

Transactions

OF THE

BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



The support of The Strathmartine Trust toward
this publication is gratefully acknowledged.

www.banffshirefieldclub.org.uk

Mr HORNE said—In presenting my report on the geological collection in the Banff Museum, it may be desirable to indicate the circumstances which led to the re-arrangement and development of this collection. Those who are interested in the promotion of science fully recognise the advantages to be derived from the existence of museums where scientific collections are always available for study. To the student who is in pursuit of some special branch of science, they are indispensable, because they enable him to acquire a practical acquaintance with his subject. To the general public they present features which awaken their curio-

sity, and frequently stimulate their desire to know the results of scientific research. Such complete collections, however, are only to be found in the large national museums supported by the State, or in those attached to the Universities. There are many people who have few opportunities of visiting these collections, who find pleasure in examining scientific specimens belonging to their own neighbourhood. There are numerous local collectors in different branches of science who are unwilling to send their specimens to Metropolitan museums. They naturally prefer that the specimens should find a local habitation in the district where they have been gathered. The erection of provincial museums, where local collections illustrating the different field sciences may be placed, is designed to supply this want. Among such institutions, the Banff Museum has deservedly held a prominent position. Though it has had numerous difficulties to contend with in its past history, owing to lack of funds, it has nevertheless attained a wide celebrity through the researches of Mr Thomas Edward. For the long period of 30 years, both as sub-curator and curator of the museum, he arranged the collections and stimulated others to bring fresh 'finds' to his charge. At no small sacrifice he gathered from the surrounding district a large array of specimens, many of which are now in the museum. Indeed, it is mainly through his exertions that the building possesses such excellent local collections in different departments of natural history. For these labours, he worthily deserves the gratitude of the community. After the Banffshire Field Club had been organised, and, when a considerable amount of success had crowned its efforts, the members wisely resolved to spend a portion of their surplus funds in providing suitable cases for the archaeological and geological specimens in the museum. The committee of the Town Council who had charge of the financial affairs of the institution had no funds to meet such a necessary outlay. The Field Club provided these cases, and every well-wisher of the building must admit that they serve the purpose admirably for which they were intended. While they help to preserve the specimens in better form, they also display them to much better advantage.

In pursuance of the suggestion of one of the former presidents of the Club, the numbers were classified in sections, with the view of prosecuting more vigorously the study of the field sciences and strengthening the operations of the Club. At the request of the Club, I became convener of the geological section. It occurred to me that while geological excursions and papers would be serviceable to the members, it might still be possible to do work of more permanent value by developing the geological collection in the museum with the co-operation of the curator. My official duties afforded me opportunities of gathering some typical specimens illus-

trating the geology of the district, and I thought that such might be useful in supplementing the former collection in the museum. Before re-arranging the specimens, the old collection was carefully gone over, all the fossils and minerals were kept, and thirty-five rock specimens were selected from the collection, the whole being classified with the recent contributions. The rock specimens which were rejected have been placed in the store-room of the building. Valuable assistance has been rendered by members of the Club, and others, in developing this collection. My special thanks are due to the Rev. Mr Milne, King-Edward; to Mr Catto, Bogengarry, Old Deer; to Mr Yeats, Banff; to my colleagues, Mr Linn and Mr Wilson; to Mr Macnab, Blackpots; to Mr Innes, Marnoch; and to Mr James Murray, Aberchirder, for various contributions, which are duly acknowledged in the catalogue.

Beginning with the Old Red Sandstone fishes, belonging to the old collection, there are 19 specimens, some of which are remarkably well preserved. These had no names of localities attached to them; but, from the nature of the specimen, the probable locality is now assigned to each fossil. Of these, there are 13 from Gamrie, comprising species of *Pterichthys*, *Glyptolepis*, *Coccosteus*, *Osteolepis*, *Cheirolepis*, *Cheiracanthus*, and *Diplacanthus*. There is only one specimen from the Burn of Tynet—viz., *Cheiracanthus Murchisoni*; and five specimens from Lethen Bar, Nairnshire, including species of *Pterichthys*, *Osteolepis*, and *Glyptolepis*.

