

MONDAY, 11th May 1874.

THOMAS B. JOHNSTON, Esq., in the Chair.

The Secretary announced that the Council at their last meeting had elected Miss M. STOKES, Editress of "Christian Inscriptions in the Irish Language," &c., &c., a Lady Associate of the Society.

A ballot was then taken, and the following Gentleman was elected a Corresponding Member:—

JOHN ANDERSON, Esq., M.D., Curator of the Imperial Museum, Calcutta.

The following Gentlemen were also elected Fellows:—

JAMES ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, Esq., yr. of Stracathro.

REV. EDWARD KING, B.A., Launceston.

GEORGE SCOTT, Esq., Curator, Brighton Free Library and Museum.

J. IRVINE SMITH, Esq., 21 Northumberland Street.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the Donors:—

(1.) By JOHN ANDERSON, Esq., M.D., Curator of the Imperial Museum, Calcutta.

Seven small and finely polished Stone Implements or Celts from Momien, province of Western Yunan, China, viz.—

1. Small Chisel-shaped Implement of highly polished greenstone,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in length,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in breadth, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in thickness, with a keen rounded edge, and slightly flattened towards the square ended butt.

2. Small Triangular Implement of reddish quartz,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in length, 1 inch in breadth across the cutting face, tapering to a rounded butt, and about  $\frac{3}{8}$ th of an inch in greatest thickness. The edge is formed like that of an adze, by grinding from one side.

3. Small Triangular Implement of compact jade-like stone,  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inch in length, 1 inch in breadth across the cutting edge, tapering to  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch at the rounded butt, and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick. The edge is formed like that of an adze.

4. Small Truncated Triangular Implement of speckled jade-like stone,

$1\frac{3}{8}$  inch long, and  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inch broad at the cutting edge, tapering to  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch at the slightly rounded butt, and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick. The edge is more axe-like than adze-like.

5. Implement of similar form and material,  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inch long by  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inch broad at the cutting edge, tapering to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch at the slightly rounded butt. It has a keen rounded axe-like edge.

6. Implement of similar form and material, but darker, and with an adze-like edge considerably broken. It measures  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch in length, by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in breadth, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in thickness.

7. Implement of similar form and material,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length by 2 inches broad and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick, with keen rounded bevelled edge.

Dr Anderson gives the following account of these implements in the Appendix to his "Report on the Expedition to Western Yunan *via* Bhamo" (Calcutta, 1871):—

"Noticing a stone implement exposed for sale on a stall in the Momien bazaar, I purchased it for the equivalent of a few pence. No sooner was my liking for such objects known than I was besieged by needy persons, who willingly parted with them for sums varying in value from four to eighteen pence each. After my first investment, specimens to the number of about one hundred and fifty were procured by different members of the expedition; but all were purchased, none being discovered by any of us.

"I was informed at Momien that stone implements were not unfrequently turned up in ploughing the fields, and that they were occasionally found lying exposed on the surface soil. The belief prevails that they, and also bronze implements, are thunderbolts, which, after they fall and penetrate the earth, take nine years again to find or work their way up the surface.

"The Burmese and the Shans of Burmah also regard stone implements as thunderbolts or *miogyos*, and have the same superstition about these finding their way to the surface of the soil in after years.

"Burmese, Shans, and Chinese alike attribute great medicinal virtues to stone and bronze implements, and some of the latter are so highly prized in Yunan that their weight in gold alone can purchase them. The fresh fractures result from small pieces having been chipped off to be ground down and sold as medicine, which commands fabulous prices.

Both kinds of implements are also carried about the person as charms to ward off the evil influence of badly disposed persons.

"The high estimation in which they are held, both in Yunan and Burmah, suggests the suspicion that the Chinese in former days did not neglect to take advantage of the desire to possess those implements or charms, and made a profitable traffic in their manufacture. A consideration of the character of some of the Yunan implements has led me to this conclusion. A considerable percentage of them are small, beautifully cut forms, with few or none of the signs of use that distinguish the large implements from the same localities, and, moreover, all of them are of some variety of jade. These facts, taken in conjunction with their elaborate finish, and the circumstance that jade was formerly largely manufactured at Momien into a variety of personal ornaments, are the reasons which have made me doubt the authenticity of many of the small forms, and to regard them as only miniature models of the large and authentic implements manufactured in recent times as charms to be worn without inconvenience."

