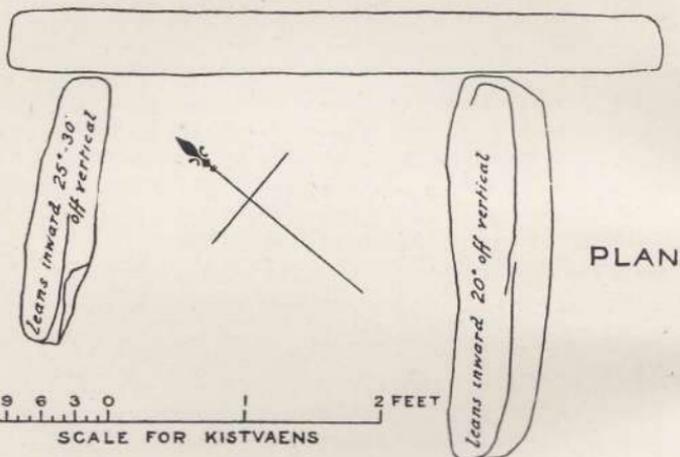


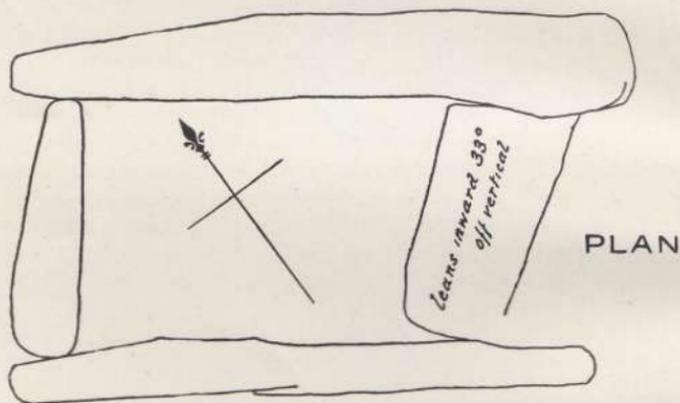
PLATE I.

DOE TOR

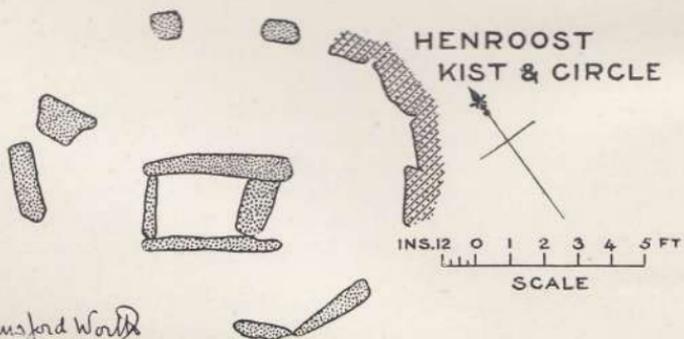


PLAN

HENROOST



PLAN



HENROOST
KIST & CIRCLE

P. Hansford Wood

TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT OF THE BARROW COMMITTEE.

TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT *of the Committee—consisting of Mr. P. F. S. Amery, Rev. S. Baring-Gould, Dr. Brushfield, Mr. R. Burnard, Mr. J. Brooking-Rowe, and Mr. R. Hansford Worth—appointed to collect and record facts relating to Barrows in Devonshire, and to take steps, where possible, for their investigation.*

Edited by R. HANSFORD WORTH, Hon. Secretary.

(Read at Princetown, 19 July, 1905.)

YOUR Committee is pleased to be able to present a Report which shows that the field of its operations is by no means exhausted, and that there are not wanting those willing to cultivate that field, among whom we must welcome a new worker in the Rev. J. Frederick Chanter, of Parracombe.

The contents of the present Report have reference to:—

- (1) The record of a barrow opening in the parish of Marldon, South Devon, in the year 1882.
- (2) The examination of a rifled kistvaen on Doe Tor, Dartmoor, during the present year.
- (3) The opening of a cairn on Hare Tor, Dartmoor, in the present year; this is more fully recorded in the Dartmoor Exploration Committee's Report.
- (4) The discovery and examination by Mr. R. Burnard of three kistvaens in the O Brook and Swincombe valleys, Dartmoor.
- (5) The record of a barrow opening, in 1885, at Chapman Barrows in North Devon, on the borders of Exmoor.
- (6) The opening of other barrows of the Chapman group during the present year by the Rev. J. F. Chanter.
- (7) The opening of "Roe Barrow," Parracombe, by the Rev. J. F. Chanter.
- (8) Examination of a barrow near Horns Cross (CVII. S.E.).

