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# ACCOUNT OF THE SOCIETY'S RESEARCHES IN THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT SARR.

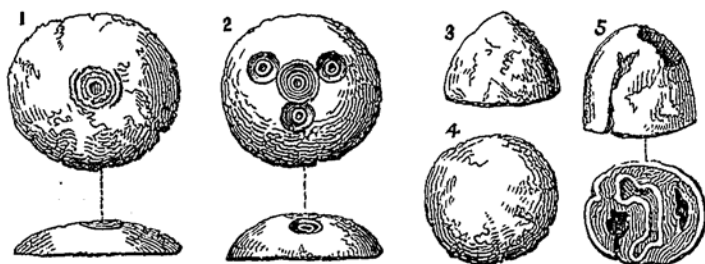
BY JOHN BRENT, JUN., F.S.A.

(Continued from Vol. V. p. 320.)

The researches at Sarr were continued on the 23rd September, 1863, almost daily, until the 17th December of the same year.

No. V.—This grave contained no relics.

No. VI.—Near the feet, and about two feet three inches from the surface, was a small black earthen vessel; on the left side lay a broken umbo, and near it, all together, as if the contents of a bag or purse which had decayed, about fifty small circular counters of bone or



BONE DRAUGHTSMEN.

1 and 2, specimens of marked men; 3, conical; 4, one of the most ordinary kind; 5, made from a tooth, the under surface with granulation shewn below.

ivory, one or two apparently made out of some animal's teeth. A sword, thirty-seven inches long; a spear-head, eight inches and a quarter, and its ferule; a small brass

of Magnentius; some rivets, a knife, an iron ring, and a small bronze buckle, were also taken from this grave.

Draughts or counters are of rare occurrence in Saxon graves. These vary a little in size and shape: all are circular and flat-bottomed, but some nearly conical, others but slightly convex. A pattern of little double circles, dotted in the centre, is on the upper side of most of them. Many had decayed into fragments, and the number of those found tolerably perfect being forty-five or fifty, I should judge the original quantity to have been probably about sixty.

Mr. Bateman records a similar discovery in a barrow opened by Mr. Carrington, near a place called Cold Eaton, in Staffordshire, in the year 1845. Here, in a deposit placed in a circular hole about eighteen inches in diameter, were found "a quantity of calcined bones, some fragments of iron, parts of two bone combs, and twenty-eight objects of bone, like button-moulds. The latter objects were flattened hemispherical pieces, mostly with dots on the convex sides; on some were dots within annulets. They varied from half an inch to an inch in diameter, and had generally eight, nine, or ten dots each."<sup>1</sup> He thinks that they were probably used for a game of draughts, as draughtsmen have been found in Scandinavian tumuli, and assigns them to the Danes or the Saxons. Those which he describes, however, had all been burnt: with these at Sarr burial only has been used, and the accompanying relics are, it will be observed, of the same character as those of the neighbouring graves.<sup>2</sup>

No. VII.—Some clench-bolts or double-headed rivets, found near the left side.

<sup>1</sup> 'Ten Years' Diggings in Celtic and Saxon Grave Hills,' p. 181.

<sup>2</sup> In another grave, opened here in 1864, we found a second set of some forty of these counters. They were deposited in a hole to the right of the grave. Two dice were found with them.

No. VIII.—An umbo, over the face; a spear-head at the left shoulder; a sword by the left side, thirty-five inches long, but broken across; at the left foot a small black urn, ornamented with circles surrounding a star; a fragment of a knife.

No. IX.—A woman's grave, and lying obliquely. It yielded a single bead, a bronze ring, a buckle, and a fragment of stamped bronze.

No. X.—Less than four feet in length, and probably a child's grave. A knife, a portion of a spear-head, and a ferule.

No. XI.—Nine feet in length. Two circular iron plates; a knife, with part of the wooden handle adhering; a spear-head by the right side, and a sword by the left; the latter a fine specimen and perfect, and three feet in length.

No. XII.—A black earthen bottle-shaped vessel at the right foot; a sword lying across the grave from left to right; four iron studs or broad-headed nails.

No. XIII.—Grave of a very old woman, the sockets of the teeth being quite absorbed. Only a blue porcelain bead and a knife.

No. XIV.—Two skeletons side by side; part of a knife, and an umbo.

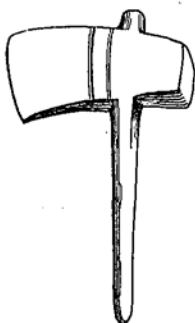
No. XV.—An oblique grave. By the left shoulder a spear-head, sixteen inches and a half in length, and its ferule; a sword on the left side, thirty-five inches long, and under it a knife; clench-bolts all down the right side.

No. XVI.—Only a small bronze buckle.

No. XVII.—Nine feet in length, and a double interment, probably of a woman and her child. Two beads; a small iron rivet, ending in a ring with an iron loop through it, all bearing traces of the wood to which they were attached; a little bronze model of an axe, about one inch in length, but broken off at the handle,



probably a child's toy; it is like some which have been found at Caistor, and at Felixstow, in Suffolk, but has no hole for suspension remaining, as those have; Mr. Lysons calls one found at Silchester a "little votive axe;" and they may perhaps be of Roman origin, others having been found at Rennes with Roman remains. A child's toy was found in a Saxon grave at Kingston.<sup>1</sup>



No. XVIII.—A fine sword, thirty-five inches long, by the left side; a spear-head, seven inches and a half long, and its ferrule; a large knife, an umbo (broken), and an iron pin.

No. XIX.—A woman's grave. A buckle at the waist, some keys, part of a knife, a small pair of bronze tweezers, and fourteen earthen beads.

No. XX.—A woman's grave. A small bronze bodkin broken at the head, and an iron ring; a vessel of black ware, near the left ankle; one large amber bead, four of amethystine quartz, and several of coloured clay, in various devices. Amethystine beads are common in Saxon graves, but in these at Sarr rarely exceed three at once. The lapidary's skill in piercing was seldom sufficient to bore straight through them; he evidently began at each end, and scarcely ever met accurately in the centre.

