



BRONZE BOWL, FOUND AT WICKHAM MARKET, SUFFOLK.

In possession of Dr. J. R. Whitwell.

BRONZÉ PATERA FOUND AT WICKHAM MARKET, SUFFOLK.

The shallow Bronze Bowl shewn in the accompanying illustration was found by a labourer while digging for gravel in the glacial gravel and sands, so common in this district, at a depth of 6 feet in a garden on the East side of the Main Street in Wickham Market. Owing to general displacement, and the absence of a skilled observer at the time of disinterment, the exact relationship of the bowl to its surroundings is not quite clear. It is, however, certain that the bowl actually contained fragments of a double toothed bone comb of ornamental design, and in close proximity a fragment of much oxidised iron approximately six inches in length which became entirely disintegrated on exposure and removal. This, however, had all the appearance suggestive of the smaller Anglo-Saxon knife (as illustrated in Akerman's Pagan Saxondom) known as the 'Sexxaudrus.'

The Bowl itself is cast and of graceful design, and measures 15 inches in diameter at the rim, 4 inches in depth (internally) and is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, mounted on a pierced ornamental foot, itself being $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches high. The rim of the Bowl has a shallow concave fluted moulding, not beaded, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch above the foot on the external surface is a plain shallow double circular line. On the inner surface there are four double lines drawn circularly, parallel to the marginal line, the first being 2 inches from the free edge, and the three remaining ones nearly equidistant and approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ inch apart. The handles and one

of the rings by which they hung were absent, but the handles undoubtedly were plain and somewhat clumsily designed loops as occur in the bronze patera of absolutely identical design in other respects (in the collection of Lord Londesborough) found in the chalk land at Wingham Sandwich and illustrated in Akerman's "Remains of Pagan Saxondom."

I am indebted to Miss Nina Layard for the loan of certain drawings of bowls found at Needham Market, which were ably described and figured by Romilly Allen in the "Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist," of October, 1900, and amongst this find was a bowl somewhat similar in design and form, but of different dimensions, and the flowing foliage scroll in the foot of that vessel is represented in the present case by a more geometrical, and it would appear derived, design. The absence of the zoo-morphic 'motif' in the design is to be noted.

All the evidence, therefore, would seem to suggest the conclusion that the present Bowl is to be considered as one associated with an Anglo-Saxon grave of a female, and according to Akerman, probably of Saxon origin but shewing evidence of the influence of Roman art.

J. R. WHITWELL.