From the locality in the Burn of Cushnie, near Gamrie Manse, which has been recently opened up, ten specimens have been obtained, and have been presented to the collection by myself. They comprise species of *Pterichthys*, *Cheiracanthus*, *Diplacanthus*, *Osteolepis*, *Cheirolepis*, *Glyptolepis*, and *Diplopterus*. For the sake of facilitating the study of these fossil remains, I have also presented to the Museum the volume of plates of Old Red Sandstone fishes, drawn by Agassiz, from original specimens gathered from the best known localities in the Moray Firth basin. The collection is still defective in specimens from the Burn of Tynet, owing to the expense connected with the opening up of that section; but there are hopes of obtaining some duplicate specimens from private collections.

Of Old Red Sandstone plant remains, there is one specimen of *Psilophyton*.

In the old collection there are 23 specimens of Secondary fossils which had no localities attached to them, but they have probably been derived from the Blackpots Claypit, where the deposit consists of finely laminated clay of Glacial age. Of these specimens 17 belong to the horizon of the Upper Oolite, including species of *Ammonites*, *Lima Gryphoea*, and *Pholadomya*. Six of them belong to the horizon of the Lower Lias, comprising species of *Ammonites*, *Pecten*, and *Lima*. There are two specimens of Lower Tertiary

fossils, and three of Carboniferous age; the latter are in all likelihood foreign to the district.

From the celebrated locality at Boglugarry, Old Deer, which was first brought prominently into notice by Mr Ferguson of Kinmundy. 30 specimens are now presented to the Museum by Mr Catto, Mr Murray, and Mr Innes. Of these there are 7 specimens of *Inoceramus Brongiartii*, 11 of *Inoceramus Lamarckii*, 1 of *Inoceramus Curieri*, along with species of *Spondylus*, *Cidaris*, *Pecten*, and *Holaster*.

Of the fossils characteristic of the glacial deposits of the districts, 13 specimens are now presented to the museum by myself from Castlehill, Gamrie, comprising species of *Watica*, *Pleurotama*, *Fusus Tellina*, *Cyprina*, *Lacuna*, and *Dentalium*. I have also added several specimens from the sands at Auchmill, King-Edward, including species of *Tellina*, *Astarate*, *Watica*, and *Cyprina*. Several specimens have still to be added from Castleton, King-Edward.

The rock specimens illustrating the geology of the district have been gathered from a wide area, extending from the Spey to Peterhead, and from the Banff coast line south to the parish of Glass. Of the Acidic rocks, 13 specimens belong to the old collection; 5 have been presented by Mr Watt, 2 by the Rev. Mr Milne, and 19 by myself. These comprise specimens of granite from all the important masses in the lower divisions of Banffshire and Aberdeenshire, several excellent examples of pegmatites, with schorl, graphic granite, and the beautiful porphyritic felsite from Boddam, near Peterhead.

Of the basic rocks of Old Red Sandstone Age, 2 specimens of diabase-porphyrite from the contemporaneous lavas at Gartly are presented by myself, and one from an intrusive dyke at Rannes, near Cullen.

Of the basic rocks in the metamorphic series, 25 specimens have been presented by myself, and 2 belong to the old collection, including examples of Diorite, Gabbro, Hornblende-rock, Hornblende-schist, Labradorite-rock, and Basalt.

There are 22 specimens showing different varieties of serpentine with steatite and asbestos. Of them, 7 belong to the old collection, and 15 have been gathered by myself.

Of the various metamorphic rocks of the district, 52 specimens have been presented by myself, 13 belong to the old collection, while one has been given by my friend Mr Linn. These comprise specimens of Limestone, Mica-schist, Hydro-mica-schist, Chlorite-schist, Knotted-schist, Andalusite-schist, Staurolite-schist, Gneiss, Quartzite, &c. All these specimens belong exclusively to the counties of Banff and Aberdeen, with one exception. The latter is a specimen of the well-known Garnet rock, from the celebrated locality near Dingwall.

The collection of minerals comprises specimens of

quartz, calc-spor, felspar, mountain leather, from the Cabrach, presented by Mr Yeats; Cyanite, from Glenrinn, presented by Mr Linn; Hematite, Specular-iron, Iron-pyrites, Galena, Plumbago, Antimony, &c. Additional specimens of local minerals in my possession have still to be added to the collection.

