

FROM

REV^d G. H. ENGLEHEART,
APPLESHAW,
ANDOVER.

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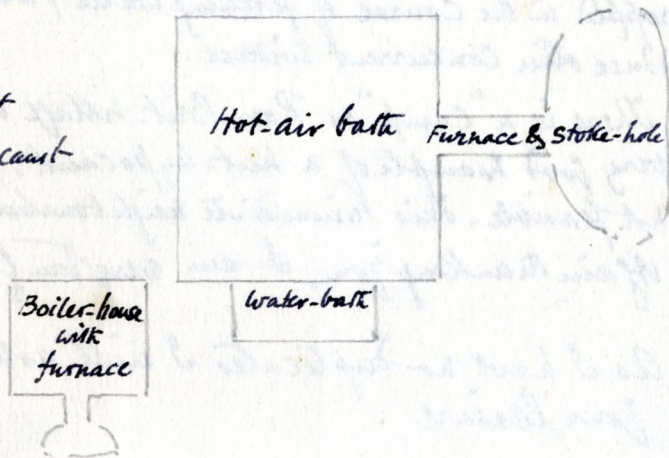
And.
+ photographs
returned
Jan. 31/99.

My dear Sir,

I have received your four volumes, and really do not know how to thank you adequately for your gift of so splendid a work, but please be assured that it will always be fully valued and appreciated.

I have thought you might be interested to see the accompanying photographs of a small Roman Bath-house which we have lately found and excavated in the field where I found the large deposit of Roman pewter vessels, 32 of which are now in the British Museum. The bath house is remarkable as being self-contained and entirely detached from the villa which undoubtedly exists in the same large field, probably under a portion of it recently sown with sainfoin and so inaccessible for exploration.

The rough pencil-plan together with the photographs may enable you to understand the structure: it is thought to be an unusually perfect example. The pipes in the hypocaust were (some of them) intact, of their original height when found: the tessellated pavement which they had supported had collapsed and lay on the lower chalk floor. The double arch which carried the hot air to the chamber under the water-bath is remarkably perfect.



The iron bar shown in the photographs is about 4 ft long, & gives an idea of the scale. We have of course made a proper plan, and a model is being constructed.

In photo: no. 6 the waterbath with its heating-flues is shown, and the pile on which it rests can be seen through its broken floor. In the same photo. one of the fine bricks, 22" square, which bridged the pile and carried the pavement of the hot room is well shown, though broken into four.

Your observations about the greater height of water in the chalk during the Roman-British period have much interested me, for I had some time ago speculated on the matter and come to the same conclusion in this neighbourhood. Two Villas, both within a mile from my house, stand at about 300' above sea level and perhaps 60' above small valleys or "bottoms" immediately below them. Neither of these Villas seems to have had wells on ^{its} ground. But there is an intermittent stream runs down these bottoms at irregular intervals - once only in any volume during the 18 years of my residence here, and I have little doubt that this stream was perennial in Roman-British times and supplied the Villas with water. Of this I had a curious evidence two or three years ago: - in the course of gravel-digging in the bottom immediately below one of the Villa-sites a considerable amount of broken Roman pottery, including large "pitchers" was found, together with Roman coins of the same reigns as those found on the Villa site above the spot. It is natural to suppose that the breakages occurred and the coins were dropped in the course of fetching water from time to time from the stream which then ran. I could adduce other concurrent evidence.

There is a "Camp" or Rom-Brit. village in a wood quite close to my house: I have excavated a very good example of a hut-hypocaust, flint-lined, in it; but to explore the whole properly is not feasible. This immediate neighbourhood is exceedingly rich in antiquities awaiting investigation.

Again thanking you, I am very truly yours
George Snytheart

|| As I have no duplicates I will ask you to kindly return the photographs at your leisure.