WESTERLAND BEACON, MARLDON.

Westerland Beacon lies on the border of Paignton and Marldon parishes. As nearly as may be measured on the one inch to a mile Ordnance Survey, its summit lies $3^{\circ} 36' 30''$ W. long. and $50^{\circ} 26' 45''$ N. lat. The hill, which rises to over 600 feet above mean sea level, easily dominates the neighbourhood. Its commanding situation has in the past given it a value for signalling purposes, and a portion of its summit was formerly the property of the Admiralty. More recently, at the Jubilee of Her Majesty the late Queen, a bonfire was built on this hill, and it resumed its station as a beacon.

The Jubilee bonfire was built on the levelled top of a barrow which occupies the summit of the hill, now the property of Mr. Mudge, of Blagdon, who purchased from the next owner after the Admiralty. As long ago as 21 September, 1882, Mr. Mudge's sons opened the barrow and discovered an interment. The Committee is indebted to Mr. W. Mudge, jun., for having brought this and its result to their notice.

The barrow now has an extreme diameter of 43 feet and a height of 4 feet. In 1882 its dimensions appear to have been much the same, but it then had a saucer-shaped depression in the top, which has since been levelled up.

There is evidence that at some date prior to 1882 the barrow was larger, but was subsequently robbed of its earth for agricultural purposes, leaving a more stony core. It is said that when the earth was removed a circle of stones surrounding the barrow was disclosed, but these were taken away for hedging.

The exploration in 1882 was conducted by means of a trench cut in from the north side. This trench, carried to and slightly past the centre, yielded no result; but on widening it to the eastward a mound of burnt clay was discovered, under which was a heap of stones, rudely chambered. The chamber was found filled with earth, and contained also a small inverted urn. Charcoal was found in considerable quantity. The urn is now in the possession of Mr. Mudge, and thanks to his kindness, the writer has been able to prepare a drawing and take measurements of it. Its extreme height cannot be precisely stated, since the rim has been destroyed by the downward pressure of the earth. It now stands 4.125 inches, and can hardly have been more than 4.5 inches high when perfect. Its least diameter is at

PLATE II,



URN FOUND IN BARROW ON WESTERLAND BEACON, MARLDON.

the base, and is 3·66 inches; its greater diameter, 5·05 inches, occurs at a height of 3 inches, where an angle is formed, and the material of the urn thickened for the purpose. Its diameter at the mouth was probably 4·25 inches. The thickness of the material is 0·25 inch, except where increased as above described. The clay is fairly fine, but slightly tempered with sand. Externally the colour is brown, with a distinct tinge of red; internally, and especially in the lower half, the clay is blackened, and the dark colour extends through one-half the thickness of the material. The ornamentation is all in dotted or interrupted line.

The late Dr. T. H. Tracey Mudge made a note that the urn when discovered "contained the incinerated remains of a child of about five or six years of age (judging by some of the teeth which remain intact)." The burnt bones are still with the urn, and correspond entirely with this description.

In the fields around the barrow flint chips and flakes have frequently been picked up, and some are yet to be found, as evidenced on 13 May last, when the writer visited the locality.

All things considered, it appears possible that there is another and undiscovered interment in this barrow. In its original dimensions it must have been a large mound to be devoted exclusively to the burial of a young child. It may be that the search made long ago, which was evidenced by the depression in the top of the tumulus, reached and destroyed the main interment; but no suggestion of this appears to have been found in 1882, and fragments of pottery do usually remain, and should be discovered in such cases.

A brief reference to this barrow has already appeared in the Twenty-first Report of the Committee, but no details were then given.

DOE TOR.

A kistvaen on the slope of Doe Tor, lying toward Sharp Tor, is the only known instance in the watershed of the Lyd.

This grave is not shown on the Ordnance Map, but will appear in the next edition. Its position is long. 4° 3' 35" W., and lat. 50° 38' 40" N. A reference was made to it in the Twenty-first Report. Since then (in May of the present year) it has been reopened, examined, and in part restored.

