

II.

NOTES ON AMULETS FROM MOROCCO (WITH TRANSLATIONS). By W. IVISON MACADAM, F.S.A. SCOT.

The subjects of these notes were collected in the Egyptian Soudan, and were taken from the followers of the Mahdi. They now belong to Mr J. Macnaught Campbell, of the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow, and it is through his kindness that I am enabled to show them to the Society to-night.

Originally the writing was enclosed in triangular skin coverings, neatly sewn. They are worn round the neck, next the skin, and were intended to act as charms to prevent danger to the wearer.

I have here two unopened. One is covered with alligator skin, and one with camel hide, with the hair still adhering. The dimensions of the alligator covered amulet are $5\frac{1}{2}$ cm. by 4 cm., and the thickness is about 1 cm.; whilst the camel hide covered one is 6 cm. by 6 cm. and 5 cm., the thickness being about 1.2 cm. The weight of the first is 5.65 grammes, and that of the second 7.95 grammes. There is a thin thong of hide attached to each, with a loose end, evidently for the purpose of hanging or attaching the amulet to the person of its wearer.

The three open writings shown are on a coarse native paper, the fibre in which I have not been able to identify. The paper is very tough.

The first document is $16\frac{1}{2}$ cm. by $11\frac{1}{2}$ cm. broad, and has writing on both sides. The writing is Arabic, and in the modification which I am

informed common to Morocco. The translation I am enabled to give you through the kindness of my student, Mr Ezra Khamis, a native of Kurdistan, and of Dr Zaytoun, from Syria. It is as follows :—

In the name of the most merciful God. This charm is written to fill the heart and to heal the head. It speaks of love and all that man and woman desires, *i.e.*, strong love ; to bring forth offspring. When he is in the midst of an assembly, he is not despised (if he has children), and his word is esteemed and respected. And none shall be able to dissuade him from his love. Praise unto God, who has preferred us to many of his believers and worshippers. (This last sentence is repeated seven times.) [Bottom part unknown to translator.]

The second writing is partly diagrammatic. It is in the same language, and the translation is as follows :—

In the name of the most merciful God. The object of this writing is to be desired by men, by the power of the benevolent and high God. From the written book may the name of bearer be guided by God and find love amongst men, and may he be attended with success and victory, and may God protect him from all illnesses, and may he supply his daily bread. God said to him that wrote this Papeel chapter : let him run and get fortune for the sake of the great conqueror, the only one. May God punish those people who try to harm you. May you live long and have good health, and may you acquire plenty of gold, silver, and servants, and high attainments and position.

May God deliver you from enemies ; and all these blessings may be granted you for the sake of his name. Amen.

I ask thee, O God, for these things very quickly : to deliver you from the magicians, from men possessed with demons, and from all, both great and small, who wish to hurt you. Every man shall love you with strong love, and God may give you much gold. May God give you victory over your enemies. May God save you from the rage of the sea. O God ! O God ! (repeated eight times.)

The size of this sheet is 16½ cm. by 13 cm.

The third writing is on a much larger sheet, the dimensions of which are 23 cm. by 17 cm., and the writing is on one side of the sheet only. Mr Khamis informs me that this writing is undoubtedly the work of an uneducated scribe, as there are numerous errors in grammar and spelling. The translation is as follows :—

In the name of the most merciful God. The object of this writing is to ask from thee, O God, that all men and women, great and small, their supply may

be met quickly and nothing else. Men rebelled against God, and He afflicted them with muteness, but they did not tremble; with diseases, but they did not learn; and with afflictions, yet they don't remember. They even do not say God is great! [God is great is repeated eleven times.] A prophet is come to you from amongst yourselves to watch over the believers. Say I have trusted in God, who is the Creator of the World, and if He saw that I please Him, He will know of it. [This last sentence is repeated four times.]

Those who believe are to be loved and blessed by God. [Repeated four times.]

They shall confess his name for ever and ever. Amen.

[The writing inside ovals is symbolic, and is unknown to translator.]

