

The first trench, which was 70ft. long, is described as follows by Mr. Hemp :

THE RAMPART.

" Just before the close of the first series of excavations, it was decided to make an attempt to discover whether, as suspected by Fenton, the raised area to the east of the buildings had contained a fort ; and a trial section was cut on the line LM, through the highest part of the long mound which seemed likely to be the 'agger' referred to by him. (*See Site Plan, Plate XXV*). The result of this cutting, as shown in the accompanying section (*Plate III*) was to disclose the remains of a rampart and two ditches, and thus to establish without any doubt the existence of a fort.

THE DITCHES.

" This first section is as yet the only one which it has been possible to cut across the east Rampart and the ditches ; the outer of these ditches was found to be of plain V section, and was cut into the natural sub-soil. This sub-soil was extremely hard, and could easily be recognized directly it was reached, and although the last few inches could not be cleared of the constantly accumulating water, the sharply pointed bottom could be determined by the probe with absolute certainty. The lowest three feet were filled by loose grey clay which may perhaps have been applied to the sides to form a protective facing, and have subsequently slipped down. Above this clay were large stones and boulders such as occurred in the rampart, with brown earth among them, and on several of them a deposit of Manganese dioxide : this was also observed among the rampart stones. These large stones were not found in the filling of the inner ditch, and one possible explanation of this fact seems to be that the inner ditch might have been filled in at an earlier date, perhaps in the course of some reconstruction of the camp, and the outer one only so treated when the rampart was destroyed. On the whole, however, the evidence is against this theory ; the pottery found here is all of the same date as that found elsewhere, and there was no appreciable deposit of any kind in the bottom of the ditch ; nor was there any sign of weathering of the clay sides, beyond the slipping down of the grey clay facing. It is almost inconceivable that no vegetable matter should have accumulated had the ditch remained open for any considerable time ; unless indeed, as is possible, there was a constant flow of water down it from the marshy ground to the river ; had this occurred, however, it seems unlikely that the contours would have remained so absolutely sharp.

The top of the bank between the inner and outer ditches, although softer, was composed of the natural sub-soil. It may have been thrown up from the ditches, but more probably was only softened because it lay nearer to the original surface of the ground. Moreover, exactly similar material was found to the same depth and at the same level on the outer side of the outer ditch, which tends to confirm this latter theory.

" The outer slope of the inner ditch was more gentle, and at a foot from the bottom was a 'firing step' a foot wide ; this step was probably constructed to hold stakes or branches of trees in order to make the ditch a more formidable obstacle, but no trace of holes for these was found in the narrow section exposed. As in