

TENTH REPORT OF THE BARROW COMMITTEE.

TENTH REPORT *of the Barrow Committee, consisting of Mr. P. F. S. Amery, Mr. G. Doe, Mr. P. O. Hutchinson, Mr. E. Parfitt, Mr. J. Brooking Rowe, and Mr. R. N. Worth (Secretary), to collect and record facts relating to Barrows in Devonshire, and to take steps, where possible, for their investigation.*

Edited by R. N. WORTH, F.G.S., Hon. Secretary.

(Read at Exeter, July, 1888.)

THE Committee much regret that their appeal to the members of the Association for assistance in their task has been productive of few results. They are convinced that a very large amount of work remains to be done, and that there is a great mass of valuable information to be gathered, in various parts of the county, which with a little effort might be rendered available for the purposes of archæological science; and they had hoped that when this was indicated some results would have been forthcoming, especially as what remains to be done in this connection is wholly in new ground.

The new Ordnance Survey Map of Dartmoor, on the six-inch scale, has added greatly to the number of recorded barrows, and is in this, as in other respects, a valuable contribution to the antiquarian literature of the county. The isolated localities of many of these tumuli gives good reason to hope that not a few of them are undisturbed, and that their exploration may be expected to yield valuable results, of course from a scientific point of view.

Among the localities on Dartmoor in or near which tumuli are indicated by the Survey are Belstone Tor, Cosdon Hill, Wadland Down, Yes Tor, Teign Head, Thornworthy, Hangstone Hill, Corn Ridge, Fordsland Ledge, Great Nodden,

Dannagoat, Sharp Tor, Black Down, Hamildon, Eylesburrow, Ugborough Beacon, Western Beacon, Shell Top, Watern Tor, Mardon, King Tor, Holne Ridge, Three Barrow Tor, Pen Beacon. Including kist-vaens, cairns, and ordinary barrows the relics of prehistoric interments on Dartmoor are, it is evident, far more numerous than even those who are familiar with its recesses have been accustomed to regard them; and only such a methodical examination as that of the officials of the Survey could have brought them to light. But where the work of the Survey ends there that of the antiquary should begin. To conduct the explorations in a systematic way, however, not merely time is wanted, but money; and the Committee as such have no funds at their disposal.

J. BROOKING ROWE, Chairman.

R. N. WORTH, Secretary.

For the following the Committee are indebted to the Rev. S. Baring-Gould, of Lew Trenchard:

WHITE DOWN.

"I have explored three barrows or cairns on White Down, a portion of Black Down, near Lydford.

"The down rises to the height of 1280 feet. On the summit are numerous cairns, large and small, mostly rifled. On the side is a range of five. The first to the east, and largest, has been rifled, so also the fifth. The other three I have examined. All three differ in construction; all three, however, gave the same results.

"B consisted of stones arranged with symmetry, wedged together with their points inwards, with peat-earth between the gaps. Nothing was found till we reached the original soil, when we found that a pan or basin had been scooped out in it (2 feet in diameter, and 8 inches deep), and in this were ashes and charcoal.

"C consisted of stones similarly arranged, but with the notable difference that in the centre was a sort of rude domed kist, formed by large stones curved inwards, over the pan or basin scooped in the original soil. This also originally contained ashes; but through the falling in of the top, and possibly through disturbance by the hand of man, the contents were mixed up with peat. Distinct traces of ashes and charcoal were, however, found. The pan was 1 foot 2 inches in diameter, and 1 foot 3 inches deep.

"D. The construction of the third barrow explored was entirely different. It was composed entirely of a grey and black soil, cased over with angular stones, set with their acute angles inwards. This barrow also yielded the same result—a pan or basin (1 foot 3 inches in diameter, and 1 foot deep), scooped out of the original soil, filled with ashes and charcoal. Not a trace of pottery, of flint, or bronze was found, from which I conjecture the extreme antiquity of these cairns.

"I may add, that lower down the hill are a series of small cairns, one of which I explored, but found that it was entirely structureless, and presented no trace of ashes and no pan to receive them. I doubt their being tumuli. (S. BARING-GOULD.)"