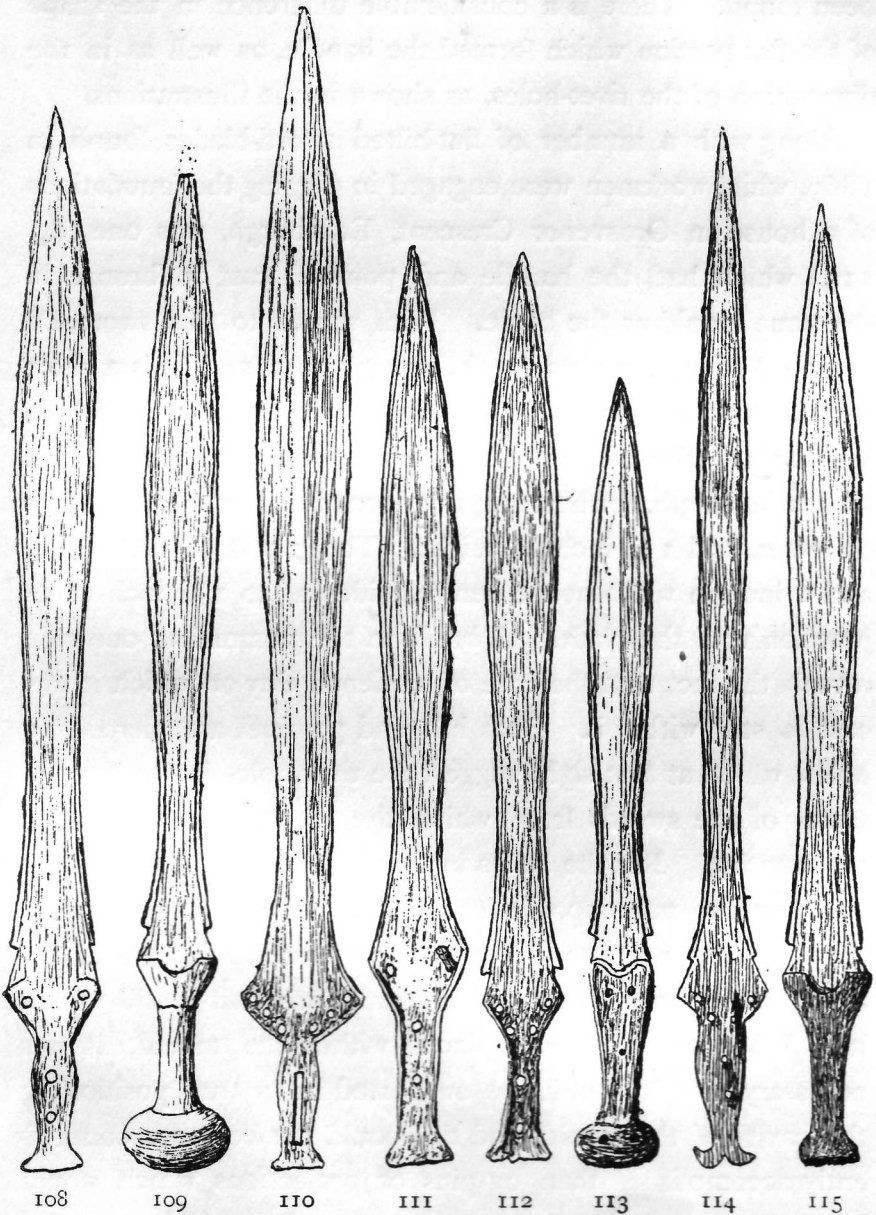


adapted for thrusting than for parrying or striking. The blades vary considerably in size, the largest in the National



