

NOTICES OF AN ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

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VERY shortly after the discovery of the remains of the Roman villa described in the preceding paper, Mr. Addy was so fortunate as to meet with some traces of an Anglo-Saxon burial-ground in the same field with the villa. The following particulars of this discovery were communicated by Mr. Addy to the Society of Antiquaries in the same memoir with the preceding account:—

“About 500 yards in a southerly direction from the villa, the workmen engaged in excavating surplus material on April 14th discovered the remains of a human skeleton; adjacent to this an iron spear-head of superior workmanship was found, together with fragments of thin iron, which probably composed the boss of a shield, and an iron knife. All these articles are very much oxydized. A few feet further from the above skeleton, another was found, the excavation made for the grave being very distinct to a depth of about eighteen inches below the surface.

“A most important discovery was made also on the same spot and on the same day, as a large sepulchral urn of dark ware, marked with patterns of considerable elegance, was found. The workmen, having received instructions, were fortunately very careful in using their picks, and although very brittle, on account of the moisture, the vase was removed almost entire. It is about nine inches in diameter, and of a similar height, and contained some fragments of bones mixed with earth. Another one of smaller size, adjoining, fell to pieces upon removal. On the same site, on the 24th April, a third urn of similar appearance, marked with patterns, but very much damaged, was found; adjoining it were human bones. A few hours later, attention was again called to a fourth urn, of smaller size and more elegant proportions. It is about seven inches in height, and is ornamented with encircling lines and

impressed ornaments. This vase stood upright in the ground, and when the writer arrived, its impress was visible at the depth of eighteen inches below the surface. In removing the earth from the interior, a fragment of bone was noticed. Adjacent to the above, another human skeleton was found accompanied by an iron dagger or knife. On the following day an urn, very much fractured, was exposed. It is of a similar make to those previously described."

When Mr. Addy had discontinued his researches, the ground was further examined by A. Smee, Esq., F.R.S., and by myself. Mr. Smee's labours resulted in his finding one cinerary urn, very much damaged, and two human skeletons with the heads placed towards the west. The only other objects discovered by Mr. Addy were a blue glass bead, a bronze bracelet devoid of ornament, and some pieces of bronze,—probably broken fibulæ.

My own discoveries during a week, in which I had several men at work, were confined to two skulls, much crushed; four cinerary urns filled with burnt bones, one of them with markings much resembling those found on some British urns; the iron *umbo* of a shield of the usual



Anglo-Saxon form, of which a figure is here given, and four well-formed spear-heads and three daggers of iron, found in four several graves.

The ground in which these remains were found occupies about half an acre, and is slightly raised above the level of the adjoining meadow. It is composed of river gravel, and as the river now flows at the distance of about fifty yards, it would seem that it has flowed in the same course for probably the last 1,400 years.

From the entire absence in these graves of any jewel-

lery or personal ornaments, except the small bead and the plain bronze bracelet, and from the fact that no sword was found, it seems reasonable to conclude that the persons here interred were not of any great wealth or importance, probably husbandmen or *ceorls*; and from the fact that some of them were burned, and their ashes placed in urns, while others were not burned, but were placed with their heads lying towards the west, we may suppose that the cemetery was commenced in pre-Christian times, and was continued in use after the people were converted from heathenism. As an Anglo-Saxon coin was found in the Roman villa, it seems not unlikely that it was taken possession of, after the Romans had abandoned it, by occupants of the same condition in life as those who first made it their dwelling-place.
