IV.—*The Spoon and its history; its form, material, and development, more particularly in England.* By C. J. JACKSON, Esq., F.S.A.

Read February 13th, 1890.

THERE can be little doubt that the spoon which now performs such an indispensable part in our domestic economy may lay claim to descent from a very high antiquity. Certainly as soon as the habit of eating pottage, in a manner such as we should consider decent, had been acquired there must have been spoons of some kind in use.

It would be presumptuous to express an opinion as to what was the material or form of the earliest spoons, but it may be conjectured that natural objects were resorted to at a very early period, and that shells of the mussel, scallop, oyster, limpet, or similar aquatic animal, furnished the most readily obtainable natural spoons.^a

The horns of various animals were doubtless also made into spoons as well as drinking vessels in very remote ages, and when edge-tools came into use spoons, in all probability, were carved out of wood, bone, and ivory.

Spoons of gold are specifically mentioned in the Pentateuch,^b and it may perhaps be fairly assumed, even in the absence of direct evidence, that metals less precious than gold were also used for making spoons at a period at least as early as the time of Moses.

The form and material of the spoons of the ancient Egyptians appear to have differed very considerably. There are examples in the British Museum of

^a The words *κοχλίαςιον*, and *cochleare*, seem to suggest a shell as the common spoon of the ancient inhabitants of Southern Europe. Spoons formed of shells mounted with gold and silver are mentioned in Henry VIII.'s jewel-book (*vide post*). The drinking of whiskey out of shells is a well-remembered custom of the Scotch Highlanders, and even now it is no uncommon thing in remote country places to find a shell doing duty for a spoon in the tea-caddy, the sugar-bowl, and the meal-bag.

^b Exodus, xxv. 29.; Numbers, vii. 84, 86.

Egyptian spoons of flint, of wood, and of ivory. In the fashioning of the greater number of these the symbolism which prevailed amongst those ancient peoples appears to enter. There is one of slate (fig. 1), carved in the form of the *cruz ansata*, the symbol of Isis,^a and typical of the union of the active and

Figs. 1—8. ANCIENT EGYPTIAN SPOONS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

Fig. 1 is of greyish-green slate; fig. 3 is of ivory; the others are of carved wood. (About $\frac{1}{2}$ linear.)

passive principles of generation, whereby eternal continuity was attained; for which reason it appears to have been regarded as a sacred symbol from a period of remote antiquity. There is also a spoon of carved wood (fig. 2) in which the same symbol may be observed, with this difference, that while in the slate spoon the bowl forms the perpendicular limb of the cross, the transverse limb and the

^a The *cruz ansata* is the symbol of Isis, Queen of Heaven, the virgin wife of Osiris, who was said to have given birth to their son Horus while they were yet both unborn; a fable having reference to the union of the active and passive powers of production, in the general concretion of substance, and causing the separation or delivery of the elements from each other. (*Vide* Payne Knight, *Language of Ancient Art and Mythology*.) The symbol also of Divinity, Royalty, right to rule, which has come down to us in the form of the orb and cross, placed in the left hand of a monarch at his coronation, and represented upon his coins. It is also similarly depicted in painted and sculptured figures of Our Lord in Majesty or as an infant in the arms of the Blessed Virgin, and in this conventional form has been explained as “signifying that by the cross the world (represented by the ball) is overcome, and that the orb also signifies dominion, and the cross the faith of the king.” (*Vide* Pugin, *Glossary of Ecclesiastical Ornament*.) It would perhaps be more correct to say that this symbol has become one of the insignia of sovereignty and an emblem of divinity, because from a remote antiquity it indicated the supremacy and catholicity of a divine natural law.

loop being formed by the handle, in the wooden spoon the bowl forms the loop, while the entire cross is formed by the handle.

A very peculiar spoon of carved ivory (fig. 3), has a shallow circular bowl, and a very short handle formed in the shape of the head of Athor or Isis, in her character of the universal mother typified by the cow, the ears of a cow being attached to the head of a woman. On each side of the head is carved an inflated asp, which, together with the form of the head itself, indicates the degradation of the earlier and purer form of Isiac worship, a degradation in which the purity of Urania becomes lost in the grossness of Aphrodite.

The purer form of symbolism appears illustrated in a wooden spoon from Thebes, carved in the shape of a lotus bud (fig. 4), symbolical of the productive power of the waters. In another wooden spoon, carved in the shape of a fish (fig. 5), the same productive power is symbolised. In this spoon the bowl is circular, the fish, which is carved on the face of the handle, being moveable, and disclosing, when slipped on one side, a box or cavity sunk in the lower part of the handle. Another spoon (fig. 7) has two fishes head to head engraved in the bowl; the handle being carved into the form of a goat, symbolical of the active male principle and generative power.

Nearly all these details indicate that the carvings on the spoons which have been referred to were intended to be symbolical of the generative principle, which occupied such an important part in the sacred rites of the ancient Egyptians. But of all the Egyptian spoons in the British Museum, the one in which this symbolism is the most remarkable is the curious wooden spoon from Thebes (fig. 8). This spoon is particularly interesting, in that it shows most clearly the hidden significance of the *crux ansata*. The passive or female generative principle is represented by the loop which is formed by the bowl, and the active or male principle by the cross carved on the handle. The figure of Typhon below the transverse limb of the cross, and forming its shaft or longest limb, represents at the same time the dark evil destroying power, and the male or active generative principle in nature.^a The intimate union of the two principles is indicated by the pair of doves seated one on each of the transverse limbs of the cross. The doves are said to be typical also of the divine spirit which brooded over the face of the waters at the creation; the generative power of the waters being symbolised by the lotus flowers carved on both sides of the figure of Typhon. The bowl of

^a There is in the "Witt Collection" in the British Museum an oriental figure of brass, representing the same dark evil power in the act of attempting to destroy the last female of the human race, which act is however said to have resulted, not in the destruction of the woman, but in the continuation of her species.

this spoon is very similar in form to that of several early Christian spoons in the British Museum, and is not unlike the bowl which pertained to the spoons of this country from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century.

The spoons of the ancient Greeks and Romans, judging from the examples generally found, were for the most part either of bronze or silver. The British Museum possesses a large number, the forms of which vary considerably. Some have very long pointed stems. The stems of others are quite short and wrought into a variety of designs.

Some of the Greek bronze spoons are formed merely of hollowed circular discs with spikes attached to the back for handles; Roman bone spoons of this form

are also very common. Others, with spiked stems, have bowls shaped like mussel shells, while many have bowls shaped like mandolins, with stems of various shapes. One of the last-named (fig. 9) has a kind of dolphin twisted round the lower part of the stem.

Figs. 9—15. ANCIENT GREEK SPOONS OF BRONZE IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM. ($\frac{1}{2}$ linear.)

In the greater number of Greek and Roman spoons, as well as in the Early Christian spoons preserved in the British Museum, the predominating feature appears to be found in the union of the stem with the bowl.

Beneath the bowl and supporting it for about half its length is a rectangular keel, which dies away under the centre of the bowl, but increases in depth towards the stem, under which it curls up into a disc of about half an inch in diameter. On the edge of this disc the stem is set, so that when the spoon is held in a horizontal position the bowl is about half an inch below the stem. There are many modifications of this "keel and disc" form. In some, the keel is perforated, while in others the disc is curled like a volute under the stem (see figs. 14, 15, 16, 18). The stems of these spoons are for the most part plain spikes of various lengths. These spikes were used for opening shell-fish, and extracting the edible part. They appear also to have been brought into service in the eating of eggs, for Pliny^a

^a *Nat. Hist.*, Lib. xxviii.

states that the shells were broken or perforated with the spoons when eggs were eaten, to avoid evil consequences.

Figs. 16—18. EARLY CHRISTIAN SILVER SPOONS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM. ($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

An Etruscan spoon of carved bone found in the Isis tomb at Vulci (fig. 19)^a is interesting in its resemblance to some of the Dutch spoons of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Fig. 19. ETRUSCAN SPOON OF CARVED BONE, FOUND AT VULCI. ($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

Figs. 20 and 21 represent two Early Roman spoons. One is of iron, the other of silver. Near the bowl the stems are notched, probably for the purpose of resting them on the edge of a dish. The bowls of both are alike, and one has engraved in the interior the figure of Mercury with a purse^b in one hand, the caduceus^c in the other, and his winged head-gear lying near his feet. At the

Figs. 20—22. EARLY ROMAN SPOONS. ($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

^a Mentioned and illustrated in Dennis's *Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria*.

^b Typical of the productive attribute resulting from skill and sagacity. *Vide* Ammianus Marcellinus, xvi. 5.

^c Symbolical of Power and Life. See Payne Knight, *Symbolical Language*.

end of the bowl are the figures of a cock^a and a goat,^b and in the space, between the head of Mercury and the cock, is a tortoise.^c

Fig. 23. ROMAN SILVER SPOON FOUND AT CANTERBURY IN 1868.
Front and side views. (Full size.)

Two Roman spoons of silver of somewhat similar form, one of which was found in the pier of an old bridge at Newcastle-on-Tyne and the other in Watling Street, near Rose Lane, Canterbury, are illustrated in *Archaeologia*,^d see fig. 23.

Among the Greek spoons in the British Museum there are two of silver, which were found at Cyzicus (fig. 24). The stem is in the form of a goat's foot, very carefully and delicately wrought; the bowl is somewhat like that of the ordinary nineteenth century spoon. At the back of the bowl, where it is joined to the stem, there is a tripartite tongue or lobe, which supports the bowl, and gives additional strength at the place where it is most required. In the

Fig. 24. GREEK SILVER SPOONS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

^a Sacred to the Sun and herald of his coming. See *Pausanias*, p. 444.

^b Symbolical of the male generative attribute. See *Diodorus Siculus*, i. 88.

^c Sacred to Venus, the tortoise being an androgynous animal was chosen as a symbol of the double power. "The frequency with which it protrudes its head from the shell, thus changing its look of repose with the utmost rapidity to one of energy and action," has also been suggested as a reason why it was held sacred to Venus, and why it is symbolic of regeneration, immortality, and the like. *Vide Inman, Ancient Faiths embodied in Ancient Names*, ii., p. 881.

The tortoise was considered also by the Chinese and Hindus symbolical of long life, renewed life, eternal life, for which reason in their mythology the world is represented as borne by an elephant, symbolical of strength, which in turn is supported by a tortoise. See Payne Knight, *Symbolical Language*.