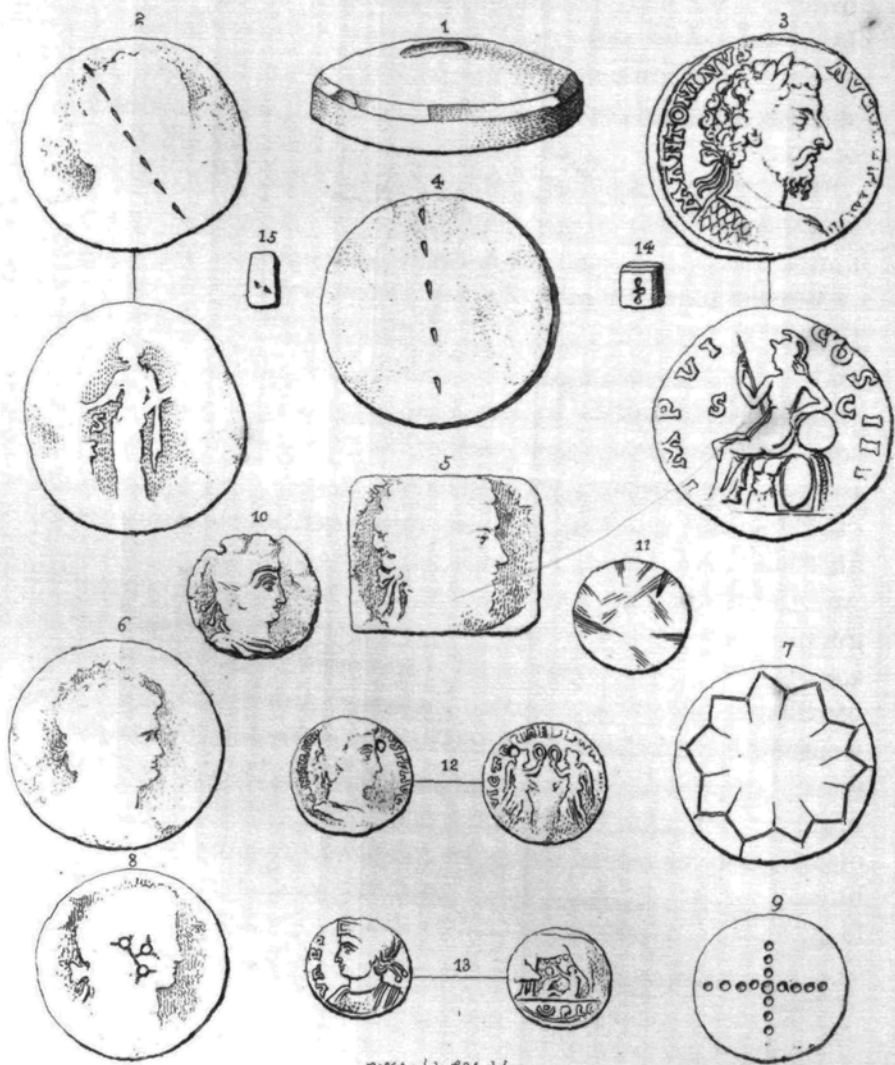
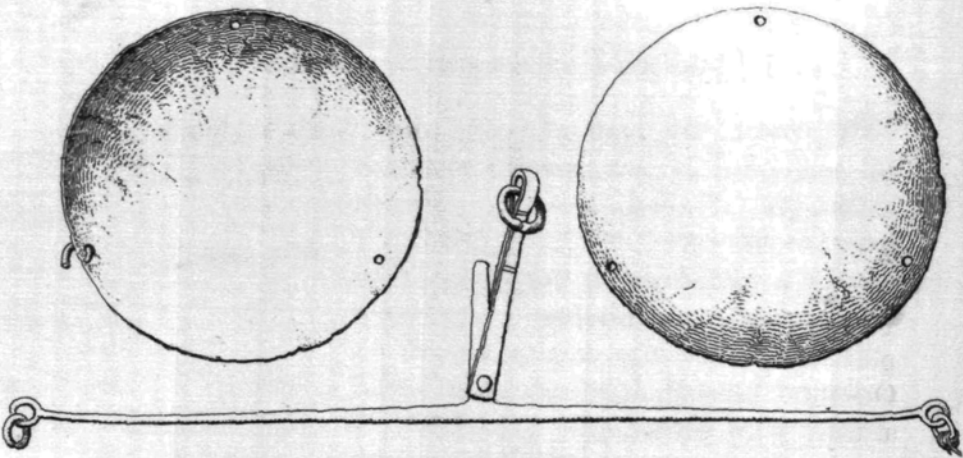
No. XXI.—Disturbed. No relics.

No. XXII.—A woman's grave. A knife, an iron buckle, two broken keys, thirty-five beads at the neck.

No. XXIII.—By the appearance of the teeth, probably a child's grave. A knife, five beads, and a little nautilus-shaped ornament of green stone or porcelain, pierced as if for a pendant.

No. XXIV.—A knife and a broken umbo.

<sup>1</sup> Faussett's 'Inventorium Sepulchrale,' p. 59, note.



No. XXV.—A child's grave; disturbed. Only a bronze buckle.

No. XXVI.—Eight feet long, three feet three inches deep, two feet six inches wide. An umbo lay near the skull, and to its left a spear-head, the ferule of which was at the feet. On the breast a fine buckle brightly plated, and what appears to be the mounting of a purse. On the left side some iron keys and an iron lock, with a bronze plate containing a hole for its bolt; a small bronze balance and scales, with nineteen weights (Plate IV.), lay at the left foot. The grave contained, too, a knife or dirk, coupled with a smaller knife in one double sheath of wood; a circular iron plate, a knife, and a pair of shears.

These are some of the most interesting and at the same time of the most strangely assorted relics ever found in an Anglo-Saxon grave.

1. The balance and scales are quite perfect, and beautiful specimens. The beam is about five inches long, and is slightly chased; the end of the thread or silk which suspended the scales still adheres to its ends, and some more was at first adhering to the scales themselves; these are an inch and seven-eighths in diameter. Another such pair was lately found at Ozingell, with weights and coins;<sup>1</sup> and another, much mutilated, with eighteen weights, or coins adapted as weights, was taken from a grave at Gilton by Bryan Faussett, more than a century ago. It is possible, as a fragment like the mounting of a purse was found near, that some of our nineteen weights may have been money; most of them, however, are either dotted in various ways, as if to indicate some multiple of weight, or are ground and squared; and out of nine which are distinctly Roman coins five at least have been thus adapted as weights. They vary in weight from 8 grains to 1063 grains. A weight of 248 grains

<sup>1</sup> 'Collectanea Antiqua,' vol. iii. plate iv.

is marked with five dots, and another with seven; but I am unable to trace any proportion or relative connection between these or any of them.<sup>1</sup>

2. The lock has a bolt made to ascend diagonally into the bronze plate, which is rather more than six inches long, and one and a quarter wide, and is very like such

<sup>1</sup> [I append a description of those engraved, with their weights as ascertained by Mr. Brent:—

Fig. 1. A heavy rude weight, not made from a coin. Weight 1063 grains.

Fig. 2. Apparently a large brass of Faustina the elder; type, the Empress, with the attributes of Ceres, sacrificing at an altar. It is much ground down, and has seven linear indentations hammered into the obverse and running diametrically. Weight 320 grains.

Fig. 3. Second brass of Antoninus Pius. Reverse, Rome seated on a military trophy. Weight 296 grains.

Fig. 4. A coin obliterated by grinding down to the necessary weight. It is marked with five such indentations as in Fig. 2. Weight 248 grains.

Fig. 5. Second brass of Antoninus Pius, cut square and much ground down. Weight 190 grains.

Fig. 6. Apparently a second brass of Nero, but much rubbed or ground. It has three such indentations as Figs. 2 and 4. Weight 146 grains.

