

MONDAY, 13th March 1905.

COL. A. B. M'HARDY, C.B., Vice-President, in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, the following were duly elected Fellows:—

JAMES CLARK, Advocate, 10 Drumsheugh Gardens.

JAMES EDWARD CREE, Tusculum, North Berwick.

Rev. ANDREW HEWAT, M.A., B.D., Minister of Tranent.

P. KEITH MURRAY, W.S., 12 Lennox Street.

ROBERT A. C. THIRKELL, New Town, Tasmania.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the Donors:—

(1) By H. W. SETON-KARR, Wimbledon.

Four Stone Axes, varying from  $5\frac{3}{8}$  to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, and a Pebble, measuring  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches by  $2\frac{5}{8}$  inches, indented with seven hollows, from the Banda Hills, Northern India.

Seven Arrow-heads, twelve worked Implements, and five Flakes of Flint, from the Fayoum, Egypt.

(2) By P. S. TILLARD, Lister House.

Collection of Flint Flakes, mostly unworked, from an old bed of the river Ythan at Newburgh, Aberdeenshire.

(3) By WILLIAM LAIDLAW, West Linton, through JOHN NOTMAN, F.S.A. Scot.

Small piece of dark Slate, with an incised pattern of crescentic lines and dots, found at Slipperfield, West Linton.

(4) By ANGUS GRANT, Drumalan, Drumnadrochit.

Mass of Bog Butter or tallow, now converted into adipocere, found in the Moss of Bunloit, Glenurquhart. Mr Grant sends the following notice of the finding of this curious deposit:—

“I delayed sending the lump of tallow until I had an opportunity of seeing the spot where it was found, and getting the story of the crofter’s son who found it. While crossing an exhausted part of Bunloit peat-moss about a year ago, his attention was attracted by a crowd of lapwings screaming and squabbling over a white object on the ground, on which they appeared to be feasting. When he went up to the spot he found the circular upper surface of the tallow on a level with the surrounding ground, and pecked all over by the birds. Before the moss was removed as peat, he considers that the surface was at least three feet higher than the present level. From the nature of the surface, the moss must have been removed many years ago, how many even old people cannot say. On digging out the tallow he found it was covered with several layers of bark, a fragment of which was preserved, and is enclosed in an envelope in the box. What remains of the mass is roller-shaped, quite circular, and exactly a foot in diameter, the end lowest in the ground ending in a short irregular cone. The weight now is over 20 lbs., but pieces have been cut off and given away as curiosities. The mass, it may be observed, is pierced in all directions. This was probing for treasure, as there is a tradition that wealth had been got in this way. There is a family here whose forebears are said to have got money in a mass of tallow wrapped up in a yellow hide. The people themselves have always denied this. A somewhat similar find was, I am credibly informed, made in the same district some time ago, but well within living memory. In this case the material was converted into candles, but the experiment was not satisfactory. The candles sputtered and crackled, sending sparks of boiling tallow all round. They were voted as uncanny, and promptly got rid of.

“From the brown-coloured hairs found here and there, it would seem that the tallow is that of the cow. It would seem to be proof against

decay. It must have been exposed to the air, or nearly exposed, for many years; and since its being dug up over a year ago, has been lying exposed in an outhouse, yet it shows no trace of decay, and smells quite fresh."

(5) Bequeathed by Mrs D. O. HILL.

Three Helmets obtained in Italy, viz.—(1) a burgonet, 10 inches high, with nasal and hinged cheek-pieces pierced with a circle of small holes; (2) large armet, 11½ inches high, with visor of nine bars, having on the back the letters G. P.; (3) armet, 9½ inches high, with visor, and a circle of small holes on the right side.

Oak cabinet, in two parts, said to have come from Lochleven Castle.

(6) By the Right Hon. the COUNTESS OF SEAFIELD, through Mr JAMES SHARP, 6 Gillespie Crescent.

A pair of Sheaths of the Horns of the old Wild Cattle, found in a peat-moss on the Braes of Castle-Grant, Strathspey.

(7) By the TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

Catalogue of Greek Sculpture. Vol. iii.

Catalogue of Greek Coins—Cyprus. 8vo. 1904.

(8) By the INDIA OFFICE, through the ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

Ethnographic Appendices to the Census of India.

(9) By W. DE R. GREENWOOD, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

The Redmans of Levens and Harewood: A Contribution to the History of the Levens Family of Redman and Redmayne. 8vo. 1905.

(10) By the EDINBURGH BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

List of Books printed in Scotland before A.D. 1700. By H. G. Aldis. 4to. 1904.

(11) By J. S. RICHARDSON.

Transactions of the Scottish Ecclesiastical Society, 1904.

(12) By Rev. JAS. W. JACK, the Author.

Glenfarg and District, Past and Present. 8vo. 2nd edition. 1904.

The following Communications were read :—