

feet in height, and built of larger stones than those used in the interior."

The entrance passage, which was still partly covered, terminated in a chamber 21 feet long by 5 feet wide (over which the roof had fallen), divided into various compartments by large flagstones set on edge, as shown on the accompanying ground-plan (fig. 197). The side compartment opening from the main chamber may be closely paralleled with that in the cairn of Bruan previously referred to. "Un-

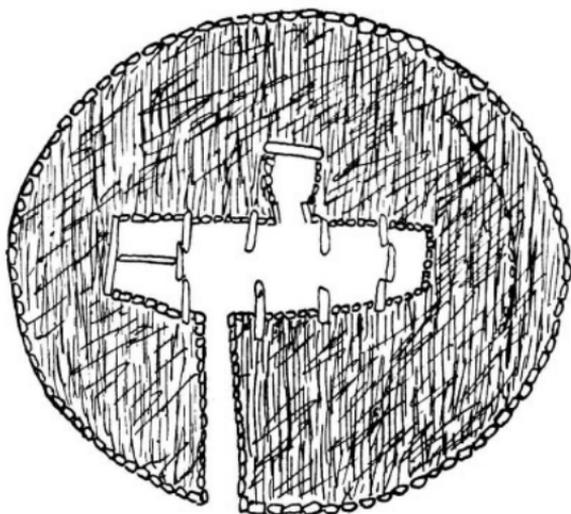


Fig. 197.—Ground-plan of chambered cairn at Unstan, Orkney (about 40 feet in diameter).

like the rest of the building, with the exception of the passage, the roof is here entire, its height being 3 feet 6½ inches. A rude floor is made by a flagstone small enough to have been introduced after the chamber was completed, and supported on blocks of stone. There were two distinct burials here in the contracted posture, one of the skulls being the most complete of any of those found, though scarcely half remained."

Like the Caithness chambered cairns, burials took place here both by cremation and inhumation, and the facts point

to cremation being first practised. "The whole structure," writes Mr Clouston, "is irregular in shape, none of the walls being quite straight, and the wall at one side of the dividing flagstone rarely coinciding with that of the other. At the side of the south-west flagstone in this compartment (second) there was a small space, not covered with white clay, and in this we found several fragments of different urns. A more striking instance of how the relics must have been scattered is the fact of a piece of pottery, found in the fourth compartment, fitting into an urn, the rest of which was dug up in this second compartment of the chamber. By far the greater portion of the relics found in the chamber were in this compartment. Overlying its clay floor was a stratum of black ashy or earthy matter, largely composed of charcoal, in which great quantities of pottery and several flint chips and flakes were found. . . . Several fragments of bones were found in the floor of this compartment, but none which showed any trace of burning. Curiously enough, however, the flints present indubitable indications of the action of fire. Upon the black stratum there were laid several burials in the contracted posture, as in the Caithness cairns."

The relics found scattered throughout the chambers consist of fragments of pottery, representing about thirty different shallow vessels, with round bottoms and wide mouths, and having the sides ornamented with scorings generally arranged into triangular spaces. With the exception of an oblong stone or "pounder," all the stone implements were of flint—viz., a flaking tool; four leaf-shaped arrow-points, and one with barbs and a stem; a finely finished scraper, and a knife with a ground edge.

On the farm of Quanterness, near Kirkwall, may still be seen another structure of the same type (fig. 198). It is

close to the farm-house, and presents the appearance of a green mound, 128 feet in circumference, with, now, two openings leading to the interior. The central chamber measures $21\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, and $11\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, and is closed in by a roof on the beehive plan. From this chamber there are 6 openings, about 2 feet square, two on each side and one at each end, which lead into corresponding cells, differing, however, from the analogous ones in

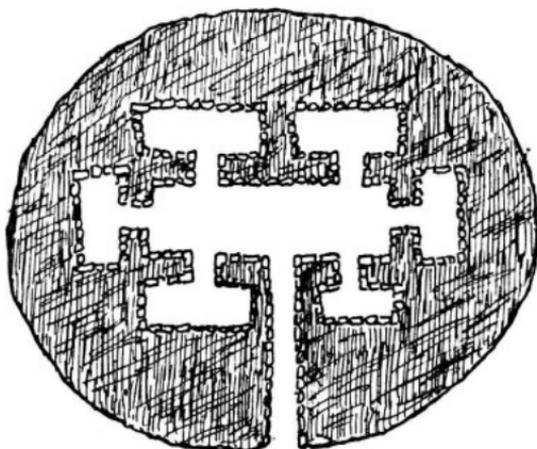


Fig. 198.—*Ground-plan of chambered cairn at Quanterness, Orkney (40-50 feet in diameter).*

Maeshowe, not only as regards number, but in being on the same level as the floor of the chamber, instead of being raised 3 feet above it as in the latter. The floor is described as being composed of dark earthy clay, containing fragments of unburnt bones both of man and beast; and in one of the cells there was found a human skeleton.¹

Another underground structure, described as a "Pict's house," and situated on the other side of Wideford Hill,² was explored by Mr George Petrie, in 1849. The chamber was 10 feet long, 5 feet broad, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, and from it

¹ Barry's History of Orkney.

² See *Archæologia*, vol. xxxiv., Pl. xv., p. 136; and Wilson's *Prehistoric Annals*, vol. i. p. 116.

or fifteen skulls, male and female, some being young persons. According to Dr Thurnam, to whom the bones were sent for examination, both long and short skulls were represented.

Before passing on I may observe that unburnt human remains have been found in another sepulchral cairn on Papa Westray. The chamber (fig. 199), 12 feet long by 6 feet wide, was rendered tripartite by pairs of projecting flags set on edge and opposite to each other, but with a space between their edges. It was excavated by Mr Petrie in 1853,¹ and its contents are so remarkable that I give his description

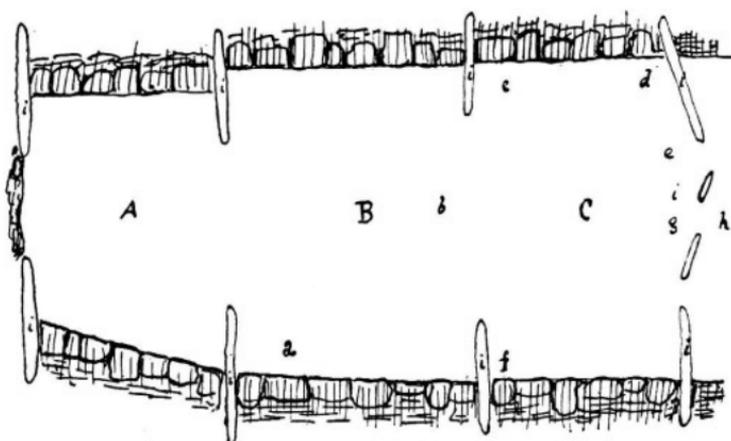


Fig. 199.—Ground-plan of chamber in sepulchral mound in Holm of Papa Westray, Orkney (12 feet long).

