THE STONE ROWS OF DARTMOOR

THERE are on Dartmoor certain rows of stones, each stone wholly unwrought, each set upright in the ground and standing free above the surface at a greater or less distance from its neighbours on either side. These rows are approximately straight, but curvature and even abrupt changes through a small angle often occur. There is nothing to suggest that such departures from the right line are in any instance purposeful; they may be attributed to faulty workmanship or difficulties of alignment on undulating ground. The rows may be either *single* consisting of but one line of stones, *double* where two approximately parallel lines have been constructed with an intervening space of no more than a few feet, or *treble* consisting of three parallel lines similarly arranged. At one time I would have written, and I think I have written, that there was a *sevenfold* row on Dartmoor, but a recent precise survey has shown that this is divisible into one *single* and two *treble* rows.

In the matter of nomenclature these rows have presented a problem; they have been variously named 'alignments', 'avenues', 'parallellitha' and 'cursi', no one of which terms meets the need for generality, as absolute in nomenclature as in mathematics; most imply a knowledge of the use and intent of the rows which is certainly mistaken. I have, accordingly, adopted my father's expedient and used the accurate and noncommittal phrase *Stone Rows*. His discussion of this matter will be found in his first paper on the subject on page 387 of Vol. 24 of the *Trans. Devon. Assn.* (R. N. Worth, 1892).

It may be thought that the above description of the stone rows admits some confusion with lines of boundary stones, and of granite posts marking tracks across the moor. But boundary stones and guide posts are spaced far apart. Thus, the boundary between Harford and Ugborough Moors is defined by stones set at least 100 yds apart, and the guide posts on the Tavistock-Ashburton track on Long Ash Common (Fig. 116) are set at intervals of 200 yards. In addition to this, these are stones which have been cleft. Only in one instance do I know any ambiguity, and that is easily resolved. The boundary between Ugborough

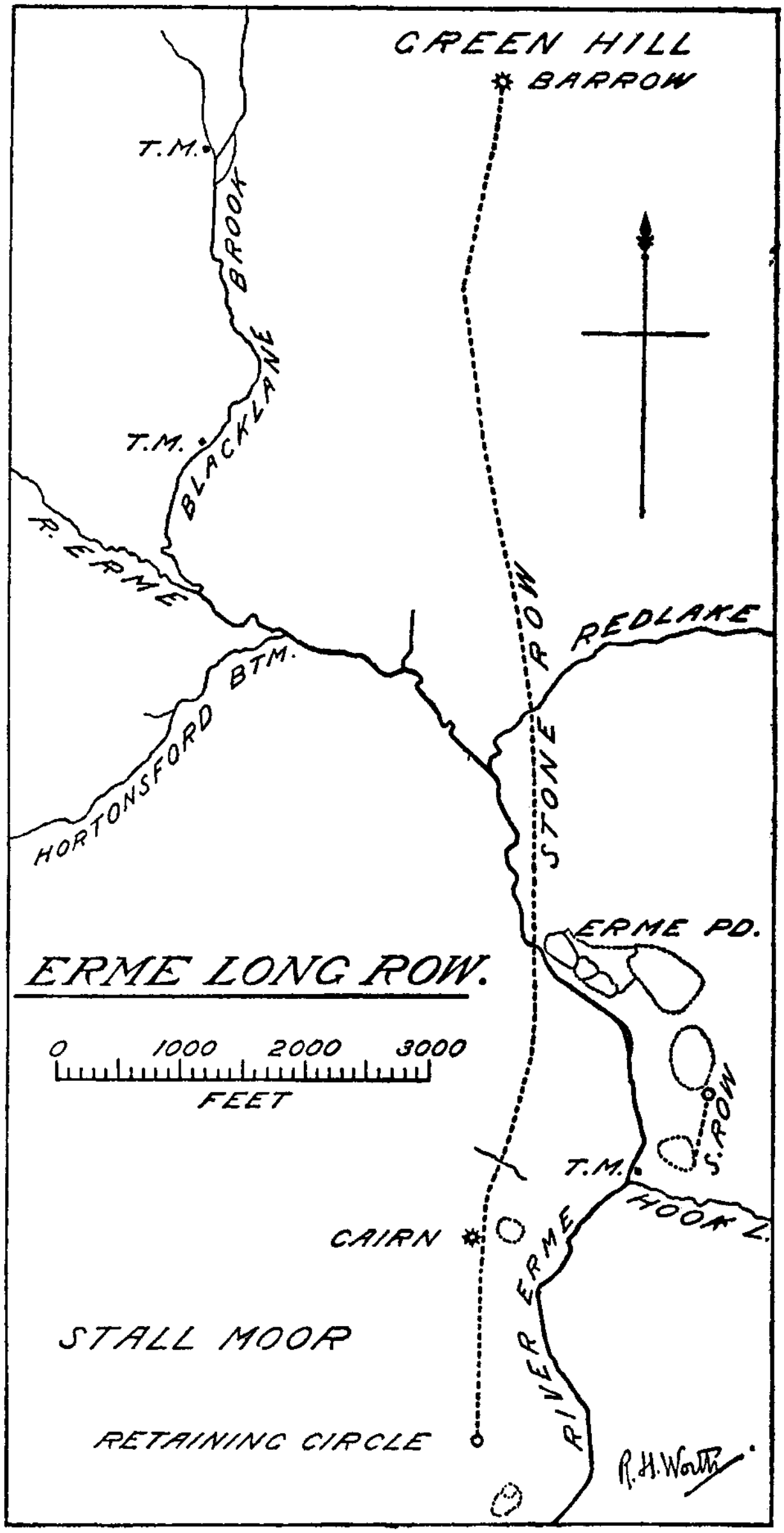

FIG. 72. Plan, Stall Moor—Green Hill (1).
Scale 1 inch to 30 chains (1,980 feet). "T.M.", Tin Mill (Historic Period).

and Harford Moors is in part defined by a prehistoric stone row; and when, in 1803, this boundary was agreed between disputants, and marks were set up, certain stones were added to the stone row to tender it more prominent. But these added stones can at once be detected, since they bear the drill marks incidental to their cleavage.

The number of stone rows known to exist on Dartmoor is large, and even of late years there have been additions made to the list. When my father wrote his first paper on the subject, in 1892, he mentioned 28 rows as fully ascertained; this number I now reduce by classing six single rows, then mentioned, as two triple rows, giving a net of 24. In the synopsis which follows I mention 62, and I have no reason to doubt that more remain to be discovered. Some rows which have been reported I have excluded from the list, being satisfied that they are mistaken attributions.

I arrange the list topographically, proceeding by watersheds. Where a tributary does not join the main river until after it has left the moor I treat it as having an independent watershed.

ERME

In the matter of stone rows the valley of the Erme claims pre-eminence. The Stall Moor–Green Hill row is not only the longest on Dartmoor, but also, as far as is at present known, the longest in the world, and the Butterdon–Sharp Tor row, while not its equal, is a fitting companion.

1. *Stall Moor–Green Hill*

Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxiii, sw., lon. 3°-55′-23¾″, lat. 50°-27′-47¾″, position of retaining circle at south end of row. (Fig. 72; Pl. 1A, 43, 44.)

Single row. At the south end, on Stall Moor, is a barrow with retaining circle and a trench outside the circle. The internal diameter of the retaining circle is 50 ft 8 in. The length of the row is 11,150 ft, at the north end it terminates in a barrow on Green Hill, to which there is no retaining circle. The azimuth of this row varies between N. 23° E. and N. 12° W., its direction of length from end to end is N. 0°-30′ E. It passes from Stall Moor on the right bank of the Erme, across the Erme, to the left bank by Erme Pound and, continuing its course, crosses the Redlake and ascends Green Hill. Consequent on the difficulties of alignment caused by the undulations of the ground it has many changes in direction. At a little over half a mile from the southern end the row becomes imperfect for a space. But wherever its course is crossed by a turf-tye it becomes distinctly visible, and all the stones are found in place. The apparent gaps have not been caused either by the sinkage nor removal of the stones, but by the growth in depth of the peat, which has covered them. Indeed, the whole monument has suffered little from robbery, the circle on Stall Moor being unusually perfect

(Pl. 43). The stones of the row vary in size from point to point, according to the local supplies which were available. There are no really large stones. The largest is perhaps to be found in the Stall Moor circle; it measures 1 ft 8 in. × 1 ft 9 in. × 5 ft 5 in. in height. For a photograph of Stall Moor Circle and a part of the row, see Pl. 43. Pl. 44 herewith gives a view of another part of the length of the row, and Pl. 1A (p. 8) shows the row as disclosed by a turf-tye. See also Fig. 72 for a plan of the row.

Not only is the length of this row 2·112 miles, but the elevation of the ground at its northern end is 333 ft above that at its southern termination. In both respects it surpasses any other known row. Elevation at Green Hill 1,553 ft O.D.

2. *Butterdon Row*

High above the left bank of the Erme, and near the water-parting between the valleys of that river and of the West Glaze, lies Butterdon Row. Full knowledge of its former extension was not available prior to the discovery of a map, made in 1799–1800 by John Andrews of Modbury, and his notes relative to the map.

The south end of the row lies close to the summit of Butterdon Hill, starting with a barrow with a retaining circle 35 ft in diameter. The positional reference is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxix, SE., lon. 3°-53′-27½″, lat. 50°-24′-48¾″, at an elevation of 1,180 ft. Single row, length 6,280 ft, terminating at the north end in a fallen menhir at an elevation of 1,250 ft. Direction of length from end to end N. 9° W. The row is convex toward the east to the extent of 160 ft.

At a distance of 5,390 ft north of the barrow on Butterdon there stands a stone with a cross incised upon it, once known as Hobajons Cross. The row formerly extended to and beyond this stone, but this extension was swept away in the year 1803, for what purpose I do not know. On Piles Hill, 890 ft to the north of the cross lies a fallen menhir, known as the Longstone, the former terminal of the row (p. 269).

Certain stones standing in the row between its southern end and Hobajons Cross will be found to have been split and formed by the drill and tare and feather method. These were added when the row was accepted by the disputing parties as the boundary between Harford and Langford Lester Moors. In the same year, 1803, a modern boundary stone was erected beside the Longstone. For a view of Hobajons Cross see Pl. 93B; for discussion see Worth, R. H., 1941*a*.

3. *Burford Down*

Starts at a retaining circle at the south end, the circle 33 ft in diameter, at an elevation of 850 ft. Position, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxix, SW., lon. 3°-55′-9″, lat. 50°-25′-30″.

Single row, length *c.* 1,200 ft, direction of length N. 1° W., dying out at a newtake wall [but see p. 247 (ED)]. This row has been robbed of many

of its stones, but is still a good example. Two hundred and eighty feet eastward of the retaining circle at the south end of the row lies another retaining circle of 18 ft diameter, within which is a kistvaen.

4. *Brown Heath, Erme Pound*

At the north end is a cairn, which within my recollection once contained a kistvaen. There is a retaining circle of 31 ft internal diameter. Position, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxiii, SE., lon. 3°-54′-55″, lat 50°-28′-17″. Elevation *c.* 1,300 ft.

Double row, length *c.* 540 ft, direction of length N. 10° E. At a point 90 ft from the centre of the cairn the row touches what may be a hut-circle. Four hundred and fifty feet farther south it touches and is partly lost in the wall of a pound which lies to the west. It is possible that this is the true end of the row, and that, before the pound wall fell in ruin, the row and the wall were not in actual contact.

5. *Near Spurrells Cross*

At the south end is a cairn, 50 ft in diameter, with but two remaining stones of the retaining circle. Position, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxix, SE., lon. 3°-53′-19½″, lat. 50°-25′-21½″. Elevation, *c.* 1,170 ft.

The row has apparently been double, but since only seven stones still stand and, with six sunken stones, form the fixed points now determinable, it is difficult to ascertain the original spacing. The distance apart of the lines may probably have been about 3 ft 6 in., and the spacing along the lines about 3 ft. The length of the row is 370 ft as measured from the centre of the cairn, and the direction of length is N. 20° W. The largest standing stone is but 2 ft in height.

6. *Glasscombe Ball*

At the north-east end is a barrow or cairn, now deformed, but probably originally of 14 ft diameter. Position, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxix, SE., lon. 3°-53′-24″, lat. 50°-25′-40½″. Elevation, *c.* 1,170 ft. Probably a single row, length from centre of barrow at NE. 276 ft, direction of length N. 42°-29′ E. All stones fallen, the largest being 3 ft 7 in. long by 11 in. broad.

There is a second cairn, 13 ft in diameter, and distant 37 ft centre of cairn to line of row, near the south-west end.

YEALM

7. *Staldon* (Pl. 45)

This row begins and ends without formal terminals, there is neither barrow nor menhir. By far the greater part of its length lies in the Yealm Valley, but at its northern extremity it just enters the Erme watershed. The position of the south end is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxix, NW., lon. 3°-55′-35½″, lat. 50°-26′-31″. Elevation, south end 1,200 ft, north end 1,320 ft.

Single row; length 1,643 ft, direction of length, end to end, N. 4°-45′ W. The southern length of 783 ft lies due N., the northern length of 858 ft lies N. 9°-45′ W. This divergence gives a convexity of 72 ft to the east.

At 1,193 ft from the south end the retaining circle of a barrow touches the row on the east side of the row; its internal diameter is 13 ft. After restoration, and no plan was prepared previous to restoration, those stones to the north of and nearest to the circle were left in line pointing to the circle's centre. That line should point to the western circumference of the circle, making with the southern part one continuous row, tangential to the circle. There are two cairns abreast the line north of the retaining circle, one with its centre 135 ft away from the row to the east, and the other with its centre 92 ft to the west.

South of the retaining circle the stones in the row, where closest set, are from 9 to 10 ft apart centre to centre. North of the retaining circle, where closest set, the stones are from 8 to 10 ft apart, but the large stones toward the north end are from 30 to 50 ft apart (Pl. 45). Since these large members range to over 8 ft in height such wide spacing is not inappropriate, but it is the extreme which is met on Dartmoor. There may have been some robbery, and some stones may be missing, but this unusual spacing is evidently to a large extent original.

No other row on Dartmoor is as prominent in the landscape; standing on the crest of the ridge between the Yealm and the Erme the large stones are seen on the skyline from many points in the Erme Valley; they have the appearance of a line of mounted men advancing toward the observer. Size and position both contribute to their effect.

8. *Penn Beacon*

If the Yealm shares with the Erme the fine row just described, it must share with the Tory Brook this rather trivial relic, which lies on the western border of its watershed.

The row is single, and but 66 ft in length; the direction of the length is N. 82°-38′ W. There are no terminals, whether barrows, menhirs or other. The position of the eastern end is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxix, NW., lon. 3°-58′-22½″, lat. 50°-26′-43¾″. The largest stone standing is but 14 in. × 15 in. × 31 in. high. This row is obviously no more than a remnant. Elevation of ground, 1,230 ft.

TORY BROOK

9. *Penn Beacon, lower slopes*

Four hundred and sixty-six yards W. by S. from the last mentioned row lies a fair-sized cairn. In a direction S. 30°-10′ W. from this runs a very short double row. There are but two pairs of stones, the length of the row as measured from the margin of the cairn is 24 ft, and the rows are 1 ft 10 in. apart, inside measurement. The direction of length of the row, referred to the north point, is N. 30°-10′ E. The position of the

cairn is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxix, NW., lon. 3°-58′-44″, lat. 50°-26′-41½″. Elevation of ground, *c.* 1,100 ft.

10. *Cholwich Town Waste*

There is a retaining circle of approximately 18 ft internal diameter, with six stones still standing, at the north end of this row. Position, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxviii, NE., lon. 3°-59′-37″, lat. 50°-26′-32½″. Elevation, *c.* 810 ft.

The row is single, its length *c.* 700 ft, the direction of length N. 22¼° E. Although imperfect in places, it is a well-marked row, and some of the stones are larger than ordinary.

11. *Collard Tor, western member*

The first example of a group of rows in this synopsis, and in this instance the simplest possible example, the group consisting of but two members. There are two cairns lying in a line which ranges N. 83°-50′ W., at a distance of 47 ft centre to centre. The western cairn has no retaining circle. The position of this cairn is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxviii, NE., lon. 4°-1′-50½″, lat. 50°-26′-24½″. Southward from this cairn runs a single row, which I call No. 11. The length of this row is 216 ft, and the direction of length N. 2°-10′ E. The row has been much disturbed, and has probably lost in length.

12. *Collard Tor, eastern member*

The eastern cairn has a retaining circle, 26 ft 6 in. in diameter, with five stones standing, and another approximately in place. Southward from this cairn runs a single row, No. 12, the second of the group. It is 275 ft in length, and the direction of length is N. 3°-20′ W. The rows thus diverge somewhat as they extend from the cairns. The condition of this row is much as that of No. 11. The elevation of the ground at the cairns is *c.* 850 ft.

PLYM

13. *Shaugh Moor*

At the south-west end is a retaining circle, 50 ft in diameter. Position, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxviii, NE., lon. 4°-2′-13″, lat. 50°-27′-7½″ at centre. Single row, length 587 ft, measuring from the centre of the circle. Direction of length N. 20°-40′ E.

