

NOTICE OF OBLONG AND HORSE-SHOE SHAPED FLINT IMPLEMENTS  
AND ARROW-HEADS FOUND RECENTLY IN KINCARDINESHIRE.  
Also, NOTE OF THE USE OF A STONE AS A KNIFE IN THE ISLAND  
OF LEWIS IN 1829. By JOHN ALEX. SMITH, M.D., V.P. S.A. Scot.

In a previous communication to the Society in December 1874, I gave an account of two flint-picks or borers and various arrow-heads found in Kincardineshire, which were procured for the museum of the Society through the Rev. James Brodie, of Monimail, a corresponding member of the Society. The worked flints I have now to describe have also been procured for the museum by Mr George Ross, through the Rev. Mr Brodie. They not only add some very good specimens of worked flints to those already found in this county, and now preserved in the Museum of the Society, but they include two specimens of considerable rarity, which I shall first describe:—

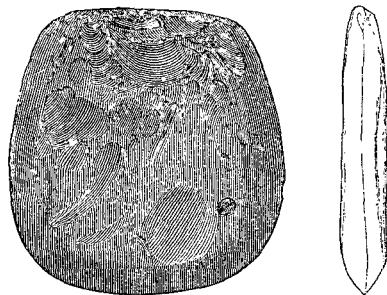
I. *Oblong-shaped Flint Implement (Broken)*.—This implement is chisel-shaped, and is formed of a grey flint; it measures  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch across one extremity, and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch across the other, where it has been unfortunately chipped or broken on one side. It is rather roughly chipped all over its surface, and is of a nearly uniform thickness of about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch, tapering rapidly to a blunt edge all round. At its widest extremity it shows marks of having been polished, perhaps simply from use.

Mr Brodie considers it has been used as a knife. He says—"What

are commonly called Celts or small hatchets were probably used as knives for cutting skins, &c., not by drawing them across the skin like an ordinary knife, but by a succession of quick light blows with a hammer, as workmen now cut plates of metal with a 'cold chisel.'" It was found near Fordoun. The next implement is more carefully and elaborately worked. It is

II. *A Horse-shoe shaped Blade of Flint.*—This implement is formed of a greyish-yellow flint, and is what has been described as horse-shoe shaped; this, however, refers only to its external outline, as it is not open in the middle, like a horse-shoe. It measures rather more than  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length, from back to front, and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  in greatest breadth across, and is nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch in thickness. It tapers to an edge on its rounded outline of three of its sides, and is cut square, and simply chipped along its straight back. Its general surface is smoothed or ground all over, and its edges are also ground, with the exception of its back, where the original thickness of the chipped flint is left, which would thus be the part corresponding to the handle, and kept next the hand, when the flint was used.

It is well shown in the annexed careful drawing:—



Flint Implement (front and side views), found at Pitlochrie, near Fordoun, Kincardineshire. ( $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches long.)

There are two flint implements of somewhat similar character and shape in the Museum of the Society. One measuring 3 inches across, with its rounded circumference ground to a cutting edge. It was found near

Kintore, Aberdeenshire, and has been figured by Mr John Evans, and for comparison the figure is here repeated :



Flint Implement, found near Kintore (front and side views).  
(Three inches across.)

In his important work on "The Ancient Stone Implements of Great Britain," Mr John Evans says—"This is a horse-shoe shaped blade of flint, 3 inches over, with the rounded part of the circumference ground to a fine cutting edge, so that it was probably used as a knife."

The other specimen was found in Lanarkshire, and is similarly ground round its edge ; it measures  $3\frac{3}{8}$  inches in length and  $2\frac{5}{8}$  in greatest width, and like the specimen now exhibited it has its chipped surface partially smoothed by having been ground all over.

Mr John Evans tells us that "the Rev. W. Greenwell has a nearly circular tool of flint about 2 inches in diameter, ground to an edge along most of its periphery. It was found in Yorkshire. Mr Greenwell has also another specimen, about 2 inches in diameter, found at Cherburn Carr, Yorkshire." Mr Evans mentions another example measuring  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches across, found at Huntow, near Bridlington, Yorkshire, and states that he has in his own possession another like the last, also similar to the one found at Kintore ; from near Ballymena in Ireland. Mr Evans refers to still another like the Yorkshire specimen, in his own collection ; which was found at Mining Law, Derbyshire, and mentions that Mr J. F. Lucas has another specimen of similar character, measuring 3 inches

over, found at Arbor Lowe in 1867, and also one found at Newhaven, Derbyshire, of similar shape, but its edges are simply chipped and not ground.