(2.) By SIR WALTER ELLIOT of Wolfelee, K.C.S.I., F.S.A. Scot.

Large Harpoon-like Implement of Bronze,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches long,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches wide in the blade, with recurved projecting barbs, similar to that described and figured in the Proceedings, vol. viii. pp. 293-300.

Large Straight-sided Broad Blade of Bronze,  $28\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length, 4 inches wide at the butt, and of nearly equal width throughout, strengthened with a thick midrib, and having a broad and strong tang of about 4 inches in length, with a hook at one side of the tang. (See the preceding communication of Sir Walter Elliot.)

(3.) By A. W. FRANKS, Esq., M.A., F.S.A. Scot.

Flat Celt of Coppery-like Bronze,  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches long, 5 inches wide at the broad end, and 2 inches at the narrow end, the edge unsharpened, from Gungeria, Central India.

(4.) By CLAUDE MACFIE, Esq., of Gogar Burn, through Professor DUNS, D.D., New College, Edinburgh.

Sixteen Circular Mirrors of Bronze, with ornamented backs, and varying

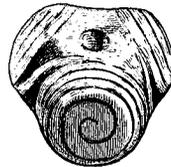
in size from 2 to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, from Japan. These mirrors are simple discs of cast bronze, with a projecting rim on the back, like the lid of a circular box. The mirror face is highly polished and silvered, and the back is ornamented in various ways by figures in relief. The centre is usually occupied by a tortoise, through which a hole is made for the insertion of a cord to support the mirror on a stand, or to suspend it from the dress. The ornamental patterns on the backs are often of great beauty, consisting sometimes of landscapes, sometimes of geometrical patterns, sometimes of floral patterns arranged in symmetrical forms, and occasionally of figures of birds, &c. This peculiar form of mirror, without a handle, is an old form in Japan, and has continued in the temples of the Sintoo religion till quite recently.

- (5.) By JAMES DALGARNO, Esq., Merchant, Slains, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Three-pointed Bead of vitreous paste, with spirals of yellow enamel.

Triangular Arrow-head of flint, with barbs and stem.

Both found in the neighbourhood of Slains, Aberdeenshire.



- (6.) By the late Mr ROBERT FORREST, Writer, Kirriemuir, through A. JERVISE, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Wooden Snuff-box, or Mill, of cylindrical form, swelling out towards the upper part, 8 inches high and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in greatest diameter, provided with an iron spoon, attached to the top of the lid by two links and a staple, from Clova, Forfarshire.

- (7.) By GEORGE SIM, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., Curator of Coins.

Thesaurus Brandenburgicus selectus, sive Gemmarum et Numismatum Græcorum in Cimeliarchis Electorali Brandenburgico elegantiorum series, etc. A. L. Begero. Colonia, 1696. Folio, 3 vols. in 2.

- (8.) By CUMBERLAND HILL, Esq., the Author.

Reminiscences of Stockbridge and Neighbourhood. Edinburgh, 1874. 8vo.

(9.) By the ROYAL GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND.

Journal of the Royal Geological Society of Ireland, Vol. XIII. Pt. 3,  
1872-3. 8vo.

(10.) By the MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, 1639. Royal 8vo. 1874.

Calendar of State Papers, Ireland, 1606-1608. Royal 8vo. 1874.

Registrum Palatinum Dunelmense, Vol. II. Royal 8vo. 1874.

(11.) By the SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE.

The Smithsonian Collections, Vol. X. 8vo. U. S. Geological Survey  
of Montana, Utah, &c. 8vo. 1872.

The Smithsonian Report for the year 1871. 8vo.

Report of the Chief Signal Officer for 1872. 8vo.

The following Communications were read :—