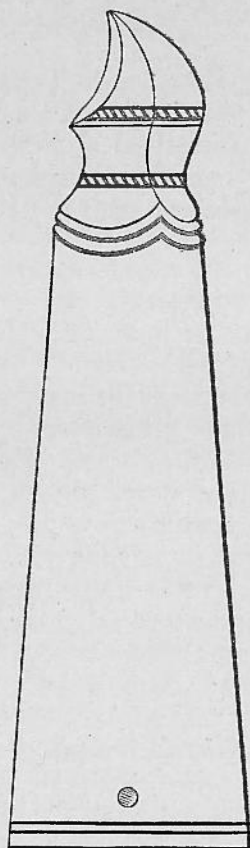


TILTING LANCES OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.



Tilting Lance-head of steel, in the Royal Artillery Museum at Woolwich.

Length of the original, 83 inches.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HISTORY OF MEDIÆVAL WEAPONS
AND WARLIKE APPLIANCES IN EUROPE.

By JOHN HEWITT.

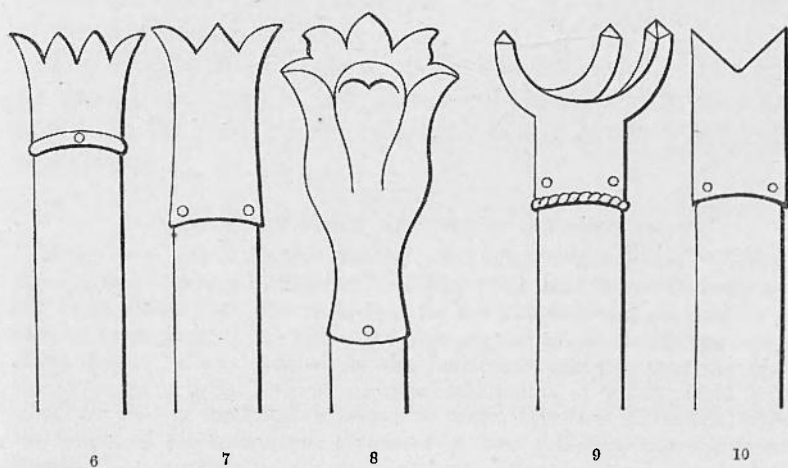
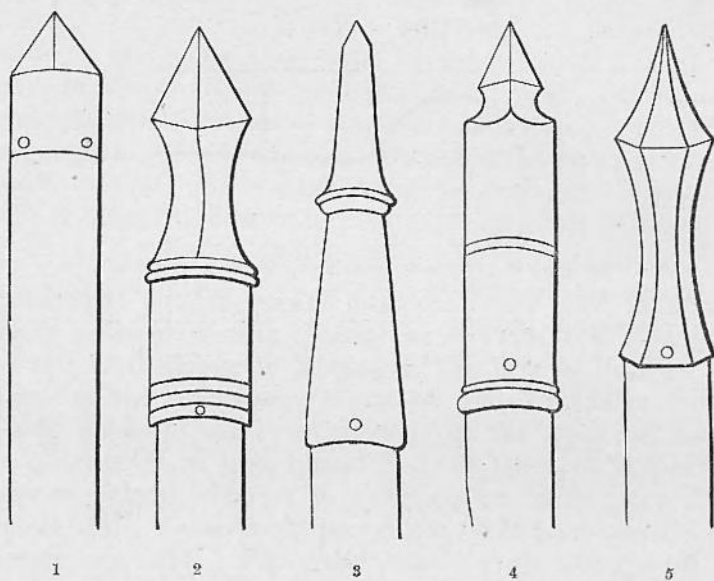
TILTING LANCES OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

THE tilting-lance-head here figured is from an original example preserved in the Royal Artillery Museum at Woolwich. It is of a kind seen in the "Triumph" of the Emperor Maximilian, and, no doubt, of the early part of the sixteenth century. Among the representations given in the curious work above mentioned are several kinds of tilting spears; those of the form here presented being appropriated to the "Course appellée Bund" and the "Course au bourrelet." They are most distinctly made out in the fine large woodcuts of Hans Burgkmaier. The champion armed for the Bund has a frame fixed in front of his *salade*, to which is attached a sort of shield or *grand'-garde*, and over that a drapery; which, says the text (dictated by the emperor himself), was sent flying when the opponent's lance made a successful thrust,—"*Comme elle n'étoit que légèrement attachée, elle sautoit en l'air quand l'atteinte étoit bonne.*" The knight armed for the "Course au bourrelet" has no *salade* or other head-defence proper, but the fixed shield or *grand'-garde* is carried as high as the temples, and at the level of the eyes are horizontal clefts for vision. The Maximilian knight, who figures in the *Course à la Bund*, has his lance furnished with the kind of vamplate named by the Germans "*Garbeisen*," of which good examples exist in the Tower, Nos. $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{7}{18}$, and $\frac{7}{12}$, and in the Rotunda Museum, No. $\frac{1}{9}\frac{6}{8}$. He has also the great iron queue, fixed to the right side of his body-armour. The Woolwich lance-head is of steel, measuring $8\frac{3}{4}$ in. in length and $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. at the opening of the socket.