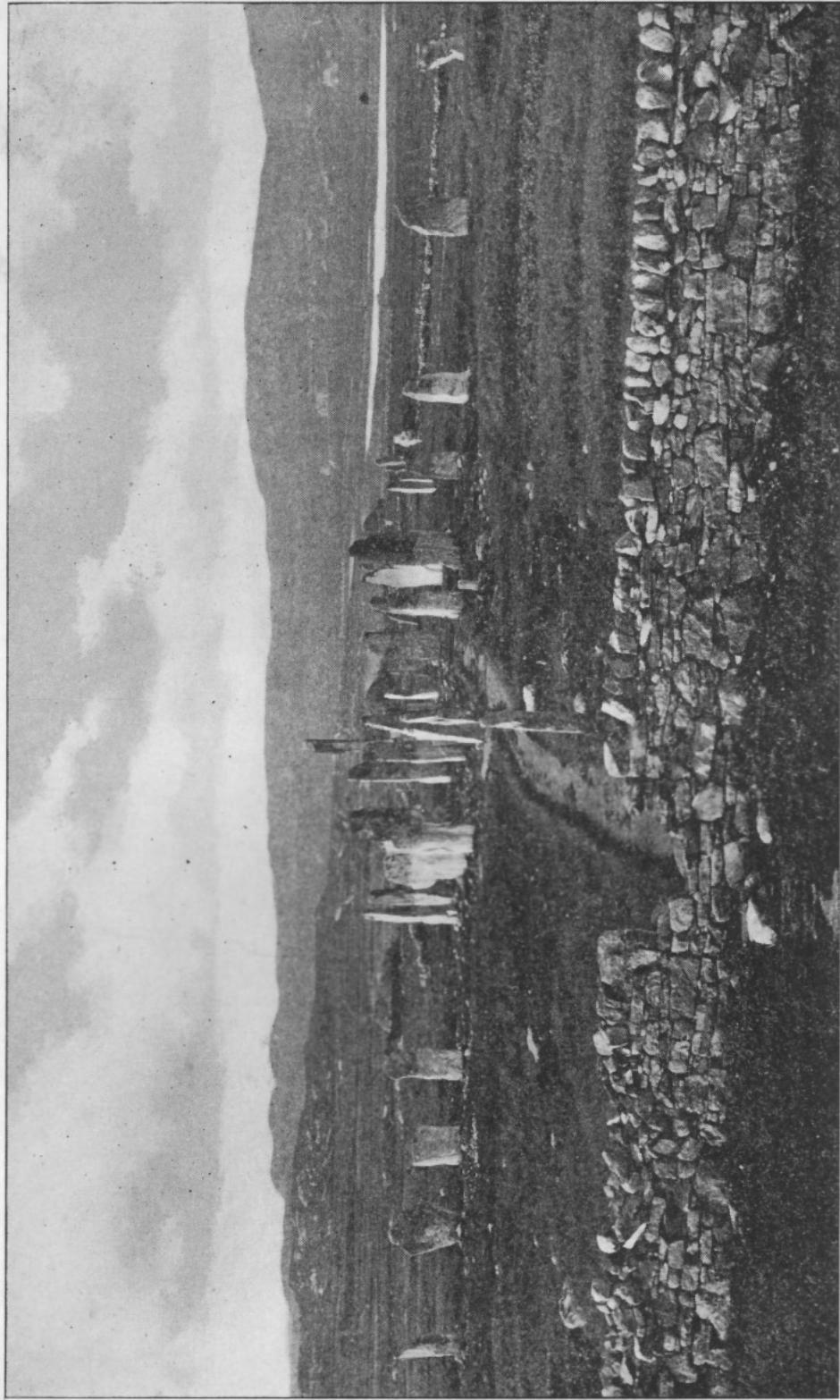
verbatim: "We commenced by digging in the compartment A, and found it filled with stones and earth; mixed with animal remains, amongst which were fragments of deer's horns, the horn core of the ox, and a jawbone of the boar, together with portions of a human skull. In the compartment B, the crowns and other portions of ten pairs of deer's horns were found lying on and between layers of stones, intermixed with bones of the ox, deer, sheep, &c., the wing-bone of a swan, or other large bird, and the lower part of the bill of the curlew, with bones of various kinds of birds. And underneath

¹ Proc. Soc. A. Scot., vol. ii. p. 62.

a layer of deer's horns, and lying amongst others, part of a human skull face downwards was discovered at *a*. A human skull, or rather a part of one, was lying on its side at *b*, resting on a portion of a deer's horn. The face was towards the south-west. In the compartment *c*, fragments of at least two pairs of deer's horns were found. The remains of a human skeleton lay at *c*, the ribs in tolerable order, not apparently having been previously disturbed; but no part of the skull was found except the lower jaw. The remains of another skeleton, without the skull, were found at *d*. Two skulls, one of them in good preservation, were found placed vertically at *e*, with the face towards the east. Another skull was lying on its side at *g*, with its face towards the backs of the two skulls at *e*. . . .

“The general appearance of the place, as far as it was opened, was that of an immense grave of double the ordinary dimensions, but divided into three compartments by the large upright flags or stones marked *i*, whose tops were above the surface of the mound. The sides of the grave were formed by stones built in the shape of rude walls, but how much of these may have been removed before we examined the place we could not even conjecture, as the whole mound was more or less covered with loose stones.”

On the west coast of the island of Lewis, at the head of Loch Roag, there are four stone circles within about a mile of each other, all of which in the course of time had become deeply buried in peat—a fact which probably accounts for their preservation. In 1858, under the instructions of Sir James Matheson, the largest, known as the Stone Circle of Callernish, was cleared of the peat which had accumulated on its site “down to a rough causewayed basement in which the stones were imbedded.” The depth of peat averaged 5 feet, and in the course of its removal the workmen came upon



From a Photo by J. Valentine, Dundee.

PLATE X.—STONE CIRCLE AT CALLERNISH, LEWIS.

the ruins of a chambered cairn, occupying the space between the centre stone and the east side of the circle. It contained a bipartite chamber with a passage leading to its outside. Nothing was found in the chamber except some minute fragments of burnt human bones.

The accompanying view (Pl. X.) shows the general arrangement of the circle and its alignments. According to measurements, taken by Mr Kerr, clerk of works to Sir James Matheson, the following are their dimensions:¹ diameter of circle about 40 feet; length of west line 43 feet; length of east line 38 feet; length of south line 69 feet; length of avenue 270 feet; breadth of avenue 27 feet; average height of stones 6 to 8 feet; height of centre stone 12 feet. To the height of the stones 5 feet must now be added to give their actual height after the removal of the peat. There are thirteen stones in the circle, including the centre one.

In 1884 Mr James Fraser communicated to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland² a detailed account of the stone circles of Strathnairn and neighbourhood of Inverness, from which it appears that such remains, in various states of preservation, are found from the lower end of the strath to a point twenty-five miles farther up. There were twenty-five of these circles within the drainage area of the river Nairn, and twelve or fourteen between its western watershed and the river Ness. "Wherever the structures are sufficiently preserved," writes Mr Fraser, "they exhibit the following characteristics in common:—

1. "They consist of three concentric, or nearly concentric, rings of boulder-stones, or of flagstones, fixed on end in the ground, and without hewing or dressing of any kind.

2. "There is an outer ring of stones, varying from 60 to

¹ Proc. Soc. A. Scot., vol. ii. p. 383, and vol. iii. p. 111.

² Ibid., vol. xviii. p. 328.

126 feet in diameter outside, and consisting of long stones, from nine to twelve in number, standing at nearly regular intervals,—the tallest being on the south side, and their size gradually diminishing towards the north.

