

ANTIQUITY

of Comfort, on Mendip, has three large flat mounds within it, but not placed in the centre. About two miles to the east of New Grange is another circular earthen enclosure, much higher and less symmetrical in outline. The longest diameter is about 165 yards. There is no sign of a ditch or central mound; but in both instances ploughing may well have obliterated such, if they existed.

Almost a mile to the north-east of New Grange is a long earthen mound, oriented east-north-east and west-south-west; it has the appearance of being a long barrow. In one place on the north side the mound has been dug into and an upright slab exposed. At the east end is a round barrow or cairn, with the remains of a small circle of stones revealed by digging. There is another round barrow not far from the west end. These smaller cairn-circles occur close to the larger chambered cairns on the ridge of Slieve-na-Calliagh (Lough Crewe). The stones forming the chambers and passages of these smaller cairn-circles are covered with decoration, like those of the large ones; and they belong presumably to the same period, the early or middle Bronze Age. In plan these Irish cairn-circles closely resemble those of the Scilly Isles and west Cornwall.

The photographs from which the annexed illustrations (see plate) have been made were taken by Mrs Keiller last April, and thanks are due to her for permission to reproduce them here. The upper one shows the detail of the spiral ornament on a stone at New Grange—one of the curb-stones of the mound—situated immediately opposite the entrance. The lower one is an admirable view of one of the smaller cairn-circles on Slieve-na-Calliagh, taken from the top of one of the biggest cairns of the New Grange type.

The Irish sculptured ornament of the Bronze Age has recently been studied by Professors Breuil and Macalister and Mr Miles Burkitt. The results are published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, vol. xxxvi (1921); and by Mr Burkitt in *Ipek: Jahrbuch für prähistorische und Ethnographische Kunst*, 1926 (Klinkhardt und Biermann, Leipzig).

MONGOLIA

The American expedition which has found dinosaurs' eggs in the Gobi desert has also found abundant traces of human occupation, in the form of worked flints and ornaments of egg-shell. Full details naturally are not yet available, and criticism may be premature. But



1.—SCULPTURED STONE AT ENTRANCE OF PASSAGE, NEW GRANGE
Ph. Veronica Keiller



2.—CAIRN-CIRCLE SLIEVE-NA-CALLIAGH (LOUGH CREWE)
Ph. Veronica Keiller

facing p. 98

NOTES AND NEWS

when it is suggested, by Dr Fairfield Osborn in *Nature* (7 August 1926), that the European cultures of St. Acheul, Aurignac, Le Moustier, Mas d'Azile and Campigny are all represented, one cannot help wondering upon what these conclusions are based? It is a far cry from France to Mongolia; and the latter country has yet to provide a site where stratified deposits may be investigated. Even then synchronism will be difficult to establish. The expedition is led by Dr Roy Chapman Andrews. The area is one that from an anthropological point of view is most promising. Dr Andrews has published an interesting and readable account of the work of the expedition up to 1926 (*On the Trail of Ancient Man*, Putnam's Sons, 25s.), and one is full of admiration for the ability and enthusiasm of the whole party. The bulk of the work so far has naturally been palaeontological, and has been crowned by the fullest success. There are some reasons for sharing the writer's expectation that similar good results will follow when the trail of ancient man is followed more closely; but the absence of caves is unfortunate, and one would expect, on *a priori* grounds, that really ancient human fossils will be difficult to locate. Dr Andrews' address to the Royal Geographical Society of London was published in the *Geographical Journal*, January 1927.

WOODHENGE

Mrs Cunningham's account of the excavation of the newly-discovered site near Durrington Walls appears on page 92 of this number of *ANTIQUITY*. The story of its discovery—or rather, of the discovery of what it really was—is worth recording, and we therefore quote the following account from a letter just received from Squadron Leader Insall, v.c., who is now stationed at Basrah:—"I was flying a Sopwith Snipe on 12 December 1925, at about 2000 feet, over Stonehenge, when I noticed a circle with white chalk marks in the centre near Durrington Walls. Stonehenge was visible at the same time, and the two sites looked similar from that height. I photographed it shortly afterwards; result—white chalk marks in the plough. Returning late one evening as the sun was setting I noticed there was a distinct depression inside the outer circle, and a gradually rising mound in the centre, both of which were revealed by the shadows. Having been told that it was only a 'mutilated disc-barrow,' and having looked it up in the *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine*, I watched it to see what the crops might reveal. The only mutilation visible was caused by the