

of at least 150 miles in diameter, and were no doubt produced by a huge exploding fireball. The morning in question was clear and bright. E. G. FENTON.
Rio Gallegos, Patagonia, February 12.

On the Gain of Definition obtained by Moving a Telescope.

Is not the case mentioned by M. E. J. Gheury in NATURE of March 27 (p. 86) but a special case of the familiar fact that an object which is so like its background as to be invisible when at rest is commonly visible when it moves? In this case, as the telescope moved, the signal in its field of view was to the eye fixed to its eyepiece an object moving against the background of misty sky, which it so nearly resembled as to be invisible when at rest. Is not the

NORTHERN METHODS OF BURIAL IN THE IRON AGE.

MR. SCHELIG'S excellent memoir¹ describes the recent more precise investigations which correct and elucidate older work. Relics other than from graves are insignificant, and the nominal restriction to Vestland scarcely lessens the interest, for local discoveries are throughout compared with those in other provinces and countries. Neither a *catalogue raisonné* of antiquities, nor a general account of the evolution of Norwegian culture during the Iron Age, the volume serves as a foundation for works of those

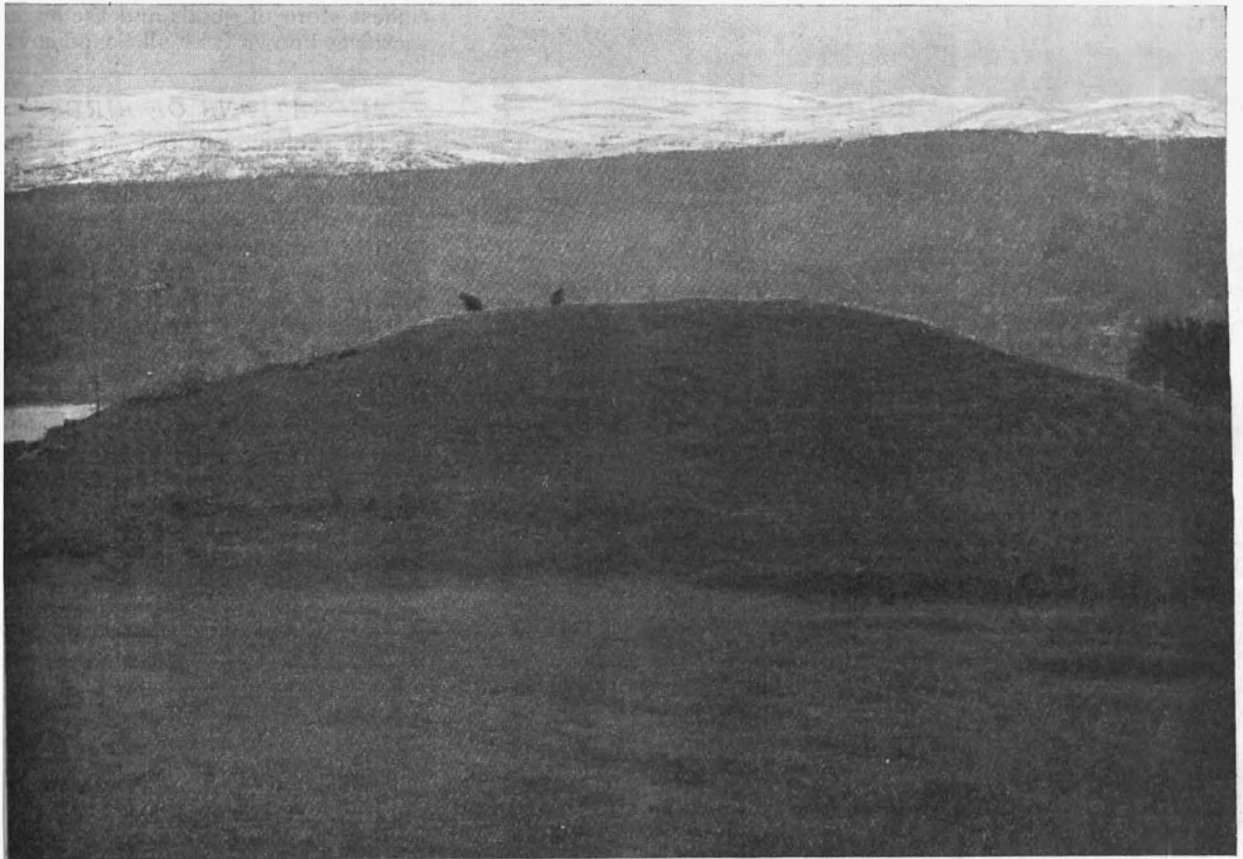


FIG. 1.—The Byrkje grave-mound at the beginning of the excavation. From "Vestlandske Graver fra Jernalderen." Bergens Museums Skrifter.

explanation as follows? Visibility of the object, and in particular of its outline, depends on *contrast* between it and its background. There is commonly *some* contrast, but often so slight as not to attract attention when the object is at rest. When, however, the object moves, the brain receives successive impressions of contrast as the image of the object falls on one part of the retina after another. Thus the brain receives a *cumulative impression of contrast* between the object and the background, and the object becomes "visible."

If this be not, as perhaps it is not, a perfect explanation of this familiar fact, there are probably many others beside myself who will be glad to know what the correct explanation is.

Candahar, Reigate.

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two different classes. The objective account of the graves themselves, and of the disposition therein of the varied remains, is its endeavour; and its general conclusions relate mainly to the development of burial methods.

The third and fourth centuries A.D. are, in Vestland as elsewhere, those most influenced by Roman culture, while during the fifth and sixth centuries more original lines were followed. During the third century, however, a greater change occurred than about the year 400; it was

¹ "Bergens Museums Skrifter." Ny Raekke. Bd. ii. No. 1. Vestlandske Graver fra Jernalderen. By Haakon Schetelig. Pp. iii+242. (Bergen: A/S John Griegs Boktrykkeri, 1912.)