

Notes and News

THE NORWICH 'WOODHENGES' (PLATES I-IV)

The September number of *ANTIQUITY*, 1929, opened with the Editor's statement that 'another Woodhenge has been found, just outside the City of Norwich', consisting of 'two concentric rings surrounding a circle of nine dark spots representing without doubt wooden post-holes'. The Editor went on to ascribe the monument to Beaker folk, probably from the mouths of the Rhine, where, as he remarked, timber circles abounded at that period.

The excavations, which I had the honour to direct on behalf of the Norfolk Research Committee, with the able assistance of Mr Rainbird Clarke, Mr C. W. Phillips, F.S.A., and Miss G. M. White, during August and early September of the present year, have confirmed in almost every particular the prognostications of the Editor. The fact that it is becoming increasingly possible to prophesy what the spade will ultimately reveal illustrates the advance of prehistoric archaeology towards the standing of an exact science. In the romantic stage of archaeology the attraction of the Unknown (including Treasure of Untold Value) was perhaps the chief stimulus that drove men to dig. In these more sophisticated days we undergo the strains and expenses entailed by modern standards of excavation to demonstrate objectively, what our knowledge of the already vast comparative material has led us to expect. The spade, like the surgeon's knife, serves increasingly to confirm diagnosis. The days when monuments and victims were cut up for curiosity are (to those who have faith) past and finished. We are entitled to hope, under the new Act, that the day is also finished for planting a giant electric pylon¹ upon a monument of the importance of the Norwich 'Woodhenges', within a few months of its discovery being announced to the world!

When the excavations began this year the two rings, the outer broken by an old field drain and the modern hedge, and the inner

¹ I must add that the Norwich representatives of the Electricity Board extended facilities for utilizing their pylon for photographs and generally showed a keen interest in what was going on. No doubt, if representations had been made from the right quarter, the Electricity Board would have planted its pylon elsewhere.

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interrupted by what was evidently a causeway, were clearly visible on the ground, though no signs of post-holes or other features could be detected in the central area. In order to plan the existing features, which a continuance of the drought might have rendered indistinct or even obliterated, the areas of luxuriant vegetation were demarcated on the ground by a four-inch line of lime. An air-photograph was then taken by Mr H. F. Low of the Norfolk and Norwich Aero Club (PLATE I) which illustrates that our ground work was substantially accurate, apart from a gap immediately below the patch of nettles² which prevented our marking the ground for part of the inner circle and put us slightly out of line in its neighbourhood. A five-yard scale was painted on the ground in the central area and is visible in the photograph. The pylon, of which mention has been made, stands outside the inner circle but within the outer one ; the lines crossing the photograph obliquely are the actual cables.

The first step in the excavation was the cutting of an 11 ft. section from outside the monument to the edge of the central area within the inner ring, a distance of 100 feet. The beginning of this cutting, and the outline of the first rectangle to be moved from the central area, can be seen in the air-photograph. The outer circle proved to be a shallow ditch 12 ft. wide at the lip and 4 ft. 8 ins. deep below modern surface ; the inner circle on the other hand proved to be a substantial ditch 28 ft. across and 7 ft. 8 ins. deep. Between the two ditches, both of which were shallow relatively to their width, were the remains of a bank ; this was much ploughed down, but its width and the relatively small capacity of the ditches suggest that it can never have amounted to very much.

The outer ditch produced some 3rd century Romano-British sherds above a sterile layer overlying the primary silting ; the rest of the ditch had been filled by material ploughed in during historic times. The inner ditch produced stratigraphical evidence of importance. Our photograph shows the central portion of the ditch cleared out down to undisturbed gravel (PLATE II). Over three feet of the infilling has been ploughed in at a time when chalk was used to marl the ground. Below this down to the bottom of the black zone of the ranging pole occurred quantities of Early Iron Age pottery, which has yet to be examined, and a strong admixture of Romano-British material, sherds and coins, which appear to date from the 3rd century A.D. It is evident that the

² These were caused by the outflow from a modern drain.

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Early Iron Age levels were disturbed in Romano-British times, an interpretation confirmed by the cutting of the inner ditch at the entrance where similar Early Iron Age wares were found with little or no Romano-British material. Below the Early Iron Age level there occurred a sterile zone of primary infilling resting on a thin charcoal stratum on the floor of the ditch. This charcoal seam, which is visible on the right of the section shown in PLATE II, thickened to six or seven inches at the deepest part of the ditch and disappeared on the left of the ranging pole. It produced 16 sherds of pottery and three or four 'crumbs' all of the same ware, resembling beaker on the inside and decorated in rusticated finger-nail style³ on the outer surface.

The central area was stripped to the gravel and sand surface in order to recover constructional features. The sites of the post-holes, revealed by Wing-Commander Insall's original air-photographs, were found quite easily on removing the turf and topsoil, but they declined in number from nine to eight; this, in fact, was one of the few rectifications achieved by the excavation—the timber part of the monument was of horse-shoe plan, being open to the causeway entrance to the central area. In plan, therefore, the timber uprights resembled the arrangement of the inner horseshoe of bluestones and of the trilithons themselves at Stonehenge. No other traces of disturbance within the central area were met with, nor were any traces of hearths or other indications of occupation discovered. As might have been expected each of the post-holes was provided with a ramp; slight indications of them were to be seen in plan and they were in each case verified by sections. An interesting fact which emerged was that the ramps all point in the same general direction . . . up-hill towards higher ground, and away from the sudden slope down to the river Tas. In the photograph taken from the pylon and reproduced on PLATE III the axes of the ramps are indicated by white pegs. The significance of this fact will be obvious. The heavy oak trunks, which we found to have been three feet in diameter, were dragged downhill; but clearly they were not hauled across the very substantial inner ditch, and on the other hand the entrance to the central area is at right angles to this line and to the axes of the ramps; therefore the timber uprights were erected before the construction of the inner ditch.

Time and resources did not allow of the complete excavation of the moment, but the nature of the post-holes was satisfactorily

³ Whether this was really done by the finger-nail or by an implement giving a similar impression I should hardly like to say.

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established from the excavation of two examples ; one of these was cut to reveal the post-hole and ramp in section, the other to obtain as perfect a section of the post-hole itself as could be obtained. The ramp of the first post-hole investigated sloped down obliquely to the bottom of the post-hole (7 ft. 10 ins. in undisturbed gravel) from a point $12\frac{1}{4}$ ft. from its centre. A photograph of the second excavated post-hole at its maximum diameter is reproduced on PLATE IV.