Mr Evans describes some allied stone implements of a closely corresponding character, but not exactly similar in shape; these I need not refer to, though like these flint implements, he considers they may have been used probably as cutting tools or "skinning-knives," for which they seem to be well suited.

There are therefore altogether some six specimens of this peculiar horse-shoe shaped flint implement with ground edges, at present known to have been found in England; one in Ireland, and these three specimens in our Museum; which have been found in Scotland.

This ground flint disc is therefore one of considerable rarity, and forms an interesting addition to this class of flint implements. It was found at Pitforthie, a hill farm near Fordoun, when some moorland was recently broken up and brought for the first time under tillage. The rubbed appearance and colour of the flint suggested its being placed as a joke beside a washhand basin, when it was mistaken for a well-used piece of brownish soap: and it was only after some amusement was caused by a person unsuspectingly rubbing it forcibly for some time between his hands in a vain attempt to form a lather that he discovered the trick played on him, and that the supposed cake of soap was nothing more than a piece of flint—albeit, a rare worked specimen of its kind. (See woodcut.)

III. *Flint Arrow-heads*.—On this same farm of Pitforthie several flint arrow-heads were found in the course of the agricultural improvements we have referred to. Of these I exhibit 11 specimens.—

1. *Leaf-shaped Arrow-heads*.—There are six thin and pointed oval or leaf-shaped arrow-heads, some of them being very beautifully made. They are formed of yellowish coloured flint, and one of a reddish flint, and vary in length from about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch to nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and from  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch to 1 inch in greatest breadth.

2. *Arrow-heads, with Stem and Barbs*.—Four fine specimens of this class of arrow-head were also picked up; these range from  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch to  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch in length and about  $\frac{7}{8}$  of an inch in breadth across the barbs. They are all well formed, of a yellowish-coloured flint.

IV.—*Flint Arrow-heads found near Fordoun, Kincardineshire.*—In addition to these arrow-heads found at Pitforthie, the Rev. Mr Brodie has sent other specimens, found in the same districts around Fordoun, as those described in my previous paper. These are all formed of a yellowish-coloured flint, with the exception of one of a reddish colour, they number one leaf-shaped arrow-head slightly broken, now 1 inch in length by  $\frac{6}{8}$  of an inch in breadth of yellowish flint, and five with stem and barbs, measuring from  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch to  $1\frac{7}{8}$  inch in length by 1 inch to  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch in breadth. The largest arrow-head is beautifully and minutely serrated along its edge.

All these flint implements and arrow-heads form a valuable addition to the other worked flints formerly described, as found in the neighbourhood of Fordoun, Kincardineshire, and now preserved in the Museum of the Society.

NOTE OF THE USE OF A STONE AS A KNIFE IN THE ISLAND OF LEWIS,  
HEBRIDES, IN 1829.

I take this opportunity of at last recording in our "Proceedings" the recent use of a sharp stone as a knife or scissors in the island of the Lewis. It is now a good many years since the circumstance was first incidentally mentioned to me by a lady, the daughter of an old parish minister of Stornoway; and thinking it worth recording, I asked the lady to give me a written account of it, and her letter to me, from which I give the following extract, is dated Tain, December 26, 1867 :—

"Mamma tells me that as nearly as she can remember it was about the year 1829 that those primitive scissors were used in the Island of Lewis. She saw the gown and cap Marion M'Innes made when far away in her shealing, cut and shaped with a sharp-edged stone. She placed the stuff on a flat stone, and then went round the pattern with the sharp stone. She must have been a bit of a genius, as well as a true woman! She liked to be smart. Another year she span and knitted herself a pair of gloves, of the fur of the mountain hare. This took her a long time, but she determined to wear them at the annual market, a great event in the island, and finished them a few days before. They unroof their shealings every year, and carry home the supports, otherwise they would likely be stolen, as wood was very scarce."

I showed this letter at the time I got it to Sir J. Y. Simpson and various other friends, who were much interested in the circumstance, and as I fear I have thus become responsible for a rather exaggerated account of it which has got into print, I think it best, therefore, just to tell the tale as it was told to me.

It shows at any rate how very recently, under peculiar circumstances indeed, as in a district of country where knives and steel scissors are at least locally scarce; the old use of a sharp stone as a knife may still continue, down even to our own day.