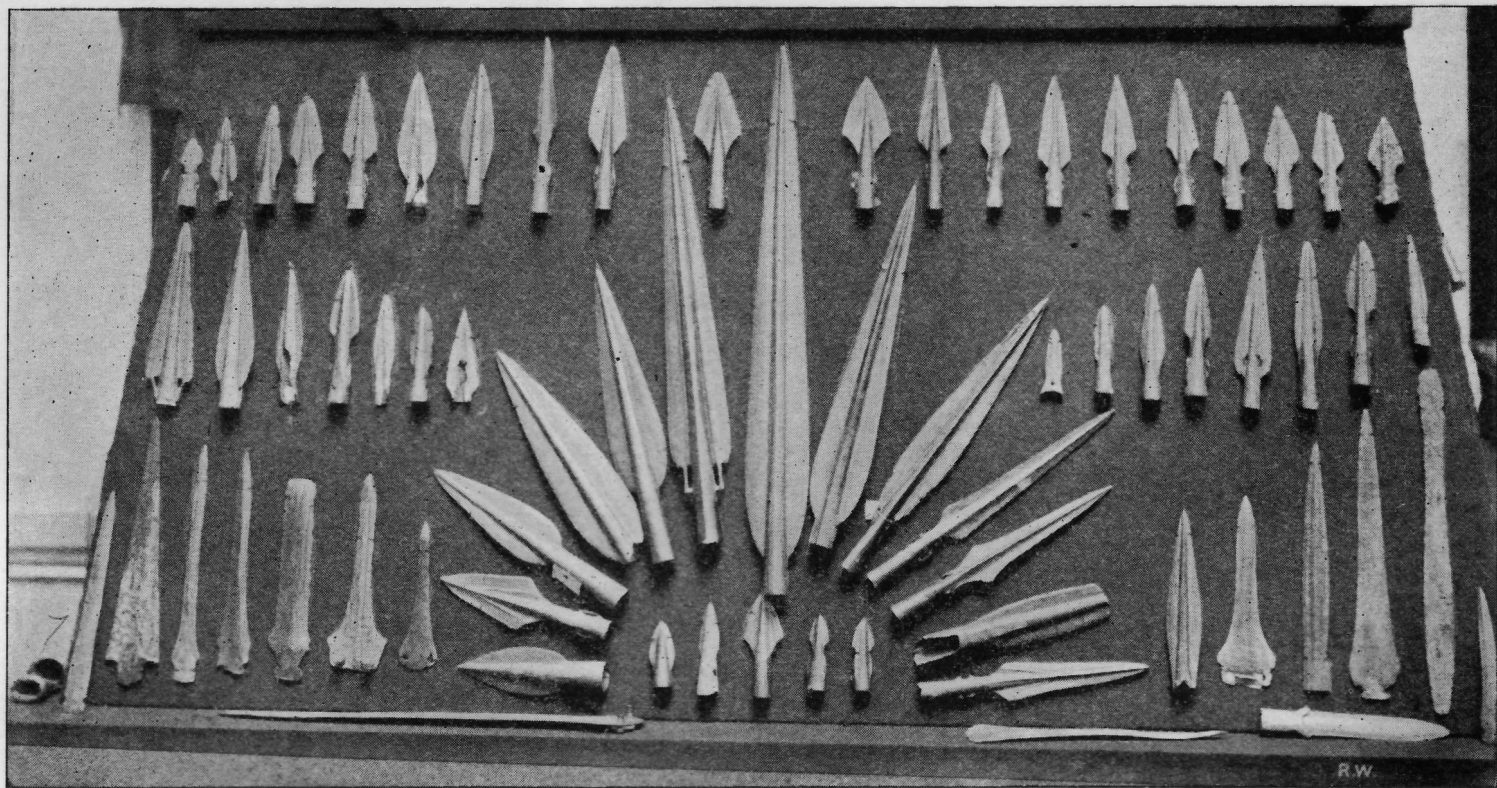
Figs. 108-115.—Some Scottish sword-blades of bronze (all  $\frac{1}{2}$ ).

Museum being  $30\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, while the smallest measures scarcely 20 inches. Sheaths of bronze, or wood

with bronze mounting, were used to protect the blades, but of their remains in Scotland only a few of the bronze tips have been found. There is a considerable difference in the shape of the flat portion which formed the handle, as well as in the disposition of the rivet-holes, as shown in the illustrations.

