

V.

NOTE OF COARSE GREEN GLASS BEADS FOUND AT KINLOCH-RANNOCH,
PERTHSHIRE. BY JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D.

The Rev. J. M. Joass has sent to me for exhibition to the Society five rudely-formed small beads, of coarse and dark-coloured green glass, about $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch in diameter. They appear as if they had been slightly crushed or flattened when soft, or newly made. They were recently found in the wild district of Kinloch-Rannoch, by the Hon. Mr Elphinstone, who accidentally poked them, with his staff, out of a broken bank. No other relics of any kind were found near the spot, nor were there any traces of building visible near by. The beads do not appear to be of any great antiquity, at least the glass itself has not apparently suffered from exposure to the weather.

Dr Thurnam, however, in his valuable memoir on "Ancient British Barrows," already referred to, states, in regard to glass beads apparently of a somewhat corresponding character :—

"The rudest ornaments of this material are green glass beads, mere drops of glass, pierced through. They are quite exceptional in this

country ; but one was found by the Rev. J. H. Austen, in a barrow in Purbeck; Dorset (Arch. Journ. vii. 385; Warne, "Celtic Tumuli of Dorset," iii. 58). They appear to be common in Sweden, in deposits assigned to the Stone Period, and are adduced by Professor Nilsson as proof of Phenician intercourse with that country ("Stone Age," Eng. ed. p. 82, plate ix. figs. 201, 202). The hole in these beads has either been blown or made by passing some hard implement through the molten glass."

These ancient beads have been rudely pierced across the longer diameter of the bead, while the ones now exhibited are pierced in the line of their greatest diameter, and are probably of much later date.