The line of the original excavation was easy to distinguish in the field and can be seen particularly well towards the bottom right-hand corner of the plate. The other outer limit is visible approximately six inches to the left of the ranging pole. The outline of the actual post itself was indicated even more clearly and gives little sign of distortion. Naturally the wood itself has gone long ago, but the charred base was almost intact and sufficient traces of the charred sides have remained to preserve the outline of a trunk three feet in diameter. Both the posts examined were oak. Nothing of archaeological interest was found during the excavation of either post-hole.

The excavation of the central area was extended to include the entrance, which proved to be a causeway of firm gravel showing no signs of disturbance. One end of the inner ditch was cleared out, but the slope was so gradual that we got no primary material. A stratum containing Early Iron Age pottery was found overlying a layer of primary silting.

The horseshoe of timber uprights, having been shown to antedate the inner ditch, must be at least as old as the pottery obtained from the floor of that ditch in the first cutting. But it is obvious that the inner ditch was dug round the timber construction as part of one scheme, since the causewayed entrance is placed symmetrically thereto. Therefore for all practical purposes the pottery from the floor of the inner ditch can safely be used to date the monument. This is not the time or the place to discuss the chronology of this type of pottery in detail, but it is sufficient to say that it does not differ substantially in age from the familiar Beaker. Exactly similar pottery is illustrated by Curwen from Whitehawk Camp, Brighton, where it was found in association with Beaker, and separated by a phase of natural silting from the Neolithic A2 pottery normal to the site.⁴ The pottery is common to southeast Britain and the Low Countries, and probably reached us as one of the many elements which came from the Lower Rhine area during the Beaker Period.

⁴ *Antiquaries Journal*, 1934, p. 119, fig. 57.

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The Norwich 'Woodhenge'—I use the term generically—like the original Woodhenge and like Stonehenge itself, seems to have been primarily a sacred place, in the proximity of which are the remains of numerous round barrows. As larger areas are searched from the air it may be expected that many more monuments of this kind will be revealed. For permission to excavate the Norwich site and for other assistance we are greatly indebted to the owner of the land, Mr Russell Colman, Lord-Lieutenant of the County. J. G. D. CLARK.

THE WHITE HORSE OF KENT

The reproduction by Dr R. E. M. Wheeler in his *London and the Saxons* (London Museum Catalogues, no. 6, 1935) of a wood-cut from Richard Verstegan's *A Restitution of Decayed Intelligence in Antiquities* (Amsterdam 1605, London 1634) depicting 'the arrivall of the first ancestors of Englishmen out of Germany into Brittain' (see FIGURE), is a timely reminder that Richard is the earliest authority to attribute the badge of a White Horse to the leader of the Saxon invaders.

How far Richard was correct in saying that 'a horse argent rampant in a field gules' was the ancient device of Saxony, and that 'they have there long since for many ages together borne', we cannot tell. He had, while at Christ Church, distinguished himself as a scholar of Early English history and the Anglo-Saxon language, and it seems likely that when as a consequence of his religious beliefs he migrated to Amsterdam, he had the necessary facilities for an investigation of such matters had he wished to continue his studies. In any case there seems nothing inherently improbable in his statement, since the Teutonic predilection for horse-mythology is well known, and the White Horse was certainly adopted in later years as a device both by the State of Saxony and the House of Brunswick. Whatever basis of truth there may or may not be in Richard's illustration of Hengist's landing in Kent, the fact remains that John Speed, writing his *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain* only five years later in 1611, boldly assigned a device of arms to each kingdom of the Heptarchy, and to the kingdom of Kent in particular he assigned the white horse on a red ground, saying furthermore that it was the emblem of the Saxons.

In criticism of Richard's illustration, it may be pointed out by students of heraldry, and with some justice, that armorial bearings of this sort were scarcely known until the later part of the 12th century, and further, that if there were certain devices and figures in use in

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earlier days (as the Bayeux Tapestry seems to indicate), then they can have had no specific relationship to the later system of heraldic bearings.

By the end of the 18th century, the customary use of the White Horse emblem, reinforced perhaps by a Royal Warrant of 1751 which ordered the Hanoverian Horse to be worn by certain ranks in the 50th (Royal West Kent) Regiment, had become well recognized ; and Hasted,



HENGIST AND HORSA LANDING IN KENT, A.D. 449

in his *History of Kent* (1797 ed., 1, 64) commenting on Verstegan's statement, adds that 'similar to which are the present arms of this county the only difference being the colour of the field'. A further 18th century use is well attested by the Kentish tradesmen's tokens. During the next century and a quarter the wonted right of the County to bear the device of the White Horse was never seriously questioned,

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and in the 19th century, as Mr A. J. Golding has pointed out to me, the rampant horse was used freely as a local trade-mark, as the badge of the County Cricket Eleven and the Kent County Constabulary, and as the distinguishing mark on Kentish hop-pockets.

This respectable ascription of the White Horse however, is sometimes overlooked in favour of a rather tenuous belief that the standard of the Saxons, a banner emblazoned with a rampant White Horse, was set up on the Kentish Standard Stone or White Horse Stone by the two chieftains Hengist and Horsa at the time of the battle of Aylesford in 455. A variation of the legend says that the Saxon standard was found under the stone after the battle.¹ In this connexion the present White Horse Stone at Aylesford, a standing sarsen which may be a relic of a megalithic burial-chamber, can be dismissed from consideration at once: it received its name in the early nineteen hundreds from a local antiquarian.² The original or Lower White Horse Stone known also as the Kentish Standard Stone, has now disappeared, but it stood formerly at the crossing of the Pilgrim's Way with the Rochester-Maidstone road at Aylesford, and its name, though a little older than that of the present White Horse Stone, does not appear earlier than 1834. The stone itself was quite probably part of a ruined megalith.

It would also be very easy to show that the claims of two other suggestions for the origin of the White Horse—namely, the familiar horse-and-chariot coins of the Early Iron Age and the various items in the horse complex of the Early Iron Age, cannot now be seriously maintained. In fact, all things considered, it seems very unlikely that the White Horse of Kent existed before the early part of the 17th century.