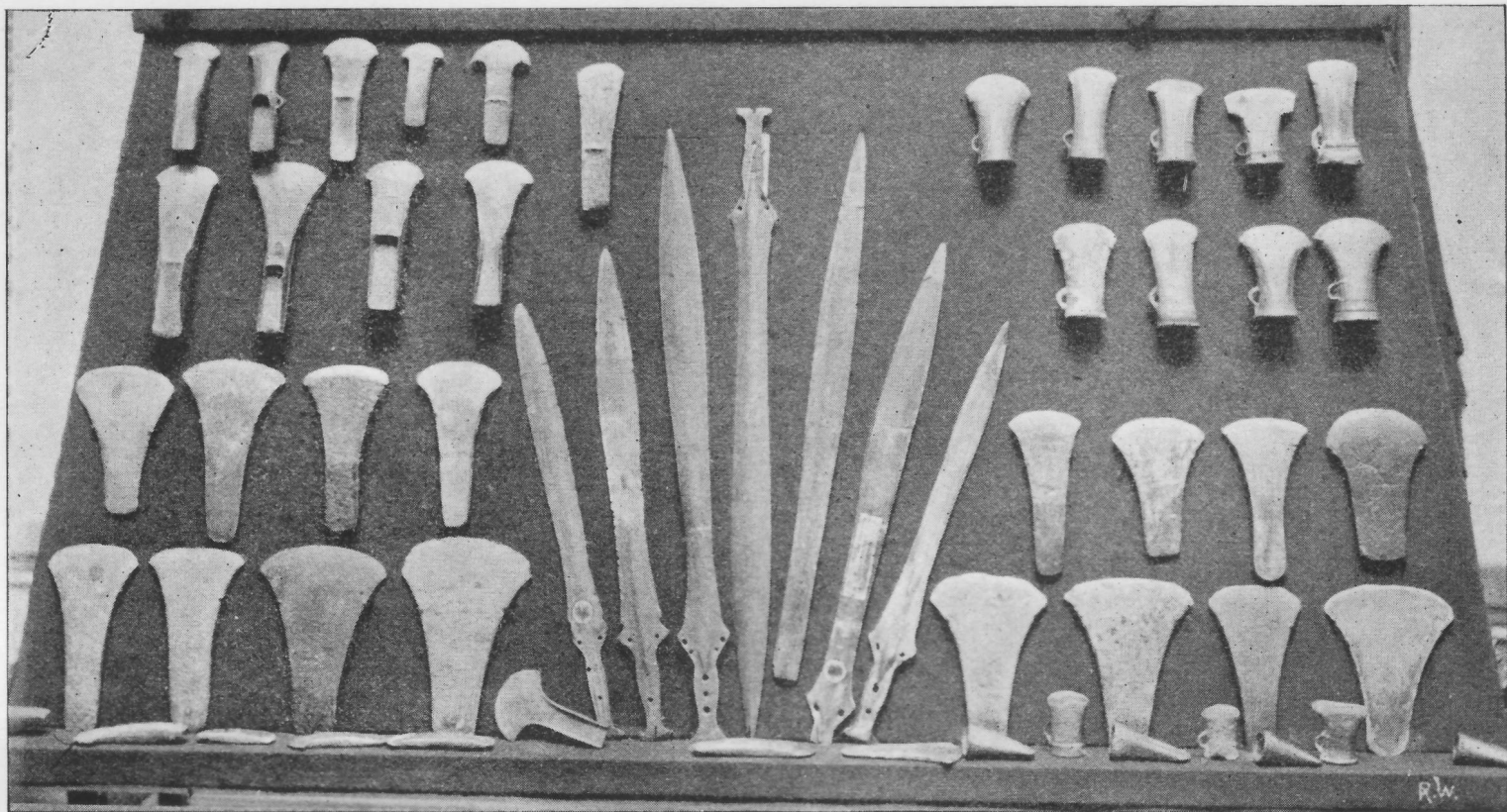
Along with a number of flat-hilted sword-blades found in 1869, while workmen were engaged in digging the foundations of a house in Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh, was one (fig. 113) which had the handle and pommel cast in bronze in the same mould as the blade. With regard to this sword Dr Joseph Anderson makes the following remarks: "It is a short sword, its whole length being only 20 inches. The blade is leaf-shaped, the hilt without a guard, but with a grip of 4 inches in length, terminating in a rounded pommel 2 inches diameter, and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch in height. The grip is  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch thick, and 1 inch in width at the centre, widening to  $1\frac{7}{8}$  inch at its junction with the blade. A break in the pommel at one side reveals the fact that the core of hardened clay on which it was cast is still within it. Both hilt and pommel are pierced by holes, which at first sight suggest the rivet-holes in the handle-plates of the swords from which the mountings of the grip are wanting. But the holes in this hilt do not pass through, and they are not opposite each other. Some other explanation of their purpose is therefore necessary. I have stated that the clay core on which the handle was cast is still within it. When the core was placed within the mould, it was necessary that it should be supported in its true position in the cavity of the mould, and this could not be more conveniently accomplished than by pins or projections which would leave corresponding holes in the casting of metal."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Scotland in Pagan Times, p. 140. It is satisfactory to find that this sword is now in the National Museum, having been recently acquired by purchase. For the distribution of this variety of sword, see article by Dr Anderson (Proc. Soc. A. Scot., vol. xiii. p. 320).



