

Major General A. Lane Fox exhibited some flint flakes from Egypt, and the following note thereon by Captain R. Burton was read.

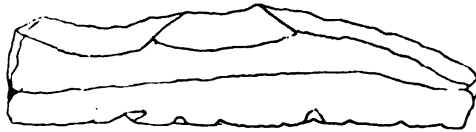
FLINT FLAKES FROM EGYPT.

The little collection of 50 flakes was made by Mr. W. P. Hayns, of the Numismatic Society (Messrs. Greenfield, Alexandria Harbour Contract), who kindly forwarded it to me for your Museum.

The site of the "find" is Helwán (les Bains), 15½ miles by rail south of Cairo, on the right bank of the Nile Valley, which irrigation would render immensely productive, and some 2½ miles from the river. The place is well known, having of late years become a kind of Sanitarium. Its only interest to archæologists is the presence of what appears to be a flint manufactory. The "finds" have caused much sensation. The thorough-going Egyptologist, who holds that "art had no infancy in Egypt," has a personal aversion to the stone age; and he readily accepts the theory of Drs. Schweinfurth and Günfeldt, Herr G. Rohess, and Dr. Zittel ("Bull. de l'Inst. Egypt," No. XIII, pp. 56-64), namely, that sudden and eocenic changes of temperature have produced by expansion and contraction what is attributed to the *atelier*. On the opposite side, Sir John Lubbock and other naturalists, finding preneolithic silex-types at Thebes (Valley of the Kings); at Jebel-Kilebizzateh, near Esneh; at Girgeh, Abydos, etc., consider the stone age proven in the hill-valley. They are supported by Dr. Gaillarsdot, of Cairo, who declares that worked silexes have been picked up at Assouan (Syene), at Manga, and in the crevices of Jebel Silsileh; this savant sees no reason why man should not have been coëval with the powerful quaternary vegetation bordering on the great river. The highly distinguished M. Auguste Mariette is exceedingly reserved upon the subject, and he is evidently right to speak only of what he has seen when actually working the grounds. M. Arcelin has published, in the "Correspondent" of 1873, "La Question Préhistorique," and has replied to objectors in "l'Age de la Pierre et la Classification Préhistorique, d'après les sources Egyptiennes."

Mr. Hayns further writes to me that the exact site of the "find" is the stony tract surrounding the sulphur and soda-springs of Helwán, extending two or three miles along the right side of the Nile. A friend of his when walking over the

grounds some three years ago, picked up a fine specimen of a saw, measuring two and a-half inches; and arrow heads are spoken of. Worked flakes and roughly-shaped spear-points have also been collected on the opposite river-bank. At Záwiyat, Ariyán (naked men's corner?), about five miles above the pyramids of Gí'zeh, lies the platform of a similar feature, now ruined; and here, near the place where the saw came to hand, Mr. Hayns lately discovered a flake which appears to be a scraper.



For remarks upon the collection of flint implements at Bulák see the "Notice des Principaux Monuments," &c. Le Cairo, Morirès, fifth ed., pp. 81-2.

I have great doubts concerning the little collection which is herewith forwarded. To me only one flake, round which I have tied a thread, appears as if worked. The others look like mere *éclats*, which may be due to the causes which have overspread the Libyan desert with millions of specimens, numbers which, as Drs. Schweinfurth and Günfeldt remark, completely forbid our attributing them to art. However, your practised eye may correct my hasty judgment, and I am anxious to learn the result of your examination.

TRIESTE, June 19, 1877.

RICHARD F. BURTON.

The following papers were then read by the Director in the absence of the Authors—

THE SPREAD of the SLAVES. Part I.

THE CROATS.

By H. H. HOWORTH, Esq., F.S.A.

By your favour I have recently commenced a series of papers on the ethnography of Germany; I find it difficult to proceed in this work without at the same time considering the migrations and changes which the Slavic races have been subject to. Germans and Slaves being close neighbours, with frontiers frequently shifting and overlapping, it is almost impossible to understand the revolutions which have overtaken the one race, nor to map out its details correctly, without at the same time