

VIII.

NOTICE OF A COLLECTION OF BEADS AND WHORLS OF STONE, &c.,
FROM THE N.-W. PROVINCES OF INDIA; NOW PRESENTED TO THE
MUSEUM. IN A LETTER TO THE SECRETARY. By J. H. RIVETT-CARNAC,
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I am sending by post, for the acceptance of the Society, a small collection of beads found on ancient sites in India. Most of them have come from the Futehgurh District of the N.-W. Presidency. To these I have added some clay discs—spindle whorls (?) balls—"volcano shaped" terra cottas (see my papers sent to the Society some time ago, and Dr Schliemann on Hissarlik).

These Indian remains will in all probability much resemble the Scottish finds.

I wish particular attention to the beads. The chain sent contained two or three of the curiously *enamelled* beads referred to by Mr John Evans (see *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, London*, vol. viii. page 537).

I am very anxious to know whether these peculiar types are found anywhere in Europe.

An ordinary bead is a bead all the world over, but these curiously enamelled ones have a character of their own that might be worth tracing if possible. They are found sparingly in many different parts of the country, and are all of the same type.

In looking through the *Proceedings* of the Society for 1879-80, I see

there is a paper on Fire-producing Machines by Mr J. Romilly Allen. I also send you by overland parcel post a small box containing a Flint and Steel for the acceptance of the Society.

This flint and steel is in use amongst the mountaineers of the Himalayas belonging to the provinces of Kumaon and Gurnwhal. The provinces border on the Thibetan province of Bhole or Hindues, literally ("highlands" or "snow-lands"). Nearly every man in these mountain provinces wears such a flint and steel, and the one now sent was bought at Dakri in Kumaon. On Dakri, a richly wooded, oak-clad hill, grows the small plant used for tinder. The blossom is white, and resembles a camomile flower. I am sorry I omitted to gather any of the plant. The flint is any small piece of stone struck from the neighbouring rocks. The flint and steel is a somewhat conspicuous ornament. The dress of a hillman is composed chiefly of a coarse blanket worn folded in a peculiar manner. It is fastened across the chest by the pin and chain, which you will find attached to the *chuckmuck*, as the flint and steel is called. The *chuckmuck* is worn hanging in front; and as these *chuckmucks* are highly ornamented with brass, and constant friction keeps them bright, they are very noticeable objects.

Besides the *chuckmuck*, each man is provided with three small toilet implements which you will find attached to the chain,—a pair of pincers for extracting thorns, a spoon-shaped implement for dislodging wax from the ears, and a small toothpick.

The flint and steel sent is a combination of a leather pocket with a steel attached. In the pocket is carried the tinder and the strike-a-light or small flint. In fact, it is the hillman's match-box, which he replenishes at will from the mountain side on which he dwells.

The large brass brooches worn by the hill women in the neighbourhood of Simla closely resembles the old Celtic brooch. A good specimen is to be seen in Mrs Rivett-Carnac's Collection of Indian Peasant Ornaments in the Loan Department, South Kensington Museum. I will try and procure one for the Society's collection.