

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

2 NOV. 1903—30 MAY 1904.

WITH

Communications

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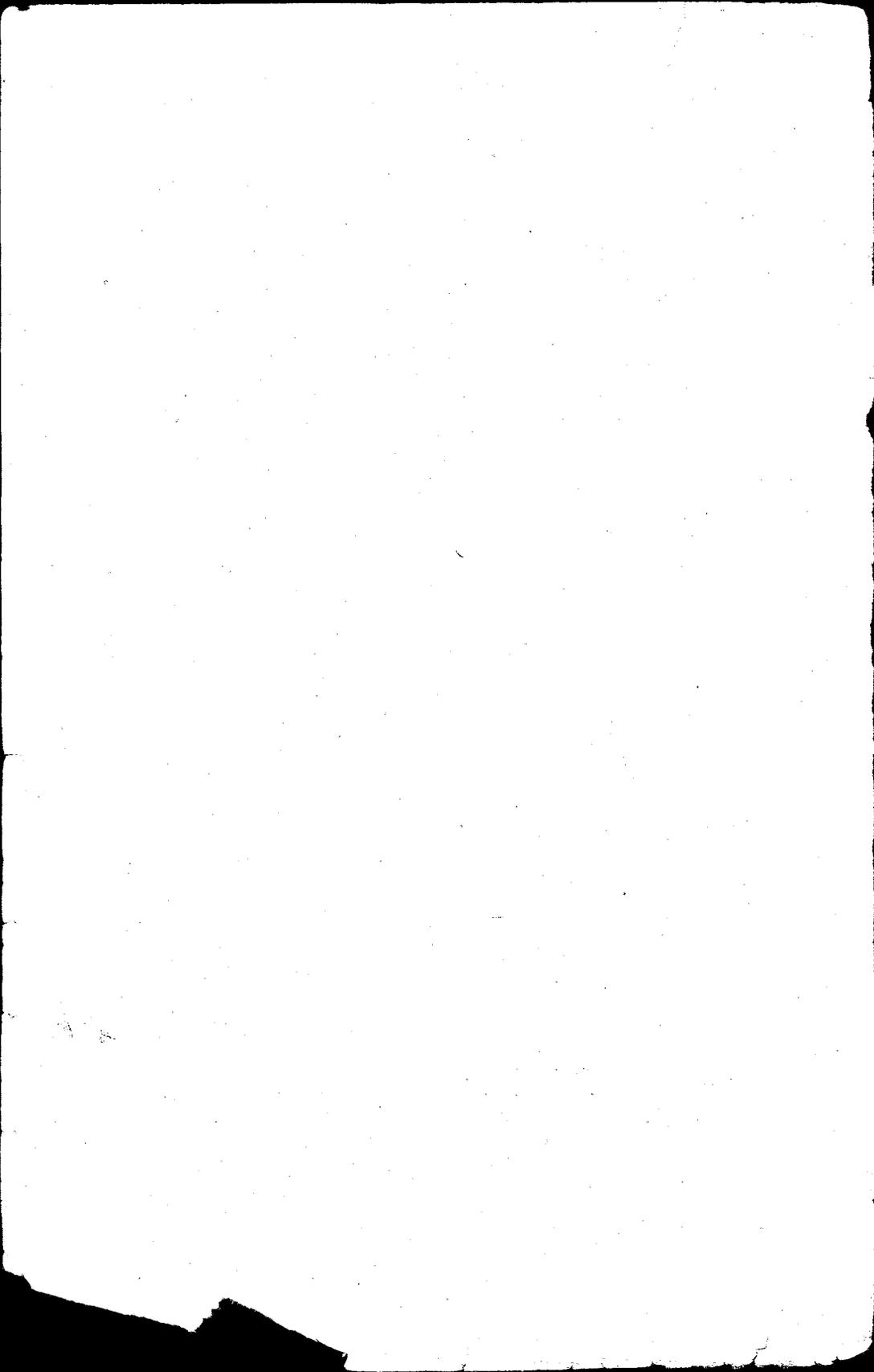
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Remarks were offered on the preceding paper by Professor HUGHES, Professor RIDGEWAY (who referred to Parish Maps and Coaching Maps), and by Miss FRERE. Mr H. G. FORDHAM further drew attention to Enclosure Maps.

Monday, 22 February 1904.