For comparison, a few lance-heads of the sixteenth century are added, of the two kinds, for the *Scharfrennen*, or course with pointed spear, and the joust with blunt lance.

The sharp spears, Nos. 1 and 2, are from the "Triumph" of the Emperor Maximilian. No. 1 is described as a "lance de cavalier, sans rouelle." No. 2 is from the figure of a knight armed for the "Course à la poêle," an exercise in which the champion contended without any head-defence. "Aussi avoit-on la coutume de placer tousjours un cercueil dans la carrière, avant que les champions entreprissent la course." No. 3 is from an original in the Dresden Museum, figured by Hefner in the third part of his "Trachten," pl. 75. The champions in this case carried grand'-gardes of wood, and rode on flat saddles, so that the victory was obtained by the strongest jousting pushing his adversary ignominiously over his horse's haunches. No. 4 is of the same period (early sixteenth century), from an original example in the Dresden Museum, engraved by Hefner, pl. 99, part iii. No. 5 is from the Tourney-Book of Duke William IV. of Bavaria (Hefner, part iii. pl. 89).

Of the coronels for the jousting lance we give five examples. No. 6 is from the Tournament Roll of Henry VIII., preserved in the Heralds' College, a most curious monument of the royal and knightly pastimes of this period. No. 7 is seen in many examples—as in Schlichtegroll's Bavarian Tourney-Book, in Kuchler's Pageant, and in Hefner, from a specimen in the Dresden Collection (part iii. pl. 99). No. 8 is from Grose's Ancient Armour, pl. 31. No. 9 is from Maximilian's Triumph, "La joute allemande." Similar tridentical heads are employed for the "Joute italienne" and the "Joute à la haute barde." No. 10 represents an original spear-head in the Dresden Museum, given by Hefner, pl. 99, part iii. The very curious example, fig. 11, is from one of the hastiludes in the edition of Jost Amman of 1599 (Kunst und Lehrbüchlein). The champion who employs it has fixed the hook at the junction of the body-armour and helmet of his antagonist; and, from the ground being strewn with broken lances and with swords, it would seem that this implement was used as a last resource—the *ultima ratio militum*. The duello in question appears on woodcut No. 243, one of those not found in the edition of 1578. Students familiar with manuscript illuminations will remember that it is commonly at the junction of the headpiece and body-armour that the victorious knight is represented as piercing his antagonist. The so-called burgonet, with



Lance-heads and Coronels for the Tilting Lance.

its overlapping collar, was contrived to rectify this deficiency in the knightly equipment.

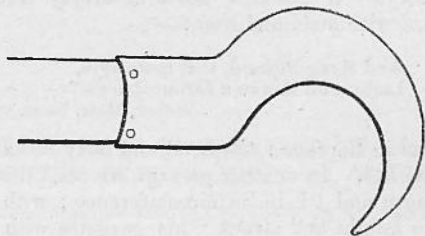


Fig. 11.—Hooked Lance-head, from a woodcut by Jost Amman.

Somewhat similar hooked weapons were used in actual warfare in the fourteenth century, as we learn from Froissart. In 1340, at the siege of Mortaigne, the Sire de Beaujeu, on the side of the defenders, “tenoit un glaive roide et fort, à un long fer bien acéré ; et dessous ce fer avoit un havet aigu et prenant, si que, quand il avoit lancé et il pouvoit sacher en fichant le havet en plates ou en haubergeon dont on étoit armé, il convenoit que on s’en venist ou que on fût renversé en l’eau. Par cette maniere en attrapa-t-il et noya ce jour plus d’une douzaine.” (Vol. i. p. 118, ed. Buchon.) Representations of the lance with coronel of this century (the fourteenth), will be found in Roy. MS. 14 E. III, Ashmolean MS. 764, Strutt’s Sports, Skelton’s Illustrations of the Goodrich Court Collection, vol. i., pl. 11, and Journal of the Archæological Association, vol. iv. p. 272.