*From a Photo by R. Welsh, Belfast.*

PLATE II.—A VIEW OF BRONZE OBJECTS IN THE COLLECTION OF THE LATE CANON GRAINGER.



*From a Photo by R. Welch, Belfast.*

PLATE III.—A VIEW OF BRONZE OBJECTS IN THE COLLECTION OF THE LATE CANON GRAINGER.

There is another rapier-shaped blade occasionally found in Scotland, the peculiarity of which is that it has no extension of the metal into the perishable material of the handle, but merely a flattened base to which the handle was attached by rivets like the knife-daggers (figs. 116 and 117). On Plates



Fig. 116.—*Rapier-sword found in a peat moss, Kirkoswald, Ayrshire* (†).

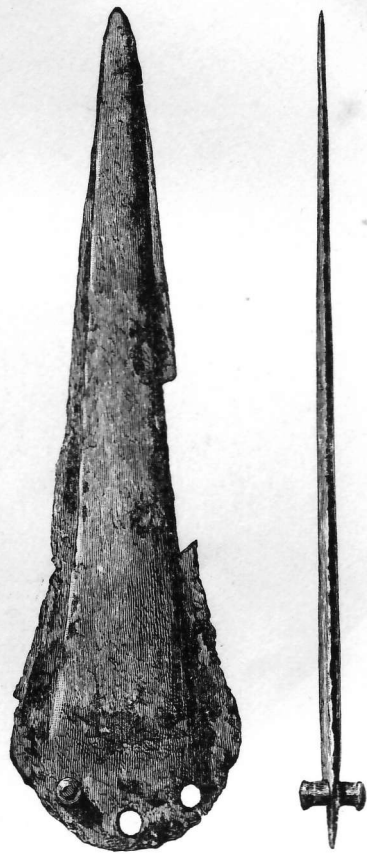


Fig. 117.—*Dagger-blade found near Crossraguel Abbey* (†).

II. and III. I have reproduced photographic illustrations of the principal objects of bronze included in the antiquarian collection (now in the Belfast Museum) of the late Canon Grainger, from which the characteristics of the various types of axes, swords, daggers, &c., may be readily perceived.

