

WOVEN TUNICS FOUND IN SHETLAND.

Dr J. A. Smith communicated an account of the discovery of two curious woven tunics, found, in 1849, along with a male and female skeleton, at a depth of between five and six feet in a bog, on the top of a hill called Nosewick, on the mainland of Shetland. Dr Benjamin Bell, who was present when the discovery was made by some labourers digging for peats, exhibited and presented to the Society these ancient dresses. The bones, some of which still remain wrapped in the dresses as when found, are soft and pliable, and deeply stained of a dark-brown colour by the moss, which has also preserved them, as if they had been tanned. From the circumstances of the discovery, several members present were inclined to attribute these curious relics to a very remote antiquity; but, if so, they differ from any examples hitherto found in early graves in this country in being woven instead of knitted. Having been reinterred, and left for a considerable period, they are now in an imperfect state. It was resolved to transmit a portion of the dress to Herr Rafn of Copenhagen, with a view to comparison with similar discoveries made in Denmark. Special thanks were expressed to Dr Bell for the zeal and liberality with which he had acted on the occasion, in recovering these objects, and procuring their transmission to Edinburgh for the inspection of the Society.