^d See *Archaeologia*, xv. 402, and XLIII. 156-7.

museum of Naples, there is a silver spoon of similar pattern which was dug up at Pompeii. It seems, therefore, that the design of this spoon was common to both Italy and Greece.

Most of the Early-Christian spoons in the British Museum are of silver, and many of them are very elegant in design. Particularly noticeable are a pair (fig. 16), having what has been described as the "keel and disc" feature. The bowls of these are surrounded with a flattened rim, about a quarter of an inch wide, on which is engraved between two lines a Vitruvian scroll ornament which is continued completely round the bowl. The stems are rectangular, and uniform in thickness from the bowl to within an inch of the end, where they terminate in baluster form, with a ball at the extremity. There is another pair (fig. 18) with the same characteristic "keel and disc" feature, the stems being in the form of turned balusters, from the extremity to within an inch and a half of the bowl, where they are rectangular. The bowls of these bear a remarkable resemblance both in size and shape to the bowls of English spoons of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

An Early-Christian spoon (fig. 25) in the British Museum calls for special attention by reason of its resemblance to the form of the modern fiddle-pattern. It is of silver, quite plain, and small in size, being no larger than a modern tea spoon. It differs from the modern fiddle-pattern only in the shoulder next the bowl being wanting, and the end of the stem being cut off square, instead of being rounded. But for this slight difference, it might very well be said that the modern fiddle-pattern spoon is a vulgarised copy of a relic of Early-Christian days. There is a Greek spoon of bronze (fig. 12) in the British Museum, very similar in pattern. It is a little smaller than the one last mentioned, the bowl is narrower and more pointed, and the stem is ornamented on its face with a series of small annulets, converging to a point in the centre of the slender part, but the general resemblance of the two spoons is nevertheless quite apparent.

Along with the spoons of the Early-Christian period it may be convenient to

Figs. 25—29. EARLY CHRISTIAN SILVER SPOONS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM. ($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

refer to those curious spoon-like objects of bronze of the Late-Celtic period, a typical example of which is represented by fig. 30, and which Mr. A. W. Franks describes as "oval plates, slightly concave, and not unlike a modern sugar spoon." Objects of the Late-Celtic period, according to Mr. Franks, "are probably not more ancient than the introduction of coinage into Britain, from 200 to 100 years before Christ, and not much later than the close of the first century after Christ, when the Roman dominion in this country was firmly established. This date would account for the occasional discovery of such remains with, or in close proximity to Roman antiquities, and also for the influence that their designs seem to have exercised over certain phases of Roman colonial art, in which, however, their wild and studied irregularity of design are brought into subjection, though at the same time the patterns lose much of their charm and originality."^a

Fig. 30. . LATE-CELTIC
BRONZE SPOON FOUND
IN THE THAMES, NOW
IN THE BRITISH MU-
SEUM. ($\frac{1}{2}$ linear.)

The late Canon Rock, in reference to these spoons, says :
"They almost always occur in pairs and are occasionally found at springs of water, or in rivers. One, and only one of the two spoons, has bored through it a hole invariably in the same spot, just below the lip and about midway on its left-hand side" (looking from the handle towards the bowl) "That these specimens of Celtic handicraft were, at one period or another, set aside by some of that people for the especial service of the Christian Church in some of her rites seems beyond a doubt, from finding upon them, after they had been cast, certain emblems of Christianity scratched roughly. In the bowl of one we see the sign of the cross ; upon the handle of another three circles, the symbol of three distinct persons in the one same Godhead." Their use was "for giving the sacrament of Baptism—one for holding the oil of the catechumens ; the second, the one with the hole, for holding the oil of chrism." In support of this opinion he adduces the fact of their being found in pairs by running water or at a well, and he says that "whenever they could, the Celts in these islands used, instead of the still or, so to say, dead water kept about the house for ordinary purposes, the living waters of a stream or a spring, for baptism"; and that "as now, so then, two distinct anointings took place at baptism : the first with olive oil, on the breast and between the shoulders, in the form of a cross, rubbed there by the right-hand thumb that had been dipped in the consecrated oil held in that spoon without a hole ; while yet

^a *Horae Ferales*, pp. 184, 189.

standing in the water under which the catechumen had been three times plunged; the second and principal anointing was given to this neophyte within the tabernacle woven for the ceremony, of fresh and budding boughs. The oil here used was olive, but plentifully mingled with the costly and sweet-smelling balsam or balm of Gilead. Among the Celtic people this second oil was . . . actually poured out upon the crown of the head where it was made to trickle in the shape of a cross. To do this well and accurately, so as not to spill it where it ought not to fall, the second or pierced spoon was employed. Holding this in his right hand, the celebrant let flow slowly through the small hole little drops of the chrism, so that it might take the shape of a cross upon the neophyte's head." As to the date to be assigned to them, Canon Rock thought "the cross on them would take them back to the end of the third or beginning of the fourth century."^a

The late Mr. Albert Way, in an exhaustive and fully illustrated paper on the same subject^b, adopts the earlier date assigned to these bronze relics by Mr. Franks, and in support of the view that they are not much later than a century after Christ, adduces the fact that these objects have been occasionally found with, or in close proximity to Roman antiquities and traces a resemblance to some Roman *cochlearia* with short hooked and looped handles, one of which was found near Sunderland and another at Chesterford. "We fail", he says, "to find, in any instance, the introduction of any decisive evidence, such as would unquestionably occur on objects so carefully elaborated,—for instance, the sacred monogram composed of the letters Chi and Rho, the most prevalent symbol on the earliest Christian relics, the only symbol moreover hitherto found in this country on vestiges of so early a date as the Roman occupation of Britain, and that which had become generally familiar through the coinage of Constantine and his successors in the fourth century."

It is a far cry from early Christian days to the twelfth century, but very little can be said with any degree of authenticity regarding the spoons of the intervening period. In Asia, especially in the Chinese Empire, if not in India, Persia, and Japan, there may be spoons in existence made during this period, but whether if such be found they would be accompanied by evidence of their date, is extremely doubtful.^c

In the dark ages which succeeded the civilisation of Rome, when the barbarian

^a *Archaeological Journal*, xxvi. 35 *et seq.*

^b *Ibid.* 52 *et seq.*

^c Jean Baptist Tavernier, who travelled through the East 250 years ago, says "the Persians eat with wooden spoons, the Chinese with chopsticks;" and Van Braam, the celebrated Dutch traveller of the eighteenth century, says, "such spoons as were used by the Chinese were of porcelain or

valour of the Goths and Huns had crushed not only the power but also the luxury and refinement of the empire of the west; when our filibustering Saxon forefathers were gradually making this country the home of the most adventurous of their race, and every man had to maintain his foothold at the venture of his life, it could scarcely be expected that amongst any of the uncultured peoples who then dominated nearly the whole of Europe any great number would be possessed of spoons of much value, whether by reason of the preciousness of the material, or the elaboration of the workmanship bestowed on them. There is, on the contrary, every reason for supposing that during the first few centuries which succeeded the fall of Rome, the material of which by far the greater number of these articles were formed was that which was most easily procured, and could be shaped with the least expenditure of labour, and that the workmanship was of the rudest description.

The word "spoon," derived from the Anglo-Saxon *spon*, a chip, points to wood as the material of which the spoons of our Teutonic ancestors were commonly formed. But in all probability spoons were also made of horn and bone

Fig. 31. ANGLO-SAXON SILVER SPOON IN THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM, JEWELLED WITH GARNETS. ($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

during what is known as the Anglo-Saxon period. There, however, appear to be no sufficient grounds for saying that spoons of metal, or at any rate of the precious metals, were in use to any appreciable extent during this period. For, although spoons of precious metal have been found in Anglo-Saxon graves, they have occurred but rarely, and these have generally been of that particular kind which has small perforations in the bowl, and cannot be considered as ordinary domestic spoons. One of such spoons, now in the Ashmolean Museum (fig. 31), which was found at Chatham, is described by Douglas^a as "a silver spoon, ornamented with garnets; the bowl perforated and washed with gold, which is in some places much worn off. The garnets are enchased in a projecting socket of silver. They are set on a gold foil, which . . . seems embossed in chequers, by a stamp or milling instrument, to add lustre to the stone. On the edges of the handle is a delicate beading,

earthenware." This was so probably from early times (the Chinese being a very conservative people), it is unlikely therefore, having regard to the fragile nature of the material, that many very antique examples have escaped destruction. Possibly the traditions of the Chinese refer to spoons, as well as other objects of great antiquity, but how frail a staff tradition is to rely on, for anything approaching accuracy in regard to dates, has recently been made manifest in the case of the "Pudsey" spoon.

^a *Nenia Britannica*, 6, 7. See also Akerman's *Pagan Saxondom*, 66.

and in the interval of the setting are small circular marks, so often found on ornaments of the lower empire. . . . The reverse of the spoon has a neat brace fastened with six rivets, to mend a fracture near the handle, on the edge of which is impressed a chain of the above circular marks. The silver of the bowl is as thin as the silver pence of some of our early Saxon kings. The back of the handle is worn very smooth, particularly the edge, which circumstance, with the perforation at the top, shows it to have been pendant to some part of the dress. The handle and bowl has been hammered out of one piece of silver, and the sockets of the stones are fastened with rivets, which penetrate the handle." It was found in a grave "a little below the *os sacrum*, between the femur bones." Douglas thought it was a magical implement, but of this there appears to be no proof.

A somewhat similar perforated spoon, but with five small holes only and a slighter handle, was found in an Anglo-Saxon barrow at Stodmarsh, Kent. At the junction of the bowl with the handle it is ornamented with a flat triangular-shaped garnet, but beyond this the handle is plain. Its description was communicated to the Society of Antiquaries by the late Mr. J. Y. Akerman, and is illustrated in *Archaeologia*.^a Saxon spoons of another form are figured by Mr. Roach Smith in *Collectanea Antiqua*.^b In *Archaeologia*^c is illustrated a Saxon spoon of silver found together with some coins of Ethelwulf and Ethelstan at Sevington, North Wilts. Its total length is $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The bowl is only an inch in width and somewhat fig-shaped. The long flat handle has a circular disc in the middle, and at the end it is broadened out into an ellipse, being ornamented with an interlaced pattern over its entire length.

