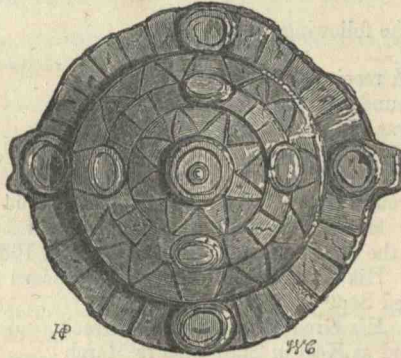
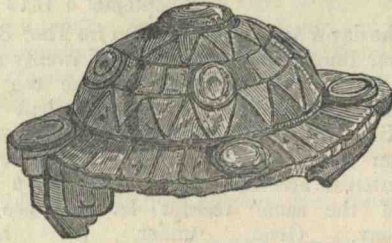


MR. MAYER exhibited an Anglo-Roman Fibula or brooch, which had been kindly lent by the Committee of the Chester Mechanics' Institution, in whose Museum it is preserved.

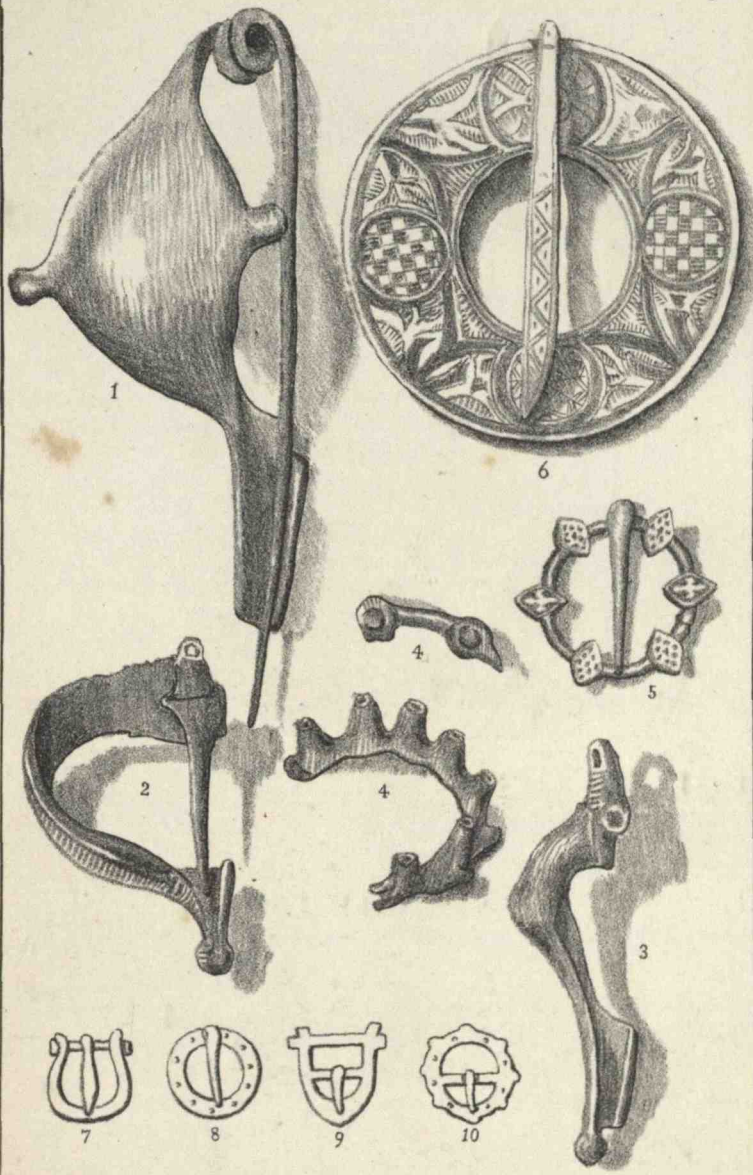


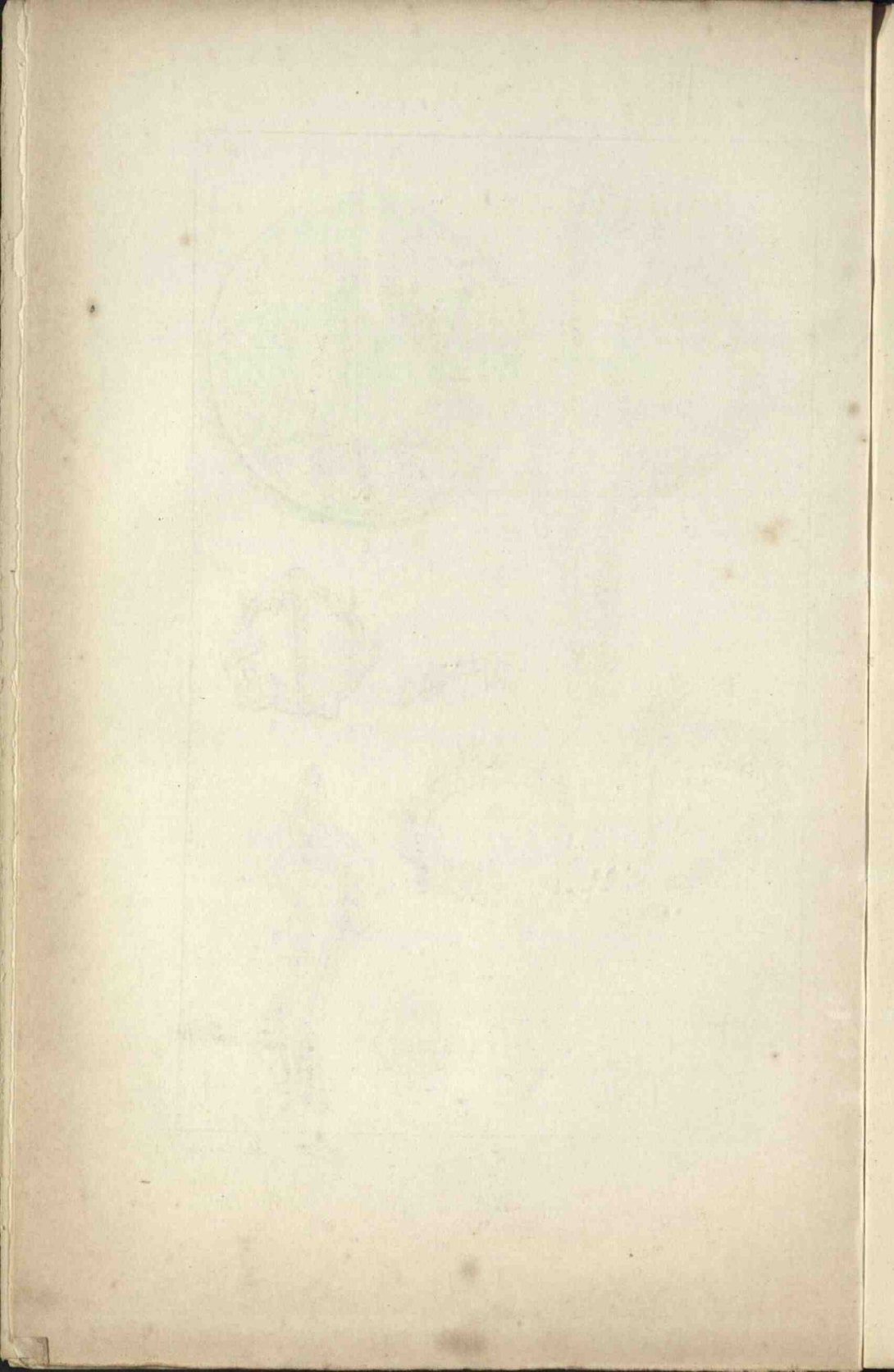
This Brooch, of which the woodcuts convey a faithful representation, was found in a field near Chester, on the Parkgate Road, November 25th, 1840. It is of bronze, counter sunk in sections, which are inlaid with "paste," coloured, red, white, and green. The pin is gone, but the joint and part of the fastening remain.

In connexion with this subject,\* Mr. Pidgeon read a few remarks on brooches in general, and Mr. Mayer illustrated the paper with a collection

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\* Plate I. exhibits several fibulæ and brooches. 1. A Roman fibula from Pompeii, showing the spiral fastening. 2. 3. Anglo-Roman fibulæ, found at Hoyleake. 4. 4. Portions of settings of brooches, from the same locality. The smaller specimen has the green paste remaining. 5. A ring brooch, from Hoyleake, of the thirteenth or fourteenth century. 6. Brooch of Rob Roy. All these are of the size of the originals. The remaining outlines, 7, 8, 9, 10, are reduced from bronze brooches in the British Museum.







of Roman Fibulæ, from Pompeii, and a Scotch Niello Brooch worn by Rob Roy, of about the date 1580.

The importance of the classical fibula, both as an article of utility, and as an ornament, doubtless caused the ancient worker of metals to pay great attention to its manufacture, and it is thought worthy of observation by Plutarch, that fibulæ and all small iron and steel wares, were tempered in oil, and not in water, lest they should be too brittle. He says further, that when the iron was melted red hot, they strewed the dust of marble on it to cool it, and stop its too great fluidity.

