

### III.

NOTE OF FRAGMENTS OF ROMAN POTTERY, LEAD, IRON, BRASS COINS OF HADRIAN, &c., RECENTLY FOUND NEAR NEWSTEAD, ROXBURGHSHIRE. BY JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D., SEC. S.A. SCOT.

In adding to the collection of Roman remains found in the neighbourhood of the village of Newstead, which are already in the Museum of the Society, the fragments of pottery, and the pieces of iron and lead, now presented, I have little to add to the details already brought before the Society, and published in the "Proceedings."<sup>1</sup> These relics have been principally found in the field designated the "Fore-ends" (which lies immediately to the south of the Red Abbeystead Field), when drains were being cut there last season; Mr Smith, the tenant, having kindly given instructions to the drainers to preserve everything that turned up in the course of their operations, however valueless it might seem to them. The drains were 3 feet deep, and various stones, like

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings, vol. i. p. 28, &c.

building materials, were turned up, and these portions of iron and lead, as well as the pottery of different kinds, the red, and the embossed red or Samian ware, portions of bowl-shaped and shallower vessels; one piece shows the usual festooned border round its upper part, and below within wreaths, a double circle enclosing a bird flying, &c.; another, the bottom of a vessel, shows the letters OF, the conclusion of a potter's stamp printed across the inside of the broken vessel; also portions of the coarse yellow or red ware, the broken neck and handle of a jar; as well as of the coarser and larger grey pottery, and teeth of cattle; now presented to the Museum. In one place a mass of charcoal-like matter was dug into, but nothing more of interest was observed.

The only fact worth noticing in addition to those formerly described, was the finding of the pieces of lead along with the Roman pottery.

The Rev. Mr Milne in his "Description of the Parish of Melrose" (1742), when referring to the village of Newstead, mentions the field of the Red Abbeystead as the supposed site of an ancient Abbacy, about which, however, he states he neither knew nor could learn anything; "but it is certain when the ground here is plowed or ditched, the foundations of several houses are discovered, a great deal of lead got, and some curious seals." I need not again refer to my own belief that no abey had ever existed here, but that these fields had been the site of the Roman town of Trimontium. I can say nothing about the curious seals referred to by Mr Milne; the pieces of lead now presented are, however, the first specimens I have either seen or heard of, that have been found of late years in this neighbourhood. A wedge or "bat-like" portion, which weighs 26 oz., was found along with Roman pottery, in the "Fore-ends" field; while the rounded portion or bar of lead, weighing 23½ oz. avoird., was discovered by a man engaged in cutting drains in a field a little more to the south and east (on the south side of the Railway). Mr Currie, Darnick, who gave me this latter specimen, informed me the drainer had found a quantity of broken pottery—the man stated, indeed, that he quite put off his time by looking at the various fragments of curious pottery which he turned up; unfortunately he did not think broken crockery worth preserving, and threw the pieces back again into the drain as he covered it up; the piece of lead, however, had a practical value in his eyes, and was preserved. Both the pieces of lead are thickly

coated over with the white carbonate of lead, the result of age and exposure. It is difficult to say what may have been the use of the broken and hook-like portions of rusted iron.

The second brass of the Emperor Hadrian was recently found in the "Fore-ends;" it is in very bad preservation. The other coin of the Emperor Hadrian, a first brass, covered with beautiful green patina, was also found in these same fields. They are interesting as additions to the coins of that emperor found in the neighbourhood. Indeed, more coins of Hadrian appear to have been found here, than of any of the other Roman Emperors.