A spoon found at Desborough, North Hants (fig. 32) appears somewhat Roman in character in that

Fig. 32. EARLY SPOON FOUND AT
DESBOROUGH, NORTHANTS.^d
(Full size.)

^a Vol. xxxvi., plate xvi., fig. 6.

^b Vol. iv. 58.

^c Vol. xxvii., plate xxiv., p. 302.

^d See also *Archaeologia*, xlv. 468.

the lower part of the stem where it meets the bowl is strongly suggestive of its having been a modification of the common form of Roman spoon, although the ornamentation shows no mark of classic design, but on the contrary, so far as the upper part of the stem is concerned, resembles the rude form of baluster sometimes found in Anglo-Saxon work. Whether this spoon is late-Roman, Anglo-Saxon, or Norman Romanesque, is an interesting speculation. It measures $6\frac{1}{10}$ inches in length over all, and is of base silver or white metal; both extremities are imperfect, having been broken off.

Of medieval spoons, one of the earliest and perhaps the most interesting example in existence is the coronation spoon preserved among the regalia in the Tower of London (Plate V.). Mr. Shaw, in *Dresses and Decorations of the Middle Ages*, referring to this spoon, says it "has most probably been used in the coronation of our monarchs since the twelfth century. Its style of ornament seems to prove that it was made at that period. It is of pure gold, with four pearls in the broadest part of the handle. The bowl, which is thin, has an elegant arabesque pattern engraved on its surface. Unfortunately the enamel has been destroyed, either accidentally or wilfully, but the rough surface between the filagree work proves its former existence. It is used to hold the oil for anointing the monarch at his coronation, and the bowl is divided by a ridge down the middle, into two hollow parts It has been stated, and documents brought forward to substantiate the assertion, that the old regalia of England had entirely disappeared in the troublous times of Cromwell, and that a new set was made in the time of Charles II. It appears, indeed, that the coronation of that monarch was obliged to be delayed on account of the absence of these necessary articles belonging to the ceremony. Some of the old jewels, however, appear to have been recovered; and we can have little hesitation in considering our Spoon as having belonged to the ancient regalia. There can, of course, be no doubt of its antiquity; and it is not at all probable that an article of this kind should have been obtained from any other source."^a

The document referred to by Mr. Shaw, as having been adduced in proof of the assertion that this spoon is of the time of Charles II., is probably that which was communicated to the Society of Antiquaries in 1852.^b It is dated Feb. 23, 1684-5, and contains in a list of the regalia provided for his (then) late Majesty's coronation, the item "the anointing spoon, poiz 3 oz. 5 dwts., for silver and workmanship £2." Mr. Cripps in *Old English Plate*, seems to rely on this entry

^a Vol. i.

^b *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* 1st S. ii. 222, and *Archaeologia*, xxix. 265.

THE CORONATION SPOON (FRONT, SIDE AND BACK VIEWS).

for asserting that the coronation spoon "was at all events remade, for the coronation of King Charles II."^a

The spoon, which is $10\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, is really of silver-gilt and not of pure gold, but Mr. Shaw's view that it is of the twelfth century appears to be much more accurate than the one adopted by Mr. Cripps, and may be supported by the following facts :

Its ornamentation is totally unlike goldsmith's work of the time of Charles II., while it so closely resembles the pattern on a mitre of St. Thomas of Canterbury, preserved at Sens, as almost to suggest that the design of both originated in the same source. The same kind of ornamentation may be seen also on the drapery of the statues of Clovis I. and his queen, which formerly stood at the entrance of the church of Notre Dame at Corbeil, which is twelfth-century work. Again, there is somewhat similar ornamentation, but ruder, being earlier work, on a gold frontal or table, presented to the cathedral church of Basle in the eleventh century by the emperor Henry II., and now preserved in the Cluny Museum. Moreover the same style of ornament is frequently found in the architecture of the twelfth century, but in none of the seventeenth century. It should however be observed that the shape of the bowl differs from that of the earliest known medieval domestic spoon, and except that it is wider in proportion near the stem, and altogether more shovel-like in form, it resembles somewhat the shape of the spoons of Charles II.'s time. On the other hand the manner in which the stem is joined to the bowl looks like a modification of the "keel and disc" feature of the early Christian spoons.

In the entry of 1684-5 the sum (£2) set down for silver and workmanship seems very inadequate for such a highly ornate spoon, even at that time. Moreover, the fact that no mention is made of the pearls, the gilding, and the enamelling, with which it was enriched, seems to indicate that the entry in question referred to another spoon made for the occasion, but which was probably discarded on the original spoon being subsequently brought to light.

Taken altogether the weight of evidence seems to point to the twelfth century, rather than the seventeenth, as the date of the fabrication of this important item of our coronation regalia.^b Its present weight is 3 oz. 8 dwt.

^a *Old English Plate*, third ed. 197.

^b Her Majesty having been graciously pleased to lend the spoon to the Society of Antiquaries on the occasion of the reading of this paper, it was by a general consensus of opinion attributed to the twelfth or beginning of the thirteenth century.

Mr. W. H. St. John Hope suggests that it may have been made as a chalice spoon for use at the coronation of Henry III., for whom new regalia were made owing to the loss of the old crown jewels by King John when crossing the Wash.

The domestic spoons in common use in the Middle Ages appear to have been made either of wood or horn, for while bone, ivory, serpentine, rock-crystal, and glass were occasionally wrought into spoons, and sometimes garnished with metal, more or less precious, these can only be regarded as "fancy spoons," and certainly not such as were in common use. Gold spoons, except in rare instances, seem to have been confined to the use of the monarch, and spoons of silver were to be found only in the homes of the wealthy.

Spoons of pewter, brass, and tinned iron, appear to have been very common from about the fifteenth century, and probably earlier. There was also a compound metal called "latten," something like brass in its nature and colour, of which spoons and other domestic utensils were made.^a

But although spoons of metal of various kinds were in use in this country from the thirteenth century, when we find authentic records of silver spoons,^b there is still abundant evidence to prove that spoons of wood and horn were the kinds most commonly found in this country down to a late period in the sixteenth century,^c and on the continent of Europe the spoons in general use about the same period appear also to have been of wood.^d It is however to silver spoons

^a In regard to spoons of this metal there is an anecdote related of Shakspeare and Ben Jonson in Hone's *Every Day Book*, i. 179. Shakspeare, who is said to have been godfather to one of Jonson's children, on being asked after the christening why he appeared so melancholy, replied "Ben, I have been considering a great while what should be the fittest gift for me to bestow upon my godchild, and I have resolved it at last." "I prithee what?" said Ben. "I' faith, Ben," answered Shakspeare, "I'll give him a dozen good latten spoons, and thou shalt translate them."

^b 1259. Will of Martin de St. Cross, "xij coclearia argenti." *Wills and Inventories* (Surtees Society 2), i. 9.

1296. "ix. coclearia auri, j cocleare argenti magnum pro coquina, pond. xxj s. ij d." *Wardrobe Accounts*, 24 Edw. I.

^c In 1552 Gabriel Lofthouse of Richmond, chaplain, bequeathed "a wod spone tipped with silver" *Richmondshire Wills and Inventories*, 144 n.

In Harrison's *Description of England*, written in 1586, prefixed to Hollingshead's *Chronicle*, "the exchange of wooden spoons into silver or tin in a good farmer's house," is spoken of as "a sign of the prosperity of the times."

Hone's *Every Day Book* (ii. 21) contains a reference to a curious tenure, whereby several townships adjoining Hutton Conyers Common, in Yorkshire, were entitled to a right of stray or sheep-walk on the common. The lord of the manor held his court on the first day in the year, which the shepherd of each township was required to attend and do fealty by bringing a twopenny sweet cake and a wooden spoon. The bailiff of the manor provided furmety, cheese, and mustard; the furmety being in an earthen pot placed in a hole in the ground. Every shepherd was obliged to eat of the furmety as a proof of his loyalty to the lord, and for that purpose the spoon was carried to the court, for if any neglected to carry a spoon he was obliged to lay himself down on his belly and sup out of the pot, when, by way of sport, the bystanders dipped his face into the furmety.

^d "Oh!" said Sancho Panza, "what spoons! what neat wooden spoons will I make when a shepherd." See *Don Quixote*.

that we must chiefly look for the purpose of fixing upon with accuracy the form which prevailed at any particular time during the past 500 or 600 years, because, unlike gold, silver has not been so very scarce and valuable as to make its use practically prohibited, while on the other hand it has been sufficiently valuable to render the possession of "a few articles of silver" very desirable in the homes of even the "well to do," as conferring a *quasi* distinction on the possessor, and such articles appear to have been taken great care of, and specially referred to in wills and inventories, for a period extending over several centuries. To the care with which they have been preserved is attributable the fact that so many excellent examples of antique silver spoons are to be found through the country in public and private collections, and by means of the system of stamping plate, we are enabled, with the aid of the date letter in the case of the London hall-marks since 1478, to fix the very year in which any fully marked specimen of gold or silver was assayed.

The earliest entry relating to English spoons appears to be that in the will of Martin de St. Cross, of the year 1259.^a It simply refers to a dozen silver spoons. There is nothing from which any conclusion can be drawn as to their size, weight, or shape, but in the following entries, for copies of which I am indebted to Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, there are many instances in which the weight is given, accompanied by a description, whereby the forms of many of the spoons referred to may be identified as resembling examples which, through the course of centuries, have been handed down to our own time.

An entry in the wardrobe accounts of Edward I. of the year 1300 mentions seven gold and eight silver spoons marked in the stem with the mark of Paris (the fleur-de-lis), which shews they were brought from France.

An inventory of the crown jewels of Edward III. taken in the year 1329 mentions "36 silver spoons plain white stamped with the leopard, value 59s. 10d.^b" Another entry in the same inventory mentions five spoons of gold weighing 10s. 10d., value 9l. 12s. 6d. From these two entries together we get this fact established, that the spoons of the time of Edward III. were much lighter and less bulky than those of the Tudor and Stuart periods generally were.

In a will dated 1392,^c registered at York, 6 silver spoons "cum acrinse de auro" are mentioned, doubtless referring to spoons with gilt knobs shaped like

^a See note ^b, on the preceding page.

^b *Archaeologia*, x. 241-258. Reduced into the present standard we get an average price of 5s. 6d. of the present currency for each spoon, the weight of which was probably about an ounce.