The form of brooches, which were commonly of gold or of bronze and more rarely of silver, was as varied in ancient as in modern times. Animals, parts of animals, lyres, circles, and arcs of circles, medallions of Emperors, engraved stones, &c., occur. After the fall of the Western Empire the brooches became still more highly ornamented. On their medals, the Emperors are represented with fibulæ, (on their right shoulders) from which depend jewels attached by three small chains.

The right shoulder was the usual place where the brooch was worn, but it occurs on the left shoulder, and more rarely on the breast. A well known instance of the former is the Apollo Belvidere. Women often wore brooches on both shoulders, though usually on the right shoulder only, and instances of rows of small brooches are seen in ancient sculpture.

The splendid shawl of Ulysses, described in the 19th book of the Odyssey, was provided with two small pipes to receive the pin of the golden brooch, to prevent injury to the fabric of the shawl.

Not only might the brooch pin injure the cloth which it was placed to fasten, but it became in female hands a weapon to do far more injury. Euripides, in the Hecuba, describes the Phrygian women as depriving Polynester of sight, by piercing his eyes with the pins of their fibulæ, and the same weapons are said by Herodotus, to have been used by the Athenian women to blind a man whom they afterwards despatched. Œdipus strikes his own eyeballs with a brooch taken from the dress of Jocasta. The verb *πενοναω*, to pierce as with a fibula, is used by Homer.

Fibulæ of all countries and of all ages have been found. Count Caylus engraved one, a Gaulish brooch, which served as a brooch or a buckle and a key. In the middle ages the brooch was called Broquette, and moulds for casting it of the 12th century have been found.

The Romanised Briton differed little from the provincial Roman, whose dress he copied, retaining the brooch in the position in which it was worn by the Romans. Of this custom this brooch is an example.

The middle-age brooches were sometimes engraved with legends. Fosbroke notices one with the legend "Ave Maria, Gratia Plena."

MR. MAYER said that in Lycia, the fibula had been found by Sir C. Fellowes, in common wear, and of precisely the same form as the Scotch brooch, and similar to Roman bronze brooches in the British Museum.