III.

NOTE REGARDING A RUDE STONE IMPLEMENT FROM UYEA, SHETLAND. By SIR ARTHUR MITCHELL, K.C.B., M.D., LL.D., Foreign Secretary.

This implement is made of a sandstone of the same character as that of which the other rude stone implements from Shetland are made. It is unbroken and complete. Its shape is conical—about $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter at the wide end, which is flat; about 2 inches in diameter at the small end, which is rounded; and about $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. The section is not quite a circle,—showing that the implement has been made out of a piece of a slab. It is roughly shaped and dressed by a pointed tool and hammer, that is, it is not flaked into shape by a hammer alone. Its weight is $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

It comes from the island of Uyea, Shetland, and was given to me in 1881 by the Proprietor, Mr T. W. L. Spence. He tells me that it is called *a clapper*, and that it is known to have been used in recent times for beating down and forcing into position the turf coping of dry-stone dykes, and that it is believed to have been made for that purpose. The woodcut (fig. 1) shows its general appearance.

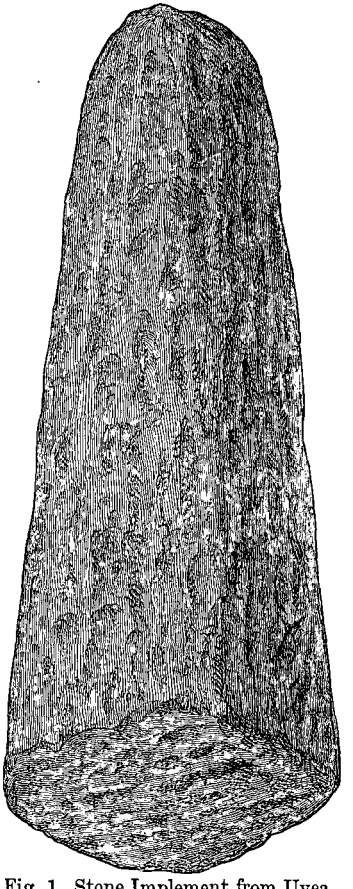

Fig. 1. Stone Implement from Uyea, Shetland. (½.)

Its chief interest lies in the fact that it has a use assigned to it with probable accuracy. As yet nothing has become known to reveal the use of the very numerous rough sandstone implements which have been found in the Shetland and Orkney Islands and in St Kilda, and which have been frequently referred to and described in the *Proceedings*. This *clapper* is sufficiently like these rude implements to make it possibly correct to include it in the class. Indeed, I do not think that there would have been much hesitation in so including it, if there had been no story of its use attached to it. There is, however, among the rude implements exhibited in the National Museum, no specimen which could be regarded as another *clapper*. They are far, however, from being all of one pattern. Three or four patterns repeat themselves with frequency, but there are also single specimens, which are unique in form, and a place among them may not unreasonably be given to this stone from Uyea.