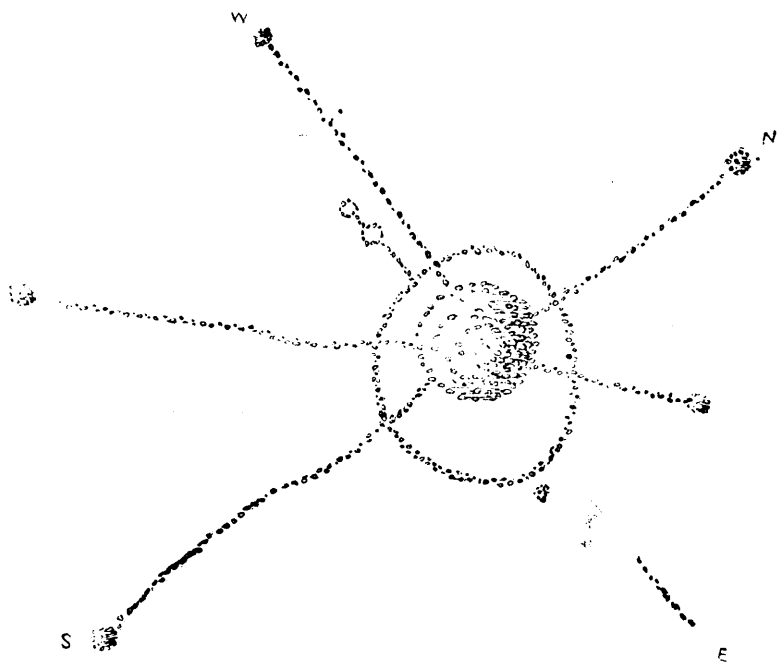


INDIAN STONE PILES.

THE accompanying illustration reproduces a sketch made by me during the past autumn of a remarkable group of mounds, or cairns, on Moose Mountain, in Assiniboia. It occupies the summit of a limestone hill overlooking a large expanse of country. The large central cairn, composed of loose stones heaped up into a mound, measured about four feet high by thirty feet in diameter. This is enclosed by a heart-shaped circumvallation of stones (somewhat inaccurately represented in the



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sketch,) with its apex towards the east. From this radiate six lines of stone—four of them nearly corresponding to the points of the compass, and each terminating with a smaller cairn, or heap of stones. The radiating lines are of different lengths. The one to the north is about eighteen paces long, terminated by a low mound five feet in diameter. The line to the south is twenty-eight paces long; and that to the south-west—the longest of all—about twenty-nine paces long. Careful exploration of the contents of the mounds may show the central cairn to be sepulchral; but the group as a whole, with the diverse lengths of the radiating lines, is curiously suggestive of an astronomical diagram. The Indians have no tradition as to its origin, but merely say that it was there in the days of their fathers, and in the old time before them, and was made by the spirit of the winds.

E. F. W.