Fig. 7. An obliterated coin, indented with a curious star-shaped pattern on one side, into which brass has apparently been inlaid. Weight 140 grains.

Fig. 8. Roman brass coin, much rubbed or ground, with curious trefoil ornament stamped into it, as to indicate its weight or use. Weight 96 grains.

Fig. 9. Brass coin, ground flat on both sides and punched with small round indentations arranged as a cross. Weight 46 grains.

Fig. 10. Much ground, especially on the reverse. Perhaps a second brass of Constans. Weight 94 grains.

Fig. 11. Small brass coin. Good head. Roughly cut on surface. Weight 16 grains.

Fig. 12. Small brass of Constantine. Reverse, two Victories facing each other; legend "Victoriæ D. D. N. N. III." Weight 17 grains.

Fig. 13. Small brass. Obverse inscription, "Urbi [Romæ?]." Reverse, the wolf and twins; in the exergue "P. Lon." (*Pecunia Londonensis*). Weight 18 grains. (An exact duplicate of this coin was found with the weights and scales at Gilton. See *Inv. Sepulch.* plate xvii. fig. 18; and p. 23.)

Figs. 14 and 15. Two small rude weights, marked on the surface. Weight 11 and 8 grains respectively.

In addition to these there are four circular weights, which have no peculiarities of form and are not engraved. One is thick and has certainly not been a coin, resembling Fig. 1, with the exception of being flat on

a plate on our own door-posts. Part of the original woodwork remained attached to the lock; but the whole is scarcely perfect enough to solve the mystery of the curious hooked Anglo-Saxon keys, and shew how they performed their office.

3. The double sheath containing the knife or dirk and the smaller knife together is, I believe, unique as a Saxon relic. I made a drawing of these immediately, and although they became parted upon exposure, and much of the wooden sheath has crumbled away, I can state with certainty that their juxtaposition was not accidental, but that they formed the true type of the Highland *scian*, dirk and knife in a double scabbard. The larger knife is nine inches in the blade, and, including haft, nearly twelve in length; its blade is one inch and a half in breadth. The smaller is six inches long.

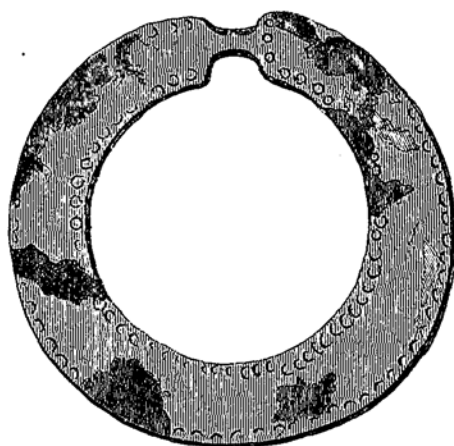
both sides; it is also punched with a rude indentation on both sides. Weight, 300 grains. The other three may probably, by their shape, have been coins, but bear no traces of figure or inscription. Weight, 51, 19, and 8 grains respectively. That weighing 19 grains is roughly cut, not dissimilarly to Fig. 11.

It seems impossible to trace proportion among these weights or to refer them to any fixed standard: nor does a comparison with the other sets, discovered at Gilton and Ozingell, at all help the attempt. The opinion that such scales and their adjuncts are those of money-changers, who made their weights as they required them, to test the many different coins of all nations which came before them in their business, seems a very reasonable one. It should, however, be remarked that Figs. 2, 4, and 6, which are marked respectively with seven, five, and three little indentations in a line, bear a proportion in weight near enough to seven, five, and three, to be scarcely, I think, the result of accident. May not this rather point to a looseness and want of accuracy in such tests not unreasonably to be expected in the absence of a fixed general standard of weight? Some very similar marks are upon some of the Gilton weights, but the Gilton money-changer and he of Sarr meant widely different quantities by their signs. It is to be hoped that further discoveries may throw new light on the obscure subject of Saxon weights.

The occupation of a money-changer seems admirably represented by the somewhat various relics found in this grave, and commented on by Mr. Brent above; the weapons especially forming, no doubt, a very essential part of his stock-in-trade.—T. G. F.]

4. The pair of shears measures in length  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Shears are unusual in the grave of a male, as the umbo and spear-head declare this evidently to be. Do the scales and the purse point to some civic calling? But an occupation represented by a shield, a lock, a pair of scales, and a dagger with a knife, must have been complicated and discursive.

No. XXVII.—A woman's grave. Some beads near the neck, a flat bronze ring or fibula, two inches and a



quarter in diameter, slightly ornamented on the edges.

No. XXVIII.—A ring and a small horse-bit.

No. XXIX.—A knife and an iron buckle. A small black earthen vessel at the left side.

No. XXX.—The bones almost entirely decayed. A spear-head, twelve inches long, and between the feet an earthen vessel.

No. XXXI.—No relics.

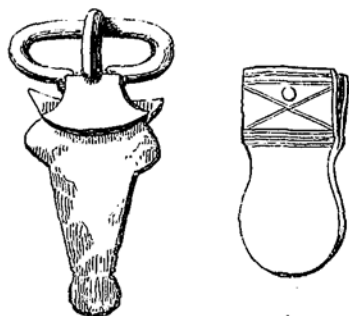
No. XXXII.—A woman's grave. A knife and a small piece of iron; a rather choice and peculiar necklace, consisting of some double beads, some very small yellow beads, and some curious pendent ornaments with red and white stripes of pebble or of bone.

Nos. XXXIII. and XXXIV.—Both disturbed. Frag-

ments of an earthen vessel and of a knife; a few clench bolts; a broken iron buckle and a bronze tag.

No. XXXV.—A woman's grave. A few beads, some double; an iron ring or rude fibula.

No. XXXVI.—This grave had a recess cut in the chalk to receive the head. A spear-head and its ferule lay by the right cheek, an umbo (broken) by the right shoulder; small bronze rivets, or tags, with the worms of the screws still apparent, and a small bronze buckle.



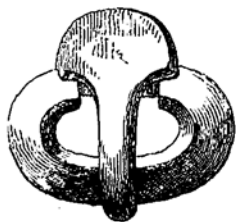
No. XXXVII.—No interment discoverable.

No. XXXVIII.—A youth's grave. A knife, a ferule, and a piece of iron.

No. XXXIX.—A double grave, of two old men buried one above another.

The upper, a person of stout frame, and short but large bones, had with him a spear-head to the left of the skull, and, lower down, its ferule and a broken knife.