W. RIDGEWAY, M.A., Disney Professor, Vice-President, in the Chair.

C. H. HAWES, M.A., gave a lecture upon

UTENSILS AND WEAPONS OF THE SAKHALIN
GILYAKS¹.

This was illustrated by lantern slides.

Baron ANATOLE VON HÜGEL drew attention to the origin of the Metal Ornaments in the country.

Mr J. FERGUSON, C.M.G., of Ceylon, made remarks upon Fish and Leprosy, and upon the use of the knife in crime.

J. G. BARCLAY, of Trinity College, spoke of the stone Tombs in Japan; and further observations were contributed by Professor RIDGEWAY.

Monday, 7 March 1904.

A. C. HADDON, Sc.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

Various objects and lantern slides were exhibited.

Professor HUGHES exhibited a piece of wood which was found under Messrs Hunnybun's yard in Sidney Street. Mr Fawcett had called his attention to the fact that in digging for foundations for a structural wall they had cut through a tree. On going to the spot he found an oak tree lying obliquely across a ditch of black earth. The tree was quite changed in character and it was exactly what would be understood by bog oak. It was not lying lengthwise in the ditch, but across it, not horizontally but at an angle of from 30° to 40°.

¹ See *The Uttermost East* (London, 1903, 8vo.) by the Lecturer.

It was clear therefore that it was not a stake or pile driven down, nor was it a piece of wood laid across to make a bridge, but a tree which had fallen across at some very remote time, and it had been left there until it had been silted up and entirely covered. It pointed to an episode in the history of that part of Cambridge about which we knew very little. Here, eight feet from the surface, was a fallen oak tree lying underneath the houses of Sidney Street. It grew either on the bank of a branch of the old King's Ditch, or else on waste ground between the two ditches which have been already described as occurring there¹, but there were no objects of any kind found in direct association with it.

Mr FAWCETT asked Professor Hughes if he had been able in any way to trace the line of the ditch in which the tree was found in Sidney Street? Professor Hughes replied that the ditch appeared to run obliquely to the old ditch which was found along Hobson Street.

Professor RIDGEWAY asked if they were aware that the King's Ditch was known as "Black Ditch" in Tibbs Row. Professor Hughes replied that for centuries this ditch had formed a drain, and the continued deposit of organic matter had left its black mark through many feet of soil. The lower part of the tree was in silt resting on gault; the upper part extended up into the newer made ground, where the exposed top of the tree had decayed away. Some moss and lichen were found upon the bark.

Professor HUGHES also showed some implements in soft stone which he suggested may have been used as models to teach children or adults how to make implements in hard material. He reminded the members that he had recently shown examples in chalk which might have shown how to bore holes through hammer-stones, etc. etc.² The question that was raised was, Why should we not find in these older dwellings of various sorts and ages about Cambridge traces of the toys which were made for children or for teaching how to make and use the ordinary appliances for everyday life? One of the implements exhibited was made of a Jurassic limestone and well finished, to resemble a polished neolithic celt. It had evidently been long exposed to the weather and there was nothing to suggest that it was a modern forgery. The other was a soft

¹ *G. A. S. Comm.* Vol. viii., Jan. 25, 1892, p. 40.

² *Ibid.* Vol. x., p. 476.

calcareous rock and was procured with a number of fibrolite implements from Brittany. This specimen cannot however be considered quite free from suspicion.

Professor HUGHES also exhibited a number of objects dating from about the seventeenth century, some even from the fifteenth, found under Mr Foster's house in Mill Lane. In digging for foundations at different spots in this part of Cambridge the borders of the King's Ditch were touched, and naturally a great mixture of objects was found. A curious vessel for kitchen purposes was shown, with a pattern brushed on in coloured wash. Also a vessel with a hole in the side which served as a spout. Others were glazed and had a flower-like ornament impressed and *affiché* round the spout or handle. Rims of the large kind, flat above and strongly recurved, to which attention had been called before, and which in Professor Hughes' opinion indicated "the persistence of the Roman type with more and more marked modifications." There were also shown pipkins and other ordinary vessels common in these deposits. Jugs with unsymmetrical handles coming straight from the rim. Other vessels with handles not curved back and doubly attached but sticking straight out and ending in a spike. There were a few right and left valves of oysters. All the bones of cattle were of the *Bos longifrons* type, some modified by being crossed with German cattle. Hundreds of metatarsals and metacarpals of sheep were also found together. No reason could be given for the presence of such numbers. These bones were used down to comparatively recent times for apple scoops, but among all the number not one could be found which would indicate the purpose for which they had been collected.

