

From the AUTHOR.—Mysteries of the Vital Element. By Dr. Robert H. Collyer.

From the EDITOR.—The Journal of Psychological Medicine, vol. v, No. 4. By Dr. W. A. Hammond.

From the EDITOR.—Correspondenz-Blatt der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, etc., June to October 1871.

From M. ALGLAVE.—La Revue Scientifique, No. 22, 1871.

From the SOCIETY.—Proceedings of the Geological and Polytechnic Society of the West Riding of Yorkshire, 1870.

From the SOCIETY.—Report of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society for 1870-1.

From the EDITOR.—Nature, to date.

From the Rev. W. HARPLEY.—Report and Transactions of the Devonshire Association, July 1871.

The following paper was read :

ON ANTHROPOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS *from the HOLY LAND.* No. II. By Captain R. F. BURTON, F.R.G.S., late H.M.'s Consul at Damascus.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—I propose this evening, with your permission, to resume the description which was begun during our last meeting ; and I may open with remarking upon the favourable reception given to it by the press and the public. This is at once proof and earnest that our study, Anthropology, is growing, and will grow, in general esteem ; and we are encouraged to hope that within a reasonable time it will take rank as the most interesting of all studies. The great problems reserved for Geography to resolve are now few : the Polar Seas ; parts of China and Japan ; the islands of the Indian Ocean ; and a white patch in Africa, which I would willingly darken. But these done, only details will remain, and details can hardly be expected to arouse enthusiasm. With us it is very different ; and the field of discovery is practically unlimited. Every few years open up another chapter of prehistoric lore : with the clue in our hands we can safely thread the labyrinths of antiquity, and we must invert Palgrave's eloquent words, "That speechless past has begun to speak, the lost is no longer the utterly lost, the gone is not gone for ever."

No. 2 Lot.

List of Mr. Rattray's Collection presented to the Anthropological Institute.

28 fragments of skull bones, remarkably thick, and therefore presumed to be of old date.

1 jaw bone and part of a skull ; this appears to be comparatively modern, and may come from the neighbouring Moslem cemetery.

9½ old copper bracelets (aswár).

1 copper pin.

1 fragment of brass bracelet.

2 bits of arm fibulæ.

Part of a buckle.

3 small coins.

15 bits of lachrymatories, the glass being highly iridescent, and of almost the consistency of talc.

4 pieces of old Syrian majolica, the usual type of what was made at Damascus by the Tartars from Kashan, who accompanied the several invading hordes. Hence the fine "Persian tiles" are still called "Hajar Kishání" (for "Kashani"), stone-ware. They may generally be divided into three qualities, according to their age, which in no case can date before A.D. 1400: 1, the best are easily recognised by the bright colours and the glazing, which looks like a plate of glass; 2, the middle class, is inferior, but still good; and 3, the worst, is the modern, showing poor colours and a weak attempt at vitrification. The specimen from the Harem of Jerusalem, which I now exhibit, seems to be of the second class.

1 bead of cornelian (akík).

1 roundish bead of gum, probably Sandarus of the Sinaubar (P. Halipensis?).

1 black bead.

1 green bugle.

1 double bead.

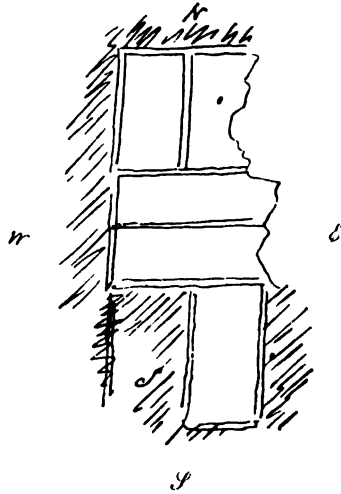
3 blue bugles. These beads should be submitted to some West African merchant of long experience, who can compare them with the "Popo", so highly prized in Western Africa. This spindle-shaped or double cone specimen is ground.

4 beads of sorts.

Mr. John S. Rattray built a house at a place where the eastern slope of the Libanus falls into the Cæle-Syrian Vale, called Sáhí el Zamán (Lord of the Age); in January and February 1870, he happened to open a hollow to the south, which proved to be an artificial cavern, with a shaft or air-hole above, and containing five loculi; two only are shown in the accompanying sketch by Mrs. Rattray. Subjoined is a ground plan of the cave, which faces towards the Buká'a, or Cæle-Syria; the corpse furthest to the west enjoyed a loculus to itself; three compartments had their greater length disposed nearly due north and south, whilst the two others ran from east to west. The heads or feet of those occupying the latter would, therefore, have fronted Meccah, showing that they could not have been Moslems; on the other hand, they may have been Jews, who make the feet front Jerusalem, so that, on arising, the dead may face the Holy City. Each

GROUND PLAN OF MORTUARY CAVERN.