The lower interment contained a wooden bucket at the right foot about eleven inches in diameter, having a bronze rim and an ornament of bronze like some attached to a similar bucket found at Fairford; its bottom and sides had nearly perished. Two knives, one of which measured nearly nine inches in the blade; a bronze buckle; an umbo with iron bands which had led from it outwards to the rim of the shield, and the studs by which it had been fastened. The impression of the whole shield, about eighteen inches in diameter, was very apparent in the soil.<sup>1</sup> Two spear-



<sup>1</sup> The common circular fibula with a central boss and radiating bands of

heads were by the left side of the skull. One was ten inches long, and its wooden shaft must have been an inch thick. The other stood vertically upright in the grave. On the right side was a sword. A palstaab or chisel lay by the left shoulder, and an axe by the left foot. This was the only axe found at Sarr, and differs in shape from those found at Ozingell,<sup>1</sup> as well as from others found in Saxon graves. Is it not a battle-axe, accompanied as it is by a sword? and does it not indicate its owner to have been a man of rank?<sup>2</sup> Neither axe nor sword were usual weapons of the lower class. Its broad blade and short handle resemble those of the hatchet described as borne, with a sword and buckler, by the infantry of the army led by Theodobert into Italy.<sup>3</sup>

No. XL.—Another double grave. A man on the right, and a woman apparently by the bones, on the left. Two spear-heads and one ferule were near the skull of the man.

No. XLI.—Pieces of iron and a few beads.

No. XLII.—An oblique grave. Only a knife and a piece of iron.

No. XLIII.—Some teeth of a horse found near the surface; no other relics.

Nos. XLIV. to LIII. contained few relics and those unimportant. A knife (broken), a bronze buckle, and a tag, a small tubular piece of bronze. A milled silver finger-ring in No. XLIX., with a buckle and an iron link. Nos. XLVI. and LI. contained two interments

garnets was very probably intended for a model in miniature of the Saxon shield, which we may suppose to have been painted or otherwise ornamented, to complete the resemblance, as Tacitus describes the shields of the German tribes.

<sup>1</sup> Collect. Antiq., vol. iii. p. 1.

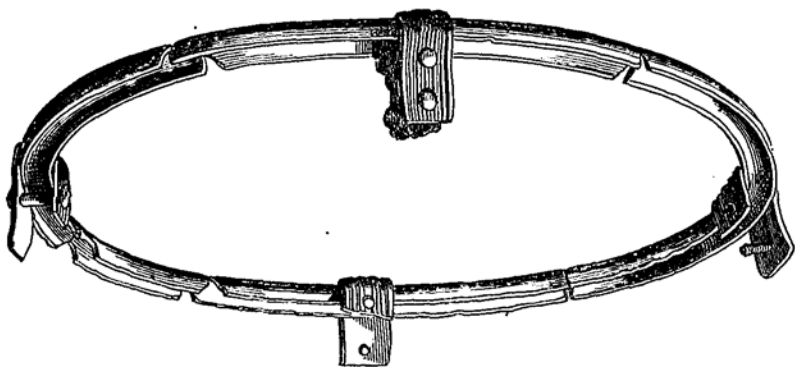
<sup>2</sup> A battle-axe was found in the grave called that of Childeric; but some doubts have been raised as to the correct appropriation of this grave.—*Douglas*.

<sup>3</sup> *Archæologia*, vol. iv. p. 176.



each, one skull in the former lying in the centre of the grave. In No. LIII. were an iron buckle and a spear-head with its socket.

No. LIV.—Skeleton well preserved, even to the smallest bones of the toes and fingers. Between the feet the



bronze rim of a little vessel, and close to the toes a pair of shears, a Roman coin, and a bronze stud nail set with a garnet. A knife and an umbo, both broken, lay across the lower part of the body; and there were also pieces of plated bronze, an iron buckle, and a sword, the point of which was broken off, but which still measured thirty-three inches, and was one of the longest swords found at Sarr.



No. LV.—Only a few beads.

No. LVI.—The ferule of a small spear and a knife.

No. LVII.—A sword blade, thirty-two inches in length, and a spear-head with its ferule; an umbo and some tinned or silvered shield-studs.

No. LVIII.—A woman's grave. A mass of broken keys, a broken knife, two other iron fragments, one perhaps the mounting of a purse.

No. LIX.—An irregular and crooked grave. A knife, an iron buckle, and a bronze nail-head.

No. LX.—Nine feet and a half in length, and four feet and a half in depth. A small bronze buckle, the head of a small spear, and a knife; one of those rare glass vessels of the pillared or twisted pattern, very like that in the Museum at Canterbury, which was found, as is said, near Reculver. It lay horizontally at the head, with its rim close to the end of the grave. It was broken, but is complete, and has been restored. (See Plate V., Fig. 3.)



No. LXI.—A broken knife, a key, and a single bead.

No. LXII.—Grave of a very old person. A knife and an iron buckle.

No. LXIII.—A woman's grave. Bugle beads, and a few of amber; a plaque or ornament to a stoup, and a circular bronze fibula.

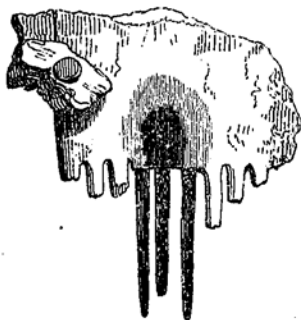
No. LXIV.—An umbo at the feet: some tinned studs, a spear-head, a broken knife, and a sword, the latter broken near the point.

No. LXV.—Probably a youth's grave. A small spear-head and a knife. Some remains of a black earthen vessel of very friable material lay near the foot of the grave.

No. LXVI.—Disturbed; no relics.

No. LXVII.—A very large grave, five feet and a half deep, and nine feet long, but containing only the fragments of a bronze buckle, a tag, and three beads. A girl's grave by the bones, in spite of its size.

No. LXVIII.—A grave nearly as deep as the last. A sword at the left hand, and an umbo (broken) on the right side; the ribs of a small bronze bucket, a knife, and some tags and studs, a fragment of a comb with





ANGLO SAXON  
GLASS VESSELS  
FROM SARR.

*F.W. Fairholt F.S.A.*

*P. G. N. N. N. N. N.*



metal teeth.<sup>1</sup> At the waist a large buckle of the triangular shape, thickly plated with gold all over, and having for the middle of its triangle a thin plate of gold, ornamented with a characteristic entwining pattern. This singularly beautiful buckle is three inches and three-quarters in length. At the hinge of its tongue is a socket once filled with a boss of ivory, part of which still remains, and surrounded apparently with jewels; it has a gilt boss at each point of its triangle.



In the 'Inventorium Sepulchrale' is figured a smaller buckle of the same design, but with bronze bosses only; and the late Lord Londesborough took another like the latter from a barrow on Breach down.<sup>2</sup>

No. LXIX.—Disturbed; only a fragment of pottery.

No. LXX.—A long-necked vessel of black ware, elegant in shape, lay near the surface. A spear-head, with its socket, and three broad iron shield-studs, were also found.

No. LXXI.—A sword by the left side, of smaller type than usual, the blade being very slender and only

<sup>1</sup> [It is curious to observe the ingenious manner in which three broken teeth in this fragment of comb have been replaced by pins of bronze, inserted between the two layers of ivory which form the comb's back. The dark spot represented in the woodcut is the discoloration of the ivory by the bronze.—T. G. F.]