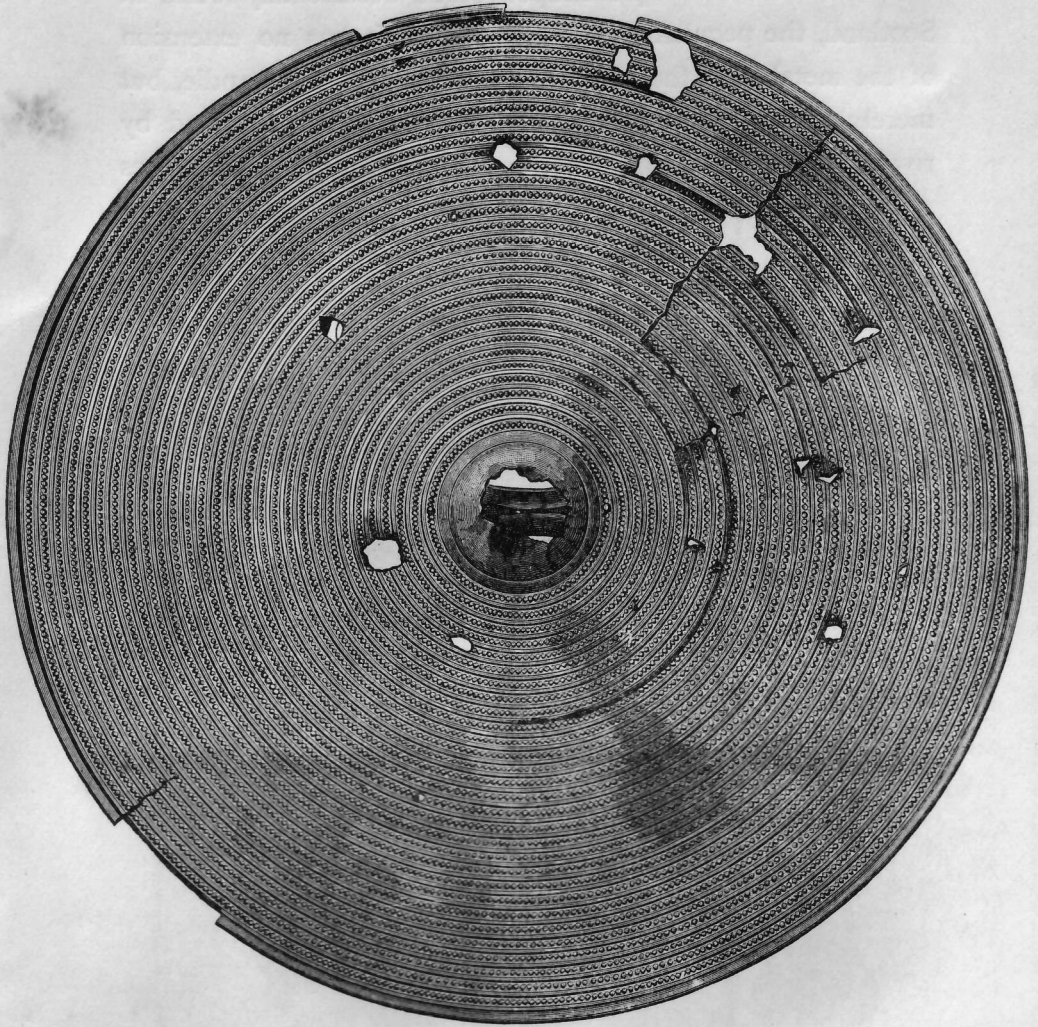
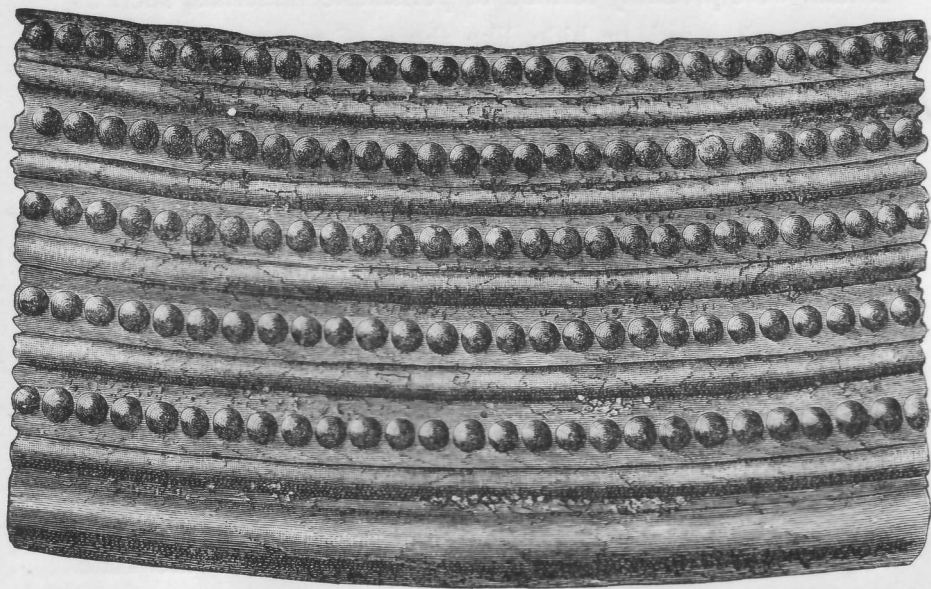
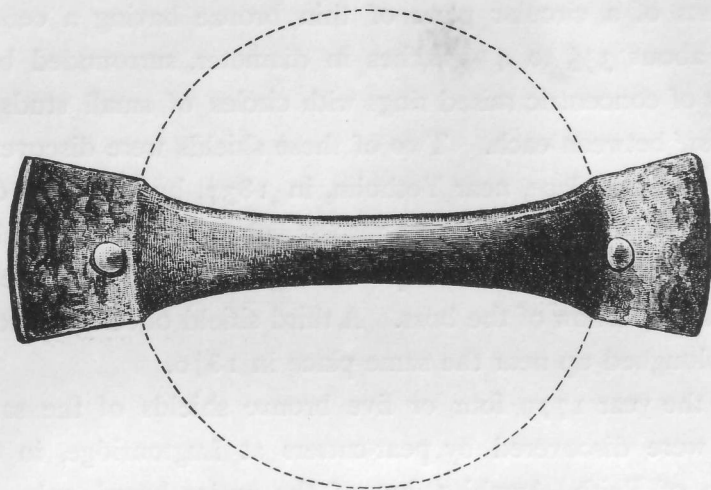