^c *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees Soc. 4) i. 177.

acorns. Similar spoons are mentioned in a will of the year 1459, "dim. dos. coclearium cum akehornes."^a

The earliest published reference to what are known as "maidenhead spoons" occurs in an inventory of Durham Priory of the year 1446: "ij Coclearia argentea et deaurata, unius sectæ, cum ymaginibus Beatæ Mariæ in fine eorundem."^b

Six silver spoons "de fradelett," mentioned in a will of the year 1440,^c and an entry dated 1490^d of six silver spoons "cum fretlettez," refer to spoons knopped with a bunch of grapes or other fruit.^e

Two silver spoons marked with "lybbard hedys and square knoppys" are found in an entry of 1474-5.^f

In an inventory in the British Museum of the year 1487 of Robert Morton, gentleman, there is an entry of "ij dosen and vj sponys with dyamond poyntes," weighing 41 oz. and 1 qr. at 3s. 2d. = 6l. 10s. 7½d.^g Here we get 1 oz. 7½ dwts. as the average weight of each spoon, which being of silver would be about double the bulk of the gold spoons of Edward III. of the year 1329, which we have seen averaged 1 oz. 6 dwts. each.

It is remarkable that concerning Apostle spoons, which were very popular during the Tudor period, and probably earlier, no entry appears to have been found of date anterior to the year 1494-5, when "xiiij cocliaria argenti cum Apostolis super eorum fines" are mentioned in a will in the York Registry^h; yet a spoon of this description stamped with the London hall-marks for the year 1490-1 is in the possession of Mr. Staniforth, and it is scarcely likely that this spoon was the first of its kind made in this country.ⁱ

In the will of Thomas Rotheram, archbishop of York, dated 1498,^j mention is made of a dozen silver spoons described as "slipped in lez stalkes" and "pond. inter se xiiij. unc.," which appears to be the earliest published reference to this particular form of spoon. The smallness of the weight of these spoons, as compared with others of the same period, may be accounted for by the absence of a knop at the end.

^a *Test. Ebor.* ii. 235.

^b *Wills and Inventories* (Surtees Soc. 2), i. 91.

^c *Test. Ebor.* ii. 74.

^d *Ibid.* iv. 54.

^e Cf. Laborde, *Glossaire Francais du moyen age*, 325; "FRETTEL, Fretelet et aussi Fruitelet, Bouton en forme de fruit, de fruitelet ou petit fruit, qui surmonte les couvercles, soit d'un vase, soit d'une chasse, et qui se met à l'extrémité d'un couteau." ^f *Test. Ebor.* iii. 215.

^g *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, xxxiii. 321. According to the standard then in force (30 shillings per 12 ounces of sterling silver) the price would be equivalent to 6s. 11½d per ounce present currency. ^h *Test. Ebor.* iv. 106.

ⁱ The spoon mentioned in *Old English Plate* as of 1493-4 is in reality marked with the stamps of the years 1533-4. ^j *Test. Ebor.* iv. 142.

The will of Robert Wooderove of Norwich, dated 1501, mentions "vj sylver spones w^t square knoppes gilt, and other ij sylver spones w^t Akornes gilt";^a and in the will of Sir Roger le Strange, dated 1505, "a dosen Sponys w^t lyons" are entered.^b

The following is copied from an inventory of the Merchant Taylors' Company of London, dated 1512^c:

6 spones, with Saint John Baptist on the spones endes pois togeders 9 unc. 3 qrs.
 6 gilt spones, with wrethen knoppes^d } pois togeders 15 unc.
 6 gilt spones, with strawbery knoppes }
 6 gilt spones, with acornes, pois togeders 10 unc. quarter di.
 2 gilt spones, with round knoppes and sonnes, pois 3 unc.
 a gilt spone with Saint John on the knoppe, and the stele graven with his name, 2 unces di quarter lesse.
 spones, whyte, with Saint John upon the knoppes, 12 dossen and one sponne, pois togeders by the weight of troye 181 unc.^e

Of the year 1506 are bishop Fox's six spoons with owls at the ends of the stems, preserved at Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

In the will of Margaret Grey, dated 1515, mention is made of "ij silver sponys, being in a purse, 1 y^t of being a gemewe sponne, and the other a sponne w^t a forke."^f

The "gemewe sponne" here referred to is probably a hinged or folding spoon, and the "sponne w^t a forke" might perhaps have been similar to a small spoon in the British Museum (see fig. 34) with a fork called a sucket fork at its end, used for eating sweetmeats with.

Of the year 1516 are six spoons with gilt balls at the ends of the stems, formerly belonging to bishop Fox, preserved at Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

The 11 apostle spoons, all by the same maker, bought by the Rev. T. Staniforth at the Bernal sale in 1855 for 62 guineas, are stamped with the hall-marks for the year 1519.

^a *Norfolk Archaeology*, i. 121.

^b *Ibid.* ix. 231.

^c Clode's *Memorials*, 88.

^d Fig. 33, which represents a spoon of the year 1488-9, affords a good example of a "wrethen knop." Cf. the inventory of Robert Morton, 1487, quoted on the preceding page, which also has: "ij dosen spones with wrethyn knoppes."

^e St. John Baptist was the patron saint of the fraternity, which fact accounts for the number of spoons it possessed knopped with the image of that saint.

^f *Norfolk Archaeology*, i. 263.

Fig. 33. SPOON WITH "WRITHTEN KNOP," 1488-9. ($\frac{1}{3}$ linear)

Fig. 34. SPOON AND FORK COMBINED, IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM. ($\frac{1}{3}$ linear)

The following entries occur in an inventory dated 1523, of the goods of dame Agnes Hungerford ^a:

Item iij dossen of sylver sponys, with knottes of sykyls on the hed.^b

Item halfe a dossen of sylver spounys with mayden heedes on the end, gylte.

Item a dossen of sponys with akornes on the end.

Item one spone of sylver, wryten on the end *myne assuryd truth*.

In an inventory of Minster Priory in Sheppey, Kent, of the year 1536, there is an item:

“xiiij spones of Chryst and the xij apostells whereof j gylt and the rest sylver with images gylt”^c

And the entry “a dosen of sylver spones with myters, the myters beyng gilt,” occurs in the same inventory.^c

An entry of the year 1546, in the Durham Registry, refers to “ij sylver sponys withe angells on the knoppes gyltyd.”^d

The following entries, which have been extracted by Mr. W. H. St. John Hope from Henry VIII.'s Jewel Book,^e inform us of the number and description of spoons possessed by the English king in the first half of the sixteenth century:

SPOONS.

Inventory of the King's Jewelhouse.

SPONES OF GOLDE.

f. 22 b.	Item one Spone of golde graven with an .H. and a Roose poiz	one ounce q ^{rt} ' di
	Item a Spone of gold w ^t a rubie at the end poiz	ij oz. dī quart
	Item a Spone of gold with a wrythen stele having a Scripture abowte it the kinges armes crowned in the topp gyven by the lorde Marques of Excetor uppon Neweyeres day anno xxv ^o H. viij poiz	ij oz. iij q ^{ut} ' di
	Item a Spone of gold with a playne knopp vj squared withowte any graving therein gyven by the Lorde Dawbeney anno xxvij ^{mo} nuper R. H. viij poiz	ij oz. skant
	Item a Spone of gold with a playne square stele and a dī knopp with a roose at theend half white and half redd receaved of the kinges grace that ded is in lewe of a spone receaved by his grace owte of his pantrye poiz	ij ounces
	Item a Spone of gold with a knopp six squared and the stele vj squared gyven by the Ladie Marques Dorsett on New yeres daye anno xxix ^o nuper H. viij poiz	ij oz. dī q ^{rt} '

^a *Archaeologia*, xxxviii. 361.

^b The sickle was a Hungerford badge.

^c *Archaeologia Cantiana*, vii. 300, 306.

^d *Wills and Inventories* (Surtees Soc. 2) i. 124.

^e From *Henry VIII's Jewel Book*, MS. XXIX. Soc. Antiq. Lond.

- Item a small Spone of gold having a stele six squared and verey small chased the knopp being six squared gyven by therle of Bridgewater on Newe-yeres daye Anno xxx^o nuper H. viij poiz one oz. dī
- f. 23. Item one Spone of gold the stele vj squared the knopp at theend vj squared having thereuppon enameled a roose white and redd gyven by the lorde Stafford the saide daye and yere poiz one oz. iij q^{rt}' dī
- Item a Spone of gold with a wrethen stele and a double roose white and redd at theend poiz ij oz.
- Item a Spone of gold with a knopp six squared therein the kinges armes graven gyven by the lorde Dawbeney anno xxviii^{mo} nuper H. viij poiz ij oz. quart'
- Item one Spone of gold with a iiij square stele twooe squares thereof graven or chased with a three squared knopp iu the myddes and on a plate at theende the kinges armes graven and enameled poiz iij oz dī quart'
- Item one Spone of gold with a flatt stele twoo partes thereof enameled blacke likewise parte of the knopp having a plate therein the kinges armes graven and enameled thereuppon poiz iiij oz. dī q^{rt}'
- Item a Spone of gold with a stele chased and a rounde knopp having a dyamounte sett in the ende poiz iij oz. d q^{rt}'
- Item a Spone of gold the stele turned rounde with a rounde knopp and a redd roose and a white at the end weying ij oz.
- tem one other Spone of gold the stele six squared the knopp allso six squared with a Lion graven uppon the end poiz ij oz.
- f. 23 b. Item twoo Spones of gold the haftes of theym being writhen one of theym hathe the kinges armes at thone ende and thother a roose poiz togethers iiij oz. iij q^{rt}' and iij^s vj^d w^t
- Item one Spone of gold wrought uppon the stele wth leaves and a redd flower uppon the topp poiz iij ounces
- Receaved of S^r John Gate knight parcell of the plate carried in the removing cofers for bankettes as before.
- Item a Spone of gold with a flatt stele the kinges armes enameled uppon the knopp poiz iiij oz.
- Item a Spone of gold the handle rounde embossed with leaves like chesemen and a rounde knopp poiz iiij oz. iij q^{rt}'ers dī
- Item a Spone of gold having a roose in the knopp enameled white and redd poiz ij oz. quart' dī
- Receaved of W^{thm} Sayntbarbe one of the gromes of the kinges Ma^{tes} pryvey Chamb^r ix^o July Rē E. vj^{ti} p^{mo} parcell of the dyett plate
- Item a Spone of gold the handle being wrythen the kinges armes enameled at the ende poiz ij oz. dī
- f. 24 Item a Spone of golde foure squared the kinges armes enameled at the end poiz ij oz. dī quart'

Receaved at Hampton Courte of the saide Sr Thomas Cawarden as before.