<sup>2</sup> See Inv. Sep., plate viii. fig. 8. 'Miscellanea Graphica,' plate xxxiii. 'Archæologia,' vol. xxxiv., and vol. xxxvi. plate i. p. 179.

twenty-seven inches in length; an umbo over the face, and two spear-heads by the left shoulder.

Nos. LXXII.-LXXIV. contained two knives, a fragment of a comb, an iron buckle, and a broken umbo.

No. LXXV.—A woman's grave. Several beads in the centre, two of amethyst; two small bronze buckles, some keys, a bronze pin,<sup>1</sup> and a broken knife.

No. LXXVI.—A woman's grave. A fine collection of beads, with some broken keys and a knife. The beads in this and the last grave are very various; discoid, cylindrical, conical (single and double), pentagonal, and spherical. They are prettily coloured, and curiously marked and designed, the predominating hues being red, blue, brown, green, and yellow.

Nos. LXXVII.-LXXX.—Only a few pieces of iron and two small fragments of bronze.

No. LXXXI.—Disturbed; the deepest grave opened at Sarr, being six feet from the surface. Its length was nine feet, and its width nearly five. At the head of the grave was a small bronze pin, a spear-head with its ferule, both broken, and apparently before burial; part of a shield-brace. A small piece of yellow clay, about the size of a walnut, was found on the chalk floor of the grave.

No. LXXXII.—Disturbed; no relics.

<sup>1</sup> [Further cleaning has revealed a very peculiar shape to this pin, the point of which is bent back into a barb or hook, not unlike that of a modern crochet-needle. The woodcut shows this inverted point, as well as a small indentation in the side of the pin, neither of which, I think, are traceable to accident or decay. The latter is hollowed into the side opposite the hook, and may have served as a guide or rest to the forefinger in its use. Can we suppose our Saxon ancestresses to have been educated in the mysteries of crochet? Or may not this very delicate hook have been intended for pulling threads through the stitches, before the invention of eyed needles, as a finer and easier substitute for the tweezers which are supposed to have been so used?—T. G. F.]



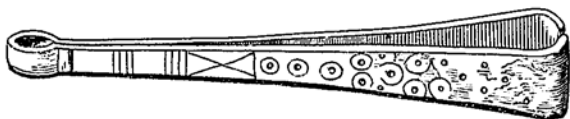
No. LXXXIII.—A double interment. A bronze stud, two Roman coins, and a knife.

No. LXXXIV.—Disturbed; the bones much deranged. Only a small double glass bead.

No. LXXXV.—An oblique grave; disturbed. A bone of sheep or deer was found with the skeleton, as well as a broken knife, and a bronze fibula of the ring shape. The latter measures about an inch and a half in diameter, and is ornamented with little grooves, and with bosses at intervals as if to imitate joints. One much like it is figured in the 'Inventorium Sepulchrale,' and Mr. C. Roach Smith describes another found at Ozingell. Mr. Akerman gives a plate of a similar ring, with keys suspended from it, in his 'Pagan Saxondom' (p. 57). From the archaic character of this fibula, and the facts that the grave varied considerably in direction from its neighbours and contained an animal's bone, I am inclined to rank this among the oldest of the graves at Sarr.

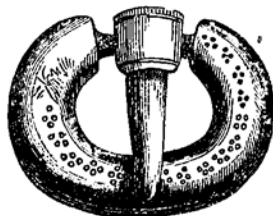


No. LXXXVI.—A sword at the left, three feet long, including hilt; a small piece of amber near the knees; a pair of bronze tweezers, nearly three inches long and

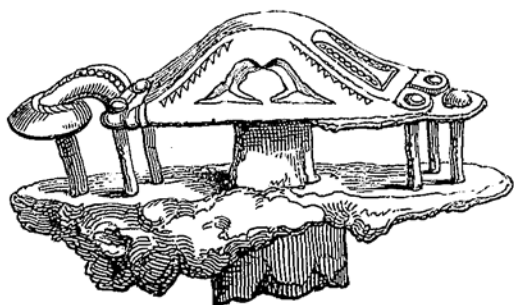


well preserved, much resembling the pair found on Chatham Lines and described in the 'Nenia Britannica,' fig. 6, plate 13; a bronze buckle near the centre, some studs, and a broken knife.

No. LXXXVII.—Disturbed. A spear-head, a bronze buckle, and stud.



No. LXXXVIII.—A large deep grave, but with few of the bones preserved. At the feet a circular bronze dish, about twelve inches and a half in diameter and four and a quarter in depth, much worn and with one handle deficient. It had apparently stood upon a thin circular stand of bronze, some remains of which were found. An umbo and a knife, a sword, much broken



but with the pommel entire, and composed of a purple vitreous enamel or other substance inlaid with silver; and a sword-guard, as indicated by two thin parallel plates of silver.

No. LXXXIX.—A spear-head, an umbo, a large knife, and an iron buckle. An "augon," or iron spear or pike, forty-two inches long, the head armed with barbs, flattened.<sup>1</sup>

No. XC.—A woman's grave, the bones tolerably perfect. A bronze buckle on the left; an iron ring, apparently the link of a chain; close under the chin, beads of amber and porcelain, unusually rude and unartistic, and with them a circular gold pendant. A quantity



of gold braid round the skull (see specimens engraved), evidently once woven or laced into either the hair or the

<sup>1</sup> See 'Archæologia,' plate xxxiv. p. 178.

head-dress, and closely resembling that described under Grave IV.

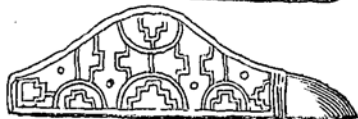
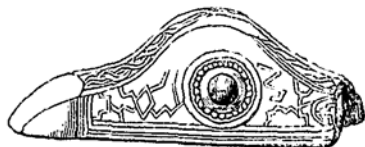
The pendant, also, is much like those found in that grave, and of the medium size there described. At its edge is a beading, and within it an ornamented border; the centre bears those strange figures so common upon these ornaments, and, as Professor Stephens of Copenhagen informs me, quite familiar to northern antiquaries, and of frequent occurrence throughout Scandinavia. "The ground type," he writes to me, "is a writhed worm with gaping jaws, and headless intertwining snakes, all making, as it were, one serpent." Numerous examples of these golden bracteates are given in Thomsen's '*Atlas de l'Archéologue du Nord*,' some exactly resembling these found at Sarr, others differing widely from them. But these are evidently debased copies of the Scandinavian type, possibly the spoil of Danish invaders, but more probably the work of the Jutes themselves or of foreign artists employed by them, and degenerated from the original designs brought over at their first immigration.



No. CXI. — A broken umbo and a bronze sword pommel.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> [The sword-pommel of which an engraving is annexed was also found in one of this year's graves, but unfortunately the particular grave was omitted to be noted. It is too elegant to be passed over, and is, besides, of an unusual type: I have therefore placed it here. It is of silver and very prettily chased, and on one side is set with a small round carbuncle.—T. G. F.]