3. “A smaller interior, and concentric, or nearly concentric, ring, varying from 32 to 88 feet in diameter outside, made of smaller boulders (very few, if any, flags being used in this ring), the stones being set on end, close together, with a slight slope inwards, and with the best, or flattest and broadest, face outward. As in the outer ring, the large stones are on the south side, and the smaller stones to the north.

4. “A third, and still smaller, concentric ring, from 12 to about 32 feet in diameter inside, and consisting of stones set on end, close together.

5. “They are all built on flat or low-lying ground, sometimes in a slight hollow or amphitheatre (with perhaps some not very decided exceptions on slight eminences).”

One part of the geographical area traversed by Mr Fraser is of special interest—viz., the plain of Clava, a flat “haugh” along the east bank of the Nairn, and near the battlefield of Culloden, because it contains within the distance of one mile the remains of eight cairns (two of which at least contained chambers) associated with stone circles. Besides the chambered cairns the surrounding district is studded with tumuli of various kinds, so that we may regard the Clava group as the remains of an important pagan cemetery.

One of the chambered cairns still remaining was opened about the year 1828, under instructions from Mrs Campbell, Kilravock, the result of which is thus described by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder in his book on the ‘Moray Floods’:¹ “I received a most interesting communication from Miss Campbell, informing me that the fragments of two earthen

¹ Appendix vii., p. 338.



PLATE XI.—WEST CAIRN, CLAVA, COUNTY OF NAIRN.

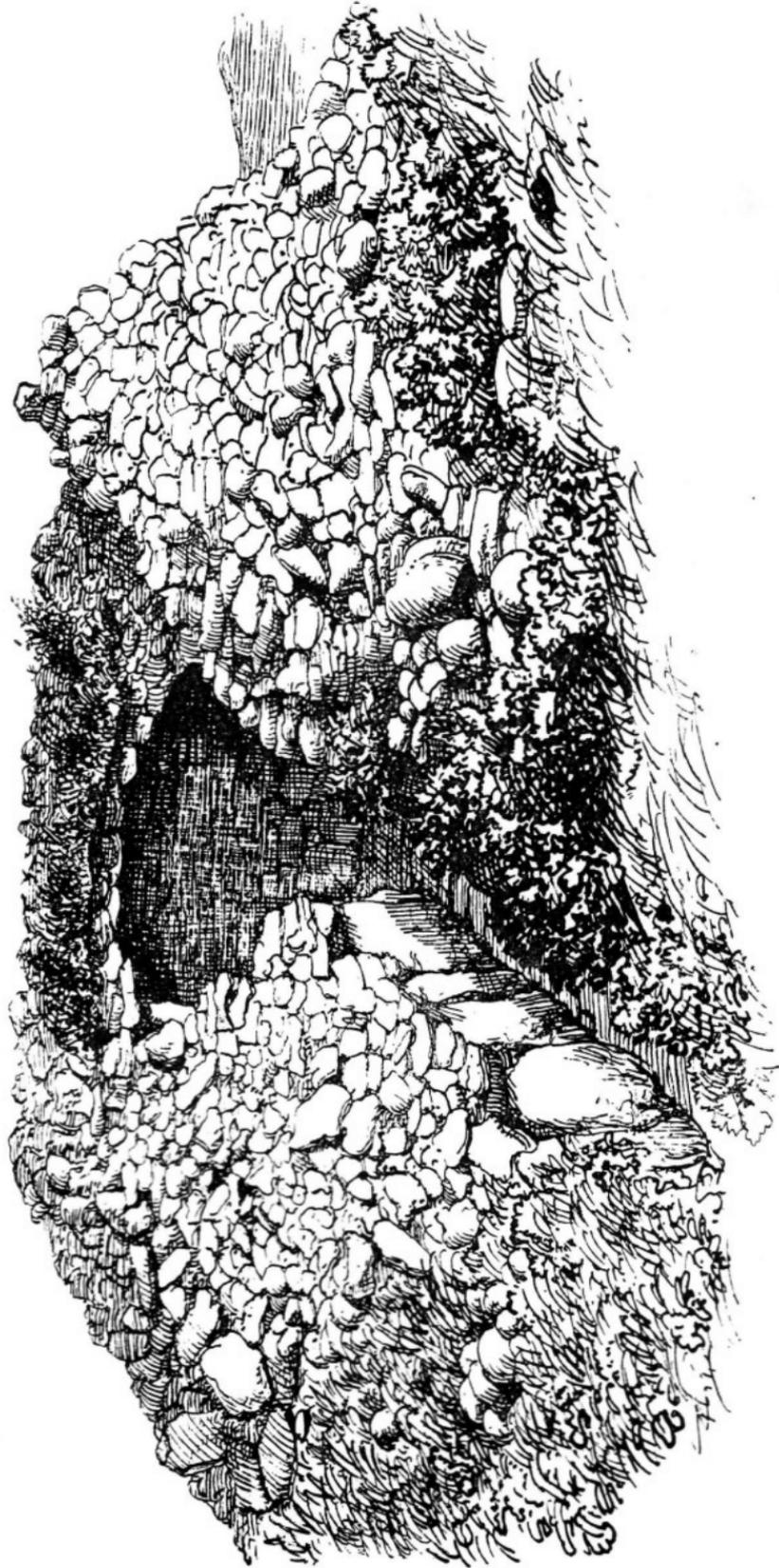


PLATE XII.—EAST CAIRN, CLAVA, COUNTY OF NAIRN.

vases were found in the chamber in the interior of the Druidical circle opened at Clava by Mrs Campbell's orders. 'It was about 18 inches below the earth,' says Miss Campbell, speaking of the more perfect of the two, 'exactly in the centre of the circle. It was found in a broken and very mutilated state, the whole body of the stones having lain upon it. A quantity of calcined bones were in it and about it, all of which we have. The clay is of the coarsest kind, and the vase is of the rudest make. It has, apparently, had no cover, but is rounded at the top like a garden-pot, which it resembles more than anything else. The bottom is flat, the inside very black from having been burned, the outside red; across the exterior of the bottom it measures $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and across the interior exactly 5 inches, and the height, in its fractured state, is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. After clearing away the stones, the interior of the cairn was found to be composed of gravel, but the vase and bones were enclosed in a portion of clay quite distinct from the natural soil.' "

Cosmo Innes visited the locality in 1857, and made two sketches of the Clava group—one showing the interior of this cairn—which are here reproduced (Pl. XI. and XII.)

The following dimensions of the cairn and its various adjuncts are taken from Mr Fraser's measurements. The outer ring is 108 feet in diameter, and consists of eleven stones, there being a vacant space for a twelfth. The intermediate ring, which forms the boundary of the cairn, is 53 feet in diameter. The inner ring (which forms the wall of the chamber) is $12\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter (inside). It is built of more carefully selected stones (of which seven or eight feet still remained), and this wall supported the beehive roof of the chamber; but it would take four or five feet more to complete the dome. The passage, which lies at the south-west side, was about 18 feet in length, 2 feet wide at the

outer end, 3 feet at the inner end, and about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height.