Fig. 118.—Bronze shield found at Lugtonridge, near Beith. Front view and section (26 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter).



Figs. 119, 120.—Handle and part of the shield found at Lugtounridge.

The most common type of shield found in the British Isles consists of a circular plate of thin bronze having a central boss about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, surrounded by a series of concentric raised rings with circles of small studs in *repoussé* between each. Two of these shields were discovered in a marshy place, near Yetholm, in 1837, by labourers digging a drain. They measure respectively  $23\frac{1}{2}$  and 24 inches in diameter, and in both specimens the handle was riveted across the hollow of the boss. A third shield of like character was ploughed up near the same place in 1870.

In the year 1779 four or five bronze shields of the same type were discovered by peat-cutters at Lugtonridge, in the parish of Beith, Ayrshire, but of the entire hoard only one (figs. 118-120) has been preserved.

Sir John Evans makes the following observations on the chronology of British shields: "The shields first in use in Britain were probably formed of perishable materials, such as wicker-work, wood, or hide, like those of many savage tribes of the present day; and it can only have been after a long acquaintance with the use of bronze that plates could have been produced of such size as those with which some of the ancient shields and bucklers found in this country were covered. They would appear, therefore, to belong to quite the close of the Bronze Age, if not to the transitional period when iron was coming into use. There are, indeed, several bronze coverings of shields of elongated form, such as those from the river Witham ('*Horæ Fer.*,' pl. xiv.) and from the Thames (*ibid.*, pl. xv.), with decorations upon them, in which red enamel plays a part, that have been found associated with the iron swords of what Mr Franks has termed the Late Celtic Period. Those, however, which appear to have a better claim to a place in these pages are of a circular form."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Bronze Implements, &c.*, p. 343.