

From the Society. Sixteenth Annual Report of the Royal Botanical Society, 1855.

From the Mayor of Manchester. Third Annual Report to the Council of the City of Manchester, of the working of the Manchester Free Library.

From Thomas T. Wilkinson, F.R.A.S. The British Oracle; being dissertations on Philosophy and Mathematics, volume 1, 1769. The Lady's and Gentleman's Diary for 1855.

From John Rooke, Esq., of Akehead, Wigton, Cumberland. Geology of the Lake District. Tables of Proportional Results of Variable sums of Bank Notes on the relative Price of Wheat.

Mr. Sansom exhibited a specimen of *Sphæria Robertsi* (Hook), a plant-shaped parasite of the caterpillar. Also *Hepialus Virescens* (Doubleday), a New Zealand moth.

Mr. Sansom also exhibited several Diagrams illustrative of his Paper.

Dr. Hume laid before the meeting a selection of thirty-two Medallions and Seals, from a large collection in the possession of Mr. James Coey. The collection, consisting of more than 500 in all, illustrates the Roman Emperors, the reign of Napoleon I, the Kings of France, the Kings and Queens of England, ancient Philosophers, and allegorical subjects.

Mr. Jacob exhibited a large Yataghan, the scabbard being silver, and the hilt ivory inlaid with silver. The blade was of pure Damascus work.

The following Papers were then read:—

ON A FUNGOID DISEASE AFFECTING THE PEAR TREE. *By Thomas Sansom, Esq.\**

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE SHORES OF THE MERSEY. *By Richard A. Tudor, Esq.*

The author entered into the general appearance of the marine zoology of the neighbourhood, giving notices of the habits of many of the species. The following are extracts:—

“A small cone-shaped tube is found in great abundance on the sands near to the last tide-mark, formed in the most symmetric and architectural manner by grains of sand. These are agglutinated together by a secretion from the animal's own body. The inhabitant is a worm, (*Pectinaria Belgica*.) In the living state, it is buried in the sand; we find only the empty tube. There are other tubes frequently met with, about eight or ten inches, with a fimbriated extremity, and covered with fragments of shell, and particles of sand agglutinated by a viscid secretion from the animal's body. This is also the habitation of a marine worm (*Terebella conchilega*), but it is generally buried in the sand, out of harm's way, sometimes penetrating to a great depth. These animals are commonly found midway between the tide-marks.

“Suddenly, in the direction of low water, may be observed something in appearance like a puff of black smoke, which, if watched, will be as instantly changed into a white sheet, and again altered, for a moment, so as to be quite unnoticeable. These appearances and changes are produced by a large flock of marine birds, called Purre (*Tringa Cinclus*); and the change in appearance is caused by either the back or breast feathers presenting themselves to the sun's light. This is effected in a wonderful manner by a simultaneous movement of the whole flock. Occasionally also may be seen the hooded crow (*Corvus cornix*), but only in the winter months. Not more than two or three at a time, rarely more, may be seen, and sometimes a solitary bird. They are migratory, and generally arrive with the woodcock.

“During the summer months the attention of the visitor is directed to a peculiar ocular deception, produced by the refractive condition of the atmosphere. When the tide is out, he observes, looking north, a mile or two distant, a very interesting panorama; the objects being much confused, and appearing as if in a glassy lake,

\* Transactions, p. 193.

when in fact they are on dry ground. This deception is produced by the heat of the sun, exhausting the moisture from the sands, and forming quite a mirage. This frequently takes place in the sandy deserts of Arabia, deceiving the traveller when parched with thirst.

"In many patches, nearer to high water mark, on the shore, may be observed millions of worm casts. These are produced by the lob or lug-worm. A few inches from the cast may invariably be seen a round hole, through which the animal came and fed while the tide covered the surface; and the cast is deposited after the nutritious portions have been extracted. These creatures are very much sought for by fishermen, and when first taken, they display the prismatic colours very beautifully by their movements. The rings of the head of this animal are very peculiarly constructed, forming a regular cone, which it has the power of drawing in and extending as circumstances require. In these localities the ripple marks, formed by the recent action of the water, present very beautiful appearances, and the shade produced by the varying altitude of the sun cannot but attract the attention of the observer. They partake of great similarity in shape and character.

"On the sands at Little Brighton is found, in abundance, one of the beautiful tribe of beetles, (the *Cicindela hybrida*,) at all times welcome to the collector.

"On the surface of the loose sands, appearing as a dark powder, will be found *Iserine*, a semi-metallic substance. It is also found on the Cheshire side of the Mersey, and is highly magnetic. The lens being at hand, it is interesting to examine a few pinches of the dry sand, by transmitted light, on a little window glass."

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3rd January, 1856. ARCHÆOLOGICAL SECTION.

THE REV. DR. THOM, V.P., in the Chair.

The following gentlemen were duly elected Members of the Society:—

Thomas Bouch, Esq., 1, Oldhall Street.  
 Thomas A. Welton, F.S.S., 147, Fenchurch Street, London.  
 The Rev. Thomas Staniforth, Storrs, Windermere.

The following Donations were laid upon the table:—

- From the Society. Report presented to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, at its 15th General Meeting, May 14th, 1855.
- From the Society. Proceedings and Transactions of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, for May July and September, 1855.
- From the Rev. J. S. Howson, M.A. First Annual Report of the Government School of Art, in connexion with the Collegiate Institution, Liverpool, 1856.
- From the Society. Proceedings of the Numismatic Society, Session 1853-54.
- From the Archæological Institute. The Archæological Journal for Sept., 1855.
- From the Society. Annual Report, and Selection of Papers read before the Literary and Philosophical Society of Leicester since its formation, 1855.
- From la Société Archæologique de l'Orleanais. Etude sur la Roman de la Rose par M. P. Huot, et Rapport par M. Mange du Bois des Entes, 1853.
- From the Author. Rapport sur les Fouilles pratiquées en Village de Vieux, pendant les années 1852, '53, '54, par M. A. Charma.
- From C. R. Smith, Esq. Discours prononcé a la Seance publique, du 29 Aout 1852; par M. J. Garnier, Directeur.
- From Lord Londesborough. Miscellanea Graphica, No. 7.