It will not be necessary to dwell at great length on the unchambered sepulchral cairns, as the interments are either in stone cists in the substance of the cairn or deposited in the earth beneath it. One of the most instructive of this category was at Collessie, in Fife, the investigation of which was superintended, and the results recorded, by Dr Joseph Anderson.¹ The cairn was a mass of stones and boulders, 120 feet in diameter and 14 feet in height. A large central segment of the stones was cleared away down to the level of the ground, during which the following discoveries were made:—

1. Within a few feet of the margin there was exposed a portion of a circle of upright slabs which the explorers considered to be part of the original boundary of the cairn.

2. Within this ring the whole area of the cairn was covered with a layer of fine clay 1 to 3 inches thick, and on its surface were marks of fire in spaces several feet in diameter, with abundance of black ashes and wood charcoal. Charcoal was also found in the gravel beneath the layer of clay.

3. Near the centre of the cairn there was a stone cist $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 3 feet, resting on the ground, and containing gravel, from which an urn of the drinking-cup type was extracted. The floor of the cist was paved with pebbles, and underneath this pavement the soil was loose, and mixed with fragments of charcoal to a depth of 2 feet.

4. Some distance within the margin of the cairn, at a depth of 4 feet in the gravel, the remains of a cremated burial were found, among the bones of which lay a small bronze dagger-blade, and a gold fillet which had encircled the handle.

¹ Proc. Soc. A. Scot., vol. xii. p. 439.

5. A second deposit of burnt bones and a broken drinking-cup were found near the centre, at a depth of 6 feet in the earth.

A cairn on the farm of Gilchorn, near Arbroath, was explored by Mr Alexander Hutcheson, which yielded a bronze dagger (fig. 106) and fragments of at least two others, associated with burials both by inhumation and cremation.¹ On comparing the results of this investigation with those of the cairn at Newton of Collessie, Mr Hutcheson thus states the points of resemblance and difference: "The features in which they agree are—(1) the layer of clay underlying the site of the cairn; (2) the appearance of wood ashes all over this surface; (3) the existence of a cist of stone slabs containing an unburnt burial; and (4) the presence of cremated urn-burials associated with implements of bronze. On the other hand, the points in which they differ are as follows: (1) In the Collessie cairn the cist stood on the natural surface, in the Gilchorn mound the cist was sunk below the subsoil; (2) at Collessie, the burnt remains and the associated urns were found sunk in the subsoil, whereas at Gilchorn the urns rested on the subsoil."

Burials are often found in groups or cemeteries with or without stone cists.

A few years ago a cemetery, with and without urns, was discovered in a sand-pit at Kirkpark, near Musselburgh Station, in Mid-Lothian, the results of which have been described by the Rev. George Lowe and Dr Joseph Anderson.² The urns were merely buried in the sand, at a depth of from 3½ to 6 feet, along with burnt material which seemed to have been thrown into the graves when they were deposited. The urns were sometimes inverted; and some of them were full of burnt bones and others empty. One grave

¹ Proc. Soc. A. Scot., vol. xxv. p. 447.

² Ibid., vol. xxviii. p. 62.

contained no less than four (Nos. 6 to 9). No actual bronze was found, but in two instances the cremated bones were "extensively dyed, as it were, with a brilliant green colour," supposed to be due to the oxidation of bronze. Besides these graves there were some discoloured spaces which had the appearance of burial by inhumation. Mr Lowe adds that "in this same field many stone coffins containing bodies have been found at different times."

Dr Anderson, after giving a technical description of the urns from this cemetery, thus describes its general characteristics: "In its general character it closely resembles another cemetery also found in clearing away a natural deposit of sand at Magdalen Bridge, a little nearer the present sea-shore, and about a mile nearer Edinburgh, in which there were at least ten urns found, seven of which are now in the Museum, along with a small thin oval tanged bronze blade¹ (fig. 94) found in one of them. The urns from the two cemeteries have much the same character, the ornamentation on two of those from the Kirkpark cemetery being composed of the same patterns distributed in the same way as that on two of the urns from Magdalen Bridge. In both cemeteries there was the same variety in the manner of burial, mostly after cremation."

Two cemeteries found on the estate of Pitreavie, near Dunfermline, and described by Henry Beveridge, Esq. of Pitreavie,² present some features of special interest. One, near the summit of a gentle rising ground in cultivated lands, was without any evidence of a tumulus. There were seven cists nearly in a row within a space of 30 feet, but none of them was more than 12 inches below the surface. One had neither cover nor urn; another, without a cover, contained some handfuls of incinerated bones. Four cists contained

¹ Proc. Soc. A. Scot., vol. xvi. p. 424.

² Ibid., vol. xx. p. 240.

urns of the food-vessel type, measuring from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches in height. Near one of the urns was found a small flint flake, and beside another a disc-shaped flint scraper.

The second cemetery was close to the north margin of Calais Muir, on the summit of a natural rising ground, and surmounted by an artificial tumulus, 40 feet in diameter and 4 feet in height. Near the centre of the tumulus was a cist covered by a large stone $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet below the surface of the mound. In this cist was found an ornamented urn of the food-vessel type, 5 inches in height, which presents the peculiarity of being surrounded above the shoulder by a row of four projecting knobs perforated horizontally.

“Pursuing the excavation,” writes Mr Beveridge, “around the central cist, ten other urns were recovered in a more or less imperfect condition; besides which were found numerous fragments of urns, and also several deposits of burned bones, as well as vegetable charcoal in considerable quantities. The urns lay at different points, but chiefly upon the west side of the cist, and at distances from the cist varying from 3 to 6 feet. These urns were all of the cinerary type; they stood for the most part upon their bottoms, and were deposited at a level somewhat higher than that of the cist, thus suggesting a later date of interment. These urns were all more or less filled with incinerated bones and other remains of cremation. In one or two of the urns were observed pieces of calcined bone bearing traces of the peculiar green stain which always accompanies the presence of bronze; but although careful search was made, not the smallest fragment of bronze could be detected.”

It has been established beyond doubt that most of the stone circles, as well as single standing stones, scattered more or less in groups over the country, so far as they have been subjected to practical investigation, are mere external ap-

pendages of burials both by inhumation and cremation, but more commonly the latter. These interments are either in cists, urns, or grave-pits, differing in no respect from those under cairns or tumuli. This important generalisation was first clearly shown by a series of explorations made by Mr C. E. Dalrymple, the result of which is given in an Appendix to Dr Stuart's 'Sculptured Stones of Scotland.'¹ Mr Dalrymple's investigations included a number of circles in the counties of Aberdeen and Kincardine—Crichie, Tuack, Sunhoney, "The Standing Stones of Rayne," Ardlair, Ardoyne, Auchorthie, &c.

At Crichie the stone circle, which originally consisted of six stones, and one in the centre (fig. 200), was surrounded by a ditch except at two opposite points. Beneath the centre stone there was a pit, 15 feet in diameter and 5 feet deep, filled with stones, under which was a cist with the remains of a skeleton. Burnt burials, with and without cinerary urns, were also exposed within the area, in one of which, among some burnt bones, close to a standing stone, was found a fine specimen of a perforated stone hammer (fig. 48).

At Tuack seven burials, all after cremation, were discovered within a circle which also originally consisted of six stones. The cremated remains were in pits, and in three instances inverted cinerary urns covered them. Fragments of a small bronze blade were found among the bones in one of the graves.

