

be dug in this country, at Stanton Harcourt in Oxfordshire, is at present threatened by gravel quarrying operations. With the extension of housing schemes and other public works, many more barrows may have to be destroyed. In such cases it devolves on the archaeologist to reach for his trowel and ensure that they do not go unrecorded.

Excavations 1951—Chester

THE excavations organised by the Chester Archaeological Society have this year been curtailed by the serious labour shortage in the city. The two sites investigated, have been the work of volunteers under the direction of Mr. Graham Webster, the Curator of the Grosvenor Museum.

Early in the year attention was directed at the S.E. corner of the legionary fortress. The discovery of the Agricolan turf rampart on the west side, in the Linenhall Street excavation of 1948, had made it imperative to test the presence of this feature elsewhere on the known circuit of the Roman defences. Sections were cut both inside and outside the internal angle tower and the base of the turfwork was found in position. This defined the position of the Agricolan defences, as being coincident with those of Trajan at this point and it became clear that it is probable that the initial legionary fortress occupies the same area as that of the first stone period of Trajan. This has yet to be proved for the North Wall and as soon as labour is available, this outstanding point can be cleared.

It was possible to study in detail the relationship between the turfwork and the stone wall at the south east angle. Conclusions were reached that the stone wall had been inserted in the front of the turfwork but the front line of the defences had been preserved.

The second excavation was directed at the Infirmary field where it was hoped to find a Roman burial. The area investigated on the southern boundary of the field produced the foundations of a substantial Roman building, probably a military store house, but to date, there are no indications of burials in the ground explored.