Item twoo Spones of gold with twoo Lions holding twoo Scutchions wth the kinges armes enameled at thendes poiz viij oz.

Item one Strayner^a of gold with a roose at thende poiz iij oz.

Receaved the xjth of July 1547 pcell of the night plate founde in a square house in the long gallorie at Westminster.

Item a little Spone of golde with a perle at thende poiz j q^{rt}er dī of an ounce

Receaved at Hampton Courte owte of the kinges owne Juelhous as before.

Item viij Spones of golde of sondrie sortes whereof one hathe a knopp of perle poiz together xxij oz. dī

Receaved at Hampton Courte late in the Custodie of David Vincent.

Item a Spone of golde poiz iij oz.

f. 24 b.

Receaved at Windesor as before.

Item one Spone of gold the stele being wrought with leaves and a Scripture enameled having a white Martlett in the topp poiz together ij oz. iij q^{rt}ers

Item one Spone of gold with a wrethe abowte the stele and a roose in the topp poiz ij oz. quart.

Receaved at Otelandes of the saide Sr Thomas Cawarden knight.

Item twoo Spones of gold thone having a roose at thend and thother a ffawcon crowned poiz together iiij oz. dī q^{rt}'

Receaved owte of the saide Secrete Juelhous in tholde gallorie at Westm^r as before.

Item xv Spones of cristall garnished with gold thone of theym lacking the boll poiz together xvj oz. dī dī q^{rt}'

Item one Spone of gold the stele enameled and a white Lyon at thende thereof poiz j oz. iij q^{rt}ers

Item one Spone of gold the stele wrought w^t an Aungell bearing a libbardes hedd uppon a Scutchion poiz ij oz. dī dī q^{rt}er

Item a Spone of golde the stele enameled blacke with the kinges armes enameled at thende thereof poiz iiij oz. quart'

Item one Spone of golde the stele enameled blacke with a roose at thende thereof poiz ij oz. quarter

f. 25. Item one Spone of golde with the kinges armes enameled at thend poiz ij oz. quart' dī

Item one Spone of gold having a Lion holding a ring in his clawe weying one oz. dī dī quart'

Item one Spone of gold the stele having a ragged thing abowte it and a white and a redd roose at thend thereof poiz one oz. dī

^a In another list of king Henry VIII.'s gold spoons is found "a strayner of golde for orrenges waying x oz. dī q^{rt}'." This could hardly be described as "a spoon." The strained juice of oranges being at that time used as a beverage, the "strayner" of king Henry VIII. was probably something like the double-handled strainer of the last century.

Item one Spone of gold the stele partely enameled blacke and a rounde knopp poiz	one oz. quart' di
Item twoo Spones of gold with H. and J. at thendē of theym poiz togethers	iiij oz. di di quart'
Item a Spone of gold with H.A. crowned at thendē thereof poiz	ij ounces
Item a Spone of gold with armes of foure birdes and other thinges in yt at thende thereof poiz	ij ounce
Item a Spone of gold with a deceres foote at thende of the stele poiz	ij ounces
Item one Spone of gold with a playne knopp poiz	ij oz. iiij q ^{rt} di

f. 97

SPONES.

Receaved of the saide Remayne

Item fourtene Spones well gilt slipped at thendes weing	xxvj ounces di
Item . xvij . gilt . Spones w ^t half knoppes and Staffordes knottes at thendes weing	xxxij ounces iiij quarters
Item five Spones gilt w ^t Rooses in the knoppes poiz	ix oz. iiij q ^{trs} di
Item five Spones gilt w ^t Buddes of the knoppes weing	vij ounces
Item xj Spones gilt weing	xxij oz.
Item vj Spones w ^t knoppes vj squared at thendes marked w ^t a Crossbow and Esses bought of Cornelis poiz	xj ounces q ^{rt} er
Item two gilt Spones w ^t the tre R the knoppes like Rooses and rounde bought of John Freeman goldsmith the thone spone to make up vj Spones with the v th entered in this Booke before and there weing ix oz. iiij q ^{rt} di and thother spone to make upp xij Spones w ^t the xj th entred in this Boke before weing xxij oz. thes two Spones poiz	iiij ounces iiij q ^{rt} ers di
Item five gilt Spones w ^t thappostells at ther endes poiz	x ounces quarter
Item xij silver Spones w ^t gilt Columbynes at the endes weing	xxij ounces di
Item eight Spones white with thappostells at the endes gilt weing	xiiij oz.
Item tenne other Spones white slipped at thendes weing together	xv ounces iiij quarters
Item twelve Spones white slipped at thendes gilt weinge	xxviij ounces
Item twelve Spones white w ^t diamoundes knoppes weing together	xj ounces iiij quarters
Item vj white Spones slipped at their endes poz	[no weight given]
Item foure white Spones w ^t thes tres graven at thendes H and R weing together	viiij oz. di
Item lxxvj Spones gilt of divers sortes and sundrey makinges weing together	Cxxxij ounces iiij quarters
Item twelve gilt Sponez w ^t vj squared knoppes and squared steeles all striken w ^t the tre E poz.	xxij oz. quarter
Item twelve gilt Spones w ^t vj squared knoppes and squared steeles all striken w ^t the tre C. poz.	xxij oz. quarter
Item twelve gilt Spones w ^t vj squared knoppes at thendes and all striken w ^t a small B. poiz	xxx oz. di

f. 97 b.

- Item ix gilt Spones w^t gilt Apostelles at the endes one being of another sorte
stricken with an H and eight stricken w^t an A poz together xix oz. dī
- Item ix gilt spones w^t vj squared knoppes at the endes and roses graven
theruppon stricken with H and one with a harte weing xix oz.
- Item foure gilt spones of severall sortes thone with Christ at thende another
w^t one of the Apostelles at thende the thirde w^t an Angell at thende and the
fourth w^t a Crowne at thende weing together x oz. dī quarter
- Item five Spones sumtyme gilt: gilt (*sic*) three therof w^t womens heddes
and faces and thother two with Lyons poz. vj ounces
- Item tenne spones parcell gilt w^t thapostelles at thendes poz. xv ounces iij quarters
- f. 98. Item foure Spones gilt thone w^t a Columbyne at thende stricken wth a D tother
two with squared knoppes stricken with a T or R: the fourthe being almost white.
slipped at thende weing vij ounces quarter
- f. 98 b. Item xxiiij Spones of Silver gilt wherof xij hathe Sicles at ther endes weing xlix oz.
- Item one Suckett Spone w^t a forke Joyned together of silver gilte weing iij oz.
- Item one Spone of Silver gilt. thandle wth a Roose poz. ij ounces
- Item one Spone w^t a suckett forke uppon one stele gilt poz. ij ounces
- f. 99. Item ix Spones of silver and gilt with the Lorde Crumwelles armes at their
endes poz. xxiiij ounces quarter
- Item foure Spones of white bone the steelez of Imagies of white bone in
Tabernacles of silver and gilt the rest of the steelez of silver and gilt poz vij ounces dī quarter
- Item eight Spones of mother of peerle thaftes of silver and gilt poz vij ounces dī
- Item one spone of Christall garneshed and thaftes of silver and gilt poz together one oz.
- Item one Spone of Cerpentyne the steele and part therof of silver and gilt w^t
a Crosse at thende and wordez graven poz one ounce quarter
- Item one spone of silver and gilt w^t thaftes of glasse at thende therof a
Columbyne of silver gilt poz one ounce iij quarters dī
- Item three spones of pied bone garneshed withe silver gilt poz together ij oz. quarter
- f. 99 b. Item twelve Sponez of mother of peerle the steeles of Silver and gilt and
twelve forkes of silver and gilt poz together xvij ounces quarter
- Item two spones of cristall the steelez of silver and gilt of sundry sortes weing together ij ounces
- Item vj Sponez of welke shelles every of them garneshed slightlie w^t silver
poz together [no weight given]
- Item one spone w^t suckett forke at thende of silver and gilt poz one oz iij quarters
- f. 197. Item v Spones of Cristall garnysshed w^t golde enameled.

In an inventory of Thurston Tyldesley, dated 1554, the following entry occurs :

xiiij sylver spones wth the image of God apou one of them and the images of xij apostells
apou the others, xxiiij ounces at iiij s. viij d. v^{li} xij^s ^a

^a *Lancashire and Cheshire Wills* (Chetham Soc. xxxiii.), 108.

In the will of Robert Bennett, prebendary of Durham, dated 1558, occur "xij silver spones w^t skallap shells on ther heads," and "one silver spone kilt wth an accorne on the head";^a and two other wills, dated 1546 and 1559 respectively, mention "three silver spones withe mayden heids" and "foure sylver spoones with lyons off th'ends gilt."^b

An inventory of Sir Thos. Ramsay, lord mayor of London, dated 1577, mentions "iij dossen of postle spoones parcell gilt," and "two dossen and fower postle spoones, parcell gilt."^c

And an inventory of Archbishop Parker, of the year 1575, contains :

xij spones, withe mayden heddes,
xij spones with square knoppes,
xj spones with rounde flatt knoppes, & one other gilte,
viij other olde spones.
A dosen of pewter spones.^d

From the descriptive records and extant specimens already referred to, it appears clear that whatever may have been the form of the English domestic spoon prior to the fourteenth century, from that time till about the middle of the seventeenth century, it consisted of a fig-shaped bowl, curved upwards to such an extent as to be incapable of holding a complete spoonful of liquid; the wider part of the bowl being at the base, and the narrower next the stem or "stele." This was commonly hexagonal, or, in the language of the period, "six-squared," terminating in most cases with a knop, the shape of which varied greatly, and consisted, as we have seen, of acorns; square, or, as they are sometimes called, "six-squared knops"; hexagonal spear-heads, or "dyamond poyntes"; strawberries, balls, or scallop shells; busts of the Blessed Virgin, or, as they are sometimes called, "maidenheads"; birds of some kind, such as owls, falcons, or columbines; mitres (as in the case of the Minster Priory spoons); the figure of an angel, saint, or apostle; an ornamental knob with a flat end, which we know as the "baluster and seal head"; and, during the Tudor period, a lion sejant holding a shield with its fore paws. From the time of the Tudors till shortly after the Restoration, the stems were often cut off at the end in a diagonal line sloping outwards from the face, and so finished without a knop of any kind. Spoons with such stems were generally referred to as "slipped in the stalkes."

