

## VI.

NOTE OF THE DISCOVERY OF A NECKLACE OF JET BEADS AND PLATES, FOUND ALONG WITH AN URN, IN A SHORT CIST AT TAYFIELD, NEAR NEWPORT, FIFE. BY JOHN BERRY OF TAYFIELD, ESQ. (THE BEADS AND FRAGMENTS OF THE URN WERE PRESENTED BY MR BERRY TO THE SOCIETY'S MUSEUM.)

In excavating for gravel on the estate of Balgay, near Dundee, about fifty yards from the side of the estuary of the Tay, between the pointsman's house and the station house, about 1 foot 3 inches from the surface, there was found a stone cist—length 2 feet 10 inches, width 2 feet 3 inches, depth  $1\frac{1}{2}$  foot—covered with two rough slabs of stone about 3 cwt.

Within the cist there was an urn in fragments, ornamented with rows of short lines and triangular indentations, a small handful of blackish earth, and the pieces of an ornamented necklace of jet or lignite.

[The necklace, of which a representation is given in the accompanying woodcut, consists of a series of plates of jet or shale, and alternating rows of beads of various lengths. The centre plates, which are 2 inches long and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch broad, are pierced with holes from side to side corresponding to the number of beads to be strung between each pair. The large terminal plates are triangular in shape,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in breadth, and are ornamented by a dotted pattern. One of these is now absent,

only a few small fragments of it having been found, sufficient however to show that it was exactly similar to the other. In the original necklace,



Necklace of Beads and Plates of Jet or Shale found at Tayfield.

the number of "bugles" was no doubt considerably larger, judging from the number of fragments received along with those that were entire. The separate triangular ornament (see woodcut) pierced in the centre of one side, was probably a pendant attached to the middle of the necklace. Necklaces formed of amber beads and plates, having pendants attached in a somewhat similar way, are still much worn on the shores of the Baltic. —ED.]