



CINERARY URN & TWO SMALL VASES
FOUND IN ST. JAMES' LANE, WINCHESTER.

NOTES ON SOME ROMAN URNS FOUND AT WINCHESTER.

BY ALDERMAN W. H. JACOB.

Wherever the conquerors of the then world planted their standards, their civilisation and form of government, there are found their memorials in roads direct and vicinal, remains of their villas with tessellated floors, many of extreme beauty, also coins which will compare with our modern mintage and pottery in every variety from the Samian ware down to the *ficilia* of the New Forest, Alice Holt Forest, and especially that known as Upchurch a pottery, or series of pot works, near the Medway in Kent, which must have employed hundreds of Romanised Britons who turned out graceful forms, not surpassed in beauty even by the modern workers in one of the oldest industries of the world. Moreover, their tiles, bricks and drain pipes, their work was of the highest character, as remains prove.

Hampshire is unusually rich in Roman remains and has in Silchester—its streets, walls, amphitheatre, and early Christian Church—a rich possession. Winchester, which was an important *municipium* under Rome, yields many antiques when the modern *fossor* breaks up the soil within and without the city, which occupies of course, the site of the Roman Station. One thing is noteworthy, that in all the excavations from those made by Wren for the palace of Charles II. down to the present day not a single legionary tablet or centurial stone connected with the Roman or auxiliary forces has ever been found or recorded, and but one altar, the small and rude one, dedicated to the Brittanic and Italian mothers in the British Museum. Of cinerary and other urns large numbers have been found and in many cases lost to our local museum, where they would be most interesting as well as instructive. The scattering process will go on until the museum authorities can have financial means

to purchase and induce workmen to bring "finds" to them. Meanwhile they must rejoice that a worthy citizen and his wife; Mr. and Mrs. George Stroud, have set an example by presenting the vases here described to the museum and thereby deserve our thanks. Some excavations were going on in St. James's Lane (January, 1905) for laying pipes, and, at a depth of two feet, one workman came across a rough cist of flints within which was a cinerary urn with the remains of the burnt body, and close to it two small shallow vessels often associated with such a deposit. The pickaxe damaged the cinerary vase but not beyond repair. The others were not hurt, and Mr. Stroud secured them for a consideration. Close by was a third brass of the Emperor Crispus, son of Constantine the Great, in beautiful preservation, with the mint mark of Treves. This may afford an approximate period for the deposit. The vases are all of Upchurch ware, and it is fortunate that they were not broken.

It may not be without interest to say a few words about the locality of the discovery. The Romans always buried or burnt their dead beyond the walls and the many discoveries of cinerary urns and a lead coffin were extra-mural. Urns have been found in Berewick Road, Andover Road, Hyde Street, and close to the site of Hyde Abbey and in several places on the right and left of St. James's lane, where also British urns and burials have been discovered. St. James's Lane is a very ancient way and leads from the site of the Roman road to Clausentum, and to Silchester, and London to the Romsey road, which is the connection of the city with the *via* from Portchester to Sorbiodunum (Old Sarum). Up to the time when the London and South Western Railway was opened it was all open fields save where the barracks were, hence suitable for interments. In recent times it has been covered with buildings and the only leaden coffin found was that in St. John's Street, when the sewerage works were carried out. It was extremely massive and in the mouth of the skeleton was a small late Roman coin placed there so that the departed might be able to pay Charon for the ferry across the Styx. The accompanying illustration is from a drawing by the ever ready and skilful pencil of our member, Mr. N. C. W. Nisbett, to whom our thanks are due.