces of kerbs, found further to the west in 1909, are in fact remains of the foundation of this clay rampart in those quarters. In the report for 1909⁹ it was suggested that this pavement was the base of an aqueduct embankment, and in the report for 1913¹⁰ the traces of a clay bank were regarded as an attempt to cut off the tongue of Marsh there mentioned with a view to its reclamation. In view of the much clearer evidence obtained during the past season, these suggestions must be revised, and the remains referred to in those reports may be set down as connected with the clay rampart, the existence of which has now been determined.¹¹

⁹ *Arch. Ael.*, xi, 292.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 282.

¹¹ It is not impossible that a water channel was carried along the clay rampart, but no trace was found at the north-east corner of the introduction of a water-supply, though this might have been done by means of a wooden aqueduct, which would, perhaps, have been more suitable than an embankment running up to and joining the rampart. It is known that the water-supply of Aesica (Great Chesters) was introduced from the north, but unfortunately nothing remains to show how it was brought up to the Wall. Here again timber would seem to be the best means of doing so without unduly interfering with the defences.

The clay rampart thus becomes a complete or partial defence of the town, as distinguished from the early fort, and it is possible that the 'large rough stones,' shown on the 1913 plan, and found six feet below the surface on either side of the Dere street, near the north hedge, are the remains of the foundations of some sort of gate. At first sight the depth appears too great for the late period to which the clay rampart must probably be ascribed, but as water was found under the road at this point, it would be necessary to lay the foundations of any structure in the nature of a gateway at a fairly low level.

The question of the date of the clay rampart is a difficult one, and no small objects were found to throw light on it, but it seems fairly certain that it must be ascribed to the latter part of the Roman occupation. The filling up of the ditches, including the north ditch found in 1909, must have preceded its erection, but this seems to have been done not later than the time of Septimius Severus, but the beginning of the third century is probably too early a date for a rampart which seems to have been a rampart pure and simple, unprovided with a ditch, as the weight of evidence is decidedly against regarding the sanitary ditch as having any connexion with the clay rampart. This absence of a ditch is probably evidence of late date, though not necessarily of a date so late as the restoration of Corstopitum in the time of Count Theodosius, *circa* A.D. 368. This may possibly be the date we need, though the inclusion of so much open space in the north-east corner of the town perhaps points to an earlier period. It is possible that the work was done about the beginning of the fourth century, in connexion with the reorganization of the Roman garrison after the death of Allectus. There is, however, a chance of better evidence being obtained when the east section of the rampart is examined.



FIG. 3.—CIRCULAR BUILDING—NORTH SIDE.

3.—*The Circular Building and other Foundations.*

Sites LVIII and LIX. On site LIX, in the gap between the two portions of the inner ditch, was found a roughly circular building, measuring 25 feet 6 inches in diameter on the highest remaining level and 26 feet 6 inches at the foundation. The original wall was of somewhat rude but fairly substantial work, averaging 2 feet 9 inches in width, and composed of thin stones in courses over, some of greater thickness, very roughly dressed on the outer face, and put together without mortar. There had

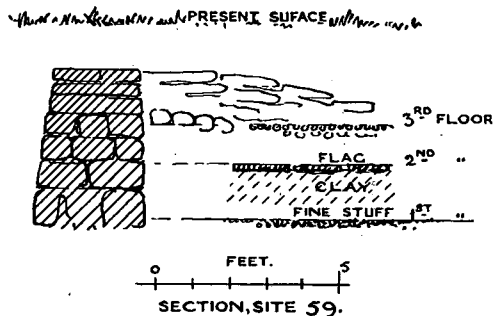


FIG. 4.

been a doorway or entrance, about six feet wide, on the east side, and in front of it was a considerable stretch of rough stone pavement, on which, not far from the north side of the door, was found the drum of a small column, about four feet in length.

In the north-west part of the building there had been an appreciable subsidence of the wall, due partly to the proximity of the inner ditch and partly to the settlement of made earth. In this quarter the latest floor level, which was of earth and large cobbles, had been carried over the top of the wall, the level where the latter had sunk, or fallen in consequence of the subsidence, having been made up with plain earth. On this level there was

(as shown on the plan) a row of large rough stones, following the line of the wall and about six inches from its inner face, for a distance of about fourteen feet on the western side.