R. F. JESSUP.

RAG-WELLS

Miss M. D. HILEY sends us particulars of a rag-well, known as St. Bennet's Well.

'It is near the high-water mark on the shores of Moray Firth about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles SSE of Cromarty (6 inch map, sheet LXVII) and is situated at the foot of a beautiful little glen which runs inland from the coast.

¹ But it should be said in fairness to Lamprey, the supposed author, that he himself recognized the thinness of the White Horse standard tradition. The 'Standard Field' of Stukeley, *Itinerarium Curiosum*, 2nd edition, II, plate xxxiii, has obviously no connexion with it.

² It seems possible that the name may have been suggested by a hypothetical earlier name 'hoar stone', but I know of no specific evidence for such a name here. O.G.S.C.

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‘ In order to insure the fulfilment of the wish it is essential that the wisher should drink the water and leave something of his personal attire. When the writer visited the spot there was a heterogeneous collection of “ rags ” hanging on the branches.

‘ Mr Francis Scott tells me that the site is locally supposed to be the place of judgment. It is close to the ruins of St. Bennet’s chapel and the ground is said to be cursed as it was stolen from the Church. Even at the present day the owner has to provide each year at Christmas-tide 8 cwt. of oatmeal free for the poor of the parish. This has been operative since 1630 and though one owner tested the matter in the highest court of law in Scotland his appeal was not allowed ’.

A ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON. (PLATES V-VI)

The existence of a Roman building in Watts Wells Field South, on Lodge Farm, Ditchley, has long been known to archaeologists. About 60 years ago Pitt-Rivers cut trial trenches in which he uncovered part of a pavement of *opus signinum*. Last year Mr E. J. Walford, of Coventry, flying over the site noted the remarkable completeness of the plan outlined in the growing crop. A series of photographs taken by Major G. W. G. Allen revealed features of considerable interest which promised to throw light on several problems connected with the villa-system. Aided by the support of the Ashmolean Museum an Excavation Committee was formed with Professor R. G. Collingwood as Chairman. Mr Ronald Tree, M.P., the owner of the site, agreed to serve on the Committee, to which he granted every facility for the exploration. With consent of the tenant, Mr C. Hunt, and H.M. Office of Works work began 26 August. The remains have been surveyed by Mr J. J. Leeming. Work was also carried out by Mr D. B. Harden on the neighbouring section of Grim’s Ditch, of which the relation to the Villas in the neighbourhood has already been discussed by Mr O. G. S. Crawford (*ANTIQUITY*, 1930, IV, 303-15, with map, p. 305).

The site lies about 430 ft. above sea-level on the north side of a small valley, a tributary of the Glyme. The ground occupied slopes gently to the south and east. The air-photographs show a large courtyard enclosed by a wall and ditch. The entrance on the south side is approached by a road, flanked by ditches and leading in the direction of the Akeman Street, 2 miles distant. At the upper end of the courtyard lies the house, facing south. It consists of a central block with

PLATE V



ROMAN VILLA, DITCHLEY: VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST, MAY 1934, FIELD UNDER CORN (See p. 472)
Attr-ph. Major G. W. G. Allen

facing p. 472

PLATE VI

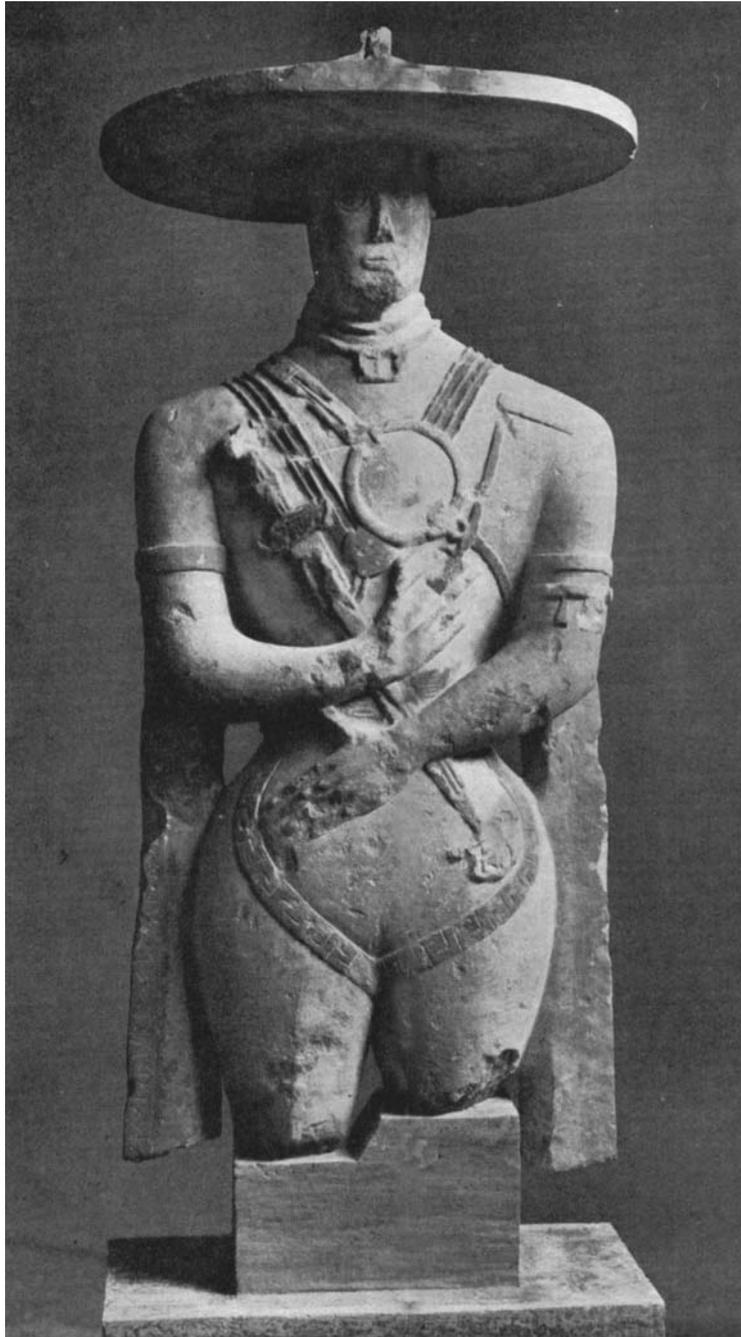


ROMAN VILLA, DITCHLEY : VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST, MAY 1934. FIELD UNDER CORN (See p. 472)