The spacing of the stones in the row varies between 3 ft 3 in. and 5 ft centre to centre. There is a hut-circle within 10 ft of the retaining circle, and to the south. A barrow lies 360 ft W. a little S. from the retaining circle. This row can readily be found, the south end being approximately 200 yds east from the Cadover road, in the line of the south fence of Shaden Plantation. Elevation of ground *c.* 820 ft.

Trowlesworthy Group

This group has but two members. It lies north-east of the head of the Blackabrook, by the Lee Moor Leat.

14. *Trowlesworthy Group, eastern member*

At the north end is a retaining circle, 22 ft in internal diameter, and consisting of eight stones. Position, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxii, S.E., lon. 4°-0′-20½″, lat. 50°-27′-27¾″. The row is double, the stones spaced at *c.* 6 ft centres in the rows, and 4 ft to 5 ft across the rows. Length 426 ft, direction of length N. 11°-50′ E. The row is slightly convex eastward. This row was disturbed by workmen in the year 1859, but they were checked before much mischief had been done.

15. *Trowlesworthy Group, western member*

The east end of this row lies *c.* 350 ft west of the centre of the circle which heads No. 14. Row 15 points approximately to the circle at the head of Row 14.

A single row, 254 ft in length; direction of length is N. 82°-30′ E. At the west end is a small menhir 4 ft in height, and at the east end there are possible indications of a retaining circle of about 20 ft diameter. The stones of the row are spaced at approximately 5 ft centres. It will be noted that the two members of this group differ widely (by 70°-40′) in direction. The mean elevation of the ground is *c.* 920 ft.

16. *Ringmoor*

A single row for the main part at present, but double at places, possibly once double throughout. There is a retaining circle at the south end, of 40 ft 6 in. diameter. Position, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxii, SE., lon. 4°-1′-36″, lat. 50°-28′-33½″.

The row is 1,740 ft in length, the direction of the length is N. 12°-10′ E. It terminates to the north in a fallen stone, 4 ft in length and measuring 2 ft 6 in. × 1 ft 6 in. at the base.

Five of the stones of the retaining circle were imported in an effort at restoration; the original condition of this circle may be seen on the plan given on page 234 of *T.D.A.*, Vol. 73. On that same page it is stated in error by myself that the row is 400 yds in length. Instead of looking up my records I accepted the Ordnance Survey, which is in error. Mean elevation of ground, *c.* 970 ft.

Drizzlecombe Group (Fig. 73)

This is the most neatly arranged group on Dartmoor, and, with the possible exception of Merrivale, the sole example which shows what by our modern standards would be regarded as planning. As it stands it would permit additions which would leave an entirely symmetrical arrangement, and there is at least one indication that such additions may have been contemplated.

The rows are best described by reference to the plan (Fig. 73), and the general position determined by that of Giants Basin shown on the plan, which is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxii, SE., lon. 3°-59′-6″, lat. 50°-29′-5″. It may be noted that the contour of the pound which lies just

south-west of the large cairn at the north-east extreme of the group, and has two hut-circles within it is shown a little too regular; its correct contour can be seen in Fig. 32, p. 136. For present purposes the matter is unimportant. [See also the note appended to the legend. (ED.)]

It will be seen that abreast of A on the plan is a standing stone. If a line be drawn from this stone to the north-westernmost of the three barrows below the pound, one then has a completely symmetrical collection of rows, and this may have been contemplated.

In this group we have three rows, each terminating at its north-east end in a barrow, and at its south-west end in a menhir; rows perfect and strictly defined; with the aid of the plan it will not be necessary to do more than give their respective detail.

17. *Drizzlecombe Group (A)*

A barrow, uncircled, 18 ft in diameter, at the north-east end; at the south-west end a menhir, 12 ft 6 in. in length as fallen, 10 ft 6 in. high as erected (Pl. 59A). Length of row 488 ft, direction of length N. 47°-30′ E. The row is in part double, in part single, and it is doubtful whether it was ever wholly double.

18. *Drizzlecombe Group (B)*

A circled barrow, 29 ft in diameter at the north-east end; and a menhir 9 ft 5 in. in length as fallen, 7 ft 9 in. in height as erected, at the south-west end (Pl. 59B). Length of row 491 ft, direction of length N. 50°-30′ E. The row is single throughout, except for one pair of stones next the menhir.

19. *Drizzlecombe Group (C)*

A circled barrow, 34 ft in diameter, at the north-east end; and at the south-west a menhir, 17 ft 10 in. in length as fallen, 14 ft in height as erected (Pl. 57B, 58, 59B). The row is single throughout, and the stones are more widely spaced than in either of the other rows. Length of row 276 ft, direction of length N. 44° E.

It will be noticed that row B points to the cairn at the top of the plan; and that there is another alignment in this group, not a row, marked

[1] In this plan the menhirs are shown as they lay fallen. They were re-erected in their correct positions (as proved by the socket-holes) at the ends of the rows (Pl. 57B, 58, 59).

The Kerb Circle (Pl. 38A) is incorrectly placed. It should be transferred to a point 280 ft SSW. of the adjacent kistvaen.

A ruined barrow with retaining circle is situated a little S of E of the point where the kerb circle is drawn, being in alignment with the centres of Giants Basin and the westernmost of the three central barrows.

Between the ruined circle and the pounds are two heather-grown circles (huts?), one of which aligns with menhirs A and B.

Row C is 20 ft shorter than shown, the length originally recorded by Worth himself proving correct. Row B is somewhat concave to the SE. (ED.)

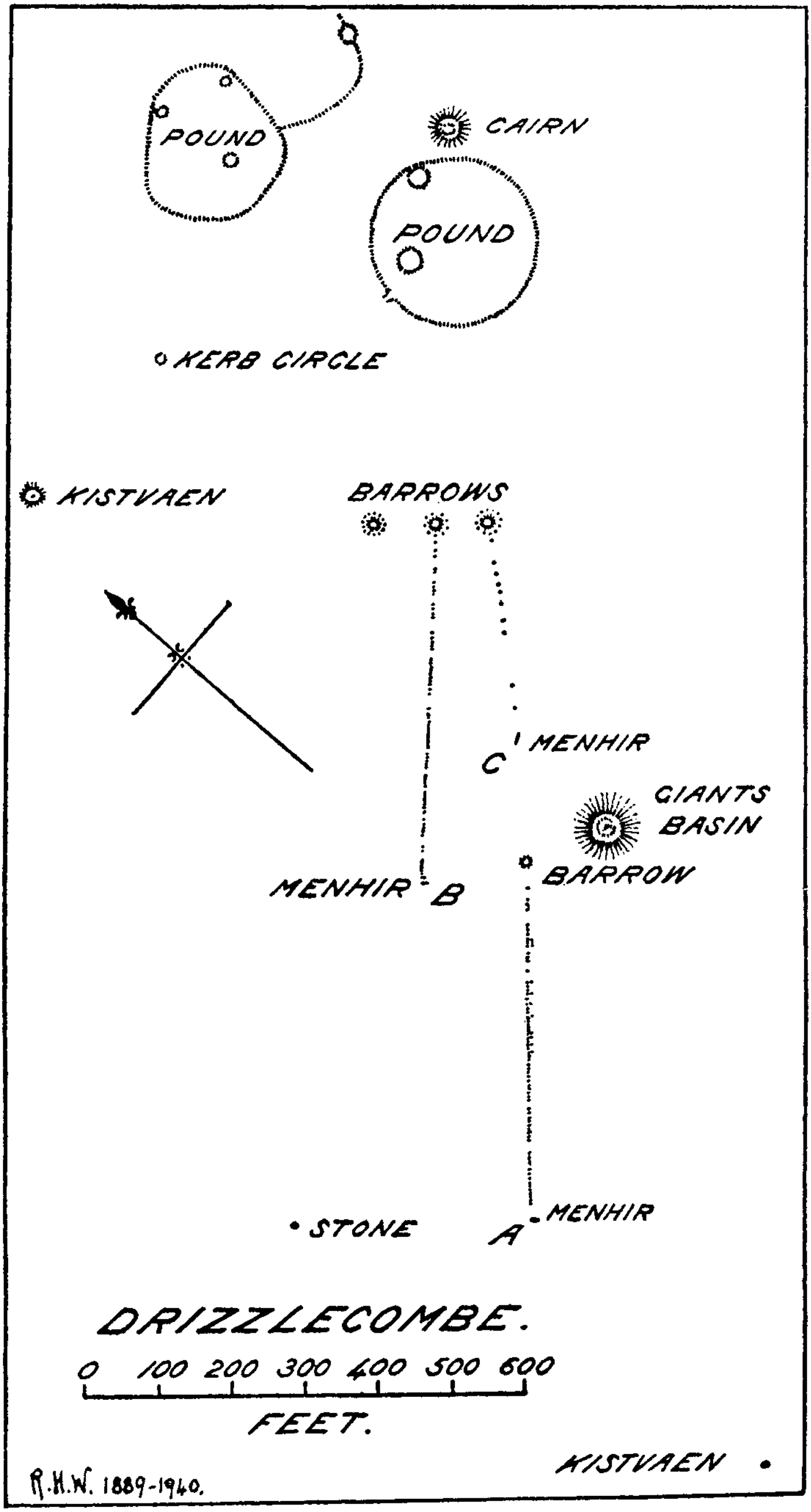

FIG. 73. The Drizzlecombe group.[1]

out by three graves, namely the kistvaen in the bottom right-hand corner, the cairn known as Giants Basin, and the cairn at the top of the plan.

There are shown on this plan, two large cairns, four barrows, two kistvaens, and a kerb retaining circle around an interment pit. There are also two pounds and six hut-circles. It would not appear that the living were anxious to remove their dead to a distance, as has so often been suggested, or perhaps I should say asserted.

The elevation of the ground at Giants Basin is approximately 1,100 ft; and its gradient, falling from north-east to south-west is approximately 1 in 22. This is one of the few groups in which all parts can be seen from all parts, and perhaps this has had an influence on its symmetry.

MEAVY

20. *Down Tor* (Pl. 61)

Although this row is commonly named after Down Tor, it lies, not on the slopes of that tor, but on Hingston Hill, and is in fact nearer Combshead Tor. At the west end of the row is a barrow with retaining circle, the circle 37 ft in internal diameter. Position, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxii, NE., lon. 3°-59′-35″, lat. 50°-30′-19½″. Near the circle the stones of the row are exceptionally large, that nearest the circle having been measured when fallen by Burnard and found to be 12 ft 10 in. in length (Pl. 61); as re-erected it now stands 9 ft 6 in. high. In the matter of record this row has been unfortunate; it is called after a Tor on whose slopes it does not stand; it is shown on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey as pointing towards a pound, to which it does not point; Spence Bate appears to have intended this row when he wrote of one in this locality as being 800 yds in length; Burnard by an obvious slip attributed to it a length of nearly 600 yds. Its actual length as measured from the centre of the circle is 1145 ft[1]. The direction of length from end to end is N. 71° E.; it is somewhat convex toward the north. Its apparent eastern termination is in a small menhir, which measured, as fallen, 7 ft 6 in. in length and 3 ft in breadth. In the line of the row but 620 ft[1] from the terminal menhir is a cairn 57 ft[1] in diameter at the base, and 36 ft diameter at the top.

Accepting the result of Burnard's careful examination, that the total number of stones in this single row was 174, it results that the average spacing of the stones, centre to centre, is 6·48 ft[1]. The mean elevation of ground is *c.* 1,210 ft; the row lies along the water-parting between Deancombe and Newleycombe brooks.

21. *Black Tor, Stanlake*

A double row, the northern member of which is almost wholly

[1] New measurements. (ED.)

merged in an enclosure wall. The best fixed point from which to locate it is the blocking stone at the north-east end, the position of which is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cvi, SE., lon. 4°-0′-53″, lat. 50°-31′-32½″. The wall or fence is the western boundary of Stanlake farm against the moor.

This double row is so near a fence that the needs of the wall builders have led tq the robbery of even that line which is clear of and parallel to the hedge; but, in a length of 950 ft in all there are left 66 stones. The stones are of medium size, for example, 1 ft 1 in. × 1 ft × 2 ft 3 in. high, 2 ft 7 in. × 10 in. × 2 ft 3 in. high, 1 ft 7 in. × 1 ft 7 in. × 2 ft 6 in. high, and the blocking stone 9 in. × 3 ft 5 in. × 2 ft 6 in. high. (The first measurement is always that of the stone along the row, the second is the thickness of the stone at right angles to the row, and the third is the height above ground.)

The direction of the length of the row is N. 50° E. There are remains of at least 14 hut-circles and some small pounds 800 ft south of the south-west end of the row. The mean elevation of the ground is 1,127 ft.

The *Harter Group*, in the angle between the Meavy and the Harter Brook, near their confluence, contains two rows.

22. *Harter Group, the northern row*

Double row. At the eastern end is a barrow with a retaining circle of 29 ft 4 in. internal diameter, of which seven stones still stand, two lean, and five are fallen. Position, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cvi, SE., lon. 4°-0′-27″, lat. 50°-31′-38″. The length of the row is at least 450 ft; it extends to very near the bank of the Meavy. The direction of length of the row is N. 76°-30′ E. The spacing of the stones is rather irregular, from 6 to 7 ft centre to centre along the row, and, as a mean about 5 ft apart centre to centre across the row. Some of the stones are of a fair height, from 4 to 5 ft.

23. *Harter Group, the southern row*

This row starts from a barrow at the eastern end. This barrow has no retaining circle; its centre is *c.* 36 ft from the centre of the circled barrow, centre to centre. The row is single, length *c.* 165 ft, direction of length N. 58°-30′ E., there are gaps in this row, and the stones are comparatively few; it has probably been robbed. Mean elevation of ground 1,125 ft. The divergence between the directions of length of the two rows constituting this group is 18°.

24. *Sharpitor, northern flank*

A double row which lies partly in the valley of the Meavy, and partly in that of the Walkham, its length crossing the water divide at the crest of Peek Hill, a little south of the Princetown Road.

At the west the row starts from a cairn, but recently discovered as the result of a chance disturbance of the surface; at the east it ends in

a blocking-stone. The length from the centre of the cairn to the blocking-stone is 366 ft; and since the spacing along the row has been fairly regularly 5 ft from centre to centre, before the row was so extensively robbed there should have been 138 stones at least. There are now 41, of which 11 are fallen. None of the stones left are other than small, the largest being the two last at the east end, one of which measures 23 in. × 7 in. × 19 in. high, and the other 22 in. × 9 in. × 42 in. high. The space from centre to centre across the rows averages 6 ft, but it varies considerably, between 3 ft 10 in. and 7 ft 10 in.; it tends to widen toward the eastern end. The direction of length is N. 64° E. The row is easily found as it lies but a few feet south of the wayside pool at the top of Peek Hill. The position of the cairn is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cvi, SE., lon. 4°-2′-10″, lat. 50°-31′-1″.

On the eastern slope, 255 ft from the blocking-stone, and in the prolongation of the line of the row, is a cairn with a retaining circle of 11 ft 6 in. internal diameter. The position of this cairn relative to the row is the parallel of that which exists at Down Tor (20). The row certainly points to the barrow, but terminates far short of it. The elevation of the ground is 1,212 ft O.D.

25. *Sharpitor*

Eight or nine feet south from the last stones of row 24 is a small set stone. Two other stones, obviously set, make a line with the first, and certainly seem to be the commencement of a row which trends more to the north than does 24, and would cross the produced line of 24 between the blocking-stone and the isolated cairn. The difficulty is to find any certain continuation of the line marked out by the three stones; there are too many surface stones which confuse the issue. Direction of length N. 48° E.

26. *Sharpitor, foot of eastern slope*

At the foot of Goatstone Hill, 100 yds from the junction of the track to Routrundle with the road to Princetown is a short but interesting row. It is double, short, consists of but few pairs of stones; but those pairs are more closely set, and the row is therefore narrower, than in any other known example. For instance there is one pair of stones 12 in. × 8 in. × 14 in. high, and 9 in. × 8 in. × 16 in. high respectively, the space between which is 6 in., or, stated as distance between centres, the setting is 14 in. Six inches is a restricted width for either a racecourse or a processional path, uses to which some would have us believe the stone rows were placed.

When I found this row it seemed to me that possibly it was a set of stones used for the roller bearings of a flat-rod, a mining device, but no sort of bearing was to be found on any stone; also the row starts with a ruined cairn at the west end, and cairns are not usual adjuncts of flat-rods.

The length of the row is 120 ft; its direction N. 88° E.; the elevation of the ground is 1,130 ft O.D.

The position of the ruined cairn at the west end is Devon, 6 inch O.S., cvi, SE., lon. 4°-1′-46½″, lat. 50°-31′-7¼″.

WALKHAM

Merrivale Group. Longash Common (Fig. 74, 116)

This group consists of two double rows and one single; and not far removed is a stone circle, with two menhirs near it (Pl. 60B). It has been suggested that the remains of stone rows can be traced in connexion with these menhirs, but this must be regarded as doubtful.

To simplify description a plan of these rows has been prepared, necessarily to a small scale, which does not permit the plotting of individual stones, and demands some exaggeration of the width of double rows, and the diameters of small circles. [A full plan was published with the Second Report of the Dartmoor Exploration Committee.]