Prior to May the two end-stones were alone visible, of which the southern is 2 ft. 10 in. long, and stood 1 ft. 10 in. above the surface of the ground; and the northern is 2 ft. long, and stood 1 ft. 7 in. above the surface. The

length of the kistvaen, as indicated by these stones, was 2 ft. 7 in., with the addition of several inches at floor level, owing to the inclination of the stones. Excavation disclosed the fact that a portion of the eastern side was still in place, although buried; and subsequently the other part of this slab was found lying to the eastward, and was returned to its proper position, fitting the buried portion exactly. Thus the kistvaen now presents one side as well as both ends above ground.

The cover-stone, or it may be the other side-stone, was also found lying hard by to the eastward. It is nearly square, and measures 3 ft. 2 in. by 3 ft. 2 in.

The kist stands in a mound of 16 feet diameter, the direction of the remaining side (of the other no trace can be found, if the stone mentioned above is a coverer) is twenty degrees west of true north. The direction of the centre line drawn through the two end-stones is thirty-one degrees west of north.

The kist had obviously been ransacked long ago, and the excavation yielded no result beyond one minute fragment of charcoal, the discovery of the remains of a side-stone, and the ascertained fact that the original depth of the kistvaen was 3 feet.

There were present at the examination the Rev. S. Baring-Gould, the Rev. Irvine K. Anderson, Captain H. Fergus, and the writer.

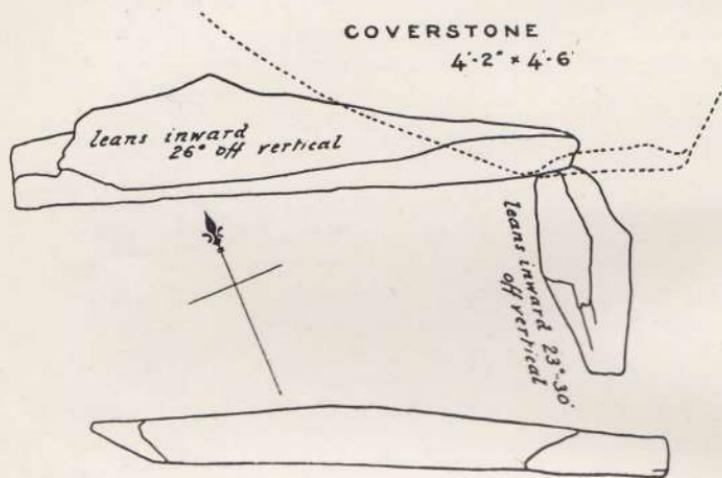
HARE TOR.

A cairn was opened in the spring of this year at Hare Tor. It lies between the summits of Hare Tor and Sharp Tor, and about one-third of the distance toward the latter, in long. $4^{\circ} 2' 24\frac{1}{2}''$ W., and lat. $50^{\circ} 38' 32''$ N. A full account will be found in the Report of the Dartmoor Exploration Committee; meanwhile the result may be summarized as *nil*. Geologically the cairn is of some interest, as it largely consists of stones of altered sedimentary rock, of which there is a small inlier resting on the granite at this point. The Rev. S. Baring-Gould and the Rev. Irvine K. Anderson were responsible for the work at this cairn, and the writer examined it, in company with the latter gentleman, when the excavation had just been completed.

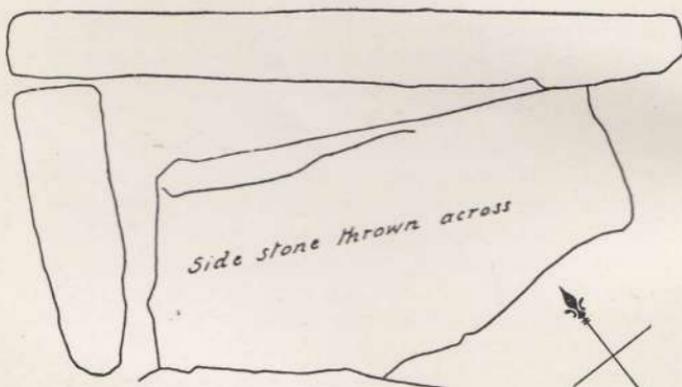
KISTVAENS IN THE VALLEY OF THE O BROOK AND SWINCOMBE.

Last year Mr. R. Burnard discovered three kistvaens in the Dart watershed, all of which had previously been rifled.

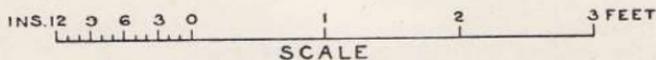
PLATE III.
FOX TOR NEWTAKE
NORTHERN



SOUTHERN



R.H.W.