The line crossing the ditch in the foreground is a modern field drain

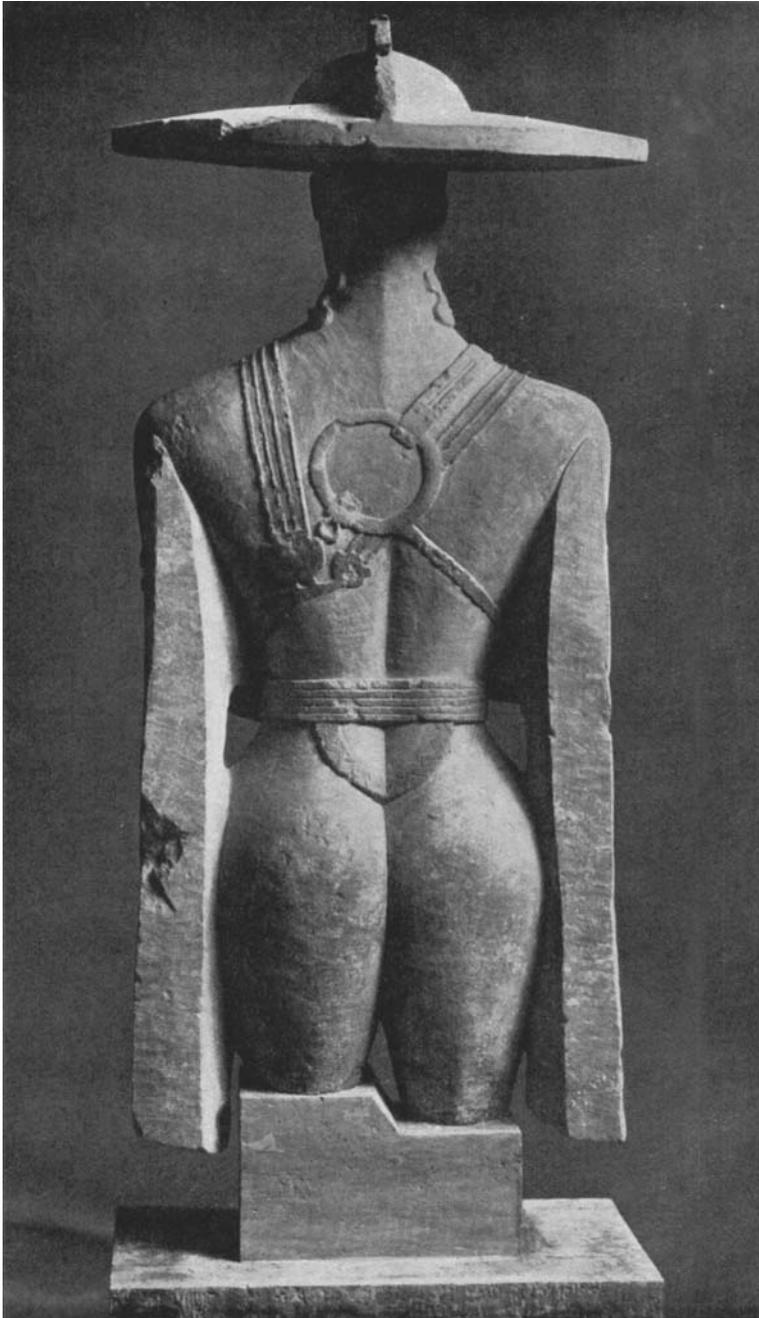
Air-phot. Major G. W. G. Allen

PLATE VII



THE WARRIOR OF CAPESTRANO, AQUILA (*See p. 477*)
By courtesy of Prof. G. Moretti, Director National Museum, Rome

PLATE VIII



THE WARRIOR OF CAPESTRANO, AQUILA (See p. 477)
By courtesy of Prof. G. Moretti, Director National Museum, Rome

PLATE IX



BLACK DITCH FIELD, STANTON HARCOURT (See p. 478)
Air-phot. Major G. W. G. Allen

PLATE X



TRINDAL'S FARM, CHILWORTH ; showing unusual markings not found elsewhere (See p. 479)
Attr-phot. Major G. W. G. Allen

PLATE XI



TRINDAL'S FARM, CHILWORTH; showing unusual markings not found elsewhere (See p. 479)
Attr-ph. Major G. W. G. Allen

PLATE XII



ESTHONIAN PEASANT LIGHTING HIS PIPE WITH FLINT AND STEEL. (See p. 479)
Ph. Dr T. Manninen, 1925 (by courtesy of the Estonian Museum)

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projecting wings at each end. At the back is a range of small rooms, and a verandah extends along the whole of the front and sides. The parched appearance of the crop suggests pavements at the northwest corner. In front of the house is a dark circle now known to represent a well. Extensive but incomplete lines of masonry indicate further buildings at the southern end of the courtyard, while a small incomplete circle appears near the centre of the west side.

During the excavations the house has been completely cleared. The southern building and the courtyard, which have been much destroyed by the plough, have been explored by a series of trial trenches, as a complete exposure of these remains did not seem to justify the expenditure involved. The work has provided satisfactory evidence for the history of the site and of the various building periods. At present only a tentative chronology can be put forward as the detailed examination of the pottery is not yet completed.

The earliest building on the site of the house is a rectangular structure of timber, measuring 55 ft. by 55 ft. The post-holes, about 9 inches in diameter, discovered under the western wing and the central block of the later house indicate a building of slight construction which must have been destroyed when the earliest masonry was laid. The second house consisted of a central block with projecting wings at each end, but no verandah. The inconvenience of a sloping site was avoided by a massive substructure of masonry raising all the floors to approximately the same level. Above this the building was half-timbered with rubble-filling between the beams and a roof of tiles. The lower storey had wooden floors carried on joists beneath which were voids varying from a few inches to nearly 3 ft. in depth. The entrance was in the eastern wing, where a flight of three stone steps (indicated on the air-photograph by a white blur) covers the whole of the front and returns along the eastern side. At the other end of the central block the long narrow division (3) contained the stairs leading to the upper storey. It is clear that the earlier building was not long in use and it may tentatively be assigned to the period A.D. 70–80 when the site was first occupied. The deposits contemporary with the stone substructure contain nothing that need be later than A.D. 100, and in the forecourt a coin of Trajan in mint condition was found in a position suggesting that it had been dropped during the building operations.

