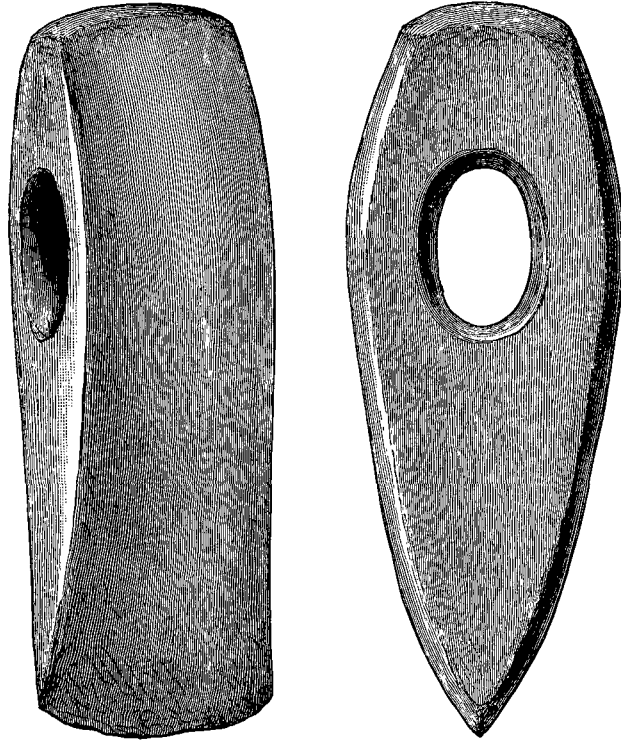


III.

NOTES ON TWO STONE HAMMERS EXHIBITED TO THE MEETING. BY
PROFESSOR DUNS, D.D., VICE-PRESIDENT.

I. *On a Stone Hammer from Berwickshire.*—The hammer now exhibited was found in 1803, near the surface, by some labourers when trenching a



Stone Hammer found near Dunse Castle (8 inches in length).

field in front of Dunse Castle. It was taken possession of by the land steward, in whose keeping it remained till 1845, when it was handed over

to the "Berwickshire Antiquarian Museum"—an institution which seems to have fallen into a state of neglect soon after. When, recently, the Dunse Working Men's Institute entered their handsome and commodious new buildings, a room was set apart for a general museum, and application was made to the trustees of the old collection to have it put under the care of the Institute, the hammer, with other things, found a place in the new Museum.

The implement is an exceedingly fine specimen of its class. A good deal of art has been used in its making. It is of whinstone, 8 inches long and $2\frac{1}{2}$ across at the hole for the handle, rounded at one end, axe-like at the other. A groove, occurring on each side, and following the shape of the hammer, has been so formed as to give to the implement a neat, handy, work-like appearance.

2. *On a Stone Hammer from Dumfriesshire.*—In 1862 this hammer came into the possession of the late James Cunningham, Esq., a zealous Fellow of this Society. When on a visit to him at Gretna Hall, where he then resided during the summer, we chanced to look in on the farm of Westhills, near the Solway, and noticed this implement, which Miss Graham presented to Mr Cunningham. The following note was made at the time:—"6th August 1862. About twenty years ago the late Mr Graham took down an old wall which was reported to have stood upwards of 200 years, and this hammer was found embedded in it."

The implement contrasts strongly with the Berwickshire specimen. It is rude and unshapely. The only trace of art in its fashioning is that which has been employed in making the hole for the handle. It is of whinstone, $11\frac{1}{4}$ inches long and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad at the widest part, and $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick. The Berwickshire specimen bears a closer resemblance to some Scandinavian forms than to those in the Society's collection. But the chief interest connected with both is, that they give us new localities for such implements. I had thought there was no previous record of their occurrence in these counties, but on Friday last I learned from Dr Mitchell that he had a Berwickshire specimen which was found in ploughing a field near Dunse, and was presented to him by Dr Denholm. This specimen is now ex-

hibited. In form it is quite as rude as the Westhills one. It is also of whinstone, tapering to a point, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and 4 inches broad across the part in which the hole occurs. The Dumfriesshire hammer came recently into my possession. With Mrs Cunningham's permission, I have much pleasure in handing it over to the Society.