^a *Wills and Inventories* (Surtees Soc. 2) i. 172, 173.

^b *Richmondshire Wills and Inventories* (Surtees Soc. 26), 62, 128.

^c *Archaeologia*, xl. 336, 337.

^d *Archaeologia*, xxx. 27, 28.

One of the earliest English domestic spoons known to the writer is a London-made silver spoon with fig-shaped bowl, "six-sided stele," and gilt "dyamond poynte" (fig. 35).

Mr. A. W. Franks and Mr. W. H. St. John Hope having examined a spoon almost identical in form, attributed it to the fourteenth century. This spoon is much slighter in the stem and altogether less bulky than the spoons of later date. The only mark it bears is an uncrowned

Fig. 35. SPOON WITH "DIAMOND POYNT" OF 14TH CENTURY DATE. ($\frac{1}{3}$ linear)

leopard's head, stamped (chin upwards) in the bowl or "spoon-self." The leopard's head is surrounded by a circle of raised dots, a reproduction, as it were, in miniature of the dotted circle on Edwardian coins. Every feature seems to point to the fourteenth century as the date of this spoon. It may, however, possibly belong to the early part of the fifteenth century, but the fact of the leopard's head being uncrowned favours the earlier period, and at the same time qualifies the conclusion arrived at by Mr. Cripps, to the

Fig. 36. SILVER FOLDING SPOON FOUND AT SCARBOROUGH. (Full size.)

effect that "the leopard's head was crowned from the first."^a

The Scarborough folding spoon (fig. 36) appears to be a typical example

^a *Old English Plate*, 3rd ed. 45.

of a description of spoon made probably for the use of persons travelling who carried their own spoons in their pockets.^a It is of silver, and terminates with a diamond point. Its date has been assigned to the fourteenth century. Making allowance for the shortness of the stem, the grotesque head which slides over the joint, and the more clumsy finish of the provincial workmanship in the Scarborough spoon, its general character will be found to resemble very closely that of the "diamond poynted" table spoon just described.^b

A base-metal spoon, knopped with the bust of a lady in a horned head-dress of the time of Henry V. (fig. 37), belonging to Mr. R. Drane of Cardiff, is a most interesting relic of the middle ages, for there can be no doubt, having regard to the style of the head-dress, that it belongs to the first half of the fifteenth century.^c It is interesting also, as confirming what has been said regarding the slender make of the spoons of this period, as compared with those of later date.

Fig. 37.
SPOON WITH BUST OF A
LADY, temp. HENRY V.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

The acorn, which is the earliest form of knop that has been found described in any published document, was, it seems, much favoured during the fifteenth century, but not so much afterwards. In the acorn-knopped spoons of later date the acorn is of larger size.

Although, as we have seen, the termination of the stem varied considerably, the common forms appear to have been but few, the most popular being the apostle termination. These spoons were often made in sets of thirteen, twelve being knopped with the apostles, each distinguished by his emblem, the knop on the thirteenth being an image of Christ, the left hand holding the orb and cross, the right hand raised in blessing. The set of the year 1626, presented to the Goldsmiths' Company by Geo. Lambert, Esq., F.S.A., although of somewhat late date, appears to be the most complete set known, in that each of the thirteen spoons was made at one time and by the same maker.

Fig. 38.
EARLY FORM OF
APOSTLE SPOON.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

^a The will of Joan Wickliffe, 1562, mentions "on falden sylver spone." *Richmondshire Wills and Inventories*, 157.

^b See *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Lond.* 2nd S. xii. 308.

^c This spoon was bought at Christie's in June 1889 by Messrs. Dobson and Son for £5 10s., and sold by them at a profit to Mr. Drane, to whom it now belongs.

In the earliest apostle spoons the nimbus is set at the back of the apostle's head (see fig. 38), while in those of later date it is a flat circular disc fixed on the top of the head (see fig. 39). Sometimes it is perforated like a Catherine wheel.

Fig. 39.
LATER FORM OF
APOSTLE SPOON.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

Fig. 40.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

The baluster and seal-headed knop appears to have occupied the second place in popular favour. Of the other forms which have been referred to, those described as "slipped in the stalk" seem to have been the most common.

In the case of nearly every genuine "knopped" silver spoon, a careful examination will reveal the fact that the stem and bowl have been hammered out of one piece of metal, and that the knop has been cast and secured to the stem by a soldered joint, usually of the form which architects describe as a "V-joint." A notch of V-shape having been cut out of the top of the stem, and a small piece of the cast metal attached to the knop, shaped to fit into this notch, the two parts are united in such a way that the lowest part of the moulding of the knop rests on the edges of the hammered metal of the stem, the joint being strength-

ened by the two prongs of hammered metal gripping the cast burr of the knop, which fits into them. There may be genuine examples with their knops affixed in a different manner, but they are not often found.

Of "maidenhead" spoons an excellent example of the year 1520-21 was exhibited to the Society in 1880^a (see fig. 41). Another specimen, with the London hall-marks for the year 1553-4, is shown in fig. 42.

^a *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Lond.* 2nd S. viii. 405.

Fig. 41.
MAIDENHEAD SPOON.
LONDON, 1520-1. ($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

In my own collection is a baluster and seal-headed spoon, by an Exeter maker. This spoon is a little worn in the bowl, but is a fairly good example of the commonest form of seal-headed spoon, viz., that with the acanthus leaf ornament beneath the lobes, on which the flat seal end rests.

Fig. 42.
MAIDENHEAD
SPOON.
LONDON, 1553-4.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

Fig. 43 represents a London seal-headed spoon of the year 1560-1. It has a somewhat uncommon form of baluster, in that its lobes are larger than usual, and there is a rather long shank or neck between the lobes and the torus moulding at the end of the shaft. Another spoon (fig. 44), of the year 1562-3, has a baluster under the seal-head, somewhat like the last named but without the long neck. This is a form of seal-head frequently found in sixteenth century spoons. In large seal-headed spoons of later date the baluster is often much elaborated,

Fig. 43.
BALUSTER AND SEAL-
HEADED SPOON.
LONDON, 1560-1.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

and occupies a greater length of stem than in examples of the sixteenth century.

Fig. 44.
BALUSTER-HEADED
SPOON. LONDON, 1562-3.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

Fig. 45.
MAIDENHEAD SPOON IN
THE BRITISH MUSEUM.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

Fig. 46. PEWTER SPOON WITH
STRAWBERRY KNOP, IN THE
BRITISH MUSEUM.
Fig. 47. SPOON WITH ACORN
KNOP. ($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

Fig. 48.
BASE-METAL SPOON (PRO-
BABLY FRENCH), WITH
HALF-LENGTH FIGURE.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

There are in the British Museum two English medieval spoons; one of silver knopped with a "maidenhead" (fig. 45), the other (fig. 46) of pewter with a

strawberry knop. They differ somewhat in form from the majority of the spoons of their respective types.

The well-known "Pudsey" spoon is a good example of an early sixteenth century seal-headed spoon, but the revelation recently made regarding its date has deprived it of much of the interest which tradition formerly attached to it.

Fig. 47 represents a spoon knopped with an acorn, sometimes described as "cum acrinsse," "cum glandibus," and "cum allepovis."

The base metal spoon with ornamental stem knopped with a figure in a plumed hat (fig. 48), appears to be of continental work, probably French, of the time of Francis I.

Fig. 49.
SPOON KNOPPED WITH
A LION SEJANT.
LONDON, 1592-3.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

The silver spoon knopped with a lion sejant (fig. 49) has the London hall-marks for 1592-3. It is an interesting example of a type described in contemporary documents as a "silver spone with a lyon, holding a scutcheon at the end gilt;"^a a type which is found only from the time of Henry VIII. to James I.

The spoon of silver "slipped in the stalk" (fig. 50) is of the year 1598-9. It is a good Elizabethan specimen of this form of spoon, a form sometimes referred to as the Puritan spoon, not because it was developed during the Puritan ascendancy, for we have seen it mentioned in various documents from the year 1500 downwards, but because during the period when puritanism was dominant,

under the name of "Commonwealth," this form, probably by reason of its severe plainness, appears to have been the most favoured.

Fig. 51 represents a spoon like one "of silver-gilt, the stele six sided, with a scripture upon it, the knop being round and wrought with leaves, and the letters W. and P. graven at the end." This spoon, which is fully marked for the year 1610-1, is a fine specimen of the commonest baluster and seal-headed type which prevailed during the century preceding the Commonwealth, but is rarely found of later date. It is evidently a christening spoon, for the "scripture" on the stele, which reads "Margaret Austen born

Fig. 50.
SPOON "SLIPPED IN
THE STALK."
LONDON, 1598-9.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

^a See *Henry VIII.'s Jewel Book*, and *Richmond Wills*, anno 1558.

the 11 day of September 1610," corresponds with the date letter stamped on the back.^a

Fig. 52 represents a silver "master spoon," of the year 1637-8, such as that referred to in the 1554 inventory of Thurston Tyldesley,^b in the entry "xiiij sylver spones w^t the image of God upon one of them." At the extreme end of

Fig. 52.
"MASTER SPOON," OR
SPOON WITH THE FIGURE
OF OUR LORD.
LONDON, 1637-8.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

nearly every spoon knopped with either an apostle or a baluster and seal-head, there will be found a plate or flat piece of metal, either circular or hexagonal in outline; but the master spoon differs from others in that it has the figure of a dove, symbolical of the descent of the Holy Ghost upon God the Son, raised in low relief on the upper surface of this plate.

Before taking leave of the spoons of the sixteenth century there is a brass spoon in the British Museum, from the collection of Mr. Cook of Parsonstown, which calls for a word or two, as it probably belongs to that period. From fig. 53 it will be seen that the bowl is of the early type. The stem, however, is four-sided and moulded crosswise like a square baluster. At the end of the stem is a long notch, in which it would appear, judging from the pin-hole near the extreme end, a wheel must have formerly revolved. It is probably a cook's spoon, the wheel being very likely for the purpose of decorating pastry.

