

a roundish stone of schistose rock, flat on one side and convex on the other, which might have been the rubbing stone of a saddle quern.

The pottery which corresponds closely in character to that described as Neolithic by Mr Callander and others must have been used for domestic purposes and is specially interesting as having been found along with other articles such as the saddle quern and the stone and hammer used by the Neolithic people.

Neolithic sites containing domestic pottery are comparatively rare, this being the first which has so far been found in Bute, but many examples of burial pottery of Neolithic age have been found in this island, and in a paper by Professor Bryce already referred to, chambered cairn burials notably at Glecknabae and at Bickers houses are described. Each of those graves contained one unbroken urn besides many fragments. The urns were round bottomed and the texture and the decoration of the pottery was not unlike that which we have found at Townhead.

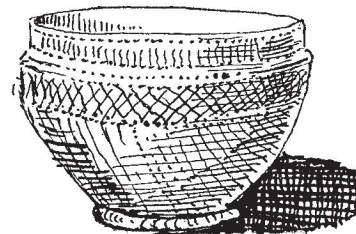
BURIAL CIST AT KILMICHAEL.

In the early part of the year 1929, Mr Morrison, farmer at Kilmichael, while ploughing the field in front of the farm house, came upon a large flat stone. On removing this stone, he found that there was a cavity underneath bounded by flat rectangular stones; in short, there was a well-defined cist, and in the cist he found the fragments of a vessel and a piece of worked flint. The upper stone was heavy and massive and was broken before being removed to the stack yard. Fortunately, the cist was photographed before being covered up. Photograph on plate 6.

Some weeks later I was shown the stone in the stack yard and also the fragments of pottery and the flint which I obtained permission to place in the Bute Museum. The approximate position of the cist, as pointed out by Mr Morrison, was found to be 66 yards east from the wall bounding the farm house and 80 yards from the boundary wall to the south. The spot chosen for the burial being, as is often the case in Bute, on an eminence gently sloping to the sea—the sea here being the East Kyle of the Kyles of Bute.

The stone was found to measure 31 x 27 inches and was 6 inches thick, but its dimensions had been considerably curtailed by being broken.

The fragments of pottery did not constitute the whole vessel, but sufficient was found to show that its character was probably that of what is technically known as a "food vessel" of the Bronze Age type. Mr M'Fie has very cleverly and artistically reproduced on paper what was probably its approximate shape. (See woodcut). The ornamentation



consists mainly of lines of punctulations closely set together, three of them running horizontally under the narrow rim of the vessel, then a band of short vertical lines under which there are more horizontal lines and finally diagonal lines which run quite to the base. It seems likely that these were produced by a pointed or comb-like instrument when the clay was soft. The ware is of a light brown colour, coarse and friable, and showing signs of having been baked by fire. The vessel has a flat base. (B in plate 6). The flint knife is 3 inches long, $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 inch broad, tapering slightly to a blunt point and triangular in section, one of the three surfaces being patinated. The edge of the knife is approximately straight and is sharp. (A in plate 6).

This is probably one of numerous such Bronze Age burial cists which exist on the Island of Bute. In a paper by Professor Bryce, published in the Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries in 1903-04, some are referred to, the most notable being that which was found by the late Marquis of Bute within the Mount Stuart grounds. The cist there contained a skeleton, an unbroken urn and a necklace of jet beads, the two latter being preserved in the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries in Edinburgh.

A few years ago while digging was going on in the late Sheriff Martin's garden at Craigmare, the Sheriff found an urn in fairly good condition which he presented to our Museum. It is of similar character to the fragments from Kilmichael, but is undecorated.

STONE MOULD FROM KINGARTH.

During the summer of 1930 Mr Archibald Macintyre, ploughman at Langalchorad Farm, Kingarth, gave me a stone which he had turned up in the field immediately to the north of the farm. The stone, which is of hard schistose material, is roughly oval in shape, and measures 3 inches long, 2 inches broad, and about one $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thick. It presents an upper and lower smooth surface, and in one of those surfaces is a carefully chiselled mould which can hardly be meant for any other purpose than receiving and giving an impression to some easily fusible metal like bronze. The mould is a circular depression $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, gradually deepening to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch, and decorated with concentric lines until at the deepest part there is a small circle of 7 round hollows with a larger one in the centre, making in a positive casting a central boss with seven smaller ones surrounding it. The circular lines are intersected by radiating ones which thus divide the whole surface into a series of wedge shaped portions.

A plasticene impression shows quite an artistic convex object which might have served for a brooch or a large button.

The isolated nature of the find makes its date and origin somewhat conjectural, but on showing it to Dr. L. A. Waddell, who is an acknowledged authority on ancient impressions and seals, he expressed the opinion that "the design with central boss and rays passing through concentric rings and circles, resembles generally bronze shields of mediaeval 'Celtic period.'"

The stone has been placed in the Museum. The illustration of it with plasticene impression is to be found on plate 7.