27. *Merrivale Group (A). The northern double row*

No cairn or barrow is directly connected with the row, but at its eastern end it is closed by a blocking-stone. The length of the row is 596 ft, and its direction N. 83°-30′ E. I have referred to my original survey notes as to the width between the rows, which, as is perhaps usual, is irregular. On the average of 17 pairs of stones I find the mean distance between the rows is 3 ft 6 in. with extremes of 4 ft 6 in. and 2 ft 8 in.; while the mean distance from centre to centre of the stones across the row is 4 ft. The distance from centre to centre along the rows, where complete, gives a mean for twenty pairs of 5 ft 6 in., with extremes of 7 ft 9 in. and 4 ft 7½ in.

28. *Merrivale Group (B). The southern double row*

This row overlaps row A at both ends, and is not quite parallel to it. From the east end of row A to row B, centre to centre, the least distance is 80 ft 6 in., the corresponding measurement at the west end is 106 ft. Row B is closed at the east end by a blocking-stone; at the west end there is neither barrow, menhir nor any other formal termination. At a distance of 427 ft[1] from the east end of the row, and 438 ft[1] from the west end, lies the centre of a retaining circle of 12 ft internal diameter which interrupts the row; within this circle is a small barrow. This feature, which is unique on Dartmoor, is placed so near the true centre of length that, if the row builders had any respect to symmetry, one may well argue that it is improbable that the row ever extended to the west to any material distance beyond its present termination.

I have taken this circle and barrow as the fixed point for defining the

[1] Corrected from the full plan. (ED.)

position of the group; the data are: Devon, 6 inch O.S., cvi, NE., lon. 4°-2′-27½″, lat. 50°-33′-15″.

The length of row B is 865 ft,[1] and the direction of length is N. 81° E. The mean of 17 pairs of stones gives an internal width of 2 ft 10 in. between the lines of stone, with extremes of 1 ft 9 in. and 3 ft 9 in.; while the mean distance from centre to centre of the stones across the row is 3 ft 4 in. The distance from centre to centre along the rows, where complete, gives a mean of 7 ft 1 in. with extremes of 9 ft 10 in. and 5 ft 3 in., for twenty pairs.

29. *Merrivale Group (C)*

Measuring 142 ft westward from the centre of the barrow which breaks the line of row B, and 15 ft southward from the centre of the row one reaches the centre of a barrow of 9 ft diameter, from which starts row C. This is a single row, 138 ft 8 in. long as measured from the centre of the barrow, the direction of length being N. 24°-15′ E. The spacing of the stones in this row appears to have been 3 ft centre to centre, when the row was perfect. Row C has all the appearance of being an afterthought.

Regarding the group as a whole, row A has no directly associated sepulchral remains; a cairn stands in the centre of row B; and C starts from a cairn or barrow at its northern end. South of B, and near it, there are also a large kistvaen, and the ruins of a fair-sized cairn. And, near this collection of graves, there are, it should be added, a number of hut-circles; here, again, the living did not avoid the graves of their people (Pl. 25B).

In one of these huts lies a worked stone, the circular runner of a cider mill. Col. Hamilton Smith had no difficulty in seeing it as a fallen cromlech (Pl. 75B).

The mean elevation of the ground is *c.* 1,150 ft.

30. *Langstone Moor, Petertavy*

Single row, length *c.* 330 ft, probably somewhat longer when complete, direction of length N. 2° E. There are now but eighteen stones, the largest of which stands no more than eighteen inches above ground. The original spacing may have been about 5 ft.

At the north end are the remains of a barrow, now reduced to little more than a rubble ring. At the south end is the menhir known as the Longstone, from which the moor probably takes name. This menhir and the stones of the row are of local stone, epidiorite, there being no granite in the immediate vicinity. Between 100 and 300 yds west of the Longstone lie four cairns and a kistvaen. The Longstone was re-erected in 1893. (See p. 270 and Pl. 60A.)

It is to be regretted that, during the late military occupation of Dart-

[1] Corrected from plan. (ED.)

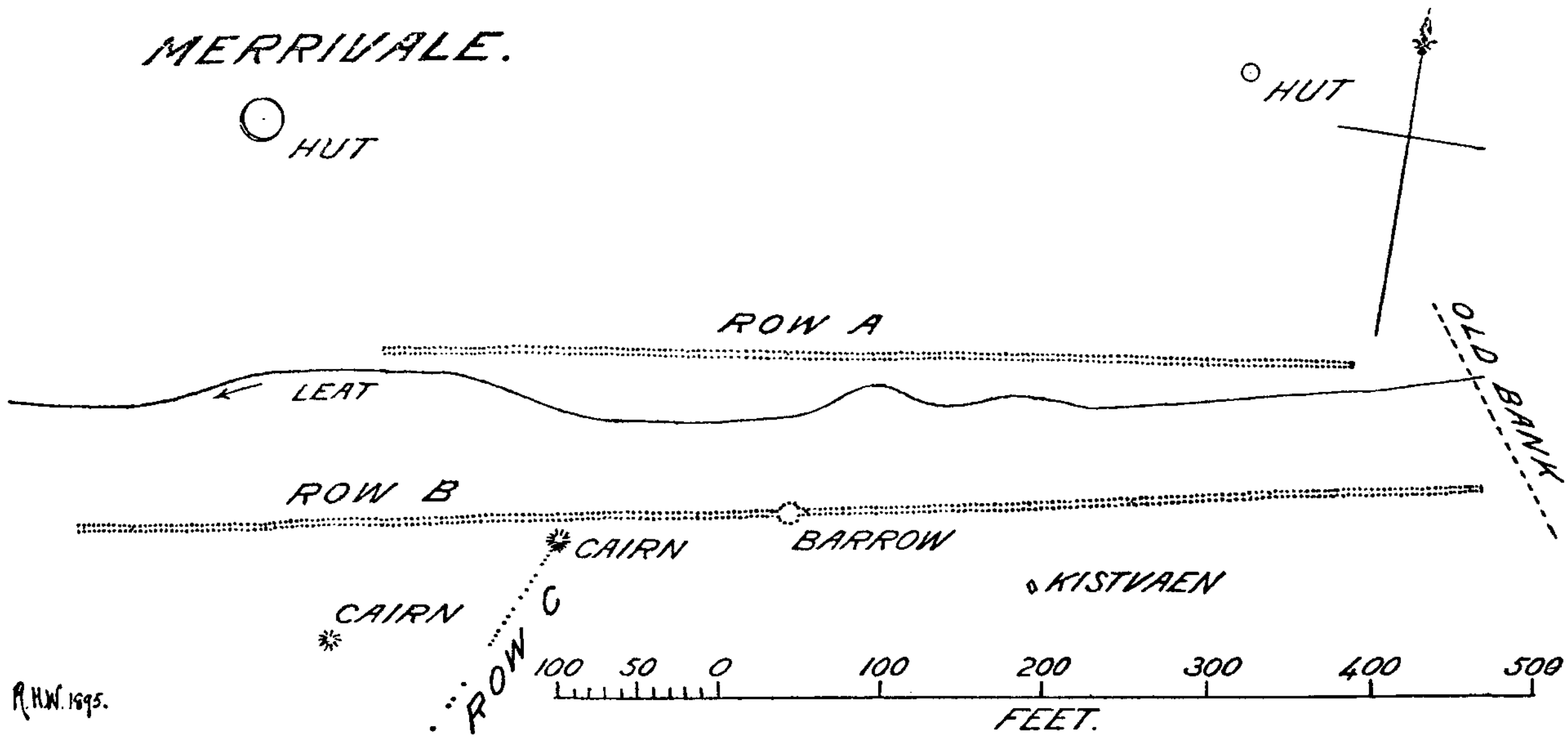

FIG. 74. The Merrivale Group.

moor this menhir has been used as a target, while the fine stone circle above Clay Tor has been wrecked. This can only be described as wanton mischief; it was no accident.

The position of the Longstone is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., xcviii, SE., lon. 4°-2′-54½″, lat. 50°-35′-22½″. Mean elevation *c.* 1,420 ft. Ground practically level.

TAVY

31. *Cocks Tor*

On the summit of Cocks Tor there are traces which may indicate the former existence of one or more stone rows. With this possible exception there are no known rows in the valley.

LYD, WEST OCKMENT, AND TAW

No stone rows are known in these valleys.

EAST OCKMENT

32. *Oke Tor*

In 1894 my father reported the existence of a much ruined row on the west slope of Oke Tor. His report will be found on page 300 of Vol. 26 of the *T.D.A.*. He never visited the spot again, nor was I able to visit it during his lifetime. But he was not of a speculative habit, and a survey would probably confirm his report.

With this probable exception stone rows are unknown in the valley of the East Ockment.

NORTH TEIGN, BLACKATON BROOK

33. *Cosdon*

The first of the triple rows which is met in this general survey. It lies near the summit of Cosdon, east of the water-parting between the Taw and North Teign valleys, and the Taw comes near to claiming a share in the row. The length, measured from the centre of a circled cairn which stands at the west end, is 447 ft, the direction of length is N. 85° W. The position of the cairn is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., lxxvii, SW., lon. 3°-55′-19″, lat 50°-42′-27″. Its diameter is 26 ft, and it contains the remains of two kistvaens; the retaining circle is very irregular. There is no formal feature to mark the termination of the rows at their eastern end. The stones, where the rows are perfect, are spaced at a mean distance centre to centre along the rows of 4 ft 4 in., with extremes of 5 ft 10 in. and 3 ft 4 in. At 225 ft from the west end there is a slight change in direction and the rows turn somewhat northward; they are thus convex to the south to the extent of some 4 to 5 ft. This change of direction may be said to divide the row into a western and an eastern section, between which some differences exist. Thus the spacing, centre to centre, across the rows is:

Western part, N. row 4 ft 7 in., centre row 4 ft 3 in., S. row total 8 ft 10 in.

Eastern part, N. row 5 ft, centre row 5 ft 8 in., S. row, total 10 ft 8 in. These are the means of as many measurements as can be accurately taken. The total width in the first perfect set of three at the west end is 7 ft 6 in., and for the last perfect set at the east end it is 10 ft 3 in. The largest stone standing, before restoration, was 42 in. × 12 in. × 45 in. high.

The mean elevation of the ground is *c.* 1,430 ft.

A detailed plan was published with the Third Report of the Dartmoor Exploration Committee, *T.D.A.*, Vol. 28. I accept full responsibility for a draughtsman's error, whereby true north was indicated on the compass drawn on that plan 36° to the west of its correct position. Those who have copies should make the correction.

NORTH TEIGN AND SOUTH TEIGN

Shuggledown Group (Fig. 75; Pl. 46A and B)

This is an elongated and very irregular group, lying in part in the valley of the North Teign, in part in the valley of the South Teign, between Batworthy and Thornworthy Corners. A suitable reference point is the fourfold retaining circle which lies at the head of row A; the position of this is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., lxxxix, SE., lon. 3°-53′-48″, lat. 50°-39′-27¾″. The contour of the ground is important, but it can only be approximately given. At the north end of the group the level is *c.* 1,320 ft above O.D. Twelve hundred feet south it has risen to *c.* 1,360 ft O.D. and at the Three Boys, 1,100 ft farther south, it has fallen to *c.* 1,310 ft O.D. It follows that, except near the summit level, there are no points from which the half of the group can be seen at the same time as parts of the other half. The group was never intended to be seen as a whole, which is not surprising since there are many individual rows the whole length of which cannot be seen at one time; except, in these days, from the air.

See Fig. 75 for a plan of this group, without reference to which it may be difficult to follow the description. Greater detail is given in *T.D.A.*, Vol. 64, pp. 283–7.

34. *Shuggledown (A)*

The eastern row of the group is double. Its length is 596 ft, and the direction of length is N. 1°-40′ W. The mean inside measurement between the lines is 3 ft 6 in. (in the group the distance between the lines is throughout the internal distance).

Standing so near the Batworthy enclosure, the row has been much robbed; in its whole length there are now but twelve pairs of stones and fifteen single. The spacing of the stones along the rows is a little over 6 ft, centre to centre.

At the north end there is no special feature; at the south the row ends in a fourfold retaining circle; the internal diameter of the outermost circle is 29 ft. Two fallen stones next to the circle are much the largest in the row; one is 11 ft 6 in. in length, and the other 7 ft 4 in. (Pl. 46A). The larger has been adopted as a boundary stone of Chagford parish. Southward from the circle, approximately in the line of the row, and 65 ft from the circle, centre to centre, is a small barrow.

35. *Shuggledown (E)*

To the west of row A lies row E, 220 ft distant from it at the north end, and 60 ft distant at the south. This is a double row, 476 ft in length; the direction of length being N. 21°-15′ W. The mean interval between the lines is a little over 4 ft, but it varies considerably. No special feature marks either end, neither menhir, blocking-stone nor barrow.

This row has been much robbed, so that for the greater part of its length it is now single.

36. *Shuggledown (C)*

Due south of the southern end of row E is the northern end of row C at a distance of 60 ft. This is approximately due west of the fourfold circle, and 65 ft 6 in. from its centre.

Row C is double, the lines being 5 ft apart, inside measurement. Its length is 386 ft to the centre of the barrow, 13 ft in diameter, which forms its terminal point to the south. The direction of length is N. 28°-30′ W. This row has not been badly robbed and most of the pairs of stones are complete.

37. *Shuggledown (G)*

Three hundred and twenty-five feet *c.* S. 25° E. from the cairn which forms the south extreme of row C is the north end of another double row, 485 ft in length, direction of length N. 3° W. This terminates to the south in a fine menhir (10 ft 5 in. in height) known as the Longstone (Pl. 46B). The Longstone now forms a boundary of the parishes of Lydford, Chagford and Gidleigh, also of the Forest of Dartmoor. It provides an excellent example of a boundary determined, at least as long ago as A.D. 1240, by the convenient presence of a landmark, rather than a bondstone erected to mark a boundary.

The distance between the lines of stones is 3 ft 3 in., inside measurement. The row is fairly complete at its northern end, but becomes very ragged as it approaches the Longstone, having evidently lost many of its stones by theft.

38. *Shuggledown, from the Longstone southward*

Due south of the Longstone, at a distance of 555 ft. is an isolated stone, erect but leaning, of which 4 ft 6 in. in length is above the ground. This is the last of three stones, formerly known as 'Three Boys', its companions having gone to form gateposts to a neighbouring enclo-

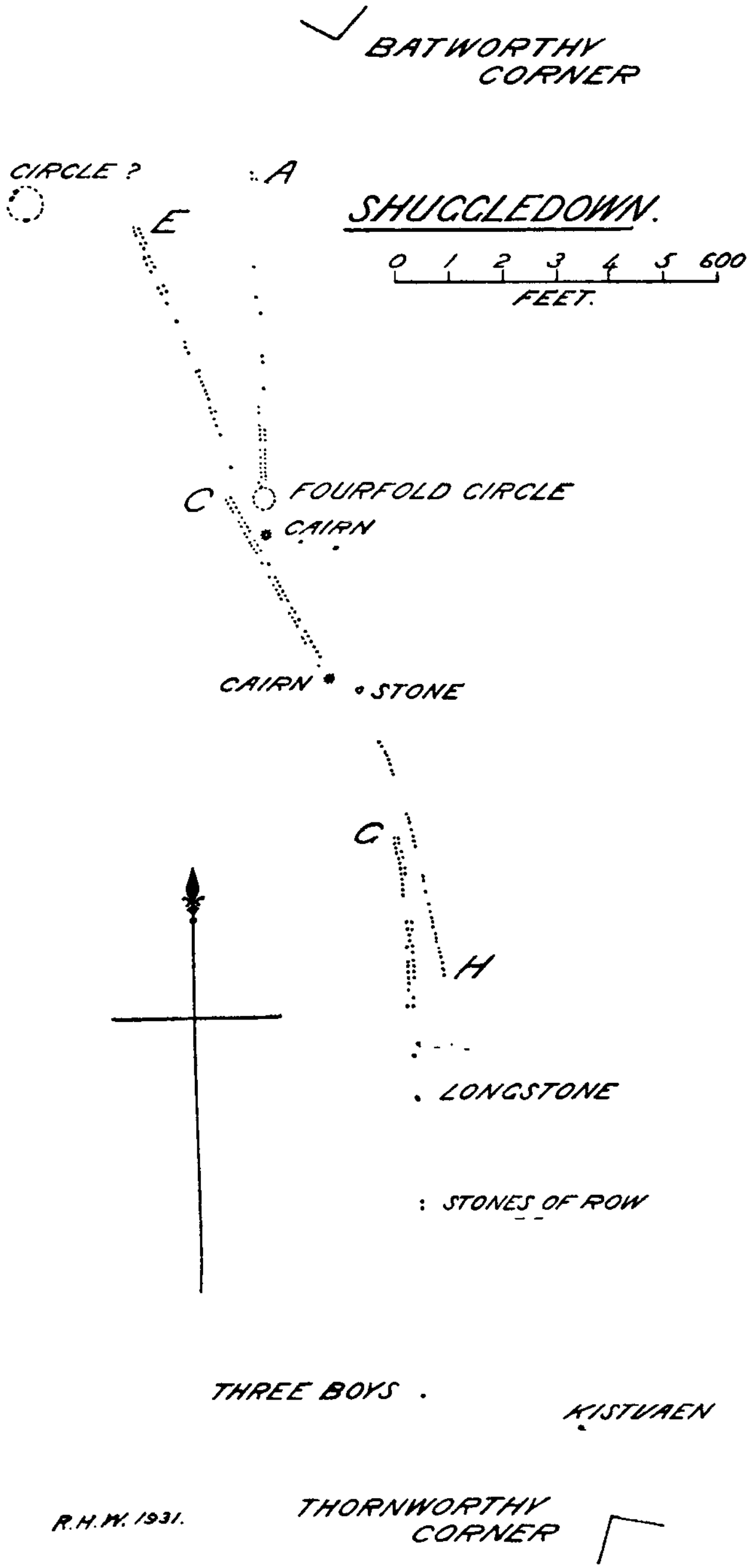

FIG. 75. The Shuggledown group.

sure. Between the Longstone and Three Boys, there remain a few set stones, the remnants of a double row.

