

EARLY NEWCASTLE CEMETERY.

BOROUGH MARKET SITE.

The excavations which have been proceeding for some time on the site of the old Borough Markets in Hunter-street, Newcastle, for the erection of Mrs. Spence's picture theatre, have revealed the fact that the spot is the site of a long-discussed cemetery.

About a fortnight ago some human bones were discovered while one of the trenches for the foundations were being dug. Since then the work has disclosed further human remains, and they were spread over a considerable area. The opinion was expressed that the first bones which were found were those of an aborigine, and as no signs of any coffins were found, it was assumed that the other bones were those of aborigines. Yesterday, however, the men came cross a coffin, containing a complete skeleton of a body, which had evidently been laid out in the orthodox manner. The pick, which was used by one of the workmen, entered the crumbling shell of the coffin, which was removed with great care. There was then disclosed lying on what had been the bottom of a coffin, a complete skeleton of a human. It was in an excellent state of preservation. The teeth in the lower jaw were almost perfect, and as firmly held as in life. The skeleton, as it lay, measured six feet in length, but the bones were very light for a man of that height. It would be mere guesswork to say whether it was of an aborigine or not, and it would be a very difficult matter to adduce evidence as to the sex. The height was that of a tall man, but the other dimensions of the bones were small. The police were informed of the occurrence, and Detective Surridge removed the bones to the police station, to await the decision of the coroner.

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