During the second century a long corridor was added at the back of the house. It had a floor of stones and gravel following the slope of the ground, and was roofed with Stonesfield slates. Later partitions

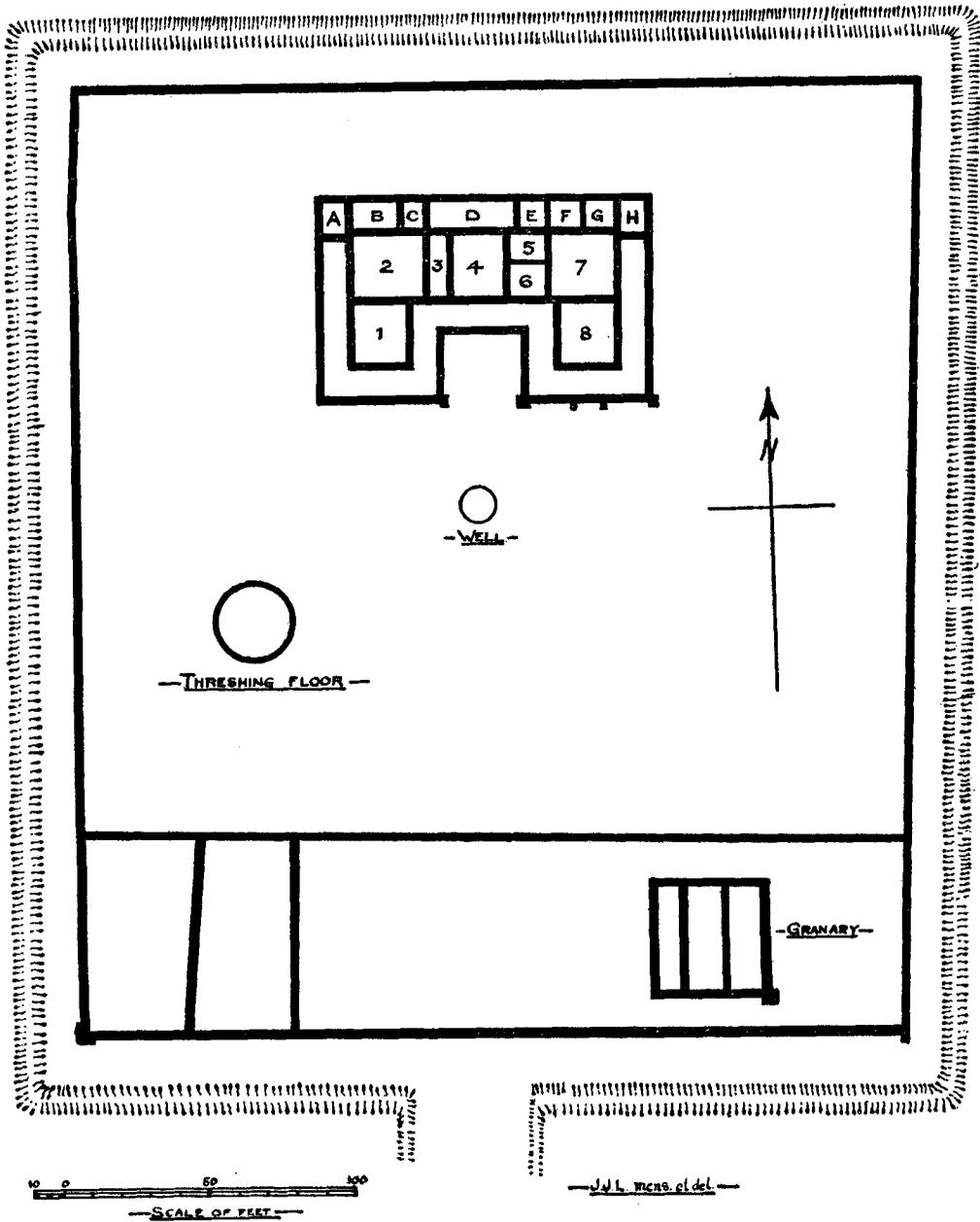
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were inserted at the east end, carrying wooden floors similar to those of the main house but at a lower level. This enlarged house was partially burnt. The fire seems to have been most violent in the west wing and at the back, where thick deposits of burnt debris were uncovered lying where they fell. Elsewhere the evidence suggests that flaming timbers from the roof fell against the outer face of the masonry substructure and were consumed, burning the face of the stone to a bright red.

Large piles of the rubble-filling of the half-timbered work lying against the masonry suggest a period of desertion and gradual decay (cf. the southern building *infra*), a hypothesis which is corroborated by the almost complete absence of coins and other objects of the third century.

The last house was on a grander scale. The original substructure was used as a foundation for a two-storeyed building. Along the front and sides a verandah of a single storey was added, the parts at the rear of each wing being partitioned off. The series of small rooms on the north side, was rebuilt on the older foundations. The entrance remained in the eastern wing, where the new verandah was adorned with a colonnade. The four projecting piers of masonry carried stone columns, 1 foot 6 inches in diameter. Considerable parts of two bases and one complete drum have been recovered. The masonry of this period was poor in comparison with the earlier work. Many weathered and perished stones were used, the defects being disguised by the thick coating of plaster with which the outer walls were finished. Pavements of *opus signinum*, laid on thick beds of obliquely pitched stones which in turn rested on a filling of clay and rubbish, were found in the four rooms in the northwest part of the house. Elsewhere the plough had removed the surface but the bedding survived in most of the rooms. This final rebuilding should probably be attributed to the Constantinian period though the evidence for this date is admittedly slight. The series of coins shows a marked predominance of issues later than A.D. 364 and proves that the site was occupied up to the end of the fourth century and probably later. The house gradually fell into decay. Squatters or travellers camped in some of the rooms where their fires burnt holes in the pavements, leaving a thick layer of wood ash at a period when part of the roof had yet to fall.