Ormerod states that, in 1858, the pits left by the removal of the other stones from this double row could still be seen in the turf. The length of this row was thus 555 ft, and the direction of length due N. As to the Three Boys, it has been suggested that they were the supporters of a dolmen; but the remaining stone would certainly not be suited to this use, and probably they were merely stones larger than the general run, such as are frequently found near the termination of a row.

It cannot be determined whether the Longstone originally stood in a row 1,040 ft long; or whether row G at first terminated in the Longstone; and the southward extension was an afterthought. The slight deviation in direction which occurs at the Longstone is certainly insufficient to determine the question.

39. *Shuggledown* (*H*)

Returning to row G, abreast of this, and overlapping it to the north, is a single row on the east, at a mean distance of *c.* 40 ft. This appears to end in a blocking-stone not far from the cairn which forms the southern terminal of row C.

The southern 295 ft of its length bears N. 11° W., but to the north the row extends a further 260 ft (making a total length of 555 ft) to the supposed blocking-stone, bearing somewhat west of the direction above given.

SOUTH TEIGN

Fernworthy Group (Fig. 76)

The Fernworthy Group consists of two fairly well preserved double rows, and the remnant of another. It is unusual in that a stone circle (as opposed to a retaining circle) is more closely associated with the rows than in any other group. A plan is needed to supplement the written description (see Fig. 76).

40. *Fernworthy* (*A*), *southern row*

A stone in the face of a stone wall is probably taken from the row, of which, for present purposes, it has been taken as the end. The row is double, and measured from this assumed end to the centre of a cairn 25 ft in diameter which forms its northern terminal; it is 210 ft in length. The direction of length is N. 4°-30′ E.[1] The internal width is 3 ft 6 in, equivalent to 4 ft 1 in., centre to centre, of the stones, and the spacing of the stones along the length of the row is 3 ft, centre to centre.

Seventy-two feet north from the centre of the cairn is the centre of a stone circle 64 ft 6 in. internal diameter. This circle is very nearly complete, with twenty-six stones standing and only four missing. In

[1] Corrected figure. (ED.)

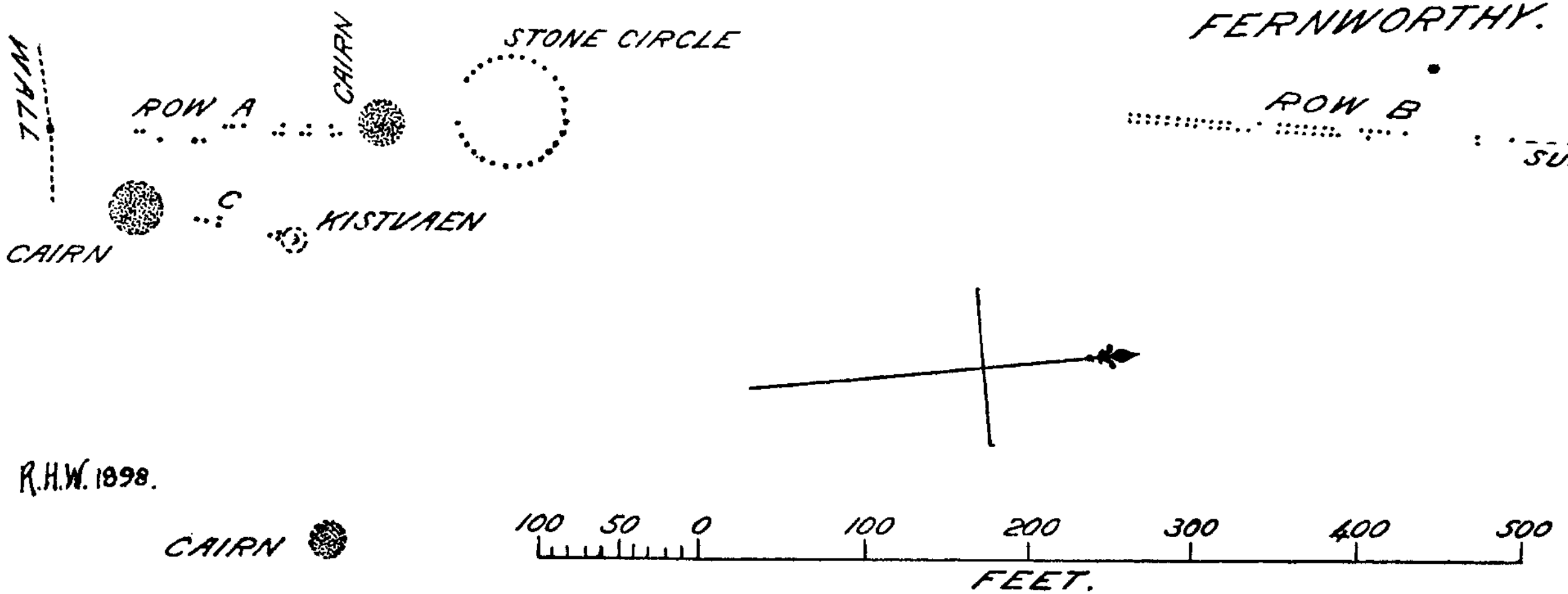

FIG. 76. The Fernworthy group.

1898 the circle was examined, nothing being found except charcoal lying on the surface of the calm or growan; there was no trace of any burial.

The position of the stone circle is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., lxxxix, SE., lon. 3°-54′-9″, lat. 50°-38′-26½″.

41. *Fernworthy* (*B*), *northern row*

Three hundred and fifty feet N. 6° E. from the centre of the stone circle lie the first stones of row B. This is a double row, reasonably perfect at the south end, but to the north most of the stones are either lost or buried. It terminates in a small mound or barrow at the north end. Its length is 340 ft as measured to the centre of the mound. The direction of length is N. 10° E. The lines average 3 ft 3 in. apart, inside measurement, equivalent to 3 ft 10 in. centre to centre; the stones stand at intervals of 5 ft 7 in. centre to centre along the row. B has been said to point to the stone circle, but its line is tangential to the west circumference.

42. *Fernworthy* (*C*)

Abreast of row A, at a distance of 44 ft to the east, lies the centre of a cairn; and at a distance of 72 ft from the row a kistvaen in a barrow. From the centre of the cairn to the kist is a distance of 104 ft; between the two are clear evidences of a ruined double row, which is thus 104 ft in length. The direction of length is N. 24° E.[1]

From the graves associated with this group has come the best evidence which we have as to the probable period to which the rows must be attributed; a food vessel of beaker ware, and a horn button or dress fastener. It will be remembered that beaker ware was found in a kistvaen associated with the Drizzlecombe rows. The elevation of the ground at the stone circle is 1,350 ft O.D., falling somewhat north and south from this point.

43. *Assacombe* (Pl. 62)

A double row, the stones small for the most part, barely 18 in. in height; but with three which are larger next to the cairn (20 ft in diameter) which forms the terminal at the north-east. These stones are *c.* 7 ft 6 in., 4 ft 6 in. and 4 ft 6 in. high respectively. The row is nearly perfect, but markedly irregular; the width across the lines varies from 5 ft 6 in. to 6 ft 6 in., centre to centre of stones. To the south of the row, and about 10 ft away from it near the south-west end is a circle, probably a hut-circle.

The row is *c.* 430 ft in length; the direction of length is N. 57°-30′ E. The position, as determined by the centre of the cairn is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., xcix, NE., lon. 3°-53′-40″, lat. 50°-37′-39″. The ground level

[1] Corrected figure. (ED.)

varies from about 1,400 to 1,460 ft O.D., the cairn being at the highest point.

44. *Watern Hill, Chagford Common*

A double row, and one of the best examples on Dartmoor. Should properly be shared between the South Teign and the Bovey, since its whole length lies along the water-parting between the valleys of those streams. At the south, which is the higher end, is a cairn 22 ft in diameter. In the eastern line the first stone measures 4 ft 10 in. at the base and stands 5 ft 10 in. in height; its width at the top is 11 in. This is the largest stone in the row. Its companion, in the western line, is of not much beyond the average dimensions. At the north end is a blocking-stone, 8 in. by 24 in. at base, and 3 ft 10 in. in height.

Throughout the lines there is considerable variation in the size of the stones, of which there are fifty pairs, none being missing. Two pairs of originally small stones have sunk somewhat and now stand but a few inches above the surface.

Measured from the centre of the cairn the row is 473 ft in length; the direction of length is N. 21°-30′ E. The distance between the lines is wider than usual; the mean width measured internally is 5 ft 10 in., with a minimum of 4 ft 4 in. and a maximum of 8 ft 2 in. From the centre to centre of the stones the mean width is 6 ft 5 in. But the spacing is more regular than the extremes suggest; between the limits of 5 ft and 6 ft 6 in. are included 97% of the internal measurements.

Measured along the rows the pairs are spaced at a mean interval of 9 ft 1 in., with extremes of 6 ft and 11 ft 7 in., but here again a large part of the measurements falls within a much less range of variation; 80% of the number lie between the extremes of 8 ft 3 in. and 10 ft.

An obviously intentional feature is the widening of the space between the lines as the cairn is approached. The pair next to the cairn are 8 ft 2 in. apart, the interval is reduced to 7 ft 6 in. in the next pair to the north, then follow intervals of 6 ft 3 in. and 6 ft respectively. In a length of 31 ft 6 in. there is an addition of 2 ft 2 in. to the width.

There are three hut-circles abreast of the row, the most distant being 300 yds from it.

The position of the centre of the cairn is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., xcix, NE., lon. 3°-52′-37″, lat. 50°-37′-36″. The ground stands at 1,400 ft O.D. at the centre of the row, and the gradient is 1 in 10, falling to the north.

45. *Stannon, south slope of White Ridge*

Starts with a cairn at the north or uphill end. The row is double, fairly well preserved for a short distance from the cairn, but dilapidated to an increasing degree as the newtake wall is approached to the south. The length is at least 620 ft, as measured from the centre of the cairn; and the direction of length is N. 1° E.

Position of cairn, Devon, 6 inch O.S., xcix, NE., lon. 3°-54′-10″, lat. 50°-37′-6½″; elevation of ground at cairn *c.* 1,475 ft O.D.; gradient *c.* 1 in 24, falling south.

This row might well be in part attributed to the East Dart Valley, since it lies on the water-parting.

EAST AND WEST WEBBURN STREAMS

46. *Challacombe, by Chaw Gully* (Pl. 47)

Triple row, which lies on the water-parting between the watersheds of the East and West Webburn rivers, on the north slope of Challacombe Hill. The row terminates to the south in a blocking-stone of unusual size, which, in Pl. 47 (2) will be seen breaking the skyline, and in the foreground of (1), of the same plate. The northern end of the row was destroyed by the excavation of Chaw Gully, and we cannot say what was there; but if it were a barrow, then that barrow lay at the lower end of the row. The three lines are well marked, and little damage was done to them when the row suffered restoration, except that a stone in the middle row was turned to form a blocking-stone across that one row. This stone will be seen in the foreground of Pl. 47 (2).

More than this there were loose stones scattered to the west of the north end of the row; an attempt was made to re-erect these in the places in which 'they should have been'. Nothing coherent came of that attempt, but it has been translated as presenting a stone circle, and some additional rows, very short and very imperfect. The probability is that the stones were drawn back here when the topsoil was removed prior to the excavation of the east end of Chaw Gully, and as they fell from the cart or sled, so they lay. It is not safe to see in this monument any more than a good example of a triple row, with some respectable stones used in its construction. The lines are farther apart at the north than at the south end, where they gather in somewhat to meet the blocking-stone. The present length is 528 ft, but how much has been lost at the north end cannot be determined. The direction of length is N. 23°-30′ W. The position of the blocking-stone to the south is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., xcix, NE., lon. 3°-51′-5″, lat. 50°-36′-39½″. The elevation of the ground is *c.* 1,460 ft O.D. at the blocking-stone, and it falls north at a gradient of *c.* 1 in 11.

DART

47. *Sherril Down, Sherberton Common*

The history of this row is one of misfortune. It was discovered by the brothers Amery in the year 1894, visited by them and my father in 1895, and by 1897 had disappeared. It lay beside a road, a very dangerous situation. The approximate position was, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cviii, SW., lon. 3°-50′-48″, lat. 50°-32′-57″. The row was double, with rather an unusual width between the lines, which were 8 to 9 ft apart

in the clear. On the other hand the spacing of the stones along the rows was unusually close, and there appeared to have been some inserted at a later date, which brought the spacing closer yet. At the north end were traces of a barrow, possibly with a retaining circle. The length was *c.* 225 ft, and the direction of length *c.* N. 4° W. Some of the fallen stones were nearly 5 ft in length, so that it was by no means a trivial structure.

The elevation of the ground is approximately 1,125 ft O.D.

BECKY BROOK

48. *Trendlebere Down, north-east slope of Black Hill, Manaton*

Close to the road from Haytor to Manaton, 100 ft to the north of that road, about 600 yds north of Yarner Wells.

Probably a double row, much robbed, and many of the stones fallen; but there is still one undoubted pair of set stones which stand 3 ft 1 in. apart, face to face as measured across the row.

Starts at the south end with a ruined cairn, some 50 ft in diameter, but now reduced to a mere ring cairn. Terminates to the north in another ruined cairn, also reduced to a ring. At this end there is a mound which looks like an independent cairn, its centre 50 ft to the west of the line of the row. But this is more probably a remnant of the row cairn, turned back by the roadmen, who have despoiled both terminal cairns. The distance between the centres of the terminal cairns is 412 ft. The direction of length of the row is N. 4° E., the level of the ground at the south end is 1,086 O.D., and the gradient falls northward at 1 in 12.

There now (1946) remain sixteen stones in all, seven set and nine fallen. Although the site is on slate, outside the boundary of the granite, all the stones are granite. Among the fallen stones the following lengths were observed: 4 ft 6 in., 3 ft 9 in., 3 ft 7 in., 3 ft 6 in., 3 ft 4 in.; the stones still set stand 2 ft 4 in., 2 ft 2 in., 1 ft, 1 ft 10 in., 10 in., 9 in. and 6 in. respectively. The position, as determined by the centre of the southern cairn, is Devon, 6 inch O.S., c, SE., lon. 3°-44′-37″, lat. 50°-35′-57¼″.

EAST DART

49. *Yar Tor* (Fig. 77)

A triple row, which has lost much at the hands of the road-makers but as to which some record remains to supplement the information still obtainable on the site. The original length of this row must have been at least 1,500 ft.

The southern part was noted in 1894 by the brothers Amery and my father; it ran very near the road to Sherril and Babeny from Ollsbrim; 54 ft in length were traceable. The space between the outer rows was, in width, 7 ft 6 in., say 8 ft 3 in., centre to centre of the stones. The

direction of length, as ascertained with a pocket compass was NW. magnetic, a sufficient approximation to the direction of the remnant still to be seen to indicate that the row pointed toward the Yar Tor kistvaen. That remnant is very slight, one stone, now 23 in. in height but of which the top has been deliberately removed. It stands 156 ft 6 in. to the south of the kist. The kistvaen is set in a barrow, and has two retaining circles, an inner random kerb, 11 ft 6 in. outside diameter, and an outer open circle of 36 ft outside diameter.

