

## NOTES.

## NEWPORT PAGNELL, BUCKS.

Advantage was taken of the dry summer of 1921 to deepen a pond in a field off the North Crawley Road in the Parish of Newport Pagnell, Bucks (numbered 202 on the Ordnance Survey, 1900, Second Edition). In the course of the work the occupier, Mr. Alfred Bullard, noticed that a quantity of bones and fragments of pottery were being thrown out, and on examination found that the fragments were on the whole small, though some were of a good size, but no whole vessels were discovered. The designs, some 50 in number, were very varied, and though the date of most of the pottery was pre-Roman, there were some Roman pieces. One good flint arrow head was found, and the remains of animal bones were numerous. The fragments of two upright wooden stakes, about 3 or 4 feet high and 6 inches in diameter, were found about 8 feet apart in the mud at the bottom of the pond, and gave rise to a conjecture that they were the supports for the roof of a pit dwelling.

The field is some threequarters of a mile to the East of the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery found in 1899 by Mr. Bullard.

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HAVERSHAM.

At the close of 1921 while an arable field, known as Haversham Hill Field, in the Parish of Haversham, Bucks, was being ploughed the lower part of a skeleton was unearthed. The bones had evidently been disturbed from time to time in ploughing, the ground being on a slope, and there was nothing to indicate their date. It is worth noting, however, that another skeleton was found in this field many years ago, and that Roman coins have been found both there and in another field across the road in Little



FIGURE FROM A CRUCIFIX, CAST AND CHASED.  
Late XIVth century or early XVth. Height, 5·8in.

Linford Parish, known as Haversham Hole. Four of the coins, which are in the possession of Mr. John Souster, the owner of the first-named field, are those of Claudius Gothicus, Constans, Valens, and Constantine the Great. The skeleton may be no more than the remains of a Gipsy, Gipsies having been in the habit years ago of camping in this field, but the coins are interesting in view of other Roman finds which have been made in Haversham from time to time.

[Both the above were kindly communicated by Mr. Fredk. Bull, F.S.A.]

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#### EARLY BRONZE FIGURE FROM ALTAR-CROSS.

A very interesting discovery was made at Ditton Park, in the parish of Stoke Poges; some 120 yards south of the existing chapel, and 2½ feet beneath the surface of the ground a figure, formerly belonging to an altar-cross, was found. It is made of bronze, cast and chased, and is 5·8 inches in length; it is ascribed to the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century. It is of particular interest as showing the excellence of English work at that date, the modelling of the head and face being particularly good.

In the fifth year of Edward III. (1331) Johannes de Molyns was granted a licence to crenellate his "mansum" at Ditton, Bucks.<sup>1</sup> The tower of this house was still standing in the time of James I., when Sir Ralph Winwood, then Principal Secretary of State, and owner of Ditton, rebuilt the mansion on the same site. From the Winwoods it passed to the Dukes of Montagu, to Lord Beaulieu, and to the Duchess of Buccleugh.<sup>2</sup> The Chapel<sup>3</sup> attached to the house was separated from the parish Church by Sir Ralph Winwood, and separately endowed. Presumably the chapel was in good order at that time, but it suffered very soon afterwards, for the Visitation of 1637 reported:

<sup>1</sup> Turner and Parker's "Domestic Architecture," Vol. III., p. 410.

<sup>2</sup> Lipscomb, Vol. IV., p. 570.

<sup>3</sup> "In which divine service had been discontinued for many years." Lysons, p. 639.

“Nothing there is in it, nor paved with any manner of stone; there is the compass of windows, though not perfect.”<sup>4</sup>

The house was unluckily burned down in 1812, but subsequently re-built; the Historical Monuments Commissioners found in the chapel “16th and 17th century glass, one piece dated 1526; the font is of late 15th century date . . . . in the wall of the vestry is a glazed tile with foliage, etc.”<sup>5</sup>

Ditton Park is now used as the Admiralty Compass Observatory, and the Director (Captain F. Creagh-Osborne) has kindly lent the photograph which is produced on the opposite side. The figure has been deposited in the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, where its excellent modelling compares favourably with continental examples of a similar or later date.

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#### GOLD RING FOUND AT WESTON TURVILLE.

By a curious coincidence the next discovery we have to report was also made on property once owned by Sir John de Molyns, who was granted a licence to crenellate “situm manerii sui” at Weston Turville two years after the issue of the Ditton licence. In the present case, however, the fact is of no interest as the ring which was dug up in the grounds of the present Manor House (where, it will be remembered, the Mount and Bailey of the original house are still to be seen) is of pre-Conquest date, being ascribed to the ninth century, and called by the British Museum a “Viking” ring. It is of very rude workmanship, consisting of a plain gold bar twisted round and round until it resembled a cable and then bent into the shape of a small ring, and the ends welded together with a marked flattening of the metal at the juncture. Although not interesting as a work of art in the same way as the figure mentioned above is interesting, the ring forms a good example of early British work, and

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<sup>4</sup> “Records of Bucks,” Vol. VI., p. 245.

<sup>5</sup> Report on Bucks, Vol. I., p. 288.

it is to be regretted that it has passed into the possession of the British Museum<sup>1</sup> rather than rest in our own Museum. While it may be accessible to more students in Bloomsbury there are other examples of such work already there, and our own collection will attract those interested in direct ratio to the quantity and variety which it can show to the visitor.

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### FLINT-IMPLEMENTS FOUND NEAR BLETCHLEY.

The type set of flint implements prepared by Mr. Hollis for use in the County elementary schools was demonstrated and lectured upon several times to the older boys in the Bletchley Council School, by the Hon. Sec., Mr. Bradbrook, and, encouraged by the head master, Mr. F. G. Melton, the boys have found a remarkable number of interesting objects. Some they have kindly presented to our Museum, and they are acknowledged on another page, but in addition they have found—

- An eolithic hand-axe (at Brooklands Gravel-pit, Fenny Stratford).
- Various ovate axes of the Chellian type (at Yards End Gravel-pit, Fenny Stratford, and Canal Dredging Bank).
- Various axes of the Mousterian type (from Ouse Bed, Saffron Gardens).
- A Neolithic axe (broken, from Yards End Gravel-pit).
- Fragments of Spear-heads.
- A bronze socketed celt (in Jack Ironcap Lane, Great Brickhill).

Their success is a striking proof of the advantage which must arise when the attention of intelligent boys is properly directed, and Mr. Bradbrook and Mr. Melton are to be sincerely congratulated upon the result of their efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> When seen at the B.M. on 4th January, 1923, it had not yet been placed on public exhibition.