The publication of Mr Dalrymple's discoveries by Dr Stuart (1856) induced Dr James Bryce to undertake a similar investigation among the stone circles of Arran, especially those on Mauchrie Moor. One of this group, 15 yards in diameter, still retains in position three huge sandstone slabs 16 to 18 feet in height, but originally there would

¹ See also Proc. Soc. A. Scot., vol. xviii. p. 319.

be seven or eight stones in the circle. About the centre of the enclosed area, and 2 feet below the surface, the stone cover of a cist was exposed. This being raised with much difficulty, there was found an ornamented urn of the food-vessel type and four flint arrow-heads of rude construction.

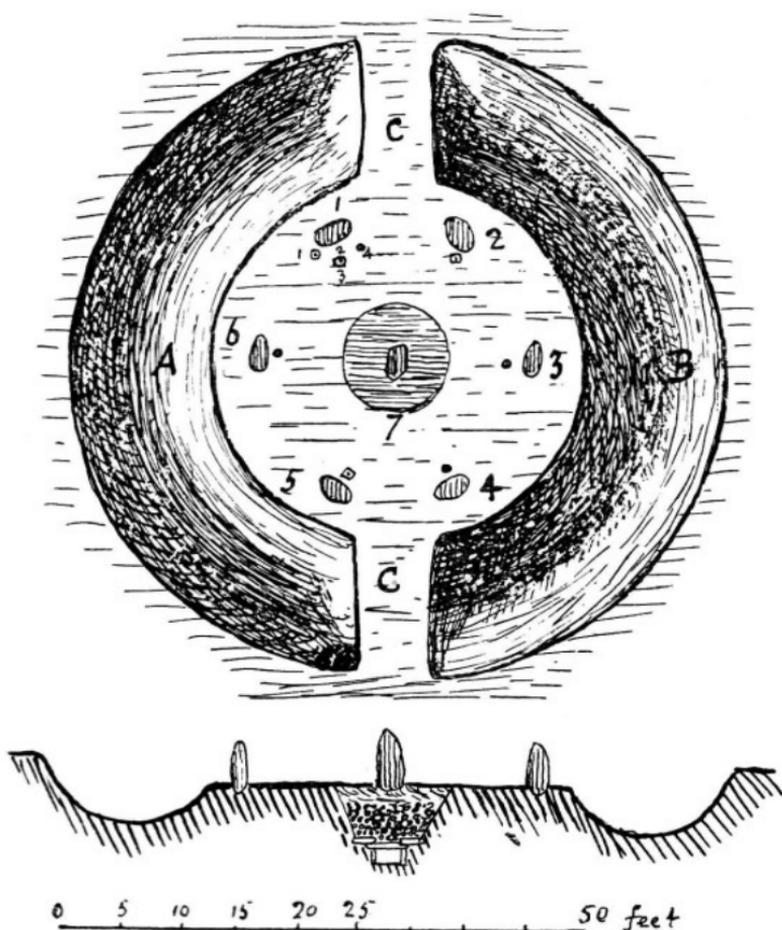


Fig. 200.—Ground-plan and section of stone circle at Crichtie.

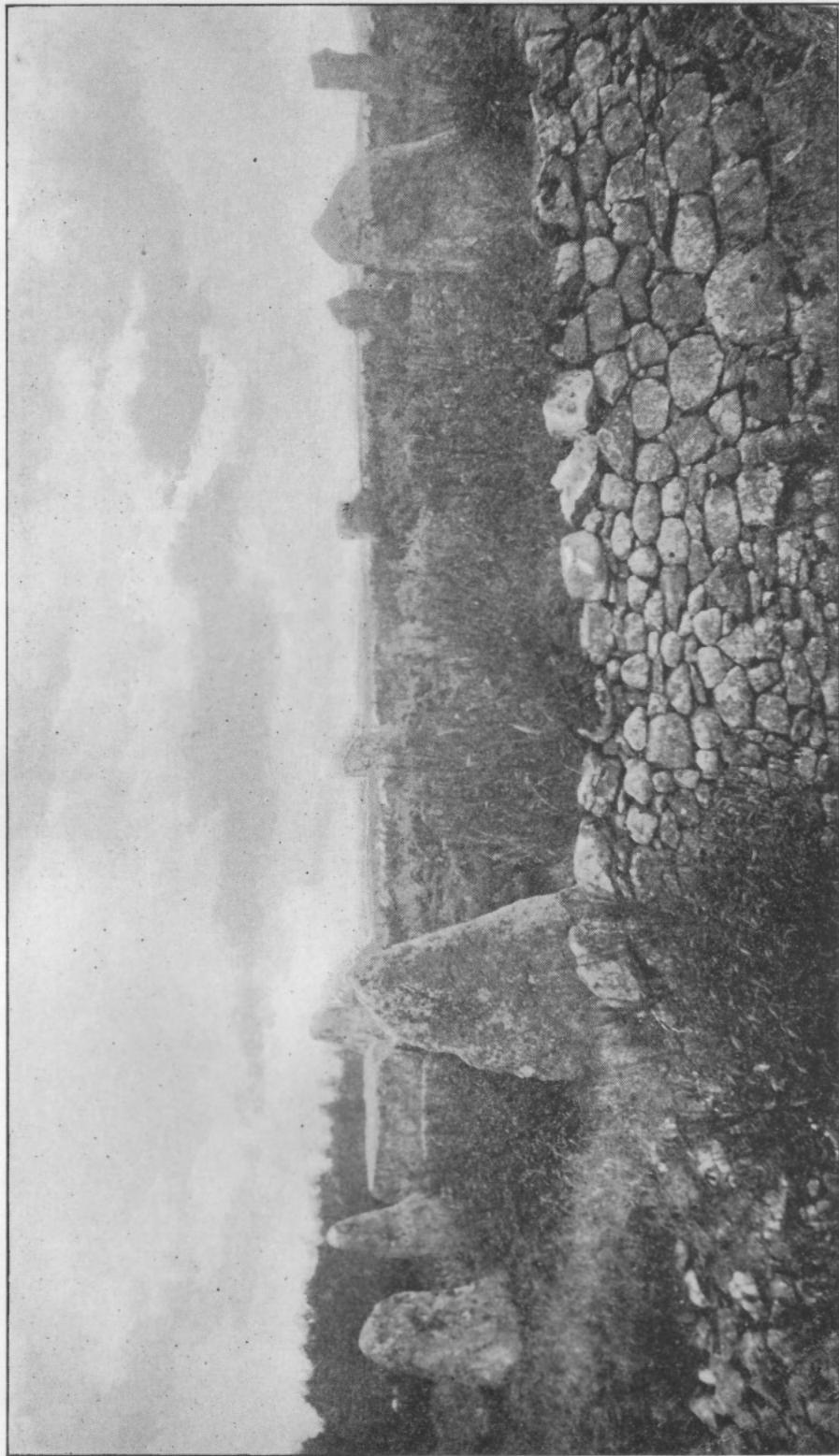
In another circle, $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the surface, a cist was exposed which also contained an urn of a similar character and two rude flints. Analogous results were obtained in six or seven of the circles, but only in one instance was there any trace of metal discovered—viz., a portion of a pin or awl. All the burials thus examined within the Mauchrie

stone circles appear to have been after inhumation, as the two urns preserved are of the food-vessel type.¹

