

which was intended to be a permanent and important frontier post, and in such a neighbourhood, where good building stone was particularly plentiful, it is not unreasonable to expect that something more durable than timber was used.

As already stated, this claim with regard to the early fort is to be taken as provisional only, and much useful work remains

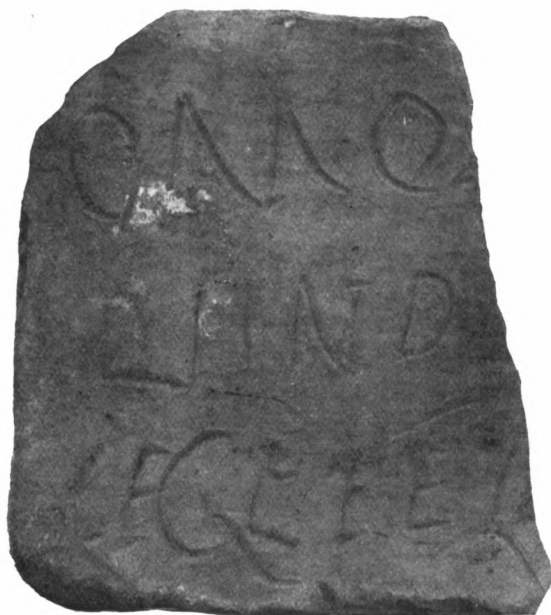


FIG. 9. — INSCRIBED TILE ($\frac{1}{2}$).

to be done on the site in connexion with it; but the light already thrown on the existence of Corstopitum during a very obscure period is not the least valuable contribution to the history of northern Britain in Roman times that the excavations have afforded.

The fragment of inscribed tile found at the end of last August is roughly 7 inches square and contains three lines of

letters. Probably there were never more than three lines, but the obvious meaning of the third line suggests that only the first half of each line has been preserved. The letters appear to have been scratched on the tile while it was still soft before baking. The letters are :

OMQ . . . | LIIND . . . | LEGE FELICITER.

Plainly, the third line is to be completed *lege feliciter*, 'read, to your good luck.' The other lines, which yield no clear sense, seem to be a reading lesson scratched by the teacher for the pupil to read. The third line is then an exhortation to the learner to exert himself; possibly a modern teacher would have couched it more emphatically and less gracefully. A rather similar tile was found long ago at Silchester. It contains a number of more or less slightly differing names, *Pertacus*, *Perfidus*, *Campester*, *Lucilianus*, *Campanus*, and ends with a tag from the beginning of Vergil's Second Aeneid, *conticuere omnes*. This, as was well conjectured by Sir E. Maunde Thompson, was probably a writing lesson, for the pupil to copy.¹⁶ It is to be remembered that education was widely diffused in the Roman Empire. Allusions to it are common on archæological remains. Thus, a well-known wall-painting from Pompeii shows a school at the moment when a boy is receiving castigation in a quite modern fashion, and two of the Neumagen sepulchral reliefs show a lesson and a library respectively.

CONSPECTUS OF POTTERS' STAMPS ON PLAIN SAMIAN WARE FOUND AT CORBRIDGE, 1906-14.

BY F. HAVERFIELD.

Before the excavation of Corstopitum began, only one Samian potter's stamp had been recorded from the site. In the years 1906-14 the spade revealed upwards of 1300 examples. Some of these were fragments, bearing only two or three letters.

¹⁶ See *Ephemeris Epigraphica*, ix, 1293, p. 654.