V.

NOTICE OF SOME RUDELY CHIPPED IMPLEMENTS OF INDURATED SANDSTONE FROM SOUTH AFRICA, PRESENTED TO THE MUSEUM.

By PERCY W. LAIDLER, F.S.A. Scot.

I have sent off the promised selection of stone implements for the Museum. Unfortunately, I have been prevented visiting some other localities where I hoped to obtain good specimens, all the types not being represented in the collection sent. I will be pleased at a later date—if I obtain more or finer specimens—to add to or replace parts of the present consignment.

Among those I have not yet obtained, but have seen in private collections, are some very fine oval implements, dimensions of almost 7 inches by 5 inches downwards, worked all round the edge. These occur at Wellington, 7 miles from here, where also small cylindrical pointed implements are found. All these and the specimens sent occur most abundantly in the river gravels of the district, from river level and in every stage up to some hundreds of feet above. The material used most commonly is the indurated yellowish sandstone pebbles and boulders of the drifts. A few are formed of a dark red sandstone. These are the only kinds I have seen worked in this district.

The implements *marked K.D.* are from Klein Drackenstein, and were found in the gravel of a rise in the valley and from 2 to 3 feet beneath the surface, the whole being about 20 to 30 feet above present river level. They may have been worked at a comparatively recent date. Those *marked S.* are from a vineyard on the side of Simonsberg, a mountain of the Drackensteins, but somewhat isolated. There are a few high-level caves which contain (by repute) Bushman paintings. In this vineyard there is a patch of gravel about 50 yards wide

and a few hundred in length. The finest implements occur towards the middle line of the patch. The whole is from 150 to 200 feet above present river level. Implements have here been obtained from the sides of *sluits* 15 feet beneath ground level; but here the heavy rains and alternate spells of hot dry weather help to change and mix up the land-surface to such an extent that it renders classification as to original height above sea level and depth from surface very difficult. I have found much-abraded specimens in the bed of the Berg river itself.

The commonest type of implement seems to be the delver. One I procured showed decided signs of use, the point being rounded and smooth on one side. Next in quantity come the chisel-edged amygdaliths; then smaller pointed implements, some being exceedingly long and slender. The best example I procured was K.D. 3. Many are like fig. 428 in Evans. To me, M. 1 (found at Mulders Vlei), K.D. 9, and K.D. 8 are very interesting, as I do not think they have been noted as a separate type as yet; at least, I have not noticed similar implements illustrated, or in any of the museums here. The first obtained was K.D. 8, and then M. 1. Both Nos. 8 and 9 are formed out of thick external flakes, carefully worked along the outer edges, and "raw" surface. Probably they were used for pounding — as for crushing bones. M. 1 is identical in mould, though both surfaces are worked.

Many of the external flakes found are said to have been intended as axes or adzes. K.D. 7 is a specimen showing working along the sides; other shapes of these so-called hatchets are somewhat like the bronze flat axe in outline, but all are rough external flakes. But there is one very decided type of flake implement, like a flenser or two-handed scraper, the worked edge of which shows the "zig-zag" of alternate sides being chipped.

The following is a detailed list of the specimens sent:—Six implements from a vineyard on the side of Simonsberg, all marked S., viz.: (1) Chisel-edged amygdalith, point broken, piece enclosed; (2) a

similar implement; (3) pointed amygdalith; (4) edge worked all round, chisel-edge; (5) pebble, pointed; (6) smaller pointed pebble. One implement marked M.: a thick wedge-shaped implement (crusher ?) from Mulders Vlei. K.D. (1) worked to a round edge at one end; (2) hatchet, worked flake; (3) slender pointed instrument; (4) small pointed amygdalith; (5) chisel-edge implement; (6) also chisel-edged; (7) hatchet or scraper, external flake; (8 and 9) wedge-shaped external flakes. *Cf.* with M. 1.