Remnants of stone circles and "standing stones," often in groups of twos, threes, or more, sometimes arranged in lines or avenues, but more frequently as solitary hoary pillars, abound in almost every district of Scotland. Of such megalithic monuments history is almost silent, and the associations which still hover about them in local folk-lore are of little value in determining their origin or purpose. They are rough blocks or boulders from the natural rocks of the neighbourhood, probably selected because of their pillar-like forms. Only two of these unsculptured monuments bear inscriptions—viz., the Cat Stone, near Edinburgh, and the Newton Stone, in Garioch. Many of them, however, show cup-and-ring marks and other symbolical incised sculptures. That many of these megaliths are mere external settings of graves has been proved by actual investigation; whilst others, especially the solitary specimens, or *menhirs*, were no doubt intended to commemorate other important events, as indicated by the traditional names assigned to some of them, such as Cat Stone, Hawk Stone, King's Stone, Tanist Stone, Stone of Odin, &c. Such memorials are common in Scotland, and good examples must be familiar to visitors of the islands of Bute and Arran, and many of the more frequented Highland glens. Stone circles are numerous throughout the counties of Aberdeen, Perth, Kincardine, and Forfar; and they are also met with in the south-west of Scotland. As an illustration I reproduce from a photograph a view of the Stone circle of Auqhorthies near Inverury (Pl. XIII.)

Groups of upright stones arranged in rows, sometimes parallel, but more frequently converging at one end, occur within the Scottish area only in Caithness and Sutherland, but

¹ Proc. Soc. A. Scot., vol. iv. p. 49, and vol. xvii. p. 458, figs. 19 and 20.



From a Photograph.

PLATE XIII.—STONE CIRCLE OF AUQUHORTHIES, NEAR INVERURY. (18 yards in diameter.)

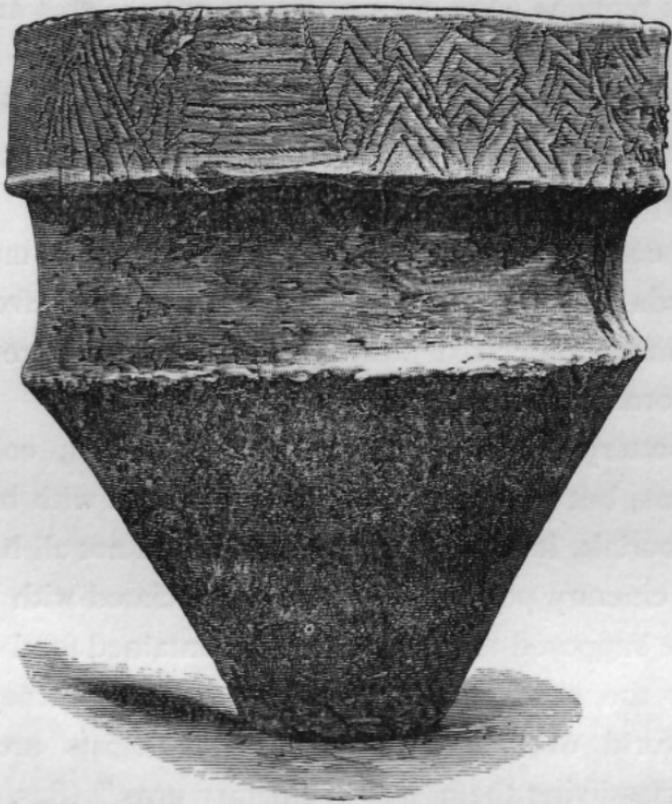


Fig. 201.—Cinerary urn found at Moathill, Ochiltree, Ayrshire ($\frac{1}{6}$).



Fig. 202.—Cinerary urn found at Seamill, Ayrshire ($\frac{1}{4}$).

analogous remains have been observed outside this area, as at Ashdown, in Berkshire,¹ and especially at Carnac, in Brittany. The Caithness group, described by Dr Anderson² and Sir Henry Dryden,³ are regarded by the former investigator as having sepulchral associations.

Before concluding our observations on sepulchral memorials, a few words must be said on the contents of the graves. The most common objects deposited with the dead were pottery, personal ornaments, and weapons.

The pottery consists of a variety of vessels, collectively called urns, but as they were deposited both with burnt and unburnt burials, it is manifest that they could not all have been used for cinerary purposes. Vessels associated with inhumed bodies are supposed to have originally contained food or drink, to supply the needs of the departed on the journey to the unseen world of spirits. Hence archæologists are in the habit of classifying them into "cinerary urns" (figs. 201 and 202), "food-vessels" (figs. 186, 203-205), and "drinking-cups" (figs. 185 and 206). Very small cup-shaped urns, often pierced with two or four holes on the sides, and generally found inside the large cinerary urn, are called "incense cups" (fig. 207). But there is no evidence to support this suggested use of them, and they are now more generally regarded as cinerary urns for infants.

Cinerary urns vary in size, form, and ornamentation, being from 10 to 18½ inches in height. They are coarsely made vessels, wide-mouthed and narrow-based, and having a broad overhanging rim to which the ornamentation is generally confined; or they may be ornamented by transverse ridges as in fig. 208. They are found often inverted over the cremated remains, or in an upright position covered with a flat stone.

¹ International Congress of Prehist. Arch., 1868, p. 37.

² Scotland in Pagan Times, p. 125. ³ Rude Stone Monuments, p. 529.

The food-vessel, smaller, more globular, and more highly ornamented than the cinerary urn, is also wide-mouthed and



Fig. 203.—*Food-vessel from Skeldon, Ayrshire* ($\frac{1}{2}$).

narrow-based. It is commonly found with an unburnt body, and generally placed near the head.



Fig. 204.—*Food-vessel found in levelling a sandbank at Content, Ayrshire* ($\frac{1}{2}$).

Drinking-cups are tall, highly ornamented vessels, narrowing from the mouth to near the middle, then bulging out and



Fig. 205.—*Food-vessel found at Law, Tarbolton* ($\frac{1}{2}$).



Fig. 206.—*Urn from Cairngaan, Kirkmaiden, Ayrshire* ($\frac{1}{2}$).

again narrowing at the base. A few specimens have been found with a handle like a jug. They are commonly associated with burials after inhumation—only two out of twenty-



Fig. 207.—*Incense cup, with lid of baked clay, found at Genoch, Ayrshire ($\frac{1}{2}$).*

four having been found by Canon Greenwell in the wold-barrows with cremated burials.

The objects classified as personal ornaments found in these graves include buttons of jet, stone, or bone; pins of bone and bronze; necklaces made of plates and beads of jet. With regard to the latter, there are several instances in which the plates and scattered beads have been recovered and reconstructed so as to present the entire necklace. The plates are either triangular or trapezoidal, and often ornamented with incised or dotted lines arranged in groups of geometrical figures. These relics are among the most interesting evidences of the culture of the Bronze-Age people which have come down to our day. (See fig. 133.)



Fig. 208.—*Urn found near Eglinton Castle, Ayrshire (7 inches in height).*

Ornaments of gold and bronze—rings, armlets, earrings, &c.—are also not unfrequently met with; but those of amber, perforated teeth, and shells, are comparatively rare in the prehistoric burials of Scotland.

Among implements and weapons the most noteworthy are arrow-heads, knives, and scrapers of flint; wrist-guards (fig. 76), perforated stone-hammers (figs. 48 and 49), and whetstones; and small thin blades of bronze in the form of daggers and so-called razors attached to handles with rivets or tangs (figs. 92-95). Records of the finding of bronze axes of any kind, socketed spear-heads, and leaf-shaped swords, in association with sepulchral remains, are almost unknown not only within the Scottish area but within the British Isles.

