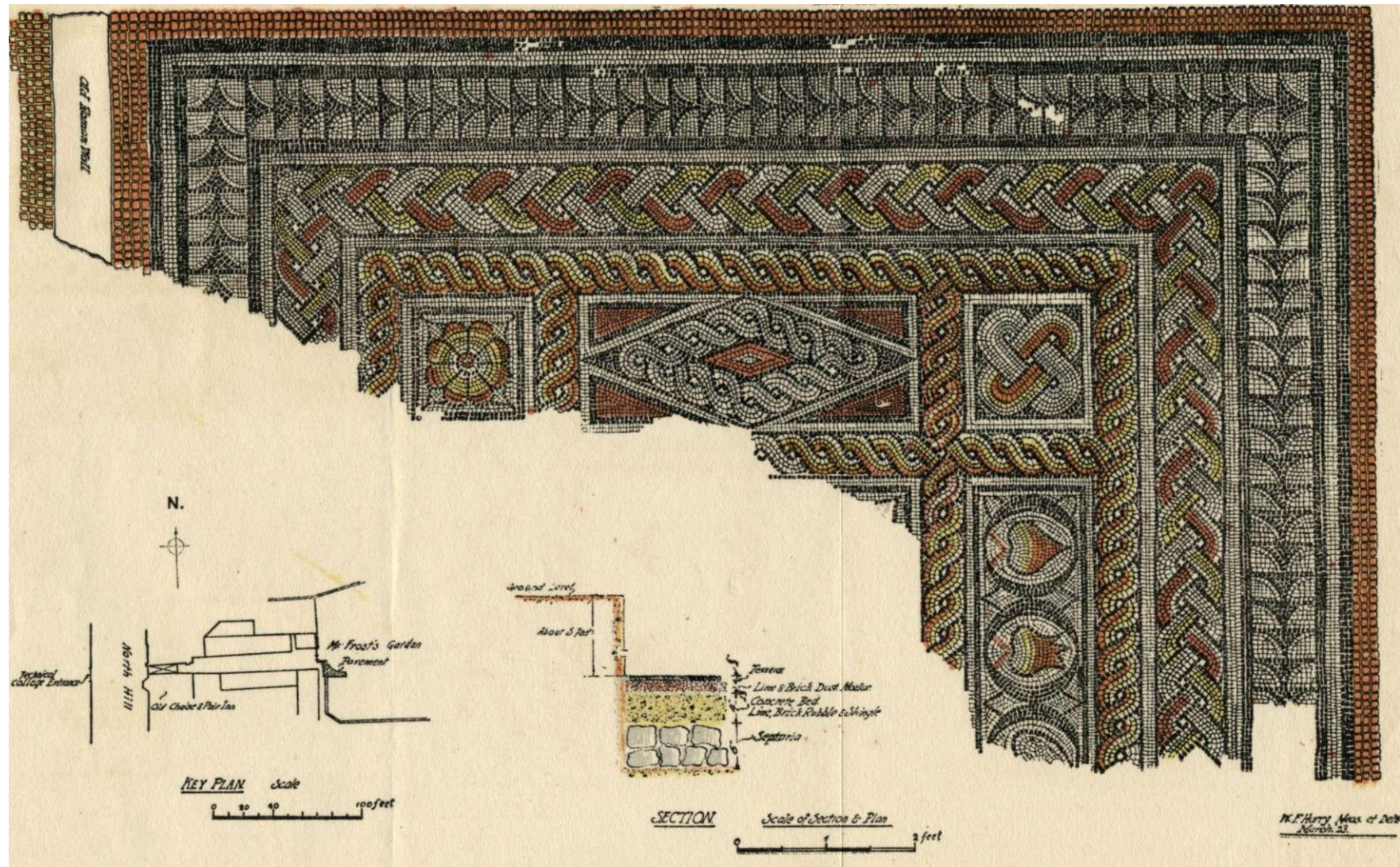


ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES.

TWO ROMAN PAVEMENTS AT COLCHESTER.—The Roman pavement illustrated in colour in the plate, facing p. 251, was discovered early in December, 1922, in Mr. A. W. Frost's kitchen garden, about 40 yards east of the east side of North hill, Colchester—nearly opposite the County Technical college. The pattern is very similar to that of the pavement found not very far distant in 1763, illustrated in Morant's *Colchester* (2nd edition, 1768, facing p. 184). The floral pattern (sometimes called "tulip") is also identical with that found in another Roman pavement discovered about 20 years ago near by (at back of 18 North hill) and now preserved in the Colchester Museum. The pavement, with its complete surround, appears to have been about 17 feet square. The colouring is well preserved. The whole of the pavement shown



ROMAN PAVEMENT AT NORTH HILL, COLCHESTER.



Photograph by J. E. Stutter.

ROMAN MOSAIC PAVEMENT FOUND IN "BERRYFIELD," COLCHESTER. MARCH, 1923 (see pp. 295-296).

in the illustration has been successfully excavated and raised and is now deposited in Colchester castle.

The pavement had been constructed over the floor of an older Roman building. In the layer of clay between the two floors a Roman coin of Nero was discovered. Some fragments of pottery and large numbers of oyster shells were also found. A good deal of charred wood and other burnt debris overlaying the pavement were also brought to light, suggesting that a fire had taken place.

The raising of the pavement was a costly and difficult matter. The work was supervised by Mr. Duncan Clark, A.R.I.B.A., and the whole cost was generously borne by Alderman W. Coats Hutton, an ex-mayor of Colchester and a member of the Colchester Museum and Muniments Committee. The work was accomplished most successfully, the pavement being shown exactly as discovered in every detail.

This interesting and valuable pavement has been rivalled in importance by a subsequent discovery at Colchester of a larger, more ornate, and more complete mosaic pavement. This is shown in illustration on page 294. This latter pavement is 19 feet square (including the usual "surround" of larger red tesserae) and was found about 5 March, about 3^{1/2} feet below the surface, in Berryfield, on the east side of Colchester, about 30 yards east of Queen street. The land where the pavement was found is occupied by Mr. Lewis, as a nursery garden, and the discovery was due to a deep hole having been dug in order to bury a collection of weeds. The design is complete except for one corner which has sunk, owing apparently to the existence of some early pit or well under this portion of the pavement. Five or six colours are employed in the design and four panels are occupied by curious mythological marine figures, of the same character as sometimes found on Samian ware of the period A.D. 70 to 150. The owner of the land, Mr. Douglass Gray Round, has presented the pavement to the Colchester Town Council, which, on the recommendation of the Museum and Muniment Committee, agreed to raise the pavement in its entirety—including the surround if possible, the cost being estimated at 70*l.* or more. The excavation—a matter of great difficulty—has been successfully accomplished, the pavement being removed to Colchester castle for exhibition there in proximity to the pavement presented by Mr. A. W. Frost.

Lying obliquely across the pavement, at one corner, was discovered the skeleton of a human being, believed to be a female. Oyster shells and a few fragments of pottery, Roman tiles and building material were found, whilst excavating, but no coins. Every assistance was rendered by Mr. Lewis, whose services have been

recognised by a special vote of thanks by the Colchester Town Council. There is no record of any other mosaic pavement of pictorial design having been found in Colchester.

Several other mosaic pavements are recorded as having been found in Berryfield, Colchester, and it is probable that others exist there. "Berryfield" adjoins the Roman wall and is mentioned as "Beryfeld" in a Colchester court-roll of the year 1425.

W. GURNEY BENHAM.