

tumuli must be looked for with interest ; as far as the inquiry has yet gone, they appear to be most frequently British.

TUMULI.

Not many of the grave-mounds of Anglo-Saxons have been opened in Yorkshire. They have been chiefly in the vicinity of Driffield, where indeed, from many circumstances, Anglo-Saxon remains may be expected to be more abundant than elsewhere. One opened by the Yorkshire Antiquarian Club, under the direction of Dr. Thurnam, was of a diameter much greater than any British tumulus yet described, but elevated only a few feet. So great a number of burials were found in it as to indicate that it had been a common place of sepulture for a considerable population. The skeletons were laid in various directions, in several combinations, and were of different ages,—certainly not the remains of slain warriors only, though some warlike instruments were found.

Among the personal ornaments found in the mound at Driffield were many amber beads of unequal size, mostly rough in aspect. Amber occurs on the eastern coasts of England, but not so abundantly as on the Baltic coast, from which the owners of the necklaces probably drew their origin.

The most remarkable objects were rock-crystal pebbles, perforated with a degree of accuracy which implies not only the skilful use of the lathe, but also the possession of emery—a substance not likely to be had except from the island of Naxos. Such beads were probably a part of the treasures of the East, brought to the north of Europe by mercenary soldiers or roving pirates.

No example of an axe has occurred in our Anglo-Saxon tumuli. The iron instruments found have been chiefly knives, and blades and spikes of spears ; the latter placed in the tumulus at Driffield at such a distance from the blade as to indicate a wooden shaft of some 4 or 5 feet in length. One of the most remarkable objects obtained is the iron umbo of a round shield, with four circular iron discs probably placed round it on the