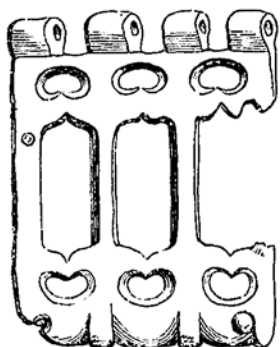




No. XCII.—A child's grave. A broken umbo, and a single bead.

No. XCIII.—No relics.

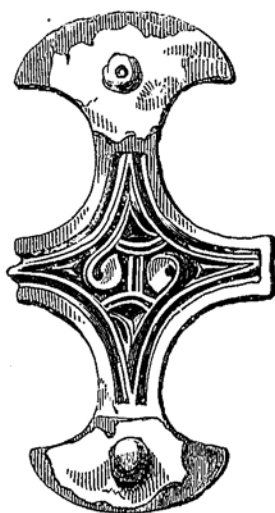
No. XCIV.—A woman's grave. The bones are full of oil, as if lately buried. Some curious bronze objects, one of them apparently a hinge; another being tubular and perforated as to support two pendants, also of bronze. A large quantity of amber beads, with a few black bugles, lay at the centre of the breast, and amongst these a small circular fibula, of bronze gilt, and set with a garnet (see Plate VI., Fig. 5). In this grave were also a few small pieces of gold braid, like those in Nos. IV. and XC. A small belemnite artificially sharpened at one end,<sup>1</sup> a key, and a knife.



Nos. XCV., XCVI.—Graves of women. Fragments of knives and keys, and in the latter grave a necklace of ten beads, one of which was treble, one of blue glass, four of clay, and one white and cylindrical.

Nos. XCVII., XCVIII.—Graves of women. Fragments of iron. In the former an ornament of tin, slightly gilt in parts of the pattern, and with rivets as if to fasten to a girdle or strap.

No. XCIX.—A knife and some clench-bolts by the left side; a piece of bronze, probably the plate



Douglas, '*Nenia Britannica*,' p. 158, mentions belemnites found in a British grave, and supposed to have been used as arrow-heads.

for the handle of a box, under it a piece of thick leather.

Nos. C.-CII.—Graves of women. Two amber beads in CI., yellow beads and two iron rings in CII.

No. CIII.—An earthen vessel of black ware at the right foot, a sword (broken), an umbo, and a bronze pin.

No. CIV.—A very small grave and disturbed. A knife and the top of a sword-hilt.

Nos. CV.-CIX.—Beads, keys, knives (broken), a small piece of glass, and an iron buckle; two small bronze buckles and a black earthen vessel with a long neck. All probably women's graves.

No. CX.—A child's grave, only eighteen inches deep. Three beads.

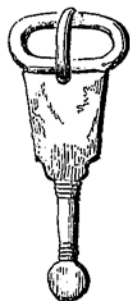
No. CXI.—A spear-head, an umbo over the face (broken), a knife, and several clench-bolts.

No. CXII.—No relics.

No. CXIII.—A spear-head with its socket, nearly eleven inches long; an umbo, a knife, the rim of a small bronze vessel, and on the hip a sword.

No. CXIV.—A woman's grave; oblique. Only fragments of keys.

No. CXV.—A woman's grave. Two glass vessels between the feet; the larger much fractured and too incomplete for engraving; the lesser perfect, though with a surface more than usually decomposed (see Plate V., Fig. 2). Two bronze keys, and one of iron, corroded together.<sup>1</sup> A quantity of beads



<sup>1</sup> See 'The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon,' p. 424.

of clay and porcelain lay beneath the skull, and among them two carbuncle pendants set in silver (see Plate VI., Fig. 2), exactly alike, but one imperfect both in stone and setting. On the breast a circular fibula of bronze gilt and set with garnets and ivory (see Plate VI., Fig. 6). The bone of some carnivorous animal lay near.

Nos. CXVI., CXVII.—No relics.

No. CXVIII.—An umbo over the face, fragments of a wooden box near the breast, and keys or other iron implements beside it; three rings of silver wire, one in fragments, were found near.

No. CXIX.—No relics.

No. CXX.—Probably the grave of a woman and child, a few teeth of both being found. A black earthen vessel, which fell to pieces upon exposure: it contained a small piece of iron, and a plate like the cross-plate of a shield, with a stud in it; some beads and triangular pieces of perforated bone, all very rude.

No. CXXI.—A bronze ring or armlet, and near it a key.

No. CXXII.—A knife only.

No. CXXIII.—A child's grave, as shewn by the teeth. Some keys, three beads, and a small piece of mother-of-pearl; a knife and a ring, both broken; a very small carbuncle set in gold as a pendant (Plate VI., Fig. 3); a slender silver pin, in shape and size exactly like our own ordinary pins, and a pretty specimen of delicate Saxon handicraft.

Nos. CXXIV. and CXXV.—Probably graves of women. A black earthen vessel much decayed; a knife, a circular purple stone, and two amethystine beads.

No. CXXVI.—A very narrow grave, only eighteen inches wide. A remarkable bronze ornament, of a very elegant and, I believe, an unique pattern (Plate VI., Fig. 9). It is of a diamond shape, measuring an inch

and a half by an inch and a quarter, and bears at its angles four ivory bosses, each pierced in the centre with a dot of lapis-lazuli. At its back are four bronze loops to fix it to the belt or dress. It is very substantially made, and in very perfect condition.

No. CXXVII.—Part of an iron ring, and a small bronze buckle.

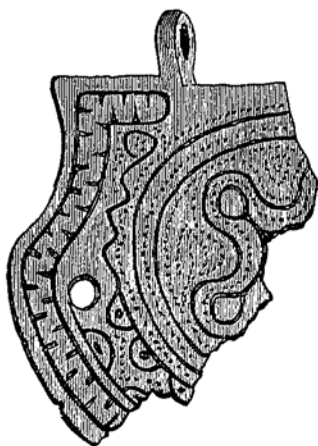
No. CXXVIII.—This grave contained three skulls in juxtaposition near the lower end of the grave. The bones were much deranged. A knife, two amethystine beads, two of bone, and one of blue glass; a fragment of Samian ware.

No. CXXIX.—A child's grave, as shewn by the milk molar teeth. A small black earthen vessel, and a knife.

No. CXXX.—A woman's grave. Part of a bronze plated ornament, an iron buckle, and some other pieces of iron.

This grave, and those immediately surrounding it, had perhaps been dug on the site of Roman interments. We found in this another fragment of Samian ware, and not far from it was a deep, wide, circular pit, filled to the depth of several feet with fine black calcined earth. A small knife, much burnt, was found in the pit, with charred bones of oxen and sheep, and, strange to say, a human skeleton, shewing no sign of the action of fire, lying with the head to the south-east. As the labour of exploring this place seemed likely to be considerable, we left it for the time, to make our more profitable researches elsewhere, before the season became too far advanced.

No. CXXXI.—Only a knife.



No. CXXXII.—An umbo (broken), a small spear-head, a broken knife, and the heads of two iron studs.