Opened by Mr John Scott Rattray.



body was deposited within six slabs of cut stone. The bones crumbling when exposed to the light, were reburied; but I persuaded Mr. Rattray to dig them up, and to continue his interesting researches. In one of the skulls a tooth was found, but that disappeared.

The Sahib el Zamán represents, according to some, Hezekiah, who is commonly supposed to sleep with his forefathers at Jerusalem. The tomb is in a ruinous state; but it is still visited by votaries, who, wishing to be cured of ague and fever, the plague of Cæle-Syria, bring with them a little frankincense and an abundance of faith, pass one night here, and return to their homes whole. The cemetery around is, doubtless, of high antiquity, and many skeletons have been thrown up when digging the adjacent fields.

A few yards in front of Mr. Rattray's house, and nearer the valley, lies the little village of Karak-Nuh,* the ruin of Noah, and a "splendid ruin" Noah's is. It is inhabited by one family of Roman Catholics, with sundry Maronites and a majority of Mutawalis (Shiah Moslems), who are kept in pretty strict order by Christian Zahlah. This sleepy little Rip van Winkle place, with stone houses, and without trees—they cannot survive the ants and worms—contains the tomb of Noah, which does not, however, bring in as much revenue as its size entitles it to claim. The dimensions are one hundred and four feet ten inches long by eight feet eight inches wide and three feet three inches high. The venerable votary of the vine was, therefore, of nine-pin shape, and hardly so well proportioned as Sittná Hawwá, Our Lady Eve, at Jeddah. The sharp-ridged grave is of masonry, covered *honoris causâ* with the usual ragged green cloth, and the dimensions of the long room, whose length is filled up by the tomb, are ten feet two inches in breadth by eight feet three inches high. Evidently the section of an old aqueduct has been pressed into doing duty as a patriachal grave. Outside there is a small paved court, with a "mihrab" (prayer niche) and a domelet. The place commands a fine view of the luxuriant valley, and is a favourite with those who wish to "smell the air". In the dark store-room of an adjacent house lying south-west of the tomb, Mr. Rattray found the following Latin mortuary inscription, which speaks well for the longevity of the man with many names: †

* There are many Keraks in the country: the most celebrated, perhaps, is that which occupies the site of Kir, an ancient capital of the Moabites, near the lower extremity of the Dead Sea.

† Mr. Rattray also copied, at the tomb of Nabi Shays (Seth, son of Adam), the fragmentary *VETTIVS BAGATÆ VIXIT ANN.*, which shows that that part of the Anti-Libanus was also occupied by the Romans. The stone, I believe, has lately been destroyed.

CM. IVLIVS L. F. FAB.

RYFVS P. P.

HIC. SITVS EST. VIX.

ANNOS LXXXIV.

Half an hour west of Karak-Núh lies Mu'allakah, meaning the "dependency"—that is to say, suburb (of Zahlah); the word is, in fact, our "hanger", as applied to hanging woods. It is new, as Karak is old, having been built and colonised by the Amír Bashir Shiháb, when that peremptory personage was offended by the Sectarians who reposed under the shadow of the patriarchal wings, and its mud huts might have sprung up like fungi in a night. The lower part suffers severely from ague and fever, the effect of poplar groves, of superabundant water, and of the barber: the latter sometimes bleeds his two dozen a day, till the place looks as if, after a heroic defence, it had just been taken by storm.

DESCRIPTION of portions of SKULLS from SAHIB EL ZAMÁN (*the so-called Cave Tomb of Hezekiah*), from MR. RATTRAY'S COLLECTION. By C. CARTER BLAKE, Doct. Sci., F.G.S., Hon. Mem. A. I., Lecturer on Comparative Anatomy, Westminster Hospital.

THE specimens presented by Mr. Rattray, extracted from the tomb of the reputed Hezekiah, are belonging to at least three individuals, all being large and powerful athletic men. The occipital bones are indicative of the existence of three separate individuals, one of whom was large and powerfully athletic, as shown by the enormously hypertrophied condition of the bones, the great thickness of which indicates the existence of a man of large stature, and, to judge by the fractured frontal bone, of low forehead and dolichocephalous skull. That these remains are probably Jewish, the method of interment seems to indicate. That one of the three skulls can be identified with the remains of the Jewish king, or any other especial individual, is of course a matter of widest conjecture; but that they indicate the *débris* of some ancient king, patriarch, or other person of consequence, there can be no doubt.

The lower jaw of a young negro and a fragmentary occipital bone are also found in the Rattray collection. These indicate an individual of about twelve years of age, but in which the negro characters are markedly prominent. The large portion of animal matter still present in the bones shows that they have not long been interred, and the individual was probably alive twenty years ago. The occipital bone is, by its degree of ossification, probably referable to the same individual as the lower jaw belonged to.