Professor RIDGEWAY agreed with all that Professor Hughes had said about the models of toys. A number of very small axes were found in various countries of the world—in Italy and in Greece—which are too small for practical purposes. They were probably put in the head of a club. One, in his possession, was about an inch long and could be used in this way, leaving about half an inch for use as a weapon.

In Egypt numbers of these little implements are found in children's graves. And this fact was a very important one, as it clearly showed that they were used by children.

The question was, Are these always made for children or are they

implements which were made up to bury the dead? He was of opinion that they were made small to bury with the children. It was found to have been regularly done in Egypt, and we might expect to find toys back in the neolithic and even in paleolithic times.

The Rev. J. W. C. CONYBEARE then showed a specimen of what was believed to be a toy similar to those mentioned by Professor Hughes; it was found in the coprolite pits at Barrington, apparently tenth or eleventh century work, as it was precisely like the work of that date in Chichester Cathedral.

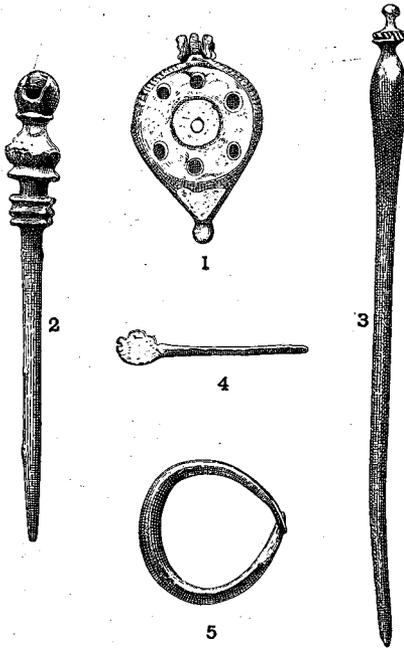
He also exhibited a small tablet of clay with markings on it which seemed to be a child's attempt at making a fox-and-goose board. This was found in an old ash-pit.

The Rev. FREDERICK GEORGE WALKER of Godmanchester exhibited a small Roman locket which he had found among some pottery, bones, and bricks, from one of a dozen Roman rubbish pits in Godmanchester. The locket opened with a hinge, and inside was some yellow clay—probably a pigment used for toilet purposes. Similar lockets were in the British Museum, but none had been seen which were exactly like this one. (Plate VII. fig. I.)

A bronze pin with a garnet was also shown, together with a bronze spoon—very small, probably used for toilet purposes, both of which with many other brown and bone articles were found in the same spot. (See figs. II.—V.)

Mr WALKER then asked whether the moats which were so numerous in Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, and Essex had anything to do with Roman buildings and Roman farms. In five separate places he had come across fragments of Roman pottery close beside moats; and within a radius of ten miles of Godmanchester he had counted no less than fifty-three.

Professor RIDGEWAY replied that this raised an interesting point. Mr Seebohm held that the Saxon Manor and the Mediæval Manor grew out of the Roman Villa. Whenever there is a mediæval manor there a quantity of Roman remains and pottery are always found. He quite agreed with Mr Seebohm's theory. Near any farm-houses of any size or age about this neighbourhood, rectories included, Roman pottery and Roman coins are found. In the neighbourhood of Ditton and Horningsea he had frequently proved this and he considered Mr Walker was right. Some of these



Objects found at Godmanchester (p. 176.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Roman locket, 32 mm. | 2. Bronze pin with garnet, 72 mm. |
| 3. Bronze pin, 100 mm. | 4. Small bronze spoon, 30 mm. |
| 5. Ring, 22 mm. | |

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moats probably dated back to Roman times, then of course the people were not settled, nor people in the Fens subdued.

Mr WALKER. Three out of five moats lie along the old Roman Road between Godmanchester and Sandy. He had also found that Ermine Street does not follow the line of any modern road through the town but goes straight through it from end to end.

Asked by Professor Ridgeway how he knew this, Mr Walker replied that when drains, etc., were being put in he had noticed the hard pieces of road during the course of the digging, also lumps of flint in hard black cement.

