

IX.—THE CARVORAN “MODIUS”.

By A. E. BERRIMAN.

This well-preserved bronze corn measure of A.D. 90 was found (in 1915 by Mr. M. Reay) in the marsh outside the north-west corner of the Roman fort at Carvoran (*Magna*) on Hadrian's Wall and is now in the Chesters Museum: it is illustrated and described (by Prof. F. Haverfield) in *Archæologia Aeliana* (3), XIII (1916). In shape it is a truncated cone and it is complete with the three-armed spider (flush with the brim) that is a feature of several extant ancient dry measures; the vertical rod (supporting the middle of this spider) is also in place (plate, IV).

The published capacity of this modius is 19.975 pints and there are two clear rating numbers inscribed XVIIS and XXXIIX respectively; the former is preceded by “exactus ad S” (the S being crossed) and the latter by “habet P”.

The purpose of this note is to suggest that the 17.5 rating may refer to the water-weight and that a possible interpretation of this might be 17.5 double-librae = 17.5×24 uncaie = 21×20 uncaie = 21 sextarii = 21×0.96 pints = 20.16 pints, which exceeds the published capacity by only one per cent.

It has been suggested that the other rating mark, 38, refers to the weight of the measure itself, but this is only 25.75 lb. = 35.8 librae; it may be worth noting, therefore, that the suggested water-weight of 17.5 double-librae is equivalent to 25.2 lb. = 37.8 “marks” (or 38 marks to the nearest mark) in terms of a mark reckoned as $\frac{2}{3}$ lb.



ROMAN BRONZE MEASURE FOUND NEAR CARVORAN.