It is a remarkable feature in the spoons of the seventeenth century, that as they get later in date the shape of the bowl changes from what it was in the reign of James I., and had been for at least two centuries previously, and becomes wider

Fig. 51.
SEAL-HEADED SPOON.
LONDON, 1610-11.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

Fig. 53.
BRASS SPOON IN THE
BRITISH MUSEUM.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

^a The custom, therefore, which obtained during the Tudor and Stuart periods for sponsors to present their god-children with spoons at their christenings may in view of this spoon be taken not to have been confined to apostle spoons, as some writers appear to suggest. *Vide* Brand, *Popular Antiquities*, i. 48, and Cripps, *Old English Plate*, 3rd ed. 193. It is in allusion to this custom that Shakspeare makes Henry VIII. say in reply to Cramer's declaration of his unworthiness of being sponsor to the young princess, "Come, come, my lord, you'd spare your spoons." *Henry VIII.* v. 2.

^b *Lancashire and Cheshire Wills*, 108.

in proportion near the stem and narrower at the base. This change, which appears to have proceeded gradually, is very noticeable in three spoons in my collection. The first is a Puritan spoon of the year 1638-9, the bowl of which, except for being somewhat narrower in proportion at the lower end, does not differ

Fig. 54.
APOSTLE SPOON WITH
BOWL OF LATER TYPE.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear)

greatly from that of the sixteenth century. But in the second, an apostle spoon (fig. 54), from which the date letter has been worn away, but which, judging from the other marks, particularly that of the maker, I·I., in a plain shield, was probably made between 1640 and 1657, the outline of the bowl is very nearly a true ellipse; while in the bowl of the third, a Puritan spoon (fig. 55) of the year 1662-3, there is not the least semblance left of the fig-shape which had prevailed from the fourteenth century down to the time of Charles I. The wider part of the bowl is next to the stem, the narrower at the base, and generally its form approaches towards that which came into fashion soon after the Restoration. This gradual change in the shape of the bowl may be noticed in nearly every London-made spoon, from about the commencement of Charles I.'s reign right through the Commonwealth, and

until the reign of Charles II.

The exception to this general change of form during this period is to be found in the case of spoons which appear to have been made to match others of earlier date; just as, whilst it may be stated as a general proposition that knopped spoons such as those with apostles or baluster and seal-heads were not made after the Restoration, the exception may be found in the case of those which have been made to follow suit with earlier spoons, as for instance the seal-headed spoons of the Armourers' Company, one of which is of the year 1687, a second of 1690, and a third as late as 1745.

The bowls of the spoons of continental Europe appear to have assumed the egg-shaped form, with the small end downwards, at least a quarter of a century before this form became general in England.^a

^a The new form of spoon occurs in a French silver-gilt spoon of about the end of the sixteenth century, illustrated in Shaw's *Dresses and Decorations*. A Dutch silver spoon with "Rowland Bowles de Burcombe, Wilts, 1623" engraved on the back of the bowl, belonging to Mr. Drane, is also of the new form. The stem of this spoon, which is triangular in form and apparently of cast metal, is surmounted by an arquebusier holding with his right hand the arquebus, his left hand resting on his hip. Hanging from a band on his chest is a supply of ammunition, and on his head

Shortly after the Restoration the English spoon became completely changed in form, and the modifications which have been referred to as having taken place in the bowl are now seen to have been not the only changes to which the spoon of about the middle of the seventeenth century was subjected; for, by the year 1670, the stem, which had been hexagonal and nearly as great in thickness as in width, is now seen to have become quite flat, much wider and thinner than formerly, and still wider and thinner at the extreme end, where it is curled slightly upwards and cleft into three parts, and the lower part of the stem, which was in earlier spoons finished off in a short angle at the top of the bowl, is now continued in the form of a tongue more than half way down the back of the bowl. But before the new description of spoon became established in general favour, some of the features of the old form continued to struggle for existence, as may be seen in many examples of the period.

Whether the new form was introduced from the continent, or was developed in this country from the earlier spoon described as "slipped in the stalk," is a question which, like that with reference to the development or introduction of the pointed arch, will probably find advocates ranged on either side. The view that the new fashion was imported, may be argued from the fact that the new form of bowl appeared earlier in continental spoons than in those of this country, and that the latter, when ornamented, partook of the characteristics of continental rather than English work. On the other hand, the "home-development" theory may be supported in the following manner.

Take, for a starting point, a Puritan spoon of the end of the sixteenth century, *e.g.*, that of the year 1598-9 (fig. 50), the stem of which is hexagonal, like that of almost every other contemporary English spoon. But in a similar spoon of forty years later the stem is perceptibly wider at the extremity than near the bowl. Whilst in the Puritan spoon (fig. 55) of still twenty years later, that is to say, at the termination of the Commonwealth, the stem is increased to nearly double its former width, and this increased width is obtained, not by any addi-

Fig. 55.
PURITAN SPOON,
LONDON, 1662-3.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

is a morion, or helmet, of the period shortly antecedent to the engraved date. A German spoon of gilt metal in the British Museum, also of the early part of the seventeenth century, has a bowl of the new form, and the stem, which is round and ornamented with spiral fluting, is continued halfway down the back of the bowl in the form of a triangular tongue, somewhat like the rat-tail, as it appeared in its earliest form in English spoons.

tional metal, but by hammering thinner the amount formerly used. The stem of this spoon is as wide as that of the trifold-ended form which immediately succeeded it. A slight stretch of the imagination will suffice to supply the reason for an intelligent silversmith making the stem a little thinner and wider still at the extremity, and ornamenting it by inserting two cuts and curling the ends upwards, as seen in the spoon of 1673-4 (fig. 56). The tongue on the back of the bowl was an addition not found in all spoons of the new form, as evidenced by an Exeter spoon dated 1676.

The theory of the insular development of the new fashion having been considered it may be worth while to examine the form and ornamentation of a continental spoon (fig. 57) lent by Mr. R. Drane. The tongue is made to form the centre of an acanthus leaf which is chased on the bowl. Unfortunately it has no mark indicating its date, there can however be little doubt that it is seventeenth century work, and its outline and ornamentation so freely, albeit coarsely, wrought, suggest very forcibly that it, or some spoon like it, inspired the fabrication of more than one English spoon of the latter part of the seventeenth century.

A peculiar Tyrolese spoon (fig. 58), belonging to Mr. C. D. E. Fortnum,

Fig. 56.
SPOON WITH SPLIT END.
LONDON, 1673-4.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

Fig. 57.
SPOON OF FOREIGN
MAKE.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

Fig. 58.
SPOON OF TYROLESE MANUFACTURE.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

V.P.S.A., has a substantial tongue under the bowl, so constructed as to afford a support whereby the spoon, even when filled with liquor, may be made to stand of itself upon a table. It has a massive stem curved sharply outwards from the

tongue, which extends considerably beyond the bowl. The stem itself terminates with a flat scutcheon affixed to the end.

The tongues on the backs of the bowls of English spoons of Charles II.'s time vary considerably in pattern. In a child's spoon of 1670-1 the tongue is much raised, and closely resembles the rat-tail of later date, while in two large spoons of 1674-5 and 1677-8 it is but slightly raised, and is accentuated more by being hollowed on each side of a central ridge than by additional substance. There is no surface ornamentation on either of these spoons, but one of 1683-4 is ornamented with raised foliated work in low relief on the face of the stem and the back of the bowl. A spoon of 1692-3, similarly ornamented on the face of the stem, has no ornament on the back of the bowl, except the tongue, which is, however, more elaborate than usual, being composed of a series of ribs with beads in the centre, decreasing in size as they approach the point of the tongue. A Queen Anne spoon of thirteen years later has a tongue almost identical in pattern.

Some Scandinavian spoons belonging to Colonel Hill, M.P., seem to occupy a position midway between the medieval type and that of the third quarter of the seventeenth century. The most interesting specimens are shown in figs. 59, 60, 61. It is difficult to fix the date of their manufacture, and in the absence of evidence other than they bear on their face it might be rash to hazard a conjecture. Colonel Hill, referring to these spoons, says: "Those with little rings were for being carried about attached to the watch chain; they were used for drinking strong liquors. The Scandinavians were hard drinkers, and at their drinking parties the liquor was served in bowls of wood or silver, which were passed round the table. Each man having brought his own spoon, when he came to the end of the liquor took up the bowl and, draining the remains into his spoon, exclaimed 'skål!' " *i.e.*, Your good health.

A handsome silver-gilt engraved spoon (fig. 62) calls for a little attention. It is of London make, and stamped with the leopard's head and lion passant of the cycle commencing 1678 and ending 1696, but it has not, and never had, either date-letter or maker's mark. It might, therefore, have been made in the reign of Charles II., James II., William and Mary, or William III. But, having regard

Fig. 59, 60, 61.
EXAMPLES OF 17TH CENTURY SCANDINAVIAN
SPOONS. ($\frac{1}{4}$ linear.)

to a somewhat similar spoon, in the collection of Mr. R. Drane, with the date-letter for 1689-90, it is probable both spoons were made about the same time.

The engraved work on both is rich and elegant, but continental in character, and more likely to have been suggested by French work of the Louis XIV. period, than by any English work of contemporary date.

Fig. 62.
SILVER-GILT ENGRAVED
SPOON, *circa* 1690.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

During the reign of William III. the English spoon seems to have undergone an almost continuous change, or modification of form. A spoon of 1697-8 has the trifid-ended stem, similar to that of the Charles II. spoon of twenty years earlier, but the tongue is very like the ordinary rat-tail, which succeeded the more elaborate form. The stem of a spoon (fig. 63) of 1699-1700 is without the clefts at the end, which is finished off in a waved line, the centre part of the wave only being turned slightly upwards; the tongue at the back of the bowl is the common form of rat-tail, which obtained for about thirty years from this date. The bowl itself is narrower in proportion to its length, than in earlier spoons, and this change appears to have been

Fig. 63.
SPOON WITH WAVY END.
LONDON, 1699-1700.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

Fig. 64.
SPOON WITH ROUNDED
END.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

pretty general at the end of the seventeenth century. A spoon of 1706-7 is marked by another change, in that the stem, instead of being flat throughout its entire length, is rounded on the face for half the distance from the bowl upwards. This spoon and the one last mentioned may well be called "transitional," for they have features in some respects common to the spoons of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In the later spoon, however, the only seventeenth century feature is the flatness of the stem in the upper half, while in the other, which is only a few years earlier, with the exception of the clefts, nearly every feature of the Charles II. spoon is still preserved.