Professor HUGHES said that he quite agreed as to the continuity of settlement from the Roman occupation on through Saxon and Mediæval times and of course there were plenty of examples of houses built, and lands cultivated within Roman or even British earthworks. But he understood Mr Walker's question to be whether the moats now so commonly seen round old manor houses and granges in East Anglia were originally made by the Romans, and this he answered decidedly in the negative. The Roman remains were not found in these moats but only over the adjoining area. Where we found a Roman villa, as at Swaffham Prior for instance, there was no moat whatever. The real explanation of the common occurrence of Roman remains near the moated granges was that what was a desirable place in Roman times from its dryness, the presence of springs, or any other natural cause, was a desirable place in Saxon and Mediæval times also. However the Romans may have made it more desirable by cultivation or more accessible by roads and so contributed to secure continuity of occupation, he thought that there was no evidence that the class of moat referred to by Mr Walker was of Roman origin or age.

Professor RIDGEWAY then exhibited a *vevillum* found in Suffolk. In type it is unlike the ordinary Roman *vevilla*, which are represented on Roman monuments, and which are very clearly seen on the "legionary" coins of Mark Antony, which show a ship on the obverse, and on the reverse an "eagle" flanked by two *vevilla*, surmounted by the abbreviated name of a legion. In the British Museum there are two standards very similar to the one exhibited, but the provenance of neither is known. One of them has a boar forming the base, and as that animal was certainly the badge of some Gallic tribes, he suggested that the standard now exhibited was not Roman but Belgic, and that in this and the two examples in the British Museum we have a Celtic type of standard. From the fact that on the site from whence he had

obtained some years ago the standard he had likewise acquired a very small silver coin of the Iceni (possibly the smallest British coin extant), a remarkable Celtic bronze fibula of a leaf-like type, and a round Celtic brooch, all of which point to an important Icenic settlement, he was all the more inclined to believe that the standard exhibited had belonged to the Iceni. A full description of this very interesting object will be published shortly.

Miss BIRD exhibited a chatelaine, a pair of antique snuffers, a curious folding lantern, and a Dutch snuffbox.

Mrs W. C. D. WHETHAM showed the following objects collected in Egypt during the winter of 1895—1896:

- (1) A string of garnet beads, dating from the XIIth dynasty at the latest (2500 B.C.), possibly from the VIth dynasty, found near Kenn.
- (2) A string of beads of various dates and shapes, some dating before the VIth dynasty, the rest much later.
- (3) A bracelet of thirteen scarabs, dating chiefly from 1000 to 500 B.C.
- (4) Various strings of blue steatite beads and others.
- (5) Various scarabs.
- (6) A gold coin of Arsinoë¹.
- (7) A sard, in its original gold setting for a ring, engraved with the head of Cleopatra I as Isis.
- (8) A small head in Pentelicon marble, said to be a copy on a small scale of the head of the Aphrodite of Cnidos. These three last objects were all found in the neighbourhood of Medinet-el-Fayoum.
- (9) A ring with engraved gem, from the Marlborough collection.
- (10) A silver Syracusan coin.
- (11) A debased silver coin of Eliogabālus, found on digging in Chaucer Road. See *Monnaies Romaines*, No. 126.
- (12) A small silver coin of Henry II, found on Coe Fen, Cambridge.
- (13) A copper coin or token found in the same locality.

¹ The wife of Ptolemæus II Philadelphus of Egypt. Similar coins are described and figured in Leake's Catalogue K, p. 60, and in Mionnet.

Alderman DECK exhibited a piece of human skin, being that of a Dane who had committed sacrilege at the ancient Parish Church of Hadstock in Essex. The Dane was flayed alive and his skin was nailed to the door of the church. About 70 years ago the door needed repair and under an iron bar nailed across the outside were found pieces of human skin. The door is rounded at the top, fitting the early Norman arch, and the black oak boards are evidently cut with a hatchet instead of smoothed with a plane.