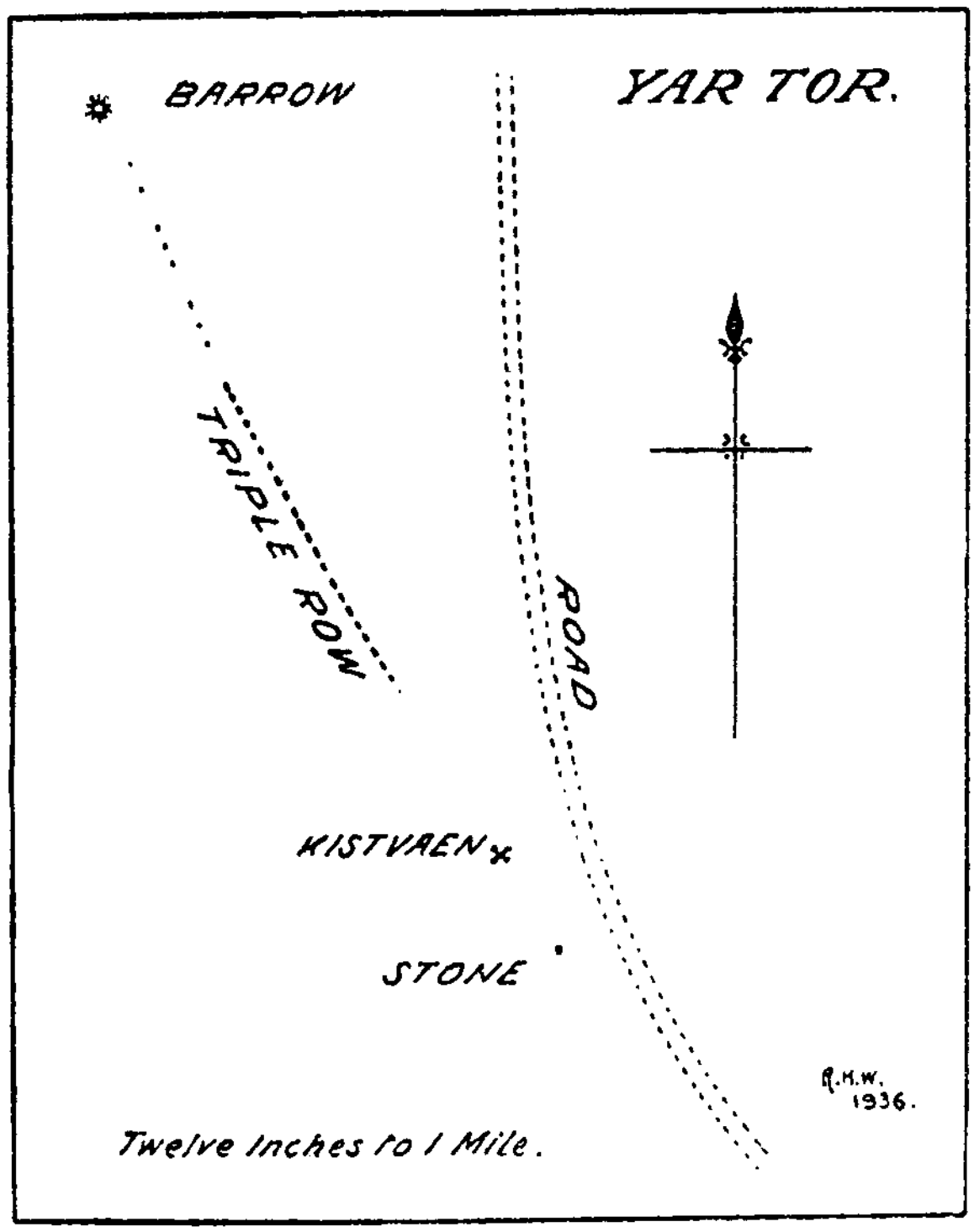

FIG. 77. Yar Tor, triple row.

For a distance of 262 ft north of the kistvaen no stones of the row are traceable. In the intervening space are many old enclosure banks. For a further distance of 500 ft the row is comparatively perfect; then it becomes ragged, with many blanks, until, at a distance of 1,173 ft from the kist it apparently dies out, abreast of a barrow that lies a little to the west of the line. The whole row thus described is convex to the west, and its azimuth varies from N. 32° W. at the kistvaen to N. 24° W. near the north end.

The distances between the rows vary somewhat, from

w.—5 ft 8 in.—central.—4 ft 8 in.—E. Total 10 ft 4 in.
to w.—6 ft 6 in.—central.—6 ft 8 in.—E. Total 13 ft 4 in.
and w.—5 ft 3 in.—central.—6 ft 3 in.—E. Total 11 ft 6 in.

The stones are spaced at about 4 ft to 4 ft 6 in. centres along the row. The stones are small, 12 in. × 4 in. × 8 in. high is a fair example, and 18 in. × 19 in. × 32 in. high is perhaps the largest still standing. They are somewhat larger at the north end than farther south.

The elevation of the ground is *c.* 1,200 ft O.D. at the north end of the row, and 1,283 ft O.D. at the kistvaen, with a falling gradient of *c.* 1 in 15 toward the north.

The position of the kistvaen is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cviii, SW., lon. 3°-51′-39″, lat. 50°-32′-56½″.

The Ordnance Survey revision of 1904 shows a stone row running practically due north from the kistvaen for a distance of 480 ft, and ending in a hut-circle. This is wholly wrong.

When complete this row crossed the water-parting of the East Dart and Dart valleys at or near the kistvaen.

50. *Laughter*

A double row, present length *c.* 657 ft, but has been much robbed, probably for the building of newtake walls, one of which lies athwart the row. Direction of length N. 67° W.

At the north-west end stands a fine menhir; when fallen this was measured as 12 ft in length; it has been re-erected to stand 8 ft 8 in. in height (Pl. 56B). Twenty-three stones remain in the length of 657 ft. The width across the row, centre to centre of the stones, is 4 ft at the north-west end, but widens to over 6 ft to the south-east. Most of the stones are between 1 and 2 ft in height; but at the south-east end there are two which are larger, one being 3 ft 4 in. × 8 in. × 4 ft 6 in. high. These larger stones suggest that there may have been a barrow at this end; if so, we have an instance of a row with a menhir at its higher end and a barrow at the lower.

Position of menhir, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cvii, NE., lon. 3°-54′-13″, lat. 50°-33′-43″. Elevation of ground at menhir *c.* 1,300 ft O.D., gradient, falling SE. *c.* 1 in 22.

51. *Lakehead Hill, near summit*

Prior to the year 1895 there was, near the summit of Lakehead Hill, a moss-covered heap of stones; whatever had been there was then a total constructive loss. This was investigated and restored to its supposed original condition. There emerged from the process a large kistvaen, with coverstone complete; and it is fairly certain that this feature could be relied on, except that the kistvaen is outsize for the stones comprised. The restorers state that the kist "was originally surrounded by a circle". Of the circle, six stones alone remain. One curious feature is that a

stone row starts from within the circle, extends east for 44 ft, and consists of 11 stones, and the socket holes of two more have been discovered. How much farther the row went is not known. Instead of running in a straight line, it describes a curve, the direction of the chord of which is N. 87°-30′ E.

There may well have been a retaining circle, but in the absence of a plan of the ruin as it was before rebuilding it is no more than a probability. Since, however, the restored 'row' presents two features unknown elsewhere on Dartmoor, in that it starts from within the retaining circle, and follows a markedly curved course, the direction of length from end to end is N. 86°-30′ E., the least that can be said is that this part of the effort at restoration is unfortunate. It certainly carries no conviction. The group is prominent, and has the appearance of importance. It has been figured by later antiquaries as a type, but no valid argument can be founded on its present features.

Position, Devon, 6 inch O.S., xcix, SE., lon. 3°-54′-51″, lat. 50°-34′-55″.

WEST DART

Lakehead Hill, west slope

A number of stone rows have been reported as on Lakehead Hill, most of them as admittedly doubtful. I am unable to find more than two which appear to have good credentials. Even these have no formal terminals.

52. *Lakehead Hill*

A single row, no more than 60 ft in length. Direction of length N. 74° W. Four hundred feet to the east lies a kistvaen in the line of this row, which may originally have extended as far. Position of row, Devon, 6 inch O.S., xcix, SE., lon. 3°-54′-58″, lat. 50°-34′-56″.

53. *Lakehead Hill*

A single row, 400 ft in length. Direction of length N. 22° W. Is at present to all appearances isolated, there being no cairn or barrow in the line of its direction. Position of row, south end, Devon, 6 inch O.S., xcix, SE., lon. 3°-55′-2″, lat. 50°-34′-44″. Approximate elevation of ground at south end 1,300 ft O.D., falling slightly toward the north.

54. *Tor Royal Newtake, Moorlands*

Now first reported. A single row which crosses the path from Moorlands to Princetown at a point 90 yds west of the gate to Moorlands. Length 98 ft, with a very doubtful southerly extension of a further 210 ft. Direction of length N. 28° W. Elevation of ground *c.* 1,150 ft O.D. No cairn or barrow now existing. Position, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cvii, SW., lon. 3°-56′-35″, lat. 50°-32′-38″.

55. *Conies Down*

In the Cowsic Valley, which I treat as tributary to the West Dart. Found by Burnard, whose description I have in part used. A double row, 588 ft long, direction of length N. 3° E. Less than a dozen stones still stand; there are others, fallen or buried.

No distinct traces of a cairn or barrow; but at the north end a fallen stone which may be a blocking-stone; if so this is a parallel to Challacombe (46), where there is a blocking-stone at the higher end. The south end of the row comes very near to the Lichway. The ground elevation at the north end is 1,660 ft O.D., and the ground falls south at a gradient of 1 in 10.

Position of the north end, Devon, 6 inch O.S., xcviii, SE., lon. 3°-59′-54½″, lat. 50°-35′-37″.

AVON

Until within the past few years no stone row was known in the valley of the Avon but, in 1932, I chanced upon an example near Black Tor.

56. *Black Tor, Avon Valley*

I had hoped to survey this row in 1946, but have been unable. The row lies on the plateau to the west of Black Tor. It is interesting as being one of the few rows with terminal barrows at both ends.

GLAZEBROOK

Glazebrook Group, Corringdon Ball (Fig. 78)

This group is trivial in the matter of construction, but extremely interesting in its arrangement. It was usual to describe this as a seven or eightfold row; but my father, in 1892, pointed out that the northernmost line was certainly an independent structure with its own eastern terminal; whereas the remaining rows all had a common terminal to the east, in a retaining circle. He made the total number of lines to be eight. Crossing, in 1909, adopted this view. I myself had always spoken of the row as sevenfold. When in doubt there is but one course to follow, make a survey. In 1946 I made a survey; with the result that I find one single, and two treble rows; with two stones clear of all the rows but pointing direct to the centre of the retaining circle which heads the two treble rows.

57. *Corringdon Ball (A)*

A single row, starting on the east with a cairn, 22 ft in diameter and 2 ft in height. At some time this cairn has been opened. The first stone of the row lies 58 ft west of the centre of the cairn; there is a modern stone fence very near, and robbery has been considerable. The row clearly extends for 507 ft from the centre of the cairn, but with long intervals between the last few stones.

The stones are small; the mean dimensions of fifteen stones which still stand are, along the row 15 in., at right angles to the row 8 in., and height 14 in., the highest standing 25 in. Stones which just break the surface of the ground, standing only 3 in. or less above it, are excluded from the mean. It would appear that the original spacing, centre to centre, along the row, may have been 3 ft 6 in. The direction of length is N. 48°-30′ E.

58. *Corringdon Ball (B)*

Forty-one feet to the south-east of the centre of the cairn liès the centre of a retaining circle of 37 ft internal diameter. This forms the terminal of two triple rows. Seven stones of the circle still stand, and there is one fallen. The largest stone measures 11 in. × 10 in. × 24 in. high, and the smallest is 15 in. × 6 in. × 13 in. high.

Row B is triple, its northern line is parallel to row A, and its length from abreast the centre of the circle is 260 feet. Taking the northern line, the mean dimensions of the stones still standing are 14 in. × 5 in. × 9 in. high, and the tallest stone is but 12 in. above ground. In the middle line the mean dimensions of standing stones are 12 in. × 7 in. × 10 in. high, and the tallest stone stands 21 in. For the width centre to centre across the lines the figures are:

East end, N. line—3 ft—central line—4 ft—S. line.
West end, N. line—4 ft—central line—5 ft—S. line.

Thus the total width is 2 ft greater at the west end.

The distance, centre to centre, between the south line of row B and the north line of row C is, at the east end, 18 ft 6 in., and at the west end 10 ft, so that the triple rows converge as they leave the circle.

59. *Corringdon Ball (C)*

A triple row 219 ft long as measured from abreast the centre of the circle. This row overlaps the retaining circle; since the direction of the southern line points 6 ft clear of the circumference, and the middle row is just tangential to the south of the circle. The stones are all small, the dimensions of the one still standing in the northern line are 15 in. × 9 in. × 6 in. high; none of the other stones in this line reach more than 3 to 4 in. above the surface. In the middle line there are two stones of 13 in. × 6 in. × 6 in. high and 9 in. × 6 in. × 7 in. respectively; the others are sunk to nearly ground level; and in the southern line there are two stones of 18 in. × 8 in. × 13 in. high, and 7 in. × 7 in. × 11 in. high respectively, the others being sunk to nearly ground level.

The widths, centre to centre, across the rows are:

East end, N. line—7 ft 6 in.—central line—5 ft 6 in.—S. line.
West end, N. line—4 ft 6 in.—central line—3 ft 6 in.—S. line.

Thus the total width is 5 ft 6 in. less at the west end.

The three rows A, B and C are, as a group, convergent to the west, if we take the central lines of rows B and C as the directions of those

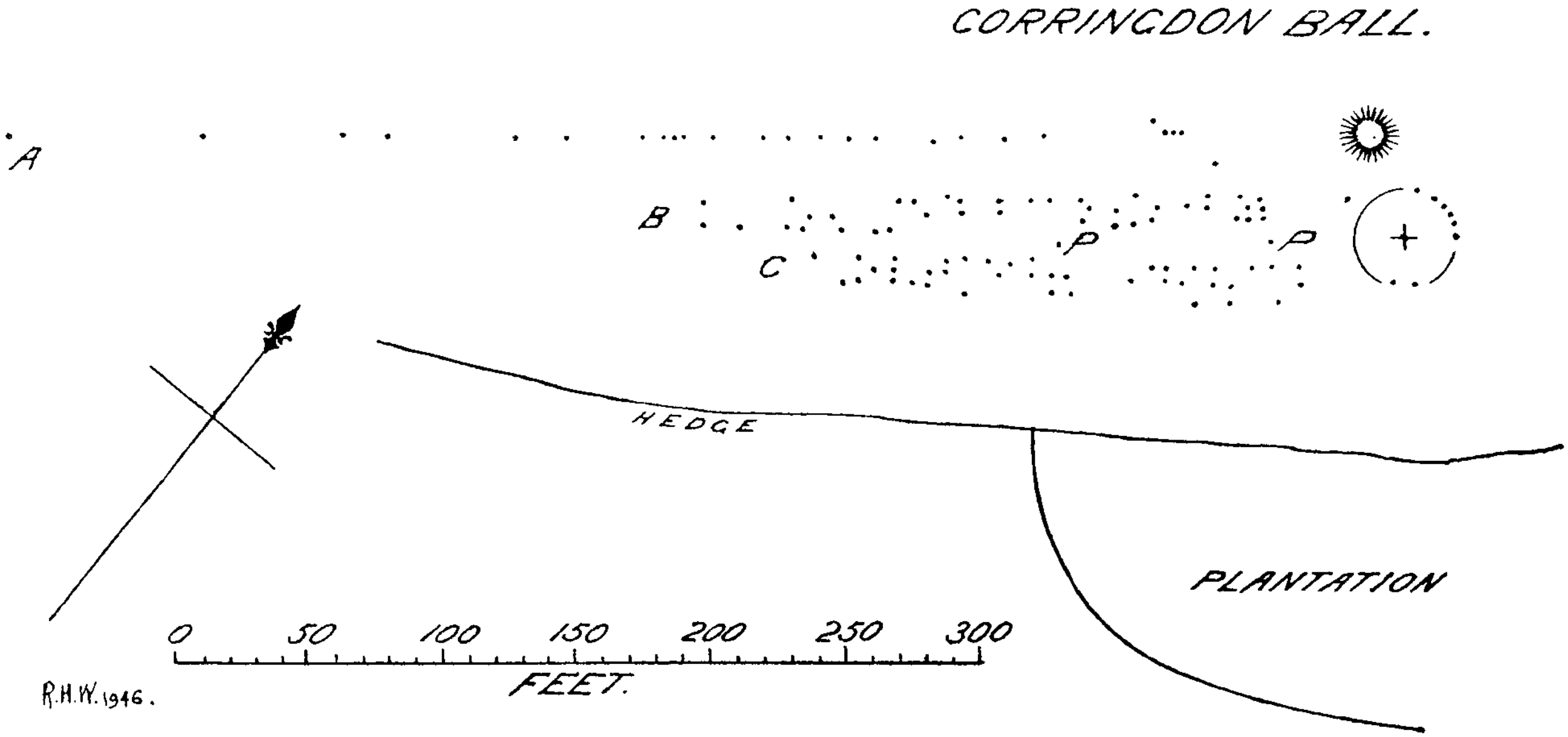

FIG. 78. The Corringdon Ball group.

rows. We then get the following directions of length: A, N. 48°-30′ E.; B, N. 50°-30′ E.; C, N. 53°-30′ E.

In the interval between B and C there are two stones 78 ft apart, each marked P on the plan. A line through these stones, if produced to the east, passes with precision through the centre of the circle; and if produced west passes clear of both rows A and B. No other stones can be found on this alignment, and it cannot be called a row. Possibly the apparent arrangement is but chance.