Dr Anderson, who has reconstructed for our National Museum, often from the merest fragments, a typical collection of urns unsurpassed by that of any other country, thus refers to the contents of Scottish prehistoric burials of the Bronze Age: "We find the typical burials, of which these associated objects are characteristic, extending over the whole of the mainland of Scotland, and into many of its outlying isles. But we do not find—at least I have been unable to discover—any obvious or noticeable distinction between the forms or the workmanship of the different examples of the same classes of objects found in widely separated portions of the country. The urns from Ross-shire and Mull are as well made and as highly decorated as those from Mid-Lothian. The bronze blades and jet necklaces from Sutherlandshire are precisely like those from Forfarshire and Mid-Lothian. The gold ornaments from Banffshire are similar to those from the southern districts of Scotland. There may be among the various examples some that are finer and some that are ruder than others, but, taking them collectively, it is evident

that the objects fashioned in these various materials usually exhibit shapeliness of form, fitness of purpose, and tastefulness of decoration.”¹

In the above short review of the sepulchral phenomena prevalent in Scotland during prehistoric times, it will be observed that there is no mention of burials of the Early Iron Age. The reason for this is that archæologists have not yet found any mounds or graves in Scotland, with the exception of burials of the Viking period, which can with certainty be assigned to this period; and those explored in England have been already sufficiently described in the chapter dealing with the Late Celtic period. Considering the abundance of burials of the Early Iron Age throughout France, Germany, Austria, and Italy, it is somewhat remarkable that they should be so sparingly represented within the British Isles. The same remark is almost applicable to burials of the Stone Age. Although many graves have been examined which contained implements and weapons of stone and nothing of bronze, it does not follow that these graves were earlier than others in which bronze articles were found. It seems to me that the vast majority of the sepulchral memorials, hitherto explored within the Scottish area, date from the introduction of bronze and the custom of cremating the dead. Moreover, evidence is not wanting to suggest, if not to prove, that the same customs and civilisation continued to a much later period in North Britain than in the southern parts of the island. Some of the ordinary burials, whether after inhumation or cremation, which in all respects might be regarded as of the Bronze Age, may in reality be as late as the Roman occupation.

The following categorical notes on the relation between

¹ Scotland in Pagan Times, p. 95.

the various Scottish forms of burial and their analogues in Western Europe are noteworthy:—

1. The series of chambered cairns, extending through the counties of Argyll, Inverness, Sutherland, and Caithness to

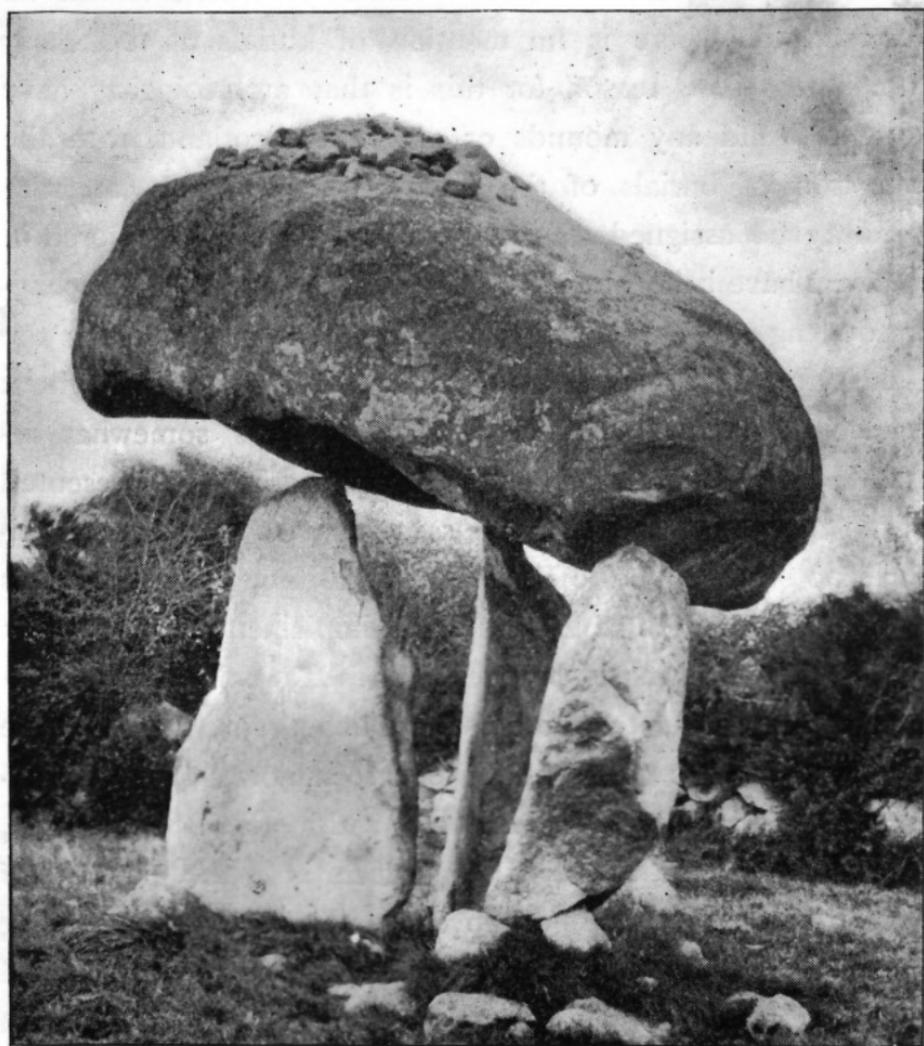


Fig. 209.—*Dolmen at Ballymascanlan, Dundalk (total height 12 feet).
(From photograph by R. Welch.)*

the Orkney Islands, do not cover a sufficiently wide area to entitle them to be regarded as the representatives of the Stone-Age burials of Scotland.

2. These same chambered cairns disclose a progressive

amplification as regards structural details in the northern part of the area of their distribution; and in all of them from the very beginning both cremation and inhumation were practised by the people who constructed and owned them.