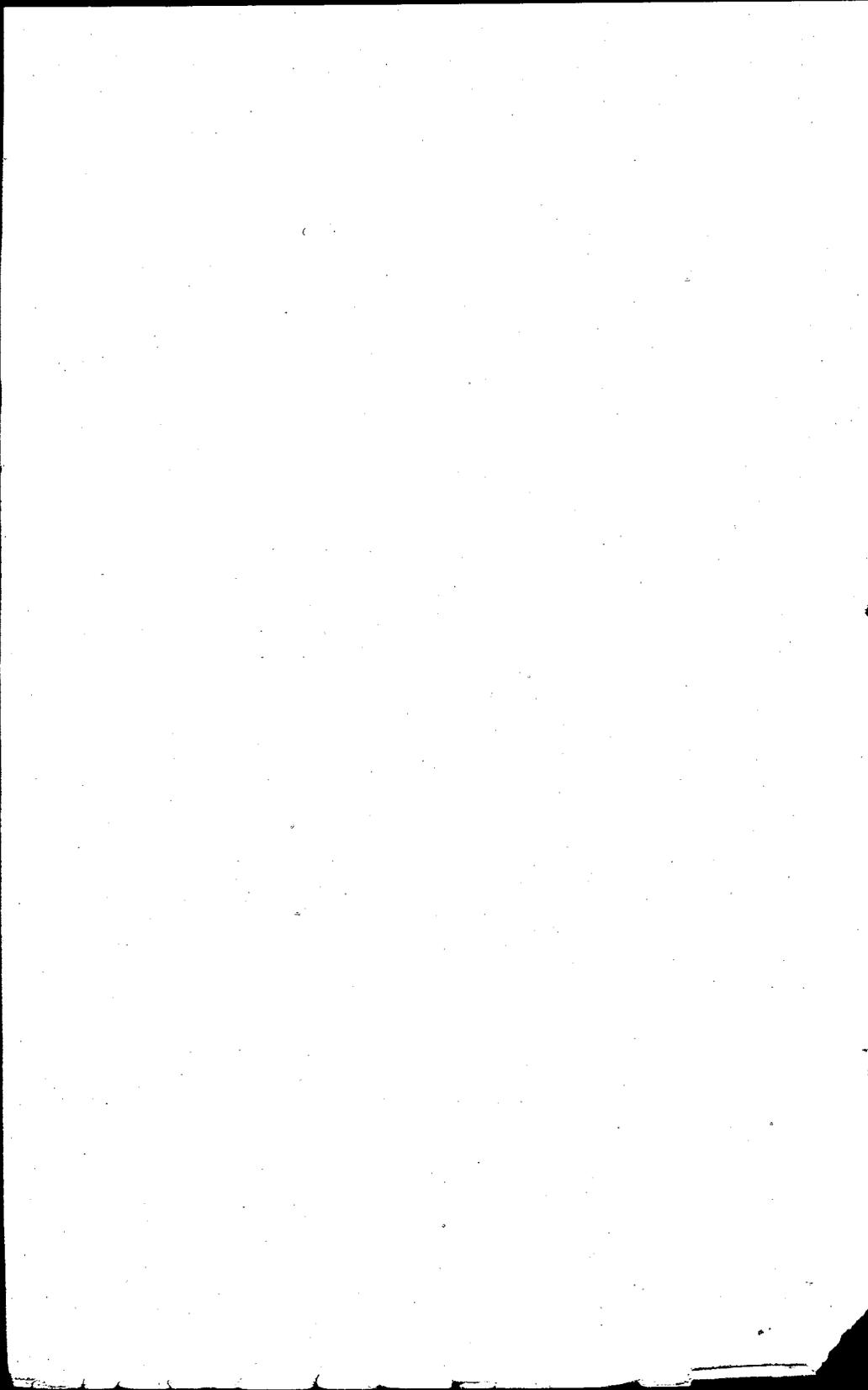
This piece of skin was given by the then Rector (the Rev. C. Townley) to Mr Deck's father. In the middle of the skin is seen a hole which was made by the nail in fastening it to the door. Other pieces of the skin can be seen in Saffron Walden Museum and also at Audley End. At Worcester Cathedral there is a large "slab" of human skin, that of another Dane who was caught in the act of stealing the sanctus bell. The operation of flaying alive is shown in a picture in the Bruges Gallery, the victim being a judge who had collected large sums of money for the poor but had appropriated them.

Professor Skeat and the Rev. F. G. Walker contributed remarks and Professor Hughes said that experts had proved by microscopical examination that the skin and the hair were human and there could be no doubt whatever that men had thus been flayed who were of a light haired race and very probably Danes.

H. T. FRANCIS, M.A. exhibited a photograph of a monument, containing a Greek inscription¹, now in the Coffee-room of the Mount Ephraim Hotel at Tunbridge Wells.

A small ornament from India was shown containing two small phials, one of poison, the other of scent, a pipe, a snuff-box of 1650.

¹ This has been printed in G. Kaibel, *Inscriptiones Graecae*, Berolini, 1890, F°. (Pars tertia, p. 670).



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