Position of circle, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxix, NE., lon. 3°-52′-39″, lat. 50°-26′-5½″. Elevation of ground at circle 1,000 ft O.D. Ground practically level along length of rows.

60. *Brent Fore Hill*

Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxix, SE., lon. 3°-52′-31″, lat. 50°-26′-10″, the position given being that of the centre of the cairn at the east end. A double row. Very near the Corringdon Group, and lying to the north-east of that group, with the stream of the East Glaze intervening.

This row was found in 1945 by Mrs. Z. W. E. Watkin, and independently in 1947, on the occasion of a visit by the Plymouth Branch of the Devonshire Association to the neighbourhood. It happened that the evening light was peculiarly favourable, and Mr. Masson Phillips detected on the hillside some four or five stones which appeared to be set in a row. Inspection proved that these stones were indeed set and the row was traced up the hill to its termination in a cairn.

The length of the row from its present western end to the centre of the cairn is 410 ft. The direction of the western half of the row is N. 53° E., while the eastern half lies N. 57° E., a small deviation. From its position, and the practical identity of its direction, it is possible that this row is part of the Corringdon group.

At 194 ft from its western end the row is crossed by the course of a disused leat, and 131 ft farther on the present Corringdon leat crosses the row. These have created considerable disturbance, with the result that the last set stone occurs at 255 ft.

Forty-two stones in all are undoubted members of the row; of these twenty-seven are set and standing, and fifteen have fallen. None are large, the tallest standing stone is 2 ft 3 in. high, one fallen stone is 2 ft 9 in. in length, two still standing measure respectively 1 ft 10 in. × 11 in. × 1 ft 9 in. high, and 1 ft 11 in. × 1 ft 3 in. × 1 ft 8 in. high.

Five pairs of set stones still stand, the distance apart of the stones in the pairs, measured between the inner faces are respectively: 3 ft 2 in., 2 ft 11 in., 2 ft 6 in., 2 ft. 2 in. and 1 ft 10 in.; giving a mean of 2 ft 6 in.

Along the length of the row the distance apart of the stones is ascertainable with certainty in twelve places; these distances, from centre of stone to centre of stone are respectively as follows: 6 ft, 6 ft, 5 ft, 5 ft, 5 ft, 5 ft, 5 ft, 4 ft 6 in., 4 ft 6 in., 3 ft 9 in., 3 ft 6 in., and 3 ft, giving

a mean of 4 ft 8 in. It will be seen that there is considerable irregularity in this respect; but nine measurements lie within the limits of 6 ft and 4 ft 6 in, and only three are outside this range.

Elevation of ground at cairn 1,030 O.D.; gradient 1 in 12, falling south-west.

61. *Glasscombe Ball, north-east slope*

A row of exceptional interest, which lies 300 yds S. 41° W. from Glasscombe Corner, in the valley of the West Glaze.

The southern 368 ft in length is a double row, and the northern 212 ft 6 in. is a single row; it is perfectly clear that the northern part has lost no stones which would have constituted its second line had it been originally double. The change from double to single is abrupt, and complete.

At the south-west end of the row are the remnants of a cairn, much reduced, but traceable, and at the north-east end is a retaining circle of which many of the stones have fallen; three of the fallen stones measure 4 ft 6 in., 3 ft 6 in. and 2 ft 7 in. long respectively. It would thus appear that at either end was a grave.

In the double portion the lines are at a mean distance of 5 ft 5 in., centre to centre, with extremes of 6 ft and 4 ft 6 in. The stones are spaced along the lines at 7 ft 5 in. mean distance, centre to centre, with extremes of 9 ft 6 in. and 5 ft 6 in.

In the single portion the stones are spaced along the lines at 10 ft 1 in. mean distance, centre to centre, with extremes of 11 ft and 7 ft 8 in. It is the western line of the double row which is continued as a single row. It will be noted that the spacing along the row is markedly more open in the single portion. The largest stone occurs in the single row, 24 in. × 13 in. × 41 in. high.

The total length, from centre of cairn to centre of circle, is 635 ft. The position of the circle at the north-east end is, Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxix, NE., lon. 3°-53′-5″, lat. 50°-25′-51″. The elevation of the ground at the SW. end is *c.* 1,110 ft O.D., with the ground falling north-east at a gradient of 1 in 12. Direction of length N. 36° E.

LUDBROOK

62. *Cantrell, near moor gate, Ugborough Moor*

A double row, with a cairn of mean diameter of 22 ft at the north-east end. Length from centre of cairn 153 ft, direction of length N. 44°-20′ E. The lines are from 7 ft to 12 ft apart, centre to centre, the spacing in the lines is about 5 ft 6 in., centre to centre. The largest standing stone is 27 in. × 9 in. × 29 in. high. The position of the cairn is Devon, 6 inch O.S., cxxv, NE., lon. 3°-53′-23″, lat. 50°-23′-54¾″.

Elevation of ground at cairn *c.* 750 ft O.D., falling to the south-west along the row at a gradient of 1 in 12.

SINGLE, DOUBLE AND TREBLE ROWS

We thus have details of 62 rows, as a basis for statistical analysis, and may first take the simplest classification.

On Dartmoor there are 25 single rows, 28 double, and 5 treble. There is also one row which is clearly double as to one end, and single as to the other; and the difference between the ends is certainly original, and not the result of any later interference (61). Another example is in part double, in part single, and there is no evidence to suggest that it was ever wholly double (17).

Where rows are associated to form a group, the members of the group are rarely all of one class. Thus, at Trowlesworthy (14-15) one row is double, the other is single. At Drizzlecombe (17-18-19), of three rows two are single, one is in part double. The Harter Group (22-23) consists of one double and one single row; while at Corringdon Ball, Glazebrook (57-58-59-60) two treble rows are associated with one single and one double.

SIZE OF INDIVIDUAL STONES, OMITTING TERMINAL MENHIRS

In every row there is much variation in the size of the stones. In practically every row some of the stones are insignificant in size, while still significant as part of the alignment. There are stones which have never stood more than 6 to 9 in. above the surface. On the other hand, omitting terminal menhirs, and those occasional large stones which are to be found standing next to the graves, we may cite the entirely exceptional series at the north end of Staldon (7) some of which stand over 8 ft in height.

Even in such a considerable example as the triple row on Yar Tor (49) a fair average for the size of the stones is 12 in. × 4 in. × 8 in. high, while the largest is but 18 in. × 19 in. × 32 in. high. The largest upright at Glasscombe Ball (61) measures 24 in. × 13 in. × 41 in. high.

In general it may be said that of the stones many are less than 18 in., few are more than 3 ft in height; this remark is applicable to rows which have suffered little or no interference since their construction. The case of those which lie near newtake walls is one of greater poverty. Robbery for walling purposes has reduced some to insignificance. An extreme instance is to be found at Shuggledown, from the Longstone southward (38); there, of a double row originally 555 ft in length, there now remain but two small stones, and one larger (which formerly had two somewhat longer companions). The ordinary stones of the row went to make the newtake wall of Thornworthy; the two larger stones were taken for gateposts, and their companion was left as being too large for the wall, too small for a post.

Another example is the group at Corringdon Ball (57-58-59) which was robbed for the purpose of the Corringdon Newtake wall. The largest stone now standing is but 25 in. in height, three others are 21, 20 and 18 in. high respectively, and with a very few exceptions none of the others exceed 10 in. in height, and many stand less than 5 in.

The larger stones which are sometimes placed next to the terminal barrow are, perhaps, best mentioned here; a few examples will suffice. At Down Tor (20) the stone next the retaining circle of the barrow is 9 ft 6 in. in height; it is followed by a short series of stones in descending order of height, but all well above the average in the row (see p. 212, and Pl. 61).

At Assacombe (43) the three stones nearest the barrow are respectively 7 ft 6 in., 4 ft 6 in., and 4 ft 6 in. in height; this is a double row (Pl. 62). A double row at Shuggledown (34) starts, at a fourfold retaining circle, with two stones, both fallen, the one 11 ft 6 in. and the other 7 ft 4 in. in length (Pl. 46A); and on Watern Hill (44) another double row starts at a barrow with a stone 5 ft 10 in. in height in the east alignment, while its companion in the west alignment is but a little larger than the average of the row. These are notable examples; but it may be said that, in general, the stones nearest the grave give evidence of selection, being for the most part larger than the average; and no comparatively small or insignificant stones are used in that position.

With the exception of such as have been selected for special positions, the factor which governs the size of the stones is the material available within a reasonable distance; the importance of a row, as determined by its length, is not necessarily reflected by the size of its individual members.

THE SPACING OF THE STONES IN THE ROWS

In this section all obvious gaps left by loss or robbery have been excluded from consideration.

No row is a strictly regular structure, and the spacing of stones in any row may vary considerably, especially the spacing along the length of the row. Thus, at Merrivale A (27) the mean longitudinal spacing, centre to centre, is 5 ft 6 in., with extremes of 4 ft 7 in. and 7 ft 9 in.; Merrivale B (28) has a mean distance of 7 ft 1 in., with extremes of 5 ft 3 in. and 9 ft 10 in. At Watern Hill (44) the mean longitudinal spacing is 9 ft 1 in., while the extremes are 6 ft and 11 ft 7 in.; but in this instance there is greater regularity than the extreme figures suggest, since 80% of the measurements fall within the limits of 8 ft 3 in. and 10 ft.

Subject to the qualification as to irregularity it remains that the mean of the measurements in any row has a real descriptive value, and I have selected twenty-six rows the condition of which is sufficiently perfect to give validity to the measurements. I have accordingly ascertained the mean longitudinal distance, centre to centre, between the stones

in each of the twenty-six rows, the highest figure which I obtained being 10 ft 1 in. and the lowest 3 ft; while the mean of all the means is 5 ft 7 in. In this calculation I have rejected the north end of the Staldon Row (7) where the entirely exceptional spacing of from 30 ft to 50 ft is to be found. That spacing has been accurately ascertained, but it is in a class to itself.

Of the rows which I have used in this calculation, some are single, some double and some treble. For the seven single rows the mean of means is 5 ft 7 in., the same dimension as for the whole group; while the four treble rows give a mean of 4 ft 10 in. As far as a figure based on so few examples has any validity, it would appear that the tendency was to space the stones along the length of treble rows at less distance than in either the single or double.

The width across, at right angles to the length, I have measured between the stones, from face to face, and not from centre to centre, in other words the width of the track between the stones; but in using the word 'track' I have no intention of suggesting a processional path. Fourteen double rows are included in the measurements, and the results are: the highest figure obtained is 9 ft 6 in. and the lowest is 1 ft 10 in., while the mean of means is 4 ft 2 in.

The figures for the treble rows are, highest 6 ft 5 in., lowest 3 ft, mean of means 5 ft. It would appear that the stones were spaced wider apart in the treble rows than in the double; but here again, the data are insufficient to show a deliberate intent.

In considering the width across the rows I have purposely left out of account the double row on Sharpitor at the base of the eastern slope (26), where the space between the stones is but 6 to 7 in.: this row is in a class to itself.

Even as there was a strong tendency to place the best and largest stones next to the barrow, so there is clear indication that the rows were at places purposely widened as they neared the grave. A good example is afforded at Watern Hill (44), where the width between the two stones next to the barrow is 8 ft 2 in., and 36 ft farther from the barrow the width is reduced to 6 ft.

TERMINALS

In their original form it is probable that all rows had formal terminals at either end. These terminals, where still in being, take one of three forms: (1) a barrow or cairn, with or without a retaining circle; (2) a menhir, being a stone larger, especially in the matter of height, than the ordinary stones of the row; (3) a blocking-stone, standing across the space between double rows, or the spaces between treble rows. Such blocking-stones are set with their greatest width at right angles to the lengths of the row, while the normal stones of the row always stand with their greatest width parallel to the length.

Thirty-eight rows have barrows at one end (1-3-4-5-6-9-10-**11**-12-13-14-**15?**-16-**17**-18-19-20-22-**23-24-26-29-30**-33-34-**36-40-41**-43-**44-45-47?**-51-**57-58-59-60-62.**)

Of these barrows twenty are without retaining circles, and their reference numbers are printed in heavy type.

Four rows have barrows at both ends (1-42-48-61); of these 1, 48 and 61 each have one circled barrow, and one barrow without a circle, while neither barrow at 42 is circled.

Two rows have each a barrow interrupting the length of the row (28-49), and in each instance the barrow is circled.

There are thus forty-four instances in which a barrow or barrows form a definite part of the row.

Ten menhirs appears as terminals (2-14-16-17-18-19-30-37-38-50). A menhir at one end and a barrow at the other occur in seven instances (2-14-16-17-18-19-30). Menhirs are especially liable to removal to serve as gateposts and for other utilitarian purposes, while cairns and barrows are convenient sources of precollected stone. It is a matter for congratulation that so many have been left in association.

Only eight blocking-stones are known, seven certain and one doubtful (21-24-27-28-39?-44-46-55). Two rows (24-44) have at one end barrows, at the other blocking-stones. One (28) has a barrow in the centre, and a blocking-stone at one end; at the other end no terminal remains. Rows 21-27-46-55 have no terminals at the ends remote from the blocking-stones.

The largest and most prominent blocking-stone is that which closes the south end of the Challacombe row (46) (Pl. 47). This is about 5 ft in width at the base and over 6 ft in height. It is well to repeat that a stone set athwart the middle row of this row somewhat in the manner of a blocking-stone is, in its present position, no more than the product of a modern restoration.

A recent writer, Brailsford (1938), has stated that the end of a Dartmoor 'alignment' is almost invariably marked by a transverse blocking-stone. This is certainly incorrect even if menhirs are to be accepted as 'blocking-stones', without regard to the question whether they be transverse or not. He also says that sometimes the first as well as the last stone is placed transversely, and cites Assacombe and Cosdon, both of which are restorations, and two instances at Trowlesworthy Warren, where he may have mistaken stones in the retaining circles of the barrows. But even that explanation will not suffice; the one perfect circle at Trowlesworthy has the stone next to the row turned with its broad face pointing along the row, which is most unusual, and effectively counters his statement.

THE LENGTH OF THE ROWS

No row is complete, nor can its original length be ascertained with

certainty, unless it has a formal terminal at either end. It is not safe to relax this rule, although it seriously restricts the number of measurements available.

This requirement limits the number of ascertained lengths to fourteen (1-2-14-16-17-18-19-24-30-38-42-44-48-61), but the list certainly includes both the longest and the shortest Dartmoor rows. There are none longer whether perfect or imperfect, and all which are shorter have obviously been the victims of extensive spoliation.

The greatest length is 11,150 ft (1), and the least is 104 ft (42). I give the whole list: 11,150 ft; 6,280 ft; 1,740 ft; 634 ft; 555 ft; 491 ft; 488 ft; 473 ft; 437 ft; 426 ft; 366 ft; 330 ft; 296 ft; 104 ft. The mean of which is 1,698 ft, but this figure is obviously unduly influenced by the exceptional lengths of the first three.

Provided we keep in mind the fact that every incomplete row must, to some extent, be of less than its original length, it may be useful to take a view of the figures excluded above as lacking in precision; arranging them in groups, with 50 ft intervals. The results are: 0 to 50 ft in length, one row; 50 to 100 ft, three rows; 100 to 150 ft, two; 150 to 200 ft, two; 200 to 250 ft, four; 250 to 300 ft, four; 300 to 350 ft, one; 350 to 400 ft, two; 400 to 450 ft, four; 450 to 500 ft, three; 500 to 550 ft, three; 550 to 600 ft, five; 600 to 650 ft, one; 650 to 700 ft, one; 700 to 750 ft, one. Followed by individual lengths of 865 ft, 950 ft, 1,038 ft, 1,200 ft, 1,500 ft, 1,643 ft. The whole giving a mean of 509 ft in length.

I conclude that no row in its original condition was less than 100 ft or more than 11,150 ft in length; that the majority lay between the limits of 220 and 620 ft; and that six rows had lengths ranging between 880 ft, and 1,740 ft, while the two outstanding examples were 6,280 ft and 11,150 ft in length respectively.

SELECTION OF SITE

Elevation above sea level appears to have had little direct influence on the choice of sites. Stated in feet above Ordnance Datum the distribution of the rows is as follows:

750 to 1,000 ft	16%	1,400 to 1,600 ft	12%
1,000 to 1,200 ft	37%	above 1,600 ft	2%
1,200 to 1,400 ft	33%		

The lowest site is at 750 ft, and the highest at 1,660 ft.

But, indirectly, elevation makes for deeper deposits of peat; and where any but a slight depth of peat is to be found the setting of stones in firm and stable manner is not possible. Above 1,300 ft O.D. this precluded the use of all but a small area.

At a level of about 1,250 ft on the Stall Moor-Green Hill row (1) it appears at first sight that the builders miscalculated in this matter, since the stones seem to have sunk; but, in truth, it is not the stones

which have sunk; they are firm set, but the peat, originally shallow, has grown in depth to the extent of about 2 ft. In most places, whether the site be on ordinary soil or on shallow peat, some growth in depth has taken place, and the stones are less prominent accordingly.

Although the elevation of the ground does not appear to have exercised much influence over the choice made, there is another matter of level which I believe to have been regarded as a matter of extreme importance, the gradient. The gradients along the length of the rows are distributed in the following proportion:

1 in 6	2·5%	1 in 22	12·5%
1 in 10	15·0%	1 in 36	2·5%
1 in 11	5·0%	1 in 40	2·5%
1 in 12	12·5%	Slight to level	45·0%
1 in 15	2·5%		

Now these are gradients which, among the hills of Dartmoor have to be sought for, if the flats by the riversides are to be avoided; and even the riversides are often steep and irregular.

It has followed that many of the rows are located on the ridges between the watersheds, for there the longest lines of easy gradients are to be found. Take as an example the row at Challacombe (46) where the gradient ranges from 1 in 11 to level, and is concave, so that the whole row can be seen from either end. If that row had been directed east toward the course of the East Webburn, it would have run into a gradient of 1 in 4, or if to the west toward the course of the West Webburn, the gradient would have been 1 in 10, and in either instance the ground would have been convex; so that but a short distance of the row would have been visible from any point. I do not suggest that there are not many rows in which the one end is hidden from the other by the convexity of the ground; but from the barrow it is always possible to view a considerable length of the row.

An even better example is the Down Tor row (20) which lies along the water-parting between the Deancombe and Newleycombe brooks. From the barrow the ground gently inclines, then for a short space becomes level, and subsequently gently rises. The site of the row is thus concave, and its whole length can be seen from either end.

Of the shorter rows some, such as Langstone Moor (30), were kept on approximately level ground by being set parallel to the contours on relatively flat-topped hills.

The steepest site is at Assacombe (43) where the gradient is 1 in 6 (not steep for a Dartmoor hill) and the row literally charges down the hill; but the row is short, and the ground, although inclined, is nearly a true plane.

It was not until I gathered into a narrow compass the available data that I realized the extent to which this question of suitable gradients dominated the direction of the various rows. I believe it to be the deter-

mining feature, and that we need seek no further clue to their orientation.

How far this principle of site selection was justly followed may be judged from the fact that Drizzlecombe (17-18-19), on what by these criteria is the most perfect site, presents to the modern eye the most perfect of the groups; and Merrivale (27-28-29), on a site but little less in accord with the same criteria, would be classed second in order by modern standards.

But evidence is not lacking that the search for the ideal was not always successful, not always perhaps pursued with due diligence; while the Stall Moor-Green Hill row (1) demonstrates that Dartmoor had no room for a monument on such a scale as a row $2\frac{1}{8}$ miles in length, except at the sacrifice of perfection.

The vagaries of that row have broken the hearts of the astronomers. At its south end it leaves the retaining circle on Stall Moor and takes a direction N. $1\frac{1}{2}°$ E.; meeting a little cross valley it diverges to N. $20\frac{1}{2}°$ E. in order to cross it approximately at right angles; then for a short space it points N. $14\frac{1}{2}°$ E., and following this swings back to a trifle W. of true N. to make a crossing of the River Erme at a point where that stream can be intersected at right angles, since otherwise the river and the row would be involved in a struggle for the same site; from the crossing the row proceeds in much the same direction, to cross the Redlake, also at right angles; it then continues its course up the slopes of Green Hill for 770 ft, its direction being N. 10° W. At this point its line was far out of that necessary to close on the summit of Green Hill, and another diversion had to be made to N. 11° E., which completed the course. The direction of the row from end to end is N. 2° W.

In making this statement I have purposely omitted some minor deviations in direction, in the interest of simplicity; had I introduced them the irregularities would have been greater. Add to the divergences in alignment the variations in gradient which arise from the various hills and ridges crossed or climbed, and one may judge why really long rows must be rare on Dartmoor.

ORIENTATION

I once thought that the general trend of the rows lay in the north-east quadrant, differing in this from the orientation of the kistvaens which lies toward the north-west quadrant.

As regards the rows this was an error, such as may well arise when one writes too soon, and on incomplete knowledge. It may be an error to write too soon, but delay may mean that one does not write at all. I do not know that this is a sufficient excuse.

Now that the evidence is fairly complete the question of orientation seems to have taken a purely geographical significance. Perhaps one should have guessed as much from the frequent minor irregularities in

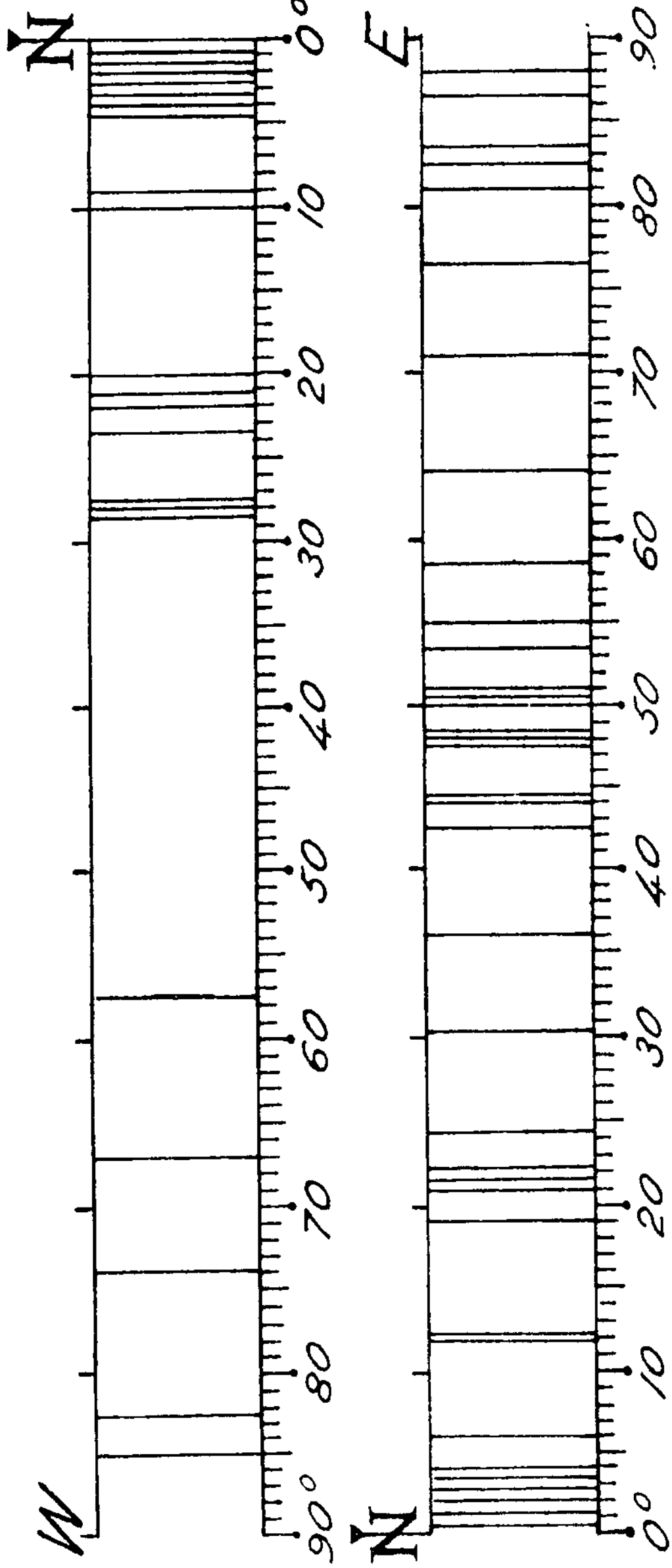

FIG. 79. 'Spectrum' of Stone Row directions.

The following corrections should be made:

The line for 57½° W. (above) should be transferred to 57½° E. (below)
" " " 10° W. (above) " " " 10° E. (below)
" " " 6 E. (below) " " " 10° E. (below)
" " " 0½ W. (above) " " " 4½° E. (below)
A line for 11° W. should be added (above). (ED.)

individual rows, culminating in the divergencies of the Stall Moor-Green Hill example.

None the less there are those who will rightly wish to know full details as to the direction taken by the rows. To shorten the statement I have prepared a diagram on which the several directions are marked (Fig. 79). This shows that within the limits N. 4° E. and N. 4°-45′ W. lie the directions of fourteen rows, these I call the north group, none being 5° distant from that direction. Thirty-three rows point farther to the east, and thirteen point farther to the west. Brailsford (1938, p. 446) states that the rows tend to run approximately east and west, which is an obvious error; but adds: "In other cases the direction seems to be governed by the form of the ground," with which, in greater detail, I agree. Neither of us is, it would seem, prepared to attribute any ritual significance to direction.

The fact that sites were dictated by geographical conditions does not necessitate that all the members of a group should have the same direction of length. The Shuggledown rows (34-35-36-37-38-39) are a definite group, although on opposite slopes of a hill; their directions of length are N. 1°-40′ W., N. 21°-15′ W., N. 28°-30′ W., N. 3° W., N., and N. 11° W., divergence which still leaves north as the nearest cardinal point. But at Merrivale (27-28-29), in consequence of the greater breadth of the approximately level ground, a greater divergence was possible, the bearings being: N. 83°-30′ E., N. 81° E., and N. 24°-15′ E.

THE ASSOCIATION OF BARROWS AND ROWS

Forty-four of the Dartmoor rows include barrows as integral parts of their construction.

The rule is that the barrow is placed at the higher end of the row; this rule is subject to occasional exceptions, which will be dealt with later. No question of compass bearing is involved; the higher end, be it north, south, east or west, receives the barrow. Thus, in the Shuggledown group, rows 34 and 36 lie on the north side of the summit of the hill, and their barrows are at the south ends. Row 37 lies on the south slope of the hill; it has a menhir at the south end, so that the barrow, which by analogy we may assume it to have had, must have been at the north end. Taking all the Dartmoor rows which have each one barrow, in thirty-one instances it is at the higher end; in four cases the ground is so far level that it is difficult to say which is the higher end, except by the use of a level. In one instance (1) the ground falls from either end of the row to a central dip, and there is a barrow at either end. There are three examples of barrows at either end, where the result is a barrow at the higher and another at the lower end. Of these cases one is especially interesting, Glasscombe Ball (61): here there is a barrow at the higher end, from which runs a double row; this row is abruptly replaced by a single row in the same direction and that, at

the lower end of the composite row, terminates in another barrow. Thus we have a barrow which is the starting point of a double row which runs some distance and abruptly changes character, becoming a single row, which continuing the same direction, ends in a barrow. There is no doubt that the double part of the alignment was always double, and the single part was always single. The spacing along the row is also different. In the double part the average distance centre to centre of the stones is 5 ft 5 in., and in the single part it is 7 ft 5 in. The arrangement certainly suggests an original row with a barrow at the higher end, the row being double; to which at a later date was added a length of single row, terminating in a barrow at the lower end.

It may be that in all the rows with barrows at each end the second barrow is a later addition.

There are other exceptions to the rule, Shuggledown (38), Challacombe (46), Laughter (50). In the first and last of these the higher end of the row is terminated by a large menhir, so that, if there were a barrow it must have been at the lower end, where there is now no terminal. In each instance there is some evidence in favour of the view that there was formerly a barrow at the lower end, the stones of the row, near that end, being distinctly above average in size, a feature common as the barrow is approached. If this is so, then Shuggledown may be another example of later addition; row G having been first constructed, terminating in the Longstone, and a further row added south of the Longstone and terminating to the south in a barrow. Rows 38 and 50 have both been badly robbed by newtake wall builders.

Challacombe (46) is more like Laughter (50). The row terminates at its highest point in a large blocking-stone, this is to the south; to the north the end of the row has been wholly removed in the formation of a gully-working for tin. Yet it must have been here, at the lower end, that the barrow, if any, stood. Whatever the explanation, these are three undoubted exceptions to the rule; unless we are to believe that no barrows were ever associated with either of the three rows.

There are two instances of barrows interrupting the course of a row, Merrivale (28) and Yar Tor (49).

CONCLUSIONS

Barrows occur in such number as integral parts of rows as to leave no doubt the rows are sepulchral monuments.

The orientation of rows is so varied, and so intimately connected with physical conditions that it can have no ritual significance.

The intended length of a row largely determined the selection of the site. But the Long Row on the Erme (1) is sufficient evidence that the builders were prepared to sacrifice perfection to length when they had reason to desire the latter; some details of other of the longer rows support this.

Rows as we now find them were not always completed in one operation; where there are two terminal barrows one is probably a later addition. And where either a barrow or a menhir breaks the length of a row it was probably once a terminal (I exclude the Merrivale example, where the row distinctly widens out to embrace the barrow).

While the rows are undoubtedly sepulchral monuments, the underlying idea which gave them value in the minds of their builders remains unknown; no study of detail has afforded a clue.

Addendum (ED.)

WEST DART (CHERRYBROOK)

54A. *Great Whiten Tor*

A ruined double row, originally recorded by the D.E.C. (*T.D.A.*, Vol. 30, pp. 98–9), and doubtless omitted above by an oversight. Re-examined by G. M. S. in 1952. O.S., xcix, SW., position of upper end lon. 3°-57′-3″, lat. 50°-35′-19″. Altitude 1,645-1,607 O.D. Direction of length N. 13½° E., the main part pointing direct towards the peak of Great Whiten Tor, i.e. to the present summit cairn (in the opposite direction it is in line with Littaford Tor summit). The slope of the ground is 1 in 8·6.

This is a genuine row and conforms with the author's criteria, although the original positions of both ends are now uncertain and there is no trace of associated barrow. Its precise orientation towards the summit of the tor on whose slope it stands looks significant. The long axes of those stones which still stand are notably orientated in the direction of the row.

The minimum certain length, taken from a pair of prominent erect stones, which appear at first sight to mark the southern (lower) end, to the most northerly surviving pair, was measured as 264½ ft; but the row may well have extended another 15 ft uphill, and about 50 ft downhill a pair of stones sunk in damp ground is in true alignment. The length of 330 ft recorded originally is thus accounted for. Loss of stones at the lower end to newtake walls is suspected, and the original length may well have been greater.

Fallen stones are not readily distinguished from natural surface stones which become frequent near the north end, and which lie at various angles, but the total count in 1952—15 stones on the west side and 10 on the east—agrees with the original count. The spacing is irregular.

The row tends to deviate to eastward of its main alignment near its upper end. It is marked on the O.S., but placed over 200 ft NW. of its true position.

This is the second highest row on Dartmoor, exceeded only by its distant neighbour on Conies Down (55). It is also the second steepest, its gradient being surpassed only by that of the Assacombe row (43).

ERME (*cont.*)

3. *Burford Down* (*cont.*)

Mr. Hamlyn Parsons has recently found that this row continues on the level beyond the newtake wall, as far as a robust prostrate stone, partly embedded, which appears to have been a terminal menhir. At some time this stone has been split with a drill, and is now in two pieces. Entire it was between 9 and 10 ft long. The length of the row to the setting of this stone has been measured as 1647 ft.

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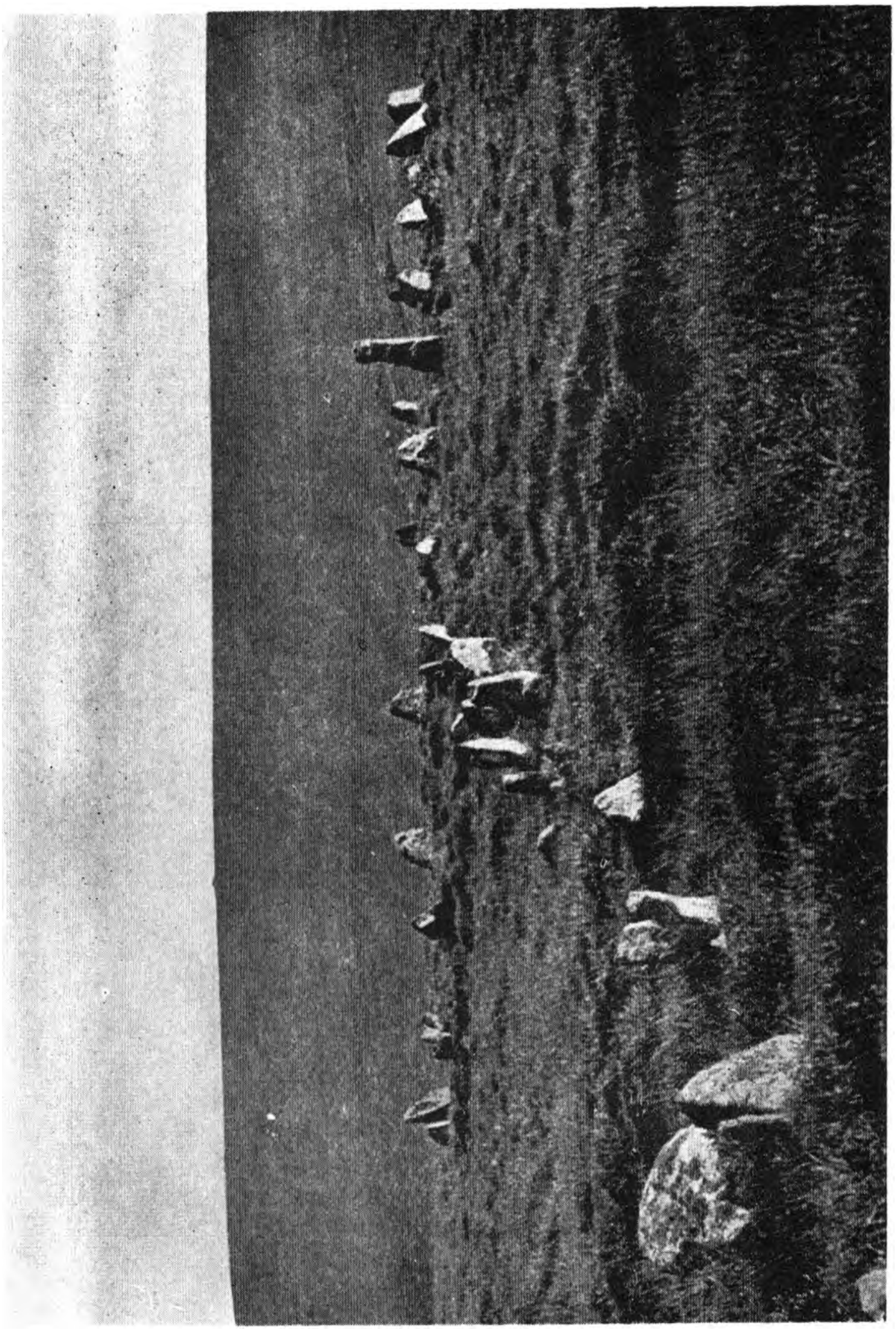
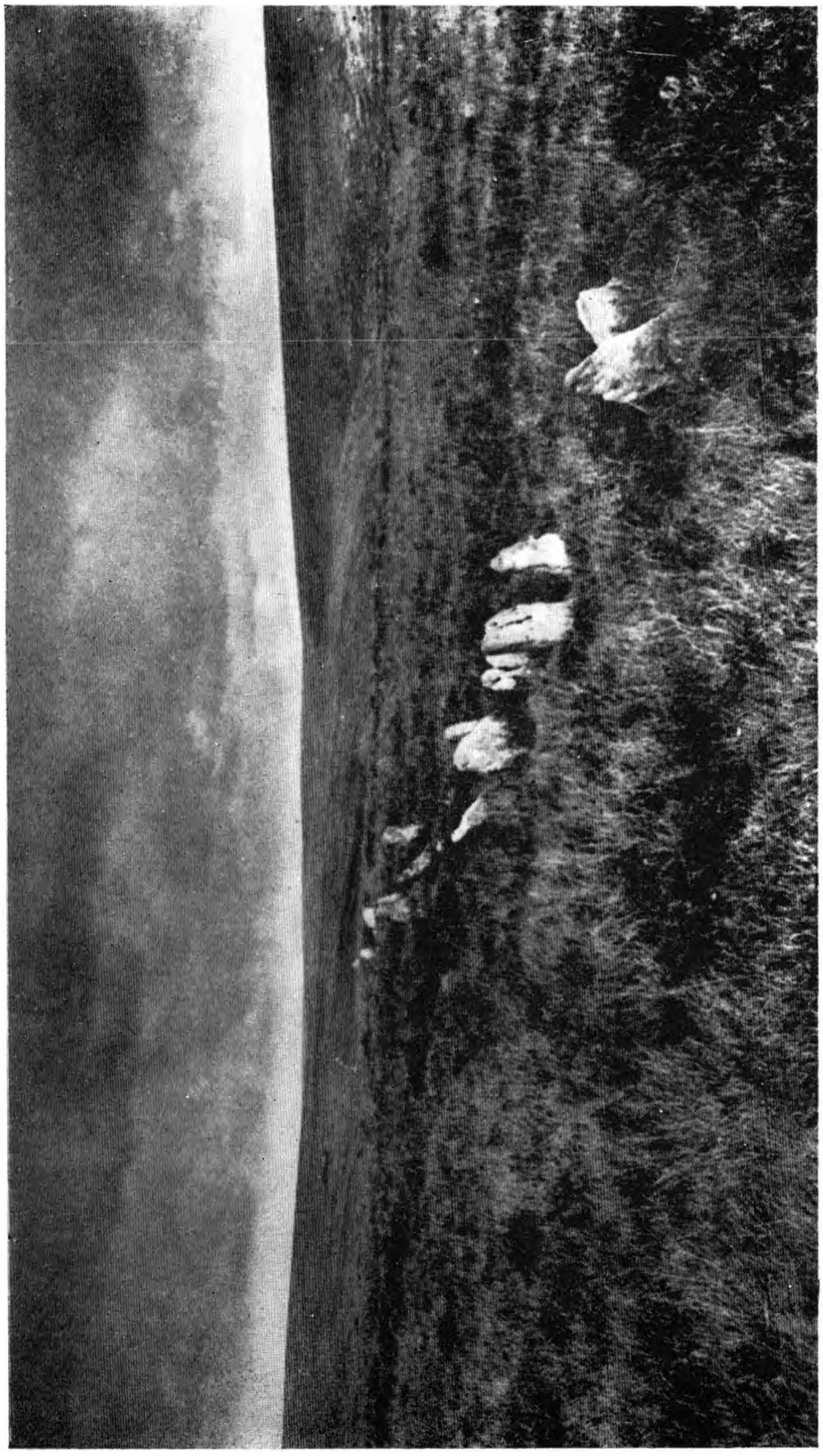


Stall Moor circle and row, looking south.

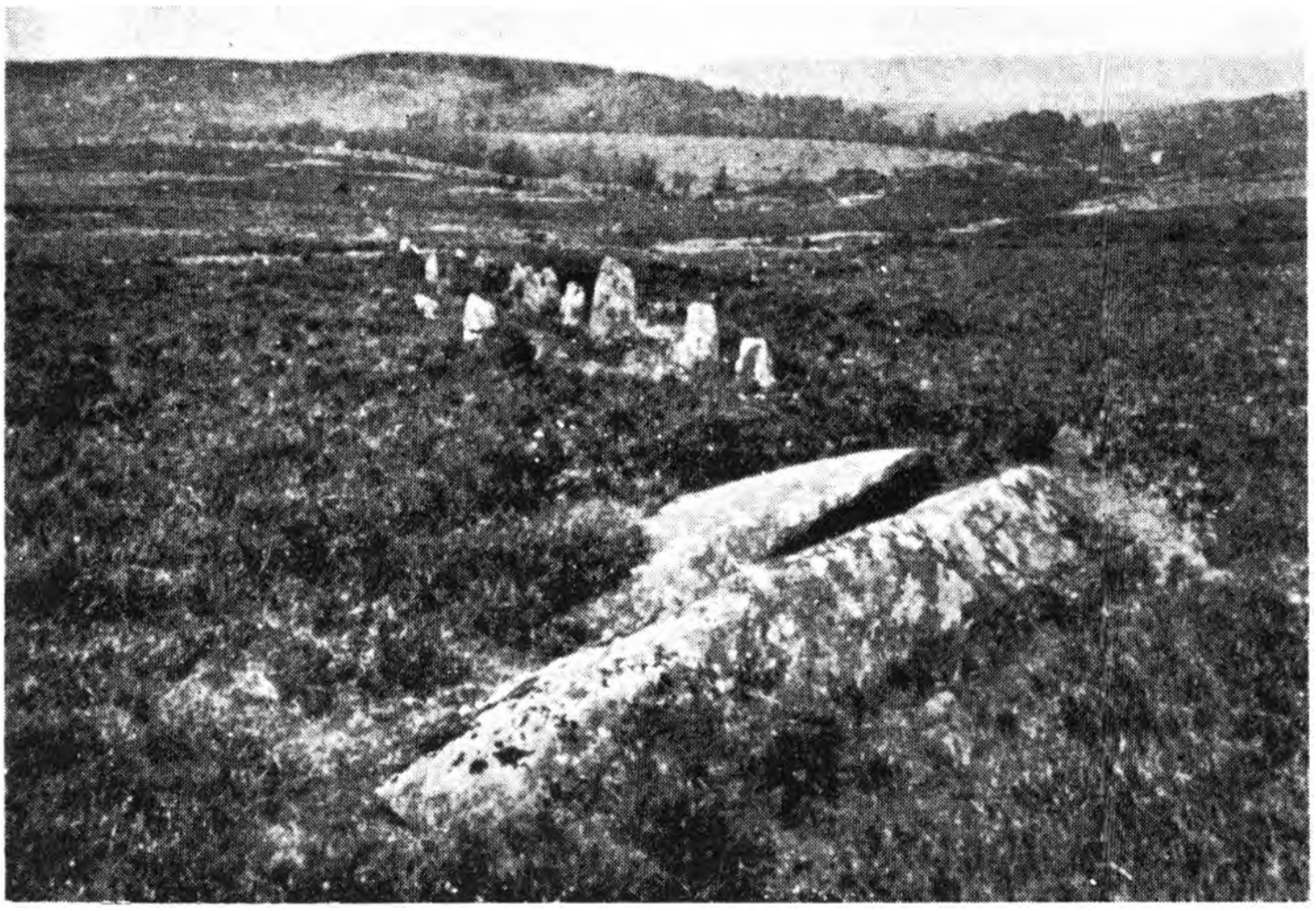
PLATE 44



Stall Moor—Green Hill Row (No. 1) looking north. The row extends to the horizon.

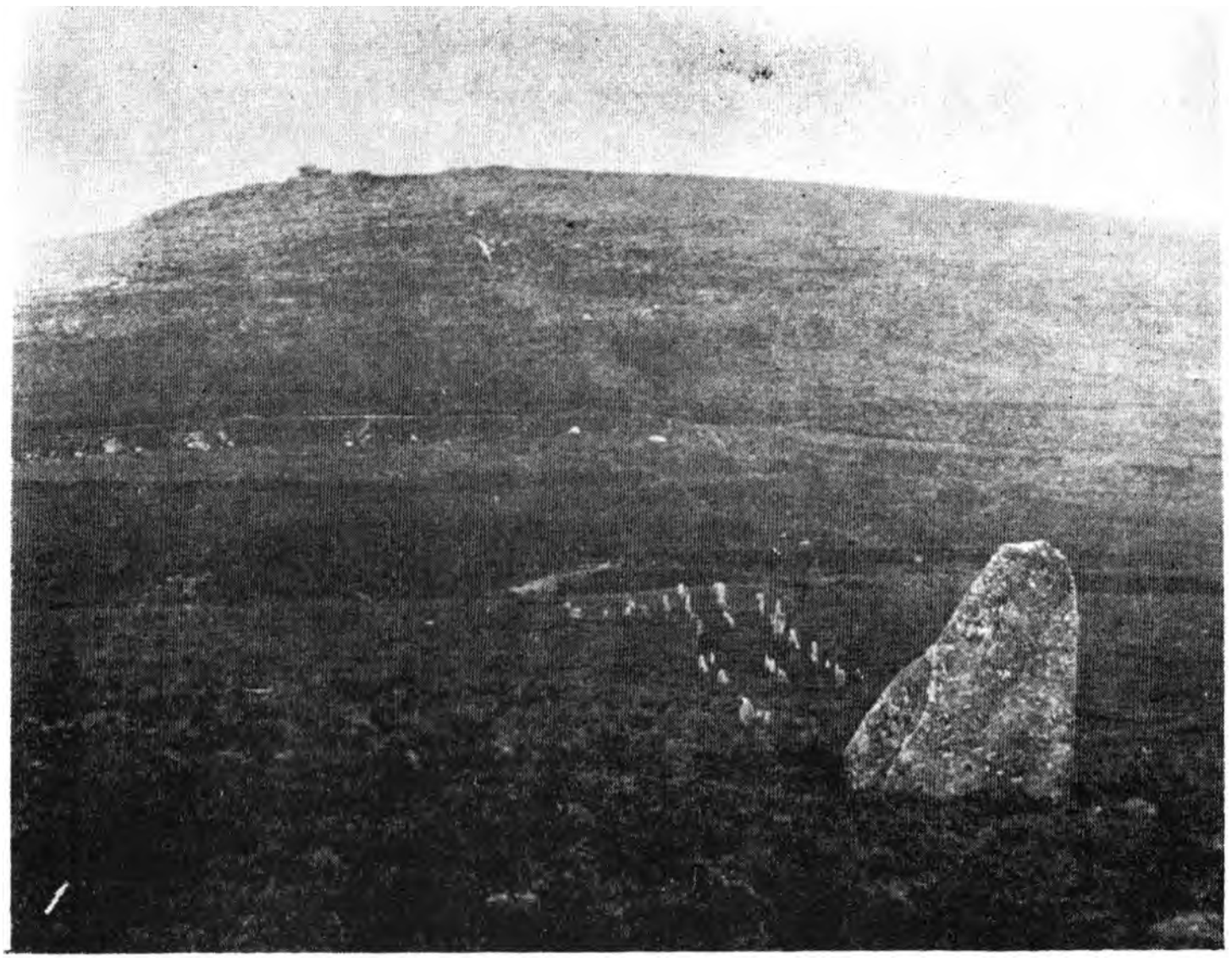
North end of Staldon Row (No. 7), looking north.

Plate 46



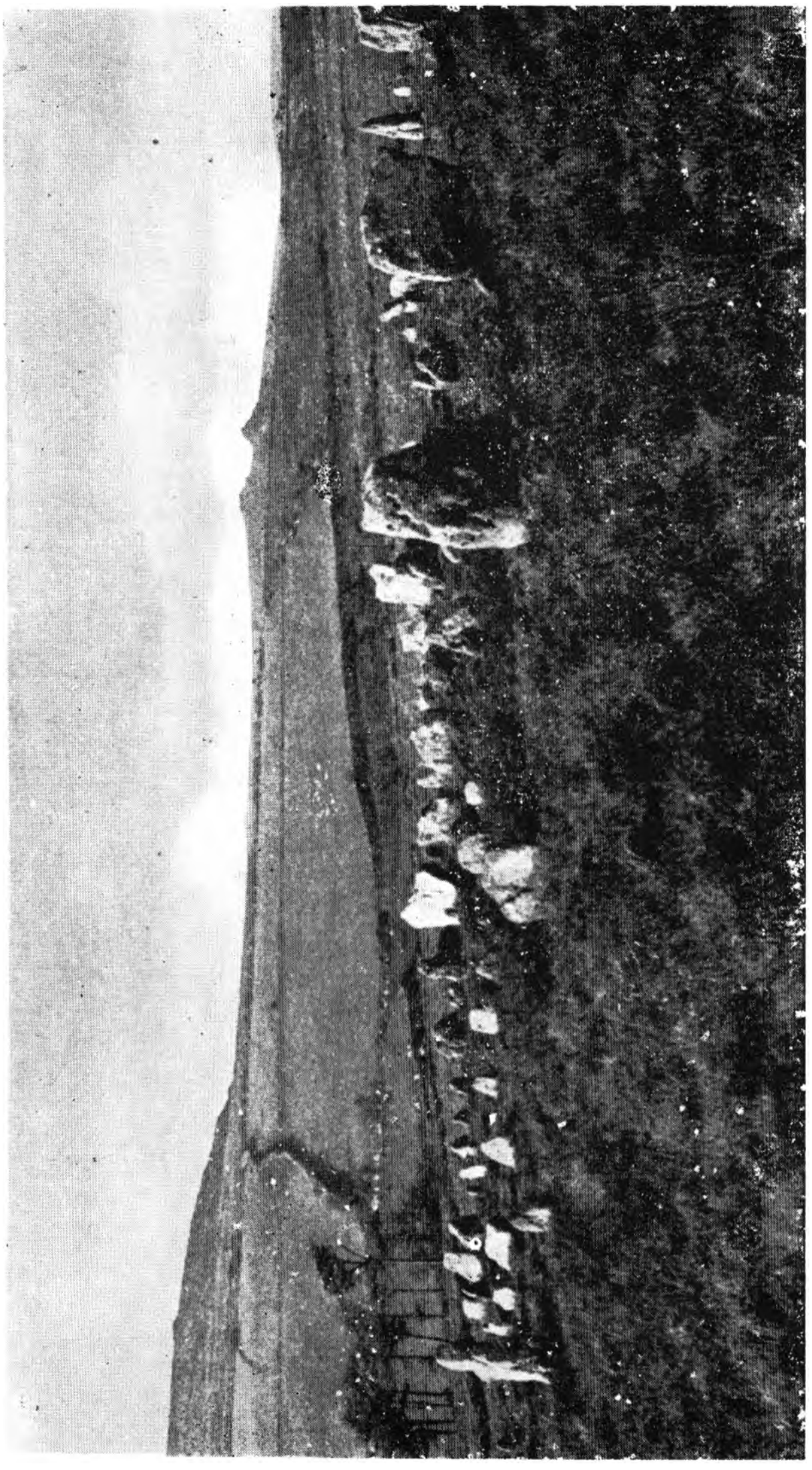
A. Shuggledown, looking from the fourfold circle to Batworthy Corner

B. The Longstone, Shuggledown. (Kestor in distance.)



Challacombe Row (No. 46)
(1) Looking N. 20°–30′ W. (2) Looking S. 24° E.

PLATE 48



Yellowmead Circle, near Sheepstor, looking N. 35° W.

B. Hobajons Cross.