Although these kists are not now shown on the Ordnance Survey, they will appear in the next edition.

The first is situate within the limits of Hexworthy mine set, on the slope of Skir Hill, near the Hensroost workings. Its exact location is long. $3^{\circ} 54' 5\frac{1}{2}''$ W., and lat. $50^{\circ} 31' 13\frac{1}{4}''$ N.

The kist stands within a circle, now incomplete. The dimensions of the kist are: Present length, 2 feet 6 inches; probable original length, 3 feet; width, 1 foot 10 inches. The direction of length runs fifty-three degrees west of north. The tops of the side and end stones are all approximately at ground level.

The second kist is in Fox Tor Newtake, north of the ruins of Fox Tor farm. Where the newtake wall crosses Wheal Emma Leat there is a footbridge. Measuring south-easterly from this footbridge a distance of 530 feet along the newtake wall, and then taking a south-westerly offset 169 feet into the newtake, the position of this kist will be found; or, otherwise stated, it lies in long. $3^{\circ} 56' 5''$ W., and lat. $50^{\circ} 31' 25''$ N.

The south-eastern end and the north-eastern and south-western sides appear above ground. The present width is 1 foot $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It has probably been more. The probable original length was 3 feet. The depth before excavation was 1 foot 8 inches. Direction of length, sixty-eight degrees west of north.

Mr. Burnard writes: "Explored the south end and west side, with no results. Could do no more, as the north end-stone (large) was wedged in bottom, and I could not move it with the tools I had with me." It thus appears that the north-west end-stone had slipped in, and as the cover-stone (4 feet 2 inches by 4 feet 6 inches) is lying on the east side, it is obvious that all the slabs of this kistvaen are now accounted for.

The third kistvaen is also in Fox Tor Newtake, south by a little west of the last named, and distant from it 630 feet or thereabouts. It lies in long. $3^{\circ} 56' 6\frac{1}{2}''$ W., and lat. $50^{\circ} 31' 18\frac{1}{2}''$ N.

Two sides and the north-west end remain. The south-western side has been thrown across the kist, and leans on the north-eastern side. The original width was probably 2 feet 3 inches, and the length 2 feet 10 inches; but the side-stone which is still in place is 5 feet in length. The direction of length is fifty-three degrees west of north.

Mr. Burnard reports: "Kist nearest Fox Tor House.—Dug this partly out to-day (12 June, 1905), but finding a

broken beer bottle right down on the 'calm' at base of north-east side-stone, gave it up. Some one has been digging there during the past few years."

CHAPMAN BARROWS (DEVON VI. S.E.).

At the invitation of the Rev. J. Frederick Chanter, M.A., your Committee's Secretary has this year visited Parracombe, on the borders of Exmoor; and elsewhere in this volume will be found some of the results of this visit, in the form of a joint paper on the rude stone monuments of that locality.

Associated with these stone remains are numerous barrows, and it has been thought better, even at the risk of some repetition, to place any description of these in this Committee's Report.

Seven members of the group known as "Chapman Barrows" range approximately in a straight line, the direction of which, as drawn through the extremes, is thirty minutes south of east.

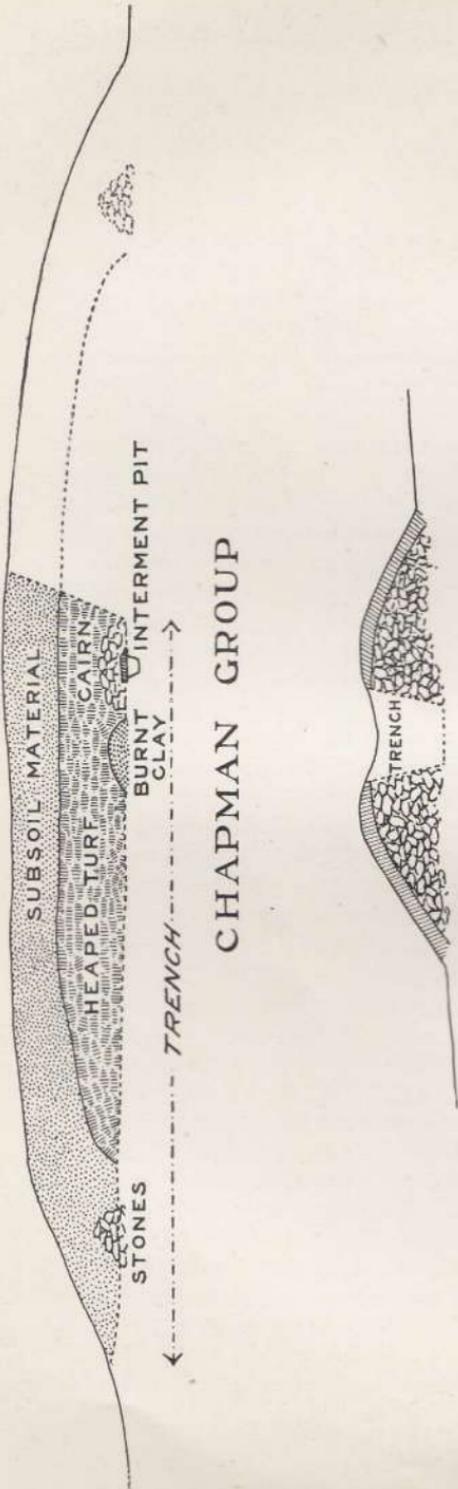
Of these the next to westernmost lies in a field known as "Mr. Jones' Allotment," near the "Two-gates" giving entrance to Longstone Allotment from the north. Exact position, long. $3^{\circ} 52' 6\frac{1}{2}''$ W., lat. $51^{\circ} 10' 30\frac{1}{2}''$ N.