The sequence at the southern end of the courtyard confirms the evidence of the house. At the lowest level were traces of a wooden structure with sleeper beams and a clay floor. Above this an extensive



ROMAN VILLA, DITCHLEY : PLAN WITH WALLS AND DITCHES RESTORED

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building or series of buildings occupied the whole end of the enclosure. The stone base of the walls was robbed to below floor-level over the greater part of the area, but in those places where the remains had been preserved to a greater depth it was evident that the upper part of the walls was of timber plastered with clay, and that they had been allowed to decay gradually, covering the occupation-level with a thick layer of yellow material. The latest pottery found under this dates from the end of the second century. The evidence of human occupation and the size of the building lead to the conclusion that it was used as barracks for the slaves cultivating the estates of the villa. After an interval, when the site was reoccupied, the barracks were not rebuilt, but near the southeastern angle of the courtyard a granary was erected over the fallen material. This is probably contemporary with the Constantinian rebuilding of the house. The small circle of masonry on the west side represents a threshing-floor of a primitive type, beneath which lay the remains of an earlier circle evidently unknown to the builders.

The ditch surrounding the courtyard was v-shaped and nearly 6 ft. deep. The lowest levels of the silt contained pottery of Flavian date, after which the ditch was allowed to fill up. Its existence implies an original bank surmounted by a timber stockade. This survived until the final rebuilding of the house when the bank was used as a quarry for the material required to fill the voids below floor-level. The masonry of the courtyard-wall also suggests that it was erected at a late date and resembles some of the contemporary work in the house.

The sections cut through Grim's Ditch show that the bank rests on plough-land and agree with the dating suggested in the article referred to. The evidence of a change in the methods of cultivation in the latest period and the high proportion of late coins found on the site suggest that the villa-system, though not necessarily the house, survived many years after the beginning of the 5th century and that it was still working when the Ditch was erected to bar the roads leading from the north and east.

C. A. RALEGH RADFORD.

TEMPLE OF ARMANT

Mr OLIVER H. MYERS writes that the Egypt Exploration Society is trying to reconstruct graphically the temple of Armant and the scenes which covered its walls. The temple was destroyed during the latter half of the 19th century to make the foundations of a sugar factory. In 1857 Francis Frith took at least three photographs of this temple,

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which were published in *Egypt and Palestine*, 1858–9, and *Egypt, Nubia and Ethiopia*, 1862. Maxime du Camp published another in *Egypte, Nubie, Palestine et Syrie*, 1852, and Félix Teynard one in *Egypt et Nubie*, 1858. The negatives of these, or any other prints or negatives of this temple, would be of the greatest assistance, and the Society (200 Euston road, London, N.W. 1) would be extremely grateful to anyone who could help in the search for them.

The temple was built by Cleopatra and was the only one standing at Armant in recent times. Armant is variously spelt Armant (correct), Erment, Ermant and Hermonthis.

THE CAPESTRANO WARRIOR (PLATES VII–VIII)

We are very much indebted to Professor G. MORETTI, Director of the National Museum at Rome, for allowing us to publish the following note and illustrations, in response to our request. Dr RANDALL MACIVER, who has translated the text, tells us that he is in entire agreement with Professor Moretti's views.

The territory of the Vestini, extending along the slope of the Gran Sasso towards the Adriatic, has never been explored, and even chance finds had provided us with little evidence of its life in the so-called 'Italic period' until almost the other day. Last winter however there was found at Capestrano, in the province of Aquila, near the source of the little river Tirino, a tributary of the Atirno, which rises in a cleft of the Apennines between La Majella and the Gran Sasso, a statue now known as the 'Warrior of Capestrano'. This has no equal in Italic art for rarity and importance.

The figure is of life-size, 1.70m high, and stands rigidly erect on a rough plinth between two shafts which serve as supports. It is naked except for a full complement of armour and weapons. The armour consists of helmet, mask, cuirass formed of a single disk at front and back, and stomach-piece. The weapons are a sword and dagger worn in front of the figure, and a spear resting against the outside of each of the stone supports.

Down the length of the right-hand support runs an inscription of which the epigraphy and linguistic character are consonant with the archaeological style of the statue and its stylistic peculiarities. For while the conception and arrangement of the figure place it in the 6th century before Christ, all the details of arms and equipment can no less

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exactly be paralleled by finds of the same period made in tombs of the Early Iron Age in the central regions of Italy. The wide-brimmed helmet and the mask are eminently Picene ; the sword and dagger have their equivalents in Etruria, especially in respect of the hilts decorated with human and animal figures ; while the disc-cuirass, girdle, torque and armlets can be matched from almost any of the cemeteries in Samnium, such as Aufidena, or in the territory of the Marsi, Marrucini, Peligni, Picentini.

The statue of Capestrano, severely stylized like every work of that period, shows us the true and proper figure of a man in the attributes of his most usual profession, that of a warrior. The absence of clothing, the monumental character of the headgear, the hierarchical gesture of a symbolical axe laid against the left shoulder—all these suggest something between human and superhuman. We may therefore regard it as a semi-divinized warrior (*guerriero eroizzato*).

At a short distance from the torso (for the legs and base of the statue were found subsequently, as a result of explorations made by the Service of Antiquities), was found the bust of a woman. The head was missing but there were new and important details in the clothing of the figure. It is possible that the woman, whose proportions were smaller, viz. about two-thirds of life size, was some sort of relation or dependant of the warrior. No tomb however could be identified as belonging to either of the two figures, though 21 tombs were opened in the course of trial excavations made in the hope of determining the archaeological background of this unexpected and important discovery.

NEW AIR-PHOTOGRAPHS (PLATES IX–XI)

The first of these air-photographs (all of them taken by Major Allen) is of Blackditch Field, Stanton Harcourt (Oxon 32 SW, SE, 38 NW, NE), and reveals markings of three distinct periods (PLATE IX). Certainly the oldest are the parallel black lines leading to two enclosures in the middle of the picture. This may be prehistoric or Romano-British. Next come the remains of the medieval field-system, represented by the parallel ridges in the foreground. It is interesting to note that the dark furrow-lines between the ridges are continued by those dividing the existing allotment-strips in the triangular space on the right, next to the road ; also that this intensive and prolonged medieval cultivation has not obliterated the earlier remains. (For a similar phenomenon in the same neighbourhood see ANTIQUITY, 1933,

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vii, 293). Finally we have the modern field-system which conforms partly but not wholly with that which preceded it.

