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**Remarks on a Round Barrow in Hungerfield, in the Parish of
Cranham**

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REMARKS ON A ROUND BARROW, IN HUNGERFIELD, IN THE PARISH OF CRANHAM.

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THE Barrow is at present 25 yards in diameter, and about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high above the surface of the field. It is doubtless much lower than it originally was, and from the same cause, having frequently been ploughed over, it now occupies a much wider circumference. It was first opened, on the 13th July, 1880, at the centre point. Two dry stone walls, 3 feet apart, were discovered $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet below the top of the barrow, running nearly north and south. Immediately on cutting below the turf burnt clay and earth were found, and lumps of a soft limy substance, of the nature of old concrete, together with bits of charcoal. At about 26 inches from the surface, bones of a small person, or persons, lying confusedly, were found, accompanied by charcoal and the concrete substance. On examination these bones were found to belong to two persons, there being three humeræ of about equal size.

The two walls were followed to the external edge of the tumulus where they ended in rubble, and the cist had been, apparently, formed by a wall of concrete between the walls. On deepening the excavation the walls were found to cease at a level where there was a layer of black ashes, about $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch in thickness. Below this again, was, in places, a considerable quantity of woody matter passing into a petrified state, which was supposed to be stumps, or, perhaps, roots of trees which stood on the ground before the tumulus was made. It is intended to submit this to microscopical examination.

An examination of the back of the wall, on the west side, shewed that there had not been any burning outside the walls. The ground below the bottom of the tumulus had, apparently, not been broken or disturbed.

Just before the arrival of the Society on the 23rd July, the opening of the trench was continued from the centre towards the south, and, about a foot below the surface, the bones of another individual, of much larger stature, were discovered. It is doubtful if these bones had been subjected to fire. Deepening the excavation, about 2 or 3 inches above a layer of charcoal, the back of a skull was seen. Great care was now used. The surrounding earth was cautiously removed until it became possible to transfer the whole mass, which, apparently, contained the remains of the entire skeleton, to a box about 20 inches long. The soil of the field being oolitic brash the skeleton reposed in a bed of soft clay, or puddle, covered with the embers of the pyre on which the body had been burnt. The skull was so tender that it appeared not possible to touch it without causing its destruction. Two of the bones, supposed to be femurs, lay symmetrically on each side from the head, and one bone across them. Another bone, possibly the pelvis, lay under the skull and supposed femur. It is imagined that the body had been placed in a crouching position, and had sunk down together as it became consumed. The whole was brought away for examination and sent to Professor Rolleston, on the 8th October.¹

The stones forming the two walls had been thoroughly reddened and calcined by fire. The bones of the two bodies first discovered, and which were at the same level as the mass brought away, had also been subjected to fire.

¹ See his Note following.