The next modification was made in the upper half of the stem (see fig. 64) where the flatness which marked it for about half-a-century is no longer seen. The waved line at

the extreme end with its projection in the centre has also disappeared, and for the first time apparently, in the case of English spoons, the outline of the end is continued round from side to side in one unbroken curve. The centre part of the end of the stem is now made thicker, instead of as formerly thinner, than any other part, as if the extra thickness had been got by hammering back the central projection to obtain the continuous curve. The end is still turned upwards towards the face, where a sharp ridge is formed, which is continued from the thick part at the extremity to about half way down the stem, where it dies away into the lower or slightest part, which is rounded on the face. On each side of this ridge a concavity is made to slope towards the edge, which near the edge is quite thin and sharp. The upper half of the face of the stem, therefore, now presents the appearance of two long narrow concave channels, divided by a sharp ridge curving upwards at the end, and terminating in a small raised plateau. The assumption that this small raised part of extra thickness at the end of the stem was got, in the first instance, by hammering back the

Fig. 66.
FLORID DUTCH SPOONS,
circa 1700. ($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

projecting part which existed in the transitional spoon of immediately antecedent date, seems borne out by the fact that a spoon (fig. 65) in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries has this projecting part so hammered back or curled over, without being united to the main body of the stem.

Fig. 65.
SPOON BELONGING TO
THE SOCIETY OF ANTI-
QUARIES. ($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

This new variety of rat-tailed spoon with the ridged and channelled stem (fig. 64), which continued to be made in England for about a quarter of a century, was, it appears tolerably clear from the facts adduced, of English growth, or at any rate was not due to introduction from Hanover by the court of George I., for spoons of the new description were made in this country as early as 1705, nine years before the accession of the Brunswick dynasty. Besides which, it is much more probable that the spoons brought over by the Hanoverian monarch were of the florid type which prevailed in Germany and the Netherlands at this period (see fig. 66) than that they were of the rigid simplicity of the English variety just considered.

Early in the reign of George II., while the face of the spoon continued

unchanged, a variation was made in the back, the rat-tail disappears, and the whole of the back of the bowl, except a small part near the stem, is made quite plain, but below the rounded drop from which the rat-tail formerly sprang, another drop, about half an inch in width and the same in length appears (see fig. 67), a reproduction as it were on a reduced scale of the form of the end of the face of stem.

Fig. 67.
SPOON SHOWING GRA-
DUAL DISAPPEARANCE
OF THE "RAT-TAIL."
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

Spoons of this variety continued to be made till nearly the middle of the eighteenth century, when several new forms of outline and ornamentation appear to have been introduced. The variety last described underwent a modification in its stem, the ridge and channel disappeared, except for about half an inch at the extreme end, where it curls forward. A spoon of the year 1753-4 illustrates this modification.

But before the middle of the eighteenth century a totally new description of spoon was made which seems to have been much favoured in some circles for about thirty years. It is a form known by silversmiths as the "Onslow" pattern (fig. 68), probably so called after Mr. Arthur Onslow, Speaker of the House of Commons in the reign of George II. In the earlier examples

Fig. 68.
SPOON OF THE "ONS-
LOW" PATTERN.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

of this spoon, the bowl has all the general characteristics of the other spoon of the period, with the double drop at the back; the outline of the ellipse is however somewhat more graceful, a little wider near the stem and a trifle narrower at the point, and the different gradations of the curve die away more easily one into the other than is the case in earlier spoons. But the stem is the remarkable feature of the "Onslow" pattern spoon. It is different from every spoon which preceded it in this country. Instead of being turned up at the end it is turned down, and curled in the manner of an Ionic volute, the upper side being moulded with a series of deeply-cut curved members which converge to a point about half-way down the stem. Two examples of this pattern of the years 1748-9 and 1772-3 have the double drop termination of the stem at the back of the bowl, but in one of 1752-3 the second or lower drop is absent, and a raised foliated scroll-ornament is substituted for it. This description of scroll-ornament is frequently found on the

backs of spoons with stems of different form and of various dates, but in most cases the stem is turned upwards. Sometimes a shell ornament, the ribs of which radiate from the drop, takes the place of the scroll on the back of the bowl, and in other instances the shell is surrounded by a scroll which extends half-way down the back of bowl. Four spoons, ranging in date from 1760 to 1776, illustrate the kind of ornamentation now referred to, which was much favoured at this period. The scroll work on a spoon of 1776-7 is in outline very like the richly gilt ornamentation of the finest scale blue Worcester china of contemporary date.

The turned down end of the stem of the Onslow pattern spoon was the precursor of the general turning down which followed in the reign of George III. to the exclusion of the turned-up end, which by the year 1780 appears to have gone quite out of fashion. A spoon of 1769-70 with a punched or incised zigzag ornament running round the face of the stem is an early example of that form of spoon with the turned-down stem known as the "Old English" pattern, which either plain or ornamented has been made almost continuously for the last 120 years. Two examples of 1782-3 and 1783-4, are like the last-mentioned in form, but the incised ornament is varied in each case.

One variety of the Old-English pattern has a beaded ornament running round the face of the stem, another has a feathered edge and a raised scutcheon for arms or monogram surrounded with scroll work on the face of the stem, which for this purpose is made wider at the end than usual. The two examples now exhibited are of the years 1773-4 and 1792-3.

The modern "fiddle-pattern" spoon and its numerous varieties, consisting of the plain, the threaded edge, the thread and shell, the lily, and that type of nineteenth century florid vulgarity known as the "king's" pattern, call for no comment in a paper such as this, for they are now in fashion, and one or other of them may be met with in almost every house in the kingdom. But there is one form of spoon (fig. 69) which occupies a position midway between that of the "Old English" pattern of the eighteenth century and the "fiddle" pattern of the nineteenth, which should be mentioned. The resemblance to the fiddle-pattern lies in the shoulders on the stem near the bowl. Every other part corresponds with the "Old English" pattern.

Of those now exhibited one is quite plain and of the year 1774-5, the other

Fig. 69.
SPOON WITH SHOULDERED
STEM.
($\frac{1}{3}$ linear.)

two are of 1768-9, and 1772-3, and are ornamented with a feathered border. The stems of some of the eighteenth century spoons were fashioned for other uses than that of handles. Table spoons may be seen of various dates in the Georgian era with stems formed as marrow spoons which might have been used for the double purpose of an ordinary table spoon, and for extracting the marrow from a bone. A spoon of the year 1790-1 has both ends formed for extracting marrow from differently sized bones.

The tea-spoon, like tea itself, is of comparatively modern introduction into Europe. Tea appears to have been imported into England soon after the Restoration, but it was regarded as a strange kind of herb for a number of years after, and its decoction was for a considerable time used more on account of its medicinal properties than as an agreeable beverage.^a By the end of the seventeenth century however, it appears to have been consumed by the fashionable world in much the same manner as to-day, but in smaller quantities, and sipped out of cups so small as to look like toys when compared with cups now in ordinary use.

We have seen that the oriental tea-spoon was of porcelain, and it is not improbable that spoons, as well as cups and saucers of oriental porcelain, were brought to England with the introduction of tea. We, however, find that silver tea-spoons were made in this country about the end of the seventeenth century. Small silver spoons of Charles II.'s time are sometimes spoken of as tea-spoons, but in most cases these are probably children's pap or porridge spoons, or were used for eating eggs, or sweetmeats. Having regard to the very small size and fragile nature of the very earliest teacups used in England, the small silver spoons of earlier date than the end of the seventeenth century will generally be found heavier than tea-spoons are likely to have been at that time.

From the first, the form of the tea-spoon appears to have followed that of the larger or table-spoon already described. The earliest have the flat trifid-ended stem with rat's-tail at back of bowl, and the various changes which succeeded that form appear reflected in the smaller spoons of contemporary date.

The same may be said of the intermediate sized spoon, now called "dessert" spoon, which appears to have come into use soon after the Restoration.

So, too, in regard to spoons of base metal, we see from numerous examples that from the earliest times to the latest, the fashion of the silver spoon was followed in the less costly metals.

^a See *Pepys' Diary*, June 28, 1667.

There is a somewhat peculiar spoon of the eighteenth century the bowl of which is perforated and the stem round and long, with a barbed and pointed end (fig. 70). It has been variously described as an olive or strawberry spoon, and as a tea-pot spoon, the last named being the most generally accepted description.^a It is supposed that the tea was poured into the cups through the perforations of the spoon and the tea-leaves which came out of the spout replaced in the tea-pot, and that the long pointed stem was used for clearing the spout before the introduction of the fixed strainer. It seems, however, by no means clear that any one of the descriptions referred to correctly classifies this particular spoon. The tediousness and impracticability of holding a tea-pot with one hand and pouring the tea through the perforations of a small spoon held in the other, becomes obvious upon a single trial. One of the spoons of this type has the date stamp of 1781-2, by which time a fixed strainer had been universally placed at the union of the spout with the pot, and there was then no necessity for straining the tea in the clumsy manner which has been suggested. Again, many of the eighteenth century tea-pots were furnished with S-shaped spouts, into which it would have been impossible to thrust a straight spiked stem more than half-way down. Moreover this description of spoon was made in three sizes, the largest being the size of an ordinary table-spoon, the next that of a dessert-spoon, and the smallest the size of a tea-spoon, as illustrated by the three examples in my collection, the dates of which range from 1720 to 1781.

All these facts seem to suggest that the proper use of spoons of this description was something other than that in connection with the tea-pot.

The writer was once present at a court-leet dinner in an old-fashioned provincial hotel, where, after the table-cloth was removed, a steaming bowl of punch with cloves and slices of lemon floating on the top of the liquor was placed before the steward of the manor, who presided as host. The steward ladled the punch from the bowl into a jug which was then passed round the table. In addition to the punch ladle the host was provided

Fig. 70.
SILVER TEA-SPOON, WITH
PERFORATED BOWL
(Full size).

^a See *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Lond.* 2nd S. xii. 420, and Cripps, *Old English Plate*, 3rd ed. 293.

with a large perforated silver spoon, and the guests were provided with similar spoons of the smallest or tea-spoon size. The perforated bowls were used for taking the floating cloves and lemon-pips from off the surface of the liquor, and the pointed and barbed end of the stem was used for fishing out the slices of lemon. Are not these spoons then in reality punch spoