

the *Plasmodium malariae*, a minute organism living in and destroying the red blood corpuscles. The parasites are transmitted from one person to another by the mosquito. A certain cycle of the life history of the malarial parasite takes place within the body of the mosquito and the spores are injected from the salivary glands into and under the skin in biting.

Certain species of mosquitoes are the carriers to and fro of the infecting organisms. They may in a general way be recognized by their spotted wings and by their peculiar position when at rest.

The prevalence of malaria can be diminished by guarding against mosquito bites; by isolating malarial fever patients, giving them sufficient quinine and protecting them from being bitten; by reducing the number of breeding places of the mosquitoes by drainage.

Individual prophylaxis is best attained by avoiding the bite of the mosquito.

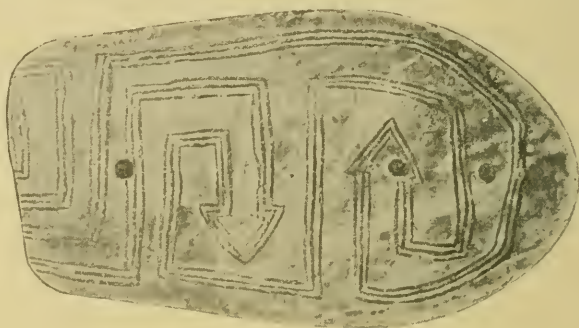
A SHELL GORGET FOUND NEAR SPICELAND, INDIANA.

BY JOSEPH MOORE.

All I propose to do in this brief paper is to give a history of the object represented by the accompanying photograph, leaving it for others to tell the meaning of the engraved design and also its relation to other specimens of prehistoric art. About half a mile north of Spiceland, Henry County, while some men were loading gravel and sand, they came to some graves from which were taken two or three badly decayed human skeletons, the skull of a groundhog and the gorget which is the subject of this report. One of the human skulls is well preserved and the other sufficiently so to indicate its character. They represent rather a fine type of head.

The photograph herewith presented is very nearly one-half the size of the original, which is in length five and three-fourths inches. The greatest breadth toward the wider end is three and one-eighth inches, and that of the narrower end is two and one-half inches.

It has been wrought by dressing off the borders of a very large specimen of fresh water mussel, a species of *Unio*. It is evident both from the incompleteness of the original tracing on its concave surface and from the natural form of that species of shell that one-fourth, more or less, of the entire length of the original ornament has been broken off while yet in use, and the broken edge dressed to improve its appearance.



There are four perforations. As to the design, it has been engraved by a steady hand, and the fine grooves afterwards neatly stained with dark paint.

The photograph would probably represent the original somewhat more perfectly had not the finder varnished it, supposing it would otherwise be likely to crumble, as did the larger part of the two skeletons. It was, however, well preserved.

Professor Holmes of the Smithsonian Institute and Professor Warren K. Moorehead both regard it as an interesting find, and one or both of them will probably tell us more about what it is supposed to mean. So far as I have yet been able to learn, inscriptions on shell are more common further south, say in Tennessee and the Gulf States, than in the latitude of central Indiana.

This design is in some respects allied to what may occasionally be found among the ruins of Central America, judging from pictures observed in archeological reports.

I am indebted to David Newby of Spiceland for the specimen and to Professor Collins of Earlham for the photograph.