Having heard rumours that this barrow had been opened by Thomas Antell, of the parish of Parracombe, we (that is to say, the Rev. J. F. Chanter, Captain Fergus, and the writer) called on Antell and obtained from him a statement of the circumstances of such opening.

It appears that in the year 1885 Thomas Antell, by the direction of the farmer holding this field, removed stones for hedging purposes from the barrow in question. He found within the margin, and covered by the mound, a circle of stones set on edge, and within this a cairn. Somewhere near the centre of the barrow a flat thin stone was found, which covered the mouth of a "steyn" or urn. The steyn did not long survive its discovery, and when broken it proved to contain bones. The cover-stone is described as about 2 feet square, and the urn itself as about 2 feet in height and 1 foot 6 inches in diameter. In dimensions, shape, and material it appears to have closely resembled an inverted vessel found by the late Mr. Doe in a barrow on Berry Down,¹ Berry-narbor; but whether like that it was ornamented, or whether or no it had lifting lugs, cannot now be ascertained.

The traditional "Crock of Gold" of Dartmoor has for its

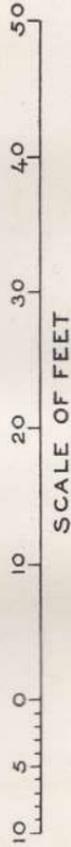
¹ Fifth Report, Vol. XV, p. 108; illustrated also in Twenty-first Report.



CHAPMAN GROUP



ROE BARROW



W.M.H.

counterpart the "Steyn of Money" of Exmoor, and prior to the find the farmer had jokingly informed Antell that they would share the proceeds were the steyn found. Of urn or contents no trace now remains. Thomas Antell insists that the bones were bones of sheep, and explains that he knows the animal well enough to recognize it living or dead. His theory is that the "people who were working on the barrows" took some mutton with them for their refreshment, and overlooked this pot, whereby it got covered up, and so remained until he discovered it. Hence this find of potted mutton—surely the earliest recorded.

We think there is no reason to attribute undue weight to his views on the matter. The "ribs" which he describes may well have been man's; and the writer has found elsewhere the same indisposition to admit having disturbed human remains. Otherwise his account of the find is clear, and, allowance being made for a natural absence of minor detail, is to our minds entirely dependable.

EXAMINATION OF ONE OF THE CHAPMAN GROUP BY THE REV. J. F. CHANTER.

Another barrow, associated with but not forming one of the line above referred to, and situate between that row of mounds and the Longstone, in long. $3^{\circ} 51' 35\frac{1}{2}''$ W., lat. $51^{\circ} 10' 21\frac{3}{4}''$ N., has been opened by the Rev. J. F. Chanter during the present year.

The section now given will help to explain the construction of this barrow. Its total diameter from north to south is 100 feet, and from east to west 113 feet. The natural slope of the ground is from north to south. The extreme height of the barrow is 9 feet. It is thus a good specimen of the larger mounds, and has little trace of any previous disturbance. Probably when originally constructed it was not much over 90 feet in diameter, but its slopes have been flattened by time and the tread of animals.