3. In the south-west of England (Gloucester, Wilts, Somers-

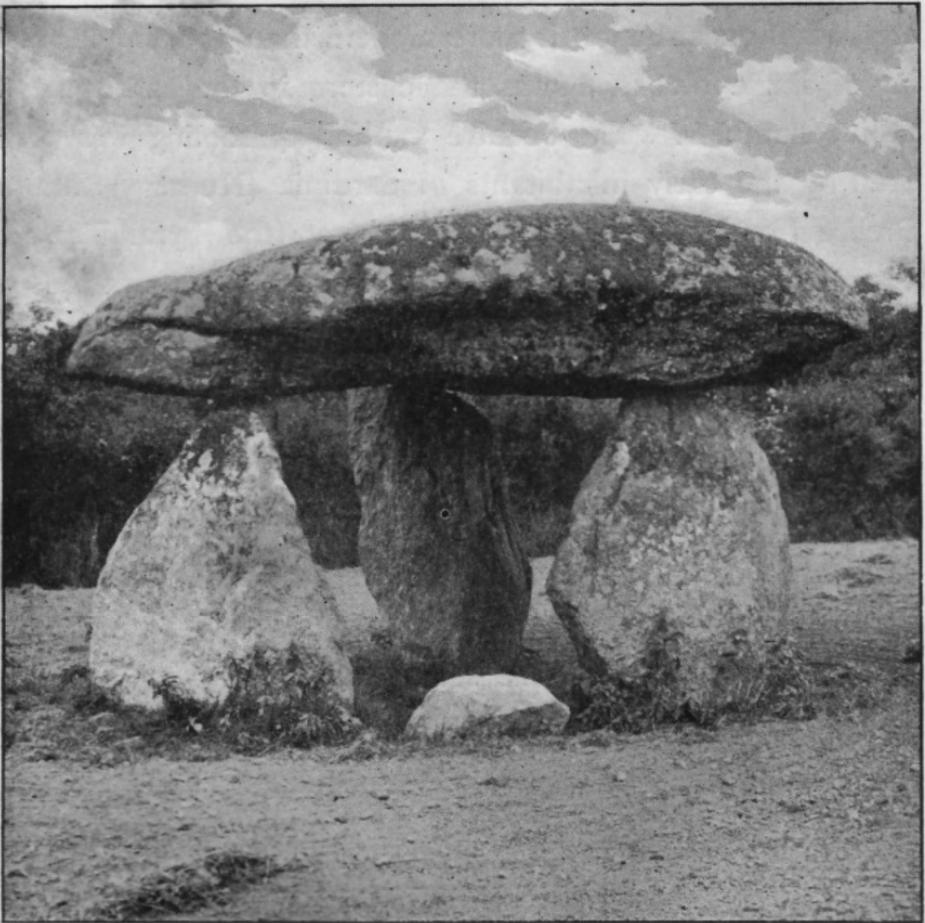


Fig. 210.—*Spinsters' Rock, Chagford, Devonshire (supports 6½ feet high).
(From a photograph by Hudson.)*

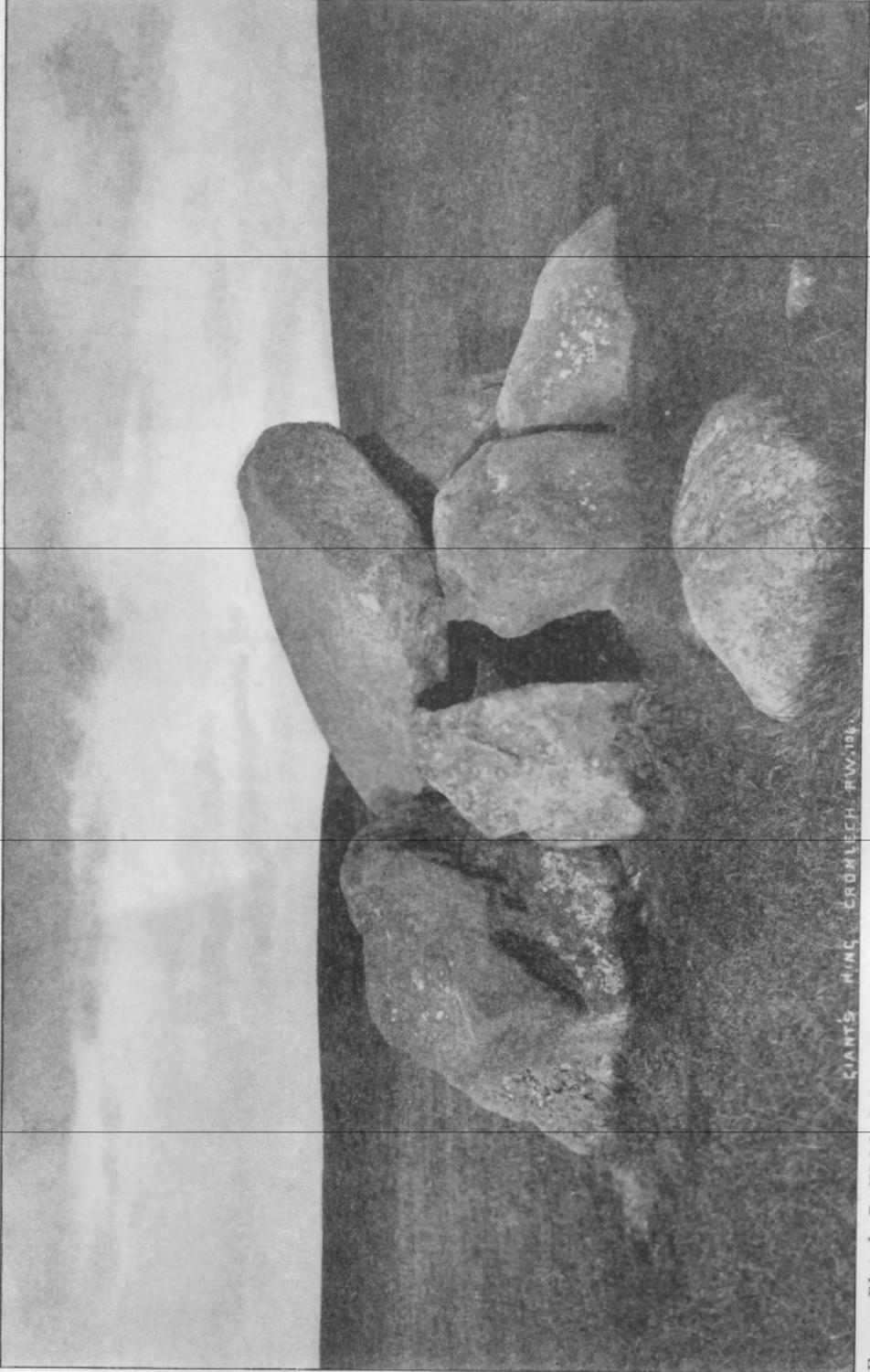
set, and some neighbouring localities) there are chambered cairns analogous to those in the Scottish area, including even "Horned Cairns," but in the former all the primary burials were by inhumation, and the skulls were those of a dolichocephalic race.

4. Sepulchral chambers with beehive roofs are met with

in all parts of the British Isles, but they are not found in the Scandinavian archæological area, and only very rarely in France. Dr Fergusson,¹ in describing the existence of two dolmens, associated with a circular chamber constructed on the beehive principle, in the long barrow called Moustoir-Carnac, in Brittany, gives expression to the opinion that this method of construction is more modern than the simpler ceiling of single blocks, as was the custom in the earlier megalithic chambers. The beehive method of roofing was practised by the early inhabitants of Sardinia (Nurhags), Malta, Greece (tombs of Mycenæ), and Egypt (the Pyramids).

5. Dolmens — *i.e.*, sepulchral monuments constructed of huge stones set on end and covered over with similar megaliths so as to form a chamber with, or without, an entrance passage—are rarely, if at all, met with in Scotland. But on the other hand, they abound in Ireland (fig. 209 and Pl. XIV.), England (fig. 210), south of Sweden, Denmark, North Germany, the Drenthe, west of France, Spain, Portugal, and North Africa.

¹ Rude Stone Monuments, p. 359.



GIANTS RING, CROMLECH, BELFAST.

From a Photo by R. Welch, Belfast.

PLATE XIV.—GIANT'S RING AND DOLMEN, NEAR BELFAST.

The ring encloses a circular area 580 feet in diameter.