The other two air-photographs (PLATES X-XI) give two views of the same site, Trindal's Farm, Chilworth (Oxon 40 NE). No explanation is offered, however. Nothing quite like the markings has been encountered before elsewhere, and since surface observation is unlikely to help, excavation seems indicated. They are probably medieval. The geological formation is gault clay, overlaid by plateau gravel.

PRIMITIVE FIRE-MAKING (PLATE XII)

The accompanying illustration of an Esthonian peasant living in the parish of Halliste in the arrondissement of Pärnu, and photographed in 1925, is not without interest to those who follow the survival of ancient methods in modern times. This Esthonian is engaged in lighting his pipe with a 'briquet' (flint and steel) and the very idea that such primitive methods still survived as late as 1925 is apt to raise a smile. But up to the year 1835, every house in England possessed and used its tinder boxes and the unlucky individual who had to rise betimes would spend from three minutes to half an hour in securing a light, unless the tinder was damp, when the process was still further prolonged.

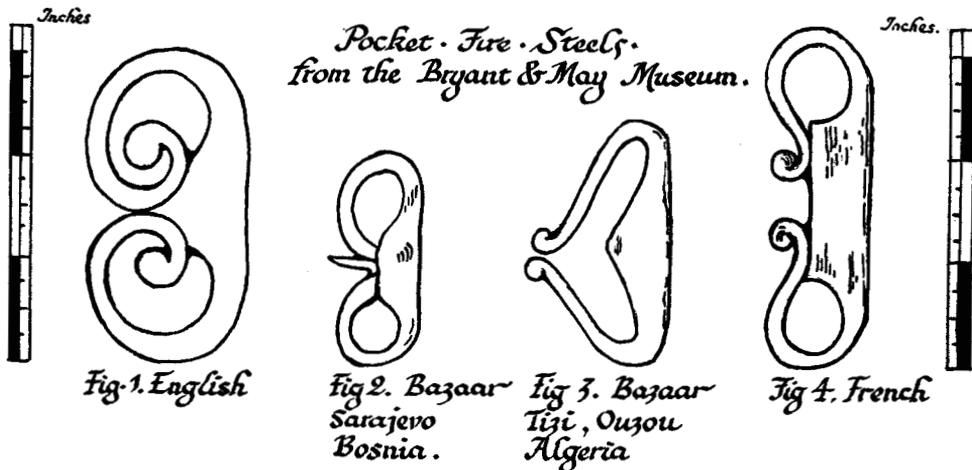
How many children today, who have read Hans Andersen's 'Soldier and the Tinder Box', have ever actually seen one? Yet its ancestry comes down to us from pre-Roman days, unaltered by the passage of time, till, with the coming of Queen Victoria, friction matches swept the time-honoured tinderbox aside, so that it only lingered on in little backwaters of Europe or among savage tribes. Familiarity breeds contempt and the ease of the friction-match has made us forget that fire-making is man's greatest achievement, and that the tinder-box has its place in the study of cultural anthropology.

The essentials of fire-making are flint or flinty stone such as chert, chalcedony, jasper or agate, having a sharp cutting-edge, and a piece of suitably tempered iron or steel. The flint should be struck sharply and at an angle upon the steel so as to shave off a tiny fragment of the metal, heated to white heat by the percussion and glowing as it falls upon the tinder. And what is tinder? It may be charred rag, or 'touchwood' or a dried fungus steeped in saltpetre, generally known as 'amadou' or German tinder. The best kind of flint for this purpose is from the chalk of northwest Europe and notably from Brandon

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in Suffolk, where the industry of flint-knapping still survives and whence 'briquet' flints were exported by Fred Snare to Spain, South America and Borneo as late as 1924.* Brandon flints have also been found in Syria and Siberia. Yet another source of supply is the Kentish flint shipped as ballast to Shanghai, where it is used partly for china making and also for strike-a-lights. In the southeast of Europe a different type of flint is used. Not infrequently these are enclosed in leaden sheaths for protection. Turkey is the chief source of supply.

The steel held by the Esthonian peasant is of a familiar type, which has a wide distribution. It has two tangs which form a hand-hold at the back. It appears to be quite without ornament, though it