No. CXXXIII.—A child's grave. No relics.

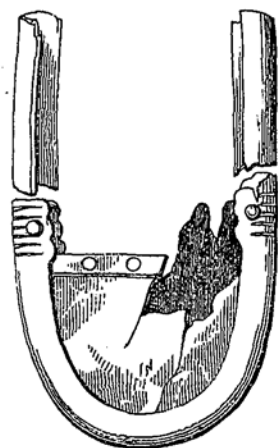
No. CXXXIV.—A double grave; the skeletons nearly touching. The upper interment probably a woman's. In the lower was a small piece of glass. Clench-bolts were found at the head and down the left side, some of them only eighteen inches from the surface.

No. CXXXV.—A long pike, iron rivets, and a small iron tool like a farrier's knife.

No. CXXXVI.—A remarkably long grave, eleven feet in length by two feet six inches in width. It had probably been disturbed, and contained nothing but a fragment of red pottery.

No. CXXXVII. — No relics. The femur and tibia measured together thirty-seven inches.

No. CXXXVIII.—An elegantly-shaped spear-head by the right cheek; the fragment of a knife; and the bronze chape or point of sheath of a sword or dagger, the dark part indicated in the wood-cut being a fragment of the leather of which the rest of the sheath was apparently composed.



Nos. CXXXIX., CXL.—Small pieces of bronze and iron. In the latter grave a bronze nail or rivet, with broad flat head, gilt, and prettily chased with a characteristic wreathed pattern.

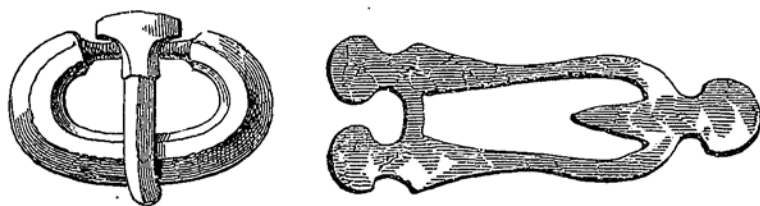
No. CXLI.—A girl's grave. An amethystine bead and a fragment of pottery.



No. CXLII.—A large spear-head, and another smaller, with one ferule; a fragment of red pottery. No vestige of the skeleton but a portion of the lower jaw-bone. Most of the graves in this part of the field had been disturbed.

Nos. CXLIII.—CXLVII.—Two small knives, one very slender; a broken bead, a spear-head, and an iron tool.

No. CXLVIII.—Skeleton with head to the east, the opposite direction to that of nearly all the others. A small circular fibula about an inch in diameter, and of archaic pattern (see Plate VI., Fig. 8); the centre is a raised boss set with a green stone, and from this radiate ten sliced garnets, of nearly triangular shape; the back is plated with silver. A bronze buckle, one large ribbed



bead, probably Roman, and a curiously-shaped bronze ornament, which has apparently been attached to a girdle or strap. From the position of the skeleton and the type of the relics, I am inclined to class this grave with No. LXXXV., as one of the earliest which we opened.

Nos. CXLIX.—CLI.—Probably disturbed. A knife and a piece of iron.

No. CLII.—A double interment. No relics.

No. CLIII.—A spear-head twelve inches and a half in length, and a knife.

Nos. CLIV., CLV.—Both disturbed. A broken pin or bodkin, one amber bead, and fragments of bronze and iron.

No. CLVI.—A vessel of red earth, bottle-necked, on the left side of the head; a short sword, only twenty-six inches and a half in the blade; an umbo over the face; a spear-head and its socket.

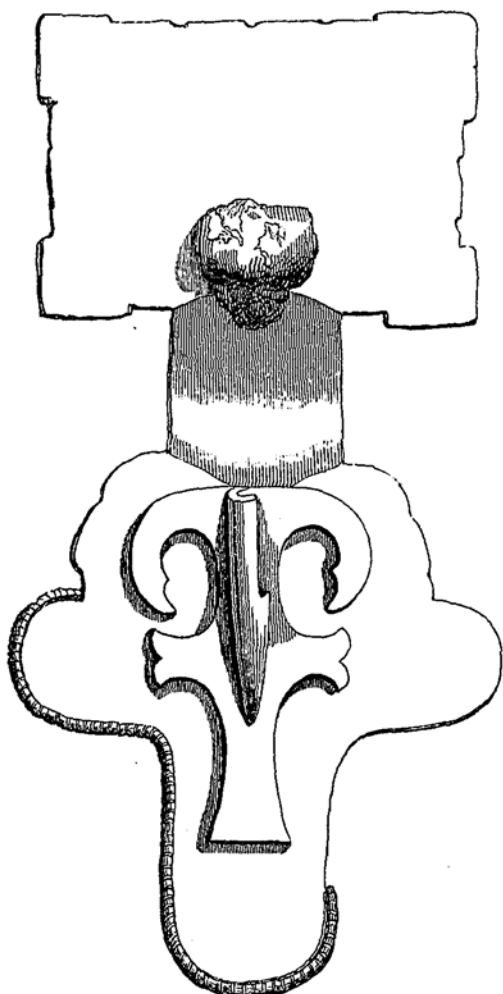
No. CLVII.—An oblique grave. To the left of the head, lay on its side a black earthen vessel with handle



and lip, the exact type of the modern beer jug ; a bronze pin or bodkin, and a spear-head with its ferule.

No. CLVIII.—A woman's grave. Twenty-four amber beads ; an iron loop ; and two circular fibulæ (Plate VI., Figs. 4, 10). One being of a peculiar and archaic type.

No. CLIX.—An iron bolt, some keys, two knives, and a small pair of bronze tweezers. A very large and fine



Reverse of the Fibula, Plate VI. Fig. 1.



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10

*Fachholz del.*

*F. & Nathaniel del.*

ANGLO SAXON ANTIQUITIES FROM SARR.  
(Fibulae, &c.)



cruciform fibula (Plate VI., Fig. 1) lay edgeways by the left side, and separated from it the recurved catch which received the acus.

1. This fibula is about five inches long, and of bronze gilt, (the reverse, however, has apparently been silvered.) The four corners of its upper compartment are set with square garnets, and an oblong garnet forms the centre, surrounded with a thin edging of silver. Elaborate devices not uncommon in these relics are chased along its edges and borders. The lower part is of a complicated and very elegant pattern. An edging of thick chased silver wire has apparently once run round its outer edge, as is the case with other fibulæ of this pattern. Only part of this remains. These large cruciform fibulæ are not uncommon in Anglo-Saxon cemeteries; the greater number are of bronze, sometimes washed with gold, but mostly without the addition of stones or ivory.