Provost WILLIAMSON said as representing the Trustees of the Banff Museum, he might be allowed to take that opportunity of tendering their warmest thanks to Mr Horne for the great efforts he had made on their behalf. They were well aware of the debt of gratitude they were under to Mr Horne for his great efforts, and for the labour which he had personally bestowed, and the splendid gifts which he had been the means of bringing to the Museum. To Mr Horne's connection with the Museum he thought it owed its present perfect condition in geological and other specimens. They also owed thanks to the Field Club for the very excellent cases presented to the Museum. He trusted that in the future the Field Club and the Museum would work in harmony. He begged to tender their warmest thanks to Mr Horne and to the Field Club. (Cheers.)

Mr RAMSAY said Provost Williamson had very properly expressed the thanks of the Town Council for the great services and kindness which their friend Mr Horne had rendered in connection with the Museum, but it remained for them, as members of the Field Club, to tender their special thanks to Mr Horne for the relation in which he stood to them, and for the services which he had given them. He thought, of all the services which Mr Horne had rendered to them, none would be more beneficial than that on which he had reported that night. They owed Mr Horne their special thanks, not only for the collection and the bringing together of the specimens, but for their technical and strictly accurate arrangement. Mr Horne had spent a whole day in indicating and arranging the collection; and any one who paid a visit to the Museum now would be astonished and gratified at the splendid appearance which the collection of minerals and rocks presented in the cases in the Museum. Mr Horne had made special reference to their good friend Mr Edward. He knew the subject was a delicate one, but he must express his sympathy with the kind words spoken by Mr Horne of their friend Mr Edward. Mr Edward apparently misunderstood the community here. He thought he knew the community as well as Mr Edward did, for he had been here the greater part of his life; and he thought it ought to go forth from a meeting such as that, which fairly represented the intelligence of the community, that nobody in Banff had any grudge against the well-earned fame of their distinguished townsman. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) He thought he would yet get their friend Mr Edward persuaded to admit that they all rejoiced in the prominent position which he held; and that they

should be delighted if he could be persuaded that instead of having any ill-feeling against him, they all respected and regarded him as one of the worthiest, possibly in a certain sense, their most distinguished citizen. (Cheers.) Reverting to the proper business, he had great pleasure in moving a special vote of thanks to their friend, Mr Horne, not only for the report which he had given them, but for the great support which he had given to the Field Club during the whole time of its existence. He might say he was a little remiss on one occasion in not mentioning in more distinct terms that the Field Club owed not only a great part of its vitality, but its very existence to Mr Horne. Wherever Mr Horne had been, whether it was Inverness, Banff, or Huntly, Field Clubs had sprung into existence, and in every case they knew that they owed their origin to Mr Horne. (Cheers.) He did not know if they would have Mr Horne in Banff again in the future; but he only expressed the wishes of them all when he said that they wished him well wherever he might be, and that they all anticipate for him a continuance of his distinguished career. (Cheers.)

Mr HORNE returned his cordial thanks for the terms in which the votes of thanks had been proposed. They were quite undeserved. He certainly made an effort to help the Museum; but he only felt it to be his duty, and he did not regard it as in any sense deserving of the strong terms of praise that had been expressed. They all knew that in scientific work, unless one worked hard, it was impossible to gain any position; and it was entirely according to the results that a man achieved that a position was assigned to him. It had been his special pleasure when he saw that there was a desire for a Field Club, wherever he had been, to give every possible encouragement to it. He thought the Banff Club had got a special advantage, because they had a Museum at their disposal, which was to a large extent the hard work of one single man; and Mr Edward should not forget that it was his duty still to take an interest in the Museum—(hear, hear, and cheers)—and not to go back from it. He specially told Mr Edward that day that it would be a matter of gratification to himself if he should come back, and that it was the desire not only with regard to himself, but the members of the Field Club and every one interested in the Museum, that it should reflect to a certain extent not only the works of the Club, but also of those who were specially interested in science in the neighbourhood. He would make a suggestion to the Council of the Field Club that, if they had any spare money at their disposal in the future, they could not spend it more worthily than in strengthening the hands of the Museum Committee with reference to any necessary expenditure that they required.

On the motion of Rev. Mr Davidson, a vote of thanks was awarded to Rev. Mr Bruce for presiding.