The opening was accomplished by means of a trench about 6 feet in width driven in from the east side. At 15 feet from the present margin a low stone wall, 4 feet wide at the base and not quite 2 feet high, was met. This probably continues all around the circumference. At 50 feet from the margin a small heap of burnt clay was reached. It was 1 foot in height, and continued in the line of trench for 3 feet. Over this the iron from the soil of the barrow had aggregated as on an impervious stratum, and

encased it in a hard layer of oxide much resembling bog iron. Following this heap some stones were reached, and within a small cairn two cover-stones, one measuring 1 foot 11 inches by 1 foot 6 inches, the other 1 foot 10½ inches by 1 foot 10½ inches. These cover-stones protected a pit sunk in the subsoil (which is clay). The pit measured 1 foot 10 inches by 1 foot 6 inches, and was 10 inches deep. It was filled to the top with charcoal, bone ash, and recognizable fragments of bones. These bones included some human teeth, both single and double, and from these, and especially their worn-down crowns, it would appear that the interment was that of an adult, probably well past middle age. The centre of the interment pit was 58 feet from the eastern, and 62 feet from the southern margin of the barrow. Excavation was continued until the whole of the small cairn surrounding the burial had been removed, but no further discoveries resulted.

From the section it will be seen that the barrow consisted of three distinct strata: a cairn of small size in the centre; over this, and confined within the buried wall, a mound of material derived from the surface turf of the adjacent moor (the individual turfs can still be recognized); and over this again a layer evidently derived from excavation immediately below the turf. Charcoal, largely that of furze bushes, was extremely plentiful in the turf mound, and there was a quantity of a beautiful blue compound, which owes its origin to the interaction of iron, from the soil, and decomposing vegetable matter.

Before leaving the Chapman group it may be well to direct attention to the "Longstone" above referred to. This menhir is obviously associated with the sepulchral mounds, and may, as the original "Chapman" (or Capmæn), have given its name to the assemblage. In addition to this menhir, there is a very curious quadrilateral formed of smaller stones, and of both full descriptions will be found elsewhere in the present volume.

Hard by the quadrilateral is a small barrow, one of many in the vicinity. The present specimen is 9 feet in diameter and 1 foot 9 inches in height. It was opened by the Rev. J. F. Chanter, and yielded an urn-shaped pit in the subsoil, about 12 inches deep and 6 inches in diameter at the top. From this a fair quantity of small grains of charcoal was obtained. Another similar barrow gave a like, but smaller pit (5 inches deep and 4 inches in diameter), and in neither was there a cover-stone. Some eight more

little mounds were examined. No pits were found, but in some cases charcoal; in other instances the result was *nil*. It has always to be remembered that heaps of "spits" or turfs abandoned in wet seasons may simulate minor sepulchral mounds.

ROE BARROW, PARRACOMBE COMMON.

This barrow, situate long. $3^{\circ} 51' 49''$ W., lat. $51^{\circ} 10' 58\frac{1}{4}''$ N., has also been opened by the Rev. J. F. Chanter, who reports:—

Opened on Saturday, 20 May, 1905. A trench 4 feet wide was cut right through. The cup-shaped top showed signs of previous opening, which was borne out by the material from the centre right down to the bottom being more mixed with earth than the remainder of the cairn. The mound proved to consist almost entirely of stones, with about 10 inches of earth and sod over.

No trace of any flint was found, but all round the centre on the ground level there were large quantities of charcoal. Indications were met of a small chamber with a cover-stone 26 in. by 11 in., which seemed to have been broken down on one side, probably at a previous opening. Some pieces of ruddle were found in the centre, and a little above ground level.

R. HANSFORD WORTH.

BARROW NEAR HORNS CROSS (CVII. S.E.).

This barrow lies south of Combestone Tor, close to a trackway which leaves the high road opposite that tor.

There is a pillaged cairn south of the high road, and about 100 feet distant from it opposite Combestone, and counting from this in a southerly direction the barrow in question is number five (two only are marked on the Ordnance Map).

On 6 July, 1905, the Rev. S. Baring-Gould, Mr. John Amery, Mr. R. Burnard, Mrs. Burnard, and others, examined No. 5. This cairn was found to be 16 feet in diameter, the height above ground level at centre being $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

A trench was driven through from north to south, and the cairn proved to be so built that the stones slanted upwards. In the centre was a hole sunk in the "calm," having a diameter of 15 inches and a depth of 17 inches.

This hole contained a considerable quantity of charcoal and burnt bones, but no other relics.

R. BURNARD.