2. I am inclined to think it a misnomer to call these "tweezers" by that name. I cannot but believe them to have been used for sewing purposes, and to form, in fact, a complement to those collections of pins, bodkins, and scissors, which, found as they are with decayed wood attached to bronze and iron plating, and with the bolts of small locks, seem to have been stored in the work-boxes of Saxon ladies. Of the many pins and bodkins in bronze and ivory found at Sarr one or two had slight indentations round the head, but apparently for ornament only, and none were pierced through; indeed, were they pierced, the large size of the head would render them useless for sewing. They were more probably used to puncture the work, after which the tweezers would take the thread and draw it through; for needles are almost unknown in our Kentish Saxon graves. The tweezers from Grave LXXXVI. (absurdly large if really tweezers with our modern use) were found

in a man's grave, and probably served in this way for his coarser work in leather, hides, or canvas.<sup>1</sup>

Nos. CLX., CLXI.—Fragments of a sword, the fractures being old, and pieces of iron.

No. CLXII.—A woman's grave. A circular fibula, three amethystine beads and three of clay, a fragment of blue glass.

Nos. CLXIII.—CLXV.—Only a broken knife.

No. CLXVI.—A woman's grave. A knife, a link of chain, and a broken key. Fragments of an ivory ornament perforated with round holes at intervals: it has probably formed a complete circle. Also a bone disk, and a few beads, some of blue glass and some others of the double type.



<sup>1</sup> I append, by permission, an interesting letter from M. Herbst, Deputy Keeper of the Museum of Northern Antiquities at Copenhagen. Professor Stephens, from whom I was seeking information respecting the antiquities of a people kindred to our own Jutish population, applied to M. Herbst, who kindly communicated the following valuable details:—

“My dear Professor Stephens,—In consequence of a letter from Mr. Brent at Canterbury, you have asked my opinion of the original use of the ‘SYLE’ (awls), ‘SYNAALE’ (needles), and ‘TANGER’ (pincers), so frequently found in Northern graves from the Bronze period. Allow me in allusion hereto first to inform you how many, and under what circumstances, these articles are preserved in the Old Northern Museum here.

“Of bronze awls, which are not always square at one end for insertion in the haft or holder, and round at the other, the Museum has about three hundred different specimens. Of these, sixteen have hafts in the handles, eleven of bronze, four of bone, and one of amber. It also has one awl of gold. Of needles, which are more or less flat with an oblong eye at about the centre, it has twenty-four of bronze and three of bone. Of pincers or tweezers the Museum possesses one solid and elegantly-made specimen of gold, and about two hundred of bronze, a couple of which have slides in a way reminding us of the tweezers or pincers used by surgeons for underbinding veins, etc.

“As to how these objects were employed, we must call to mind a couple of peculiar circumstances. In the clay urns, filled with burnt bones belonging to the Bronze age, so frequently found in the barrows in this

No. CLXVII.—An iron buckle, a spear-head, and a knife.

No. CLXVIII.—A buckle and some pieces of iron. At the left foot a black earthen jug like that found in No. CLVII., and near it a glass vessel of the pillared or tear-drop pattern, and in perfect preservation, very like that from No. LX., but with a less spreading mouth (Plate V., Fig. 1). These two glass vessels correspond

country, we very often find a small knife, an awl, pincers, and a couple of other bronze articles, such as a ring or hair-pin, or double button, etc., and I believe that the general idea is correct, that these urns contain the remains of females; the knife, the awl, and the *tweezers* being the deceased lady's sewing apparatus. We must also remember that we have here in Germany many specimens of sewing in leather and skin with narrow slips or threads of skin (see, for instance, Worsaae's '*Nordiske Oldsyer*,' Figs. 162, 163), and that garments of skin must be supposed to be general in a very early period. But, as you know, garments have often been found of a simple woven woollen stuff, sewn with woollen thread, but such woollen garments have apparently been much less used and more costly than skin garments. If we now come to the objects spoken of, we shall see that such bronze things as a knife, an awl, and tweezers were quite needful for sewing in skin or leather. The knife was used for cutting out and for slicing off the narrow thongs or threads of skin, the awl for boring holes, and the pincers for catching the leathern thread and drawing it through the holes.

"These things could not be employed for sewing woollen clothing; for these things needles were excellent, while the latter again would not suit for leather. The proportion of awls and needles in the Museum will therefore be a good guide as to the proportion of these skin and woollen garments in the Bronze period.

"Of course these awls, which are from five inches to one inch long, were often used in daily life for other purposes than sewing. So also the tweezers must sometimes have been employed, among other ways, as surgical instruments, as was clearly the case with one found in 1845 in a set of instruments, which must have belonged to a man, half a doctor and half a wizard.

"Hoping that you will find these observations satisfactory,

"I remain, very truly yours,

"Copenhagen, July 3, 1864.

"C. F. HERBST."

In the '*Horæ Ferales*' of the Honble. C. Neville it is stated that as many as sixteen pairs of tweezers were found at Little Wilbraham, in urns, with nippers, spears, and knives. Here, too, the funereal practices resemble those of the Northmen described by M. Herbst.

in most respects to others which have been found at Gilton, Ashford, Reculver, and Fairford, and in a few places in France and Germany.<sup>1</sup>

No. CLXIX.—A woman's grave. A large key, eight inches long, by the left side, and a knife just above it.

Nos. CLXX.—CLXXII.—A black earthen vessel, much decayed and not preserved, a broken knife, and a piece of iron.

No. CLXXIII.—A woman's grave. Several beads of amethyst, porcelain, and clay, some keys, and small pieces of bronze.

No. CLXXIV.—A woman's grave. A small ivory pin or bodkin, swelling in the middle and ornamented with grooves where it is widest, and with little round holes on the head; some pieces of iron, and parts of two bone combs. One of these fragments is very curious, the comb having worked on a hinge in a case or handle, like the pocket combs of our own day.



No. CLXXV.—No relics.

Nos. CLXXVI., CLXXVII.—Children's graves. A small piece of bronze and some very small glass beads.

No. CLXXVIII.—Disturbed; no relics. Grave of a woman, as shewn by the teeth.

No. CLXXIX.—An oblique grave. A knife at the feet.

No. CLXXX.—A long narrow knife and a spear-head; the latter opens down part of the shaft, like the socket of a bayonet, with two cross bands of iron over the opening.

No. CXXXI.—Probably a Roman interment. Remains of a mortuary urn were found on the floor of the grave, with fragments of other Roman pottery. In the centre of the floor was a large piece of unbaked clay, and near it the bones of sheep and the jaw of a dog or

<sup>1</sup> See Akerman's 'Pagan Saxondom,' p. 4.

wolf; the soil about it was pulverized and black from the action of fire.

No. CLXXXII.—Perhaps a woman's grave. A bronze ring, and some small iron keys much broken.

No. CLXXXIII.—A woman's grave. Only some keys, broken and much corroded. The keys and the knives are generally found *made of iron much inferior* to that used for the swords and spear-heads.

The examination of Grave No. CLXXXIII. concluded our researches for this year.

[\*\* It is hoped to give in our next volume, in which Mr. Brent will conclude his valuable narrative, plates containing specimens of the swords and other iron implements, the pottery, and the beads discovered during these excavations.—T. G. F.]