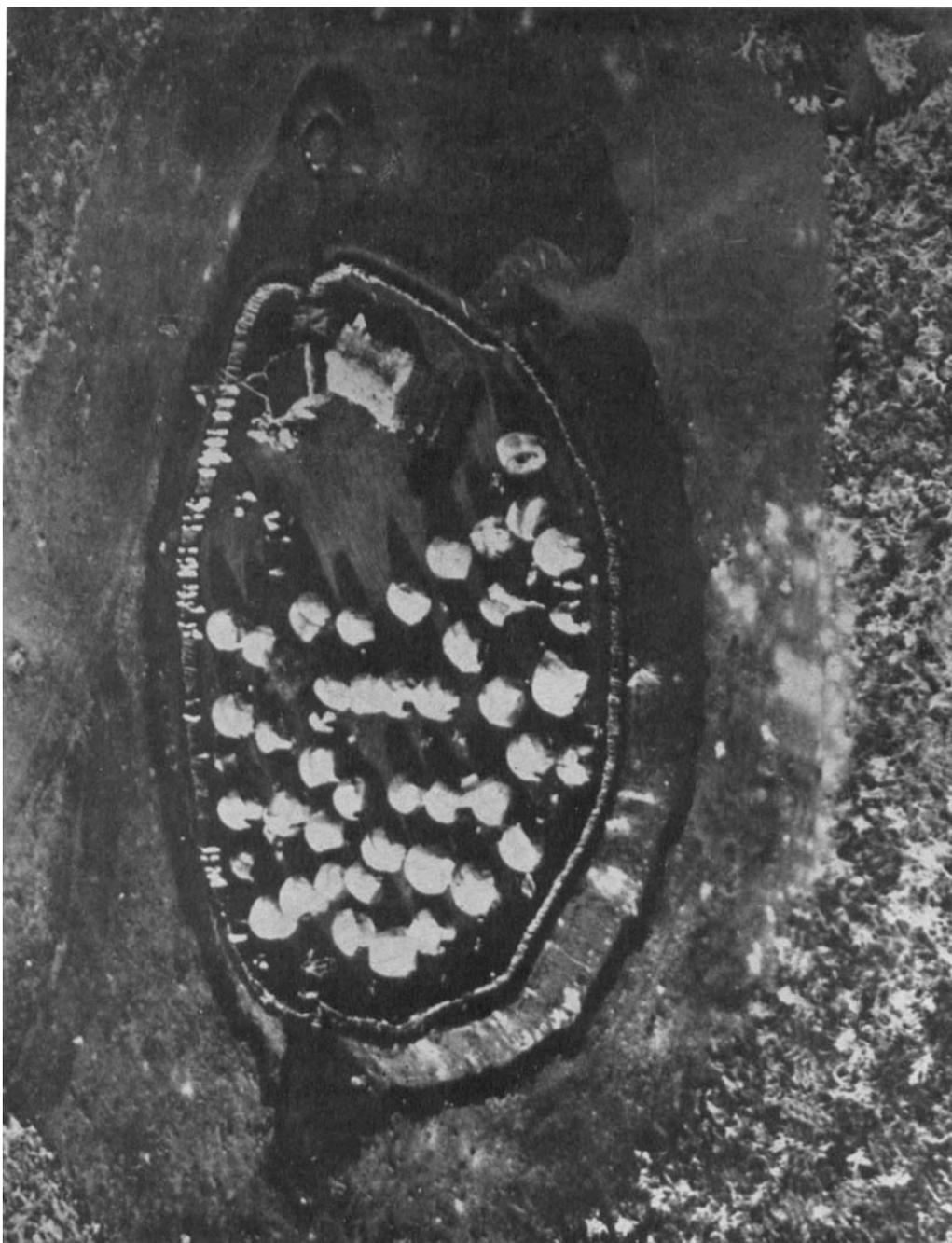


is possible that the tangs may be twisted into a spiral or knobs. In general form it might be English. Indeed in the Bryant and May Collection (no. 265) is an almost exact counterpart, described as English. Other similar forms in the same collection are no. 177, bought in the bazaar at Sarajevo in 1895, no. 182 from the bazaar in Tizi Ouzou, Algeria (1898) and possibly no. 329, a French example (see FIG. above).

One thing is wanting in the photograph, and that is the pouch or box in which the flint and steel were carried. These receptacles display a great variety of material. All are small so that they may conveniently be carried in the pocket. European tinder-pouches are usually about

* See ANTIQUITY, March 1935, pp. 38-56, 8 plates.

PLATE XIII



THE FORT OF WAL-WAL, ABYSSINIA (See p. 481)
In its essential features the fort closely resembles many prehistoric forts in Britain
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facing p. 481

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three inches square, the opening at the top being closed by a flap. Leather is the material most commonly selected, though tapestry, woolwork or beadwork are also used. Flint and tinder are carried inside, but the steel is very often fixed to the bottom of the bag. The sulphur-tipped match of either paper or wood, which figures in the outfit of the domestic tinder-box, was not usually carried with the tinder-pouch, which was mainly used for lighting the pipe direct from the tinder without the intervention of the match. FRANK STEVENS.

THE FORT AT WAL WAL (PLATE XIII)

Wal Wal is a fort built by the Italians in Abyssinia at some date subsequent to 1928. It is actually on the edge of a small ravine. The purpose for which it was built was to command the wells which lie in the small ravine just below, beyond the picture on the upper side. There are some 60 to 100 wells with narrow shafts of between 60–100 ft. depth through sandstone. The picture is taken looking towards the ravine, and the tracks on the upper portion of it represent the motor road to Warder.

It will be seen at a glance that the fort very closely resembles in all its essential features many prehistoric hill-forts in Britain. It consists of a ditch and bank with a wooden palisade planted along the foot of the bank on the inside. There is one entrance defended by a subsidiary bank thrown out, exactly as at Hod Hill and Hambledon Hill (see *Wessex from the Air*, plates 1 to 3).

The mushroom-like objects in the interior are native Somali huts (gurgi). They are portable, are made by women, and are roofed with branches on which camel-mats (herios) of plaited grass (also made by the women) are placed. The roofing consists of branches bent over to meet in the middle, where they are lashed together with thongs. A not dissimilar method was employed for reed huts in ancient Mesopotamia : in one instance however the ends of the reeds were left projecting beyond the roof on either side. (See Mallowan in *Iraq*, April 1935, II, 31–2, fig. 19). (These herios are also used on the backs of camels where they are placed three deep in order to support the load, and for beds laid on the ground). It should be mentioned that these very thick roof-coverings maintain an equable temperature against extremes both of heat and cold. These huts obviously house native troops.

The two huts at the right hand side of the enclosure are the headquarters where the officers live and work.

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It will be noticed that at one end of the upper building is a dead tree, to which a post has been attached from which the Italian flag may be seen flying.

The (H.Q.) buildings in question are called ' arish ' in Somali. The sides are made of wattle and daub and the roof of grass or mud.

The two excrescences are puzzling but probably represent machine-gun posts. It will be noticed they are approached by a communication trench and that actually two men are to be identified in the right hand post by means of their white turbans. It is presumed that the machine gun would be placed on a tripod on the central platform, and that if thus raised it would just clear the surrounding parapet.

Finally, the whole is surrounded by an artificial zareba of thorn which can be seen in the foreground and in the top corners as a tangle of light-coloured brushwood. There is an entrance to the zareba in the right hand bottom corner, where two figures may be seen, one standing and the other squatting, in front of them being a bush that is doubtless drawn in to close the breach at night and whenever occasion may require it.

The whole is a very informative example of the way in which similar causes produce similar effects, both in the past and in the present.

The general plan of the fort has no doubt been designed in accordance with local native tradition, but the European control exercised in this instance is obviously responsible for such very modern features as the machine-gun posts.

We are indebted to one of our readers for drawing our attention to this very interesting example of the past and the present.

PREHISTORIC CONGRESS

The Second International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, following on the First Session held in London in 1932, is to take place at Oslo in August 1936.

Professor J. L. Myres is one of the General Secretaries of the Congress and the National Secretaries for Great Britain are Professor V. Gordon Childe (The University, Edinburgh) and Mr C. F. C. Hawkes (British Museum). Copies of pamphlets giving general particulars of the Congress (with form of enrolment) may be obtained from the Bureau at the UNIVERSITETETS OLDSAKSAMLING, OSLO, and either of the British Secretaries will be glad to answer, as far as they can, any further enquiries.