The Woolwich example is of the utmost rarity. There is no similar specimen in the Tower collection, and it does not appear in the most recent catalogue of the Artillery Museum of Paris.

NOTE ON THE ORIGIN AND USE OF THE CORONEL.

It has been noticed by Mr. Hewitt, in his valuable treatise on “Ancient Armour and Weapons in Europe,” vol. ii. p. 242, that, by an Ordinance of the thirteenth century, the spear-head for the hastilude was required to be blunted (Froissart, t. II, 16). As this regulation, however, was sometimes evaded, it was ordered, in the fourteenth century, that the head should be made in the form of a coronel, the points of which might have sufficient hold on the knight’s armour to thrust him from his saddle, while the fashion of the instrument prevented it from inflicting any dangerous wound.

It is obvious that this substitute for a sharp point received its name, as Sir Samuel Meyrick observed, from its resemblance to a little crown ; it is also sometimes called a “cronet,” a diminutive doubtless identical with

coronet, as we now use that word. In the Romance of Richard Cœur de Lion, supposed to have been written about the time of Edward III., it is related that the lion-hearted king ran a course at a marble image set up in the city of Gatriys. A powerful shaft of trusty tree was prepared, stoutly strengthened with steel and iron :—

“ And Kyng Richard, that grete syre,
Leete sette theron a corounal kene.”—

Weber, Metr. Rom. vol. ii. p. 243.

He smote the statue in the face ; the head and body fell asunder, crushing five Saracens in the fall. In another passage we read that Richard bore a lance 14 ft. in length and 21 in. in circumference ; with this formidable weapon he ran at a knight and struck “ his gorgette with his cornell,” so that his neck was broken ; horse and rider fell, “ and dyed bothe in that stounde.” (Ibid., v. 297.) No earlier mention of the coronel appears to have been cited ; in the following century, we find it amongst the ordinary requisites of the joust. In the Ordinances for “ all manner of justes of peace royall,” made, by order of the king in 1466, by the Earl of Worcester, Constable of England, it was enacted that “ who so meteth two tymes coronoll to coronoll shall have the price.” (Meyrick, Crit. Enqu., vol. ii. pp. 147, 148, 2nd edit.) In the “ Abilmentis for the Justus of Pees,” t. Edw. IV., we find “ vj. vamplatis, xij. grapers, and xij. cornallys, and xl. sperys ” allowed to each joust. (Ibid., p. 155 ; Archæologia, vol. xvii. p. 292, from Sir John Paston's Book, Lansd. MS. 285, f. 10.) Again, in the Ordinance “ To crie a Justus of Pees,” printed in this Journal (vol. iv. p. 231) from the MS. collection of matters of chivalry at Melton Constable, Norfolk, it appears that officers of arms were appointed to regulate the measure of “ speris garnyst, that ys, cornalle, wamplate, and grapers, alle of a syse,” that the combatants should joust with.

Hall, in his Chronicle of the reign of Henry IV. (f. xij. edit. 1550), describing sumptuous preparations for feats of arms at Oxford, in 1399, and the harlequin hues chosen by the bands of jousters, says,—“ Some had the spere, the burre, the coronet al yelow, and other had them of diverse colours.” William Horman, in his quaint sentences entitled “ *Vulgaria Puerorum*,” 1519, uses the same term as follows :—“ When men juste for pleasure and honour, as in turnamentis, they have not sharpe sperre heeydis but blunt cronettis (*contos præpilatos*).”

In a former volume of this Journal (vol. v. p. 227) a singular relic, brought under our notice by the late Lord Braybrooke, has been figured ; it is preserved in the Museum formed by him at Audley End. This object, a serrated ring of iron, about 4½ in. in diameter, may possibly, as has been suggested, have been a coronel ; it was found on the site of Hildersham Castle, Cambridgeshire, with part of a helmet, a spur, and a spear-head. The objection has been made that this ring seems of somewhat large dimensions to have been used as a coronel ; the numerous points, moreover, are not in accordance with the customary fashion of that object, which is usually represented with three or four points only ; it must, however, be considered that the tilting-shaft was often very unwieldy. At the nuptials of Louis XII. with the Princess Mary, in 1514, Sir John Peche ran a course with a spear described as measuring 12 inches in compass. The number of points in the coronel may doubtless have varied with the dimensions of the shaft to which it was affixed.

A. W.