From six inches to a foot below the latest floor level was a floor of clay, averaging six inches in thickness, and extending over the centre of the building and up to a line about three feet from the interior face of the wall all round. Where the wall had subsided, the floor had to some extent sunk with it, and on the north-west it was found sloping towards the circumference. There were a few thin flags about the centre of this floor: there were general but not heavy traces of burning above it, and a thin burnt layer immediately under the clay. Below this was a layer of about four feet of made earth, but no trace of any earlier floor.

The fragments of pottery found inside the building were not very numerous, and all appeared to be of the last part of the second century or later. A fair amount of ironwork was unearthed, but there were no signs of fire on the wall, and the traces of burning in the interior were not sufficient to suggest a smithy or foundry. When the exterior face of the wall was first cleared, there seemed to be some hope that the building might prove to be the *podium* of a round temple, but this was no more than a 'pious aspiration' at the best, and a 'pious aspiration' it still remains. No evidence was found to confirm the theory; indeed, nothing whatever occurred to give any definite clue to the character and purpose of the building. It may perhaps be regarded as possible that it was a temple of a very rude and rustic character; the shape is possible, the slight inward batter of the wall would be suitable for a *podium*, and the pavement in front of the entrance may give the idea a shadow of support; but it is safer to describe it as a roughly circular structure, and (like so many other remains on the site) intended to serve a purpose which cannot be ascertained.

As already indicated, it appears to belong to two periods,

which it was not possible to fix definitely. The first is not likely to be earlier than the close of the second century, and the other may be as late as the second half of the fourth.

Just to the north of this building (see plan) was a wall of four courses, twenty inches in height and eighteen thick. On the west it terminated in a made end; eastwards it extended for about thirty feet, the masonry being rougher after the first few yards.

Site LVIII. This piece of ground was labelled as a separate site when the discovery of the foundation shown on the plan raised hopes of a definite building, but these hopes led to practically no result. The foundation was of a stretch of fairly good wall, running about north-east and south-west, and so in quite a different line from any of the foundations found near the east side of the Dere street; it was two feet six inches thick and built of fairly large stones—probably re-used material. At each end it had been broken away, and no further trace of it could be found in either direction, but from about the point of breakage at the south-west end, what at first appeared to be a return westwards extended for a few feet. This piece of wall, however, was at a higher level and appeared to be of later date than the other. To the west of the longer wall was an area paved with cobbles and rough stones, and the wall itself may possibly have been the boundary of a yard or enclosure belonging to the oblong building by the Dere street in the east area of 1913. It seemed, however, to be somewhat too substantial for that purpose.

Beyond the foundations already mentioned (sites LVIII and LIX) the First Reserved Area does not appear to have been occupied by any buildings of masonry, and no post holes were found to suggest any substantial timber structure. Further light may be thrown in some future year on this quarter of the town, but it is not unreasonable to suppose that it was largely an open space. Possibly it was used as a temporary camping-

ground for drafts of troops on their way north or south, or for transport trains resting for the night in Corstopitum. This, no doubt, is merely a conjecture, but such a place would probably be necessary, and the nearness of this area to the Dere street would make it suitable for the purpose. At any rate it was enclosed by the clay rampart, and that is not likely to have been done without some reason.

II.—THE SECOND RESERVED AREA.

This area comprised about three-quarters of an acre of ground immediately to the west of the 1910 area. It may be treated under the heads of (1) The Dere street, (2) sites LX and LXI, (3) site XXIII east, and (4) the east area.

(1) *The Dere Street.* This road was picked up at the most southerly point, to which it was traced in 1913, and the survey was completed as far as the portion examined in 1910. The west side passed out of the reserved area almost immediately, but the east side was uncovered for a distance of 110 feet. The late period gutters and kerbs of this side, most of which were found in position, in no way differed from those examined in 1913, and a section cut through the road showed the same thickness, levels, and construction. The junction of this part of the Dere street with the main east and west street evidently lies in the north-west corner of the south-east field, and its examination still remains to be carried out, as well as the solution of one of the most interesting questions yet to be investigated, *i.e.*, whether the main east and west street continues eastward beyond the point of junction, and if so, whether there are indications of a main road leading out of the town in that direction.

(2) *Sites LX and LXI.* These were marked as different sites on the discovery of what appeared to be independent foundations, but as such foundations proved too fragmentary to indicate definite buildings, the two may be dealt with together. Beyond

a reference to the plan, there is little to be said of them. The foundation at the south end of site LXI lay about five feet below the present surface,¹² and may belong to the period of the earliest road-level, but no more could be traced than is shown. The other foundations on these sites may probably be ascribed to the third and fourth centuries, but the buildings to which they belonged must have been meagre in size and quality for sites abutting on the great road to the north.

Near the south end of site LXI a rubbish pit was found, about four feet in diameter and extending to a depth of sixteen feet below the present surface. It produced Samian and other pottery of the period *circa* A.D. 90—110; a *denarius* of Vespasian was found close to the bottom, and one of Domitian occurred about two feet higher. The top of the original pit, which lay about six feet below the present surface, had been covered with a layer, from four to six inches thick, of heavily burnt clay and other matter, and in this a coin of Hadrian was found.

Along the north side of site LX a road, twenty feet wide, was found, branching eastwards from the Dere street, approximately at right angles. This road was of the usual construction, and two levels, giving a total thickness of four feet, could be traced, apparently corresponding with the middle and latest period levels of the Dere street. The kerb of the south side of the earlier road was traced for some distance, and some remains were found of the north kerb. On the south side the later road was bounded by a wall, laid on a clay and cobble foundation, the latter resting on the edge of the earlier road, but this seems to have extended no further to the east than is shown on the plan, and there was no trace of a return to the south.

The most remarkable find on these sites was the inscribed brick, which is described by professor Haverfield on p. 272. It was found loose in the soil beside the foundations on site LX.

¹² This corresponds to a somewhat smaller depth in other parts of the field, owing to the presence at this point of the remains of an old hedge-dyke.

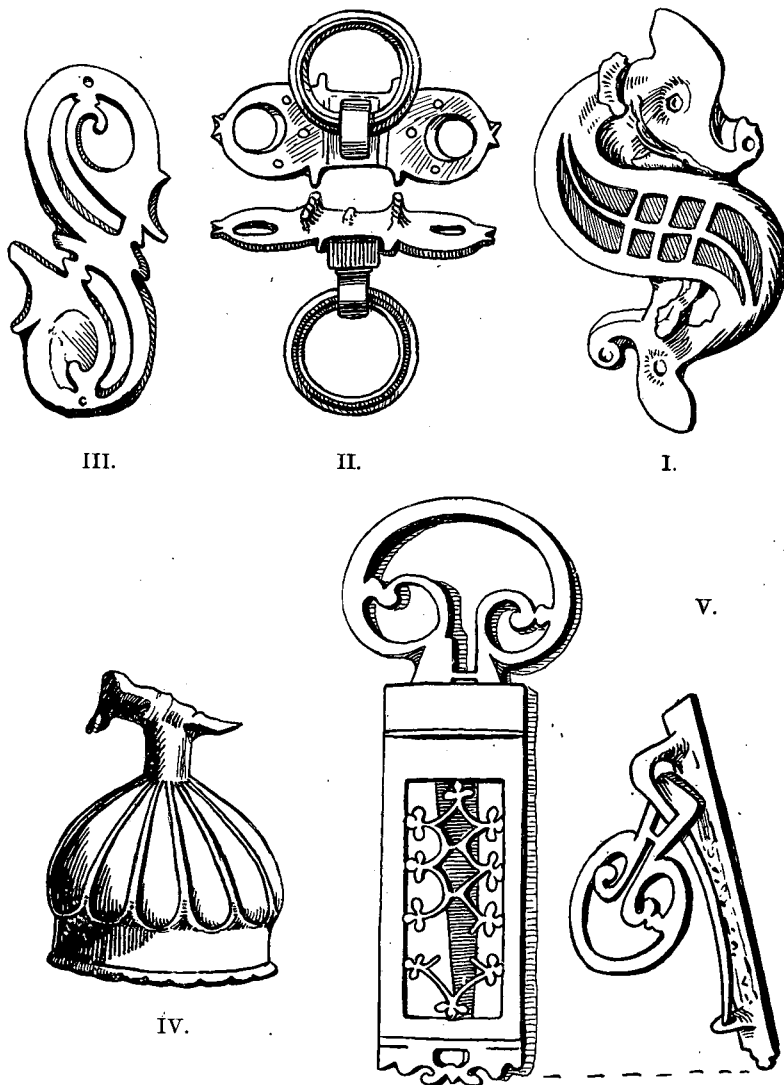
(3) *Site XXIII East.* This site adjoined the south-east corner of the 1910 area, and was accordingly treated as part of site XXIII shown on the plan for that year. Here foundations of a more definite kind were discovered, indicating three buildings, or perhaps one building and two enclosures. The foundations furthest to the east, seemed to be of a regular oblong building, measuring on the interior 41 feet by 18 feet, which has had a stone gutter along the east and west sides, and also on the south front. The latter has abutted on a paved space, but not much of this could be traced, owing to the proximity of the hedge; possibly it may be a road or street leading eastwards, or a paved yard used in connexion with the building. There was also a cobble pavement on the east side of the building, but the boundary of the reserved area was too close to allow of its complete investigation.

Of the smaller foundation in the centre nothing definite can be said. With regard to that on the west, part of the west wall was found in 1910,¹³ and is shown on the plan for that year. This west wall was two feet six inches in thickness; the remains of a stone channel were found along its east side, but many of the stones were out of position. It seemed to be an independent structure, the rest of the foundations indicating an enclosure abutting on it, or a shed built against its side, and there were traces of a heavy clay and cobble foundation or bank continuing the line to the north, the upper surface of the clay and cobbles being higher by a few inches than the lower surface of the foundation course of the wall.

This wall, where it remained, bore some slight resemblance to the supposed aqueduct walls, described in the report for 1912, p. 32,¹⁴ except that it was of less thickness (two feet six inches as compared with a minimum of three feet four inches) and has

¹³ *Arch. Ael.*, VII, 172, Report for 1910, p. 30.

¹⁴ *Arch. Ael.*, IX, 260.



CORSTOPITUM: BRONZE OBJECTS (actual size).

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|---|---|
| I. ENAMELLED BRONZE DRAGONESQUE FIBULA. | IV. SMALL BRONZE BELL. |
| II. ENAMELLED BRONZE HANDLE OF BOX OR CASKET. | V. BRONZE CLASP (?). This appears to have had the pierced work backed by a thin gold plate. |
| III. BRONZE BELT OR HARNESS ORNAMENT. | |

no plinth, and it has been suggested that it may have supported an aqueduct by which water was brought to the southern quarter of the town from the north or north-east.

The theory would perhaps solve the difficult question of the manner in which (assuming that the walls found in 1912 are in fact aqueducts) the water was brought to the south side of the main east and west street, by taking it round the outside of the angle formed by that street and the northern section of the Dere street, and perhaps the two foot six inch wall on site LXVIII might be made a link in the chain; but at present the gaps are much too wide to be explained away, unless we imagine an extensive use of timber or of earth or clay embankments, for which there is at present no evidence whatever, unless the clay and cobble foundation or bank mentioned above can be so considered.

The most important discoveries on this site were two rubbish-pits, at the points shown on the plan. The first (R.P. 1) had been sunk only about three feet below the original surface, but it contained a quantity of valuable fragments of Samian of the A.D. 90—110 period, as well as a certain amount of coarser ware of the same date and some glass. The other (R.P. 2) had been considerably deeper; it was cleared to a depth of eighteen feet six inches below the present surface, and probing proved that the bottom was five feet lower still. At the point reached, however, the pit, which was about six feet in diameter at the top, narrowed to less than three feet; the sides of the excavation were mainly of friable gravel and liable to collapse without extensive timbering which could not have been used in the narrow part of the pit. Accordingly, as a considerable amount of pottery had already been recovered, it was decided to proceed no further.

The pottery found in this pit was of the same date as that produced by the other, and included some fine specimens of Samian, as well as a considerable quantity of the dark grey 'rustic' or 'crinkled' ware of the latter part of the first century.

On this site, on the east side of the easternmost building, a set of six bone pipes was found, lying loose in the soil at a depth of about eighteen inches, but all close together (fig. 6). The



FIG. 5.—VASE OF 'RUSTIC' WARE.

pipe shown on the left in the illustration had been roughly shaped with a knife, but the others had been turned and showed traces of having been fixed in a bronze setting. It has been conjectured that they formed part of a set of Pan-pipes.

(4) *The East Area.* This space was carefully trenched up to the east limit of the Second Reserved Area, but practically no traces of foundations were discovered. The undisturbed sand or gravel generally lay at a depth of about four feet, and almost every trench produced fragments of pottery of late first-century

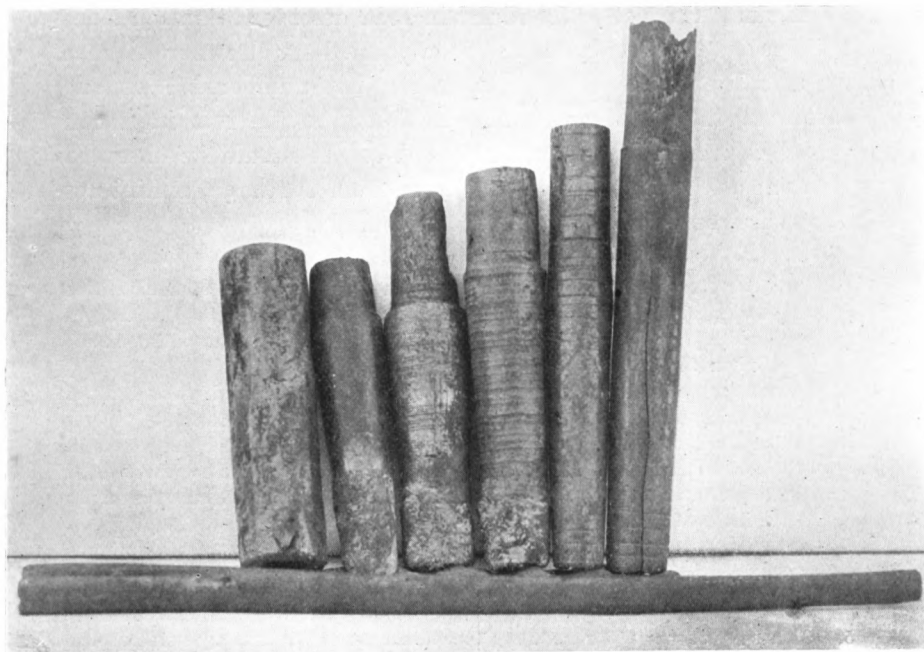


FIG. 6.—BONE PIPES.

character. Small bronze coins of the later periods of the occupation occurred in about the usual numbers near the surface, but at greater depths the high proportion of first-century coins was noticeable, while coins of the Antonine period were comparatively rare. The most remarkable find was a collection of silver and bronze coins, found in the soil near the south end of this area, at

a depth of only twenty inches. They had been severely burnt, most of the *denarii* being stuck together in one mass, and remains of burnt wood were found with them. A list of the coins prepared by Mr. H. H. E. Craster, F.S.A., is given below (pp. 250-254).

THE COINS.

A small mass of *folles* found in 1912 deserves attention since this species of currency, as has been pointed out elsewhere, is rare on this site. The latest coin in it, that numbered 7 on the following list, is not earlier than A.D. 309, but the remainder can be all approximately dated A.D. 303-7. It should be observed that one of these eight coins has come from Carthage, a mint not otherwise represented in the Corbridge finds.

(a) LONDON MINT.

1. *Obv.* IMP CONSTANTIVS P F AVG; laureate and cuirassed bust of Constantius Chlorus r.; *rev.* GENIO POPVLI ROMANI; Genius with modius standing l., holding patera in r. hand and cornucopiæ in l.; no mint-mark; Cohen 95.
2. *Obv.* SEVERVS NOBILISSIMVS CAES; laureate, draped and cuirassed bust of Severus II r.; *rev.* similar to no. 1; no mint-mark; Cohen 24.
3. *Obv.* FL VAL CONSTANTINVS NOB C; laureate, draped and cuirassed bust of Constantine the Great r.; *rev.* GENIO POP ROM; Genius with towered crown standing l., holding patera in r. hand and cornucopiæ in l.; mint-mark PLN; Cohen 196.
4. *Obv.* D N MAXIMIANO P F S AVG; laureate and cuirassed bust of Maximianus Hercules r.; *rev.* and mint-mark similar to no. 3; Cohen 142.

(b) TRIER MINT.

5. *Obv.* D N DIOCLETIANO P F S AVG; laureate bust of Diocletian r. clad in the imperial mantle; *rev.* QVIES AVGG; female figure standing l.; mint-mark PTR; Cohen 428. This specimen is somewhat corroded.
6. *Obv.* DIVO CONSTANTIO PIO; laureate, veiled and cuirassed bust of Constantius Chlorus r.; *rev.* MEMORIA FELIX; lighted altar, on either side of it an eagle with wings spread; mint-mark PTR; Cohen 184; Maurice, *Numismatique Constantinienne*, vol. I, p. 382.
7. *Obv.* CONSTANTINVS P F AVG; laureate and cuirassed bust of Constantine the Great r.; *rev.* SOLI INVICTO COMITI; Sun-god with rayed head standing facing, head turned to r., raising r. hand and holding a globe in l.; mint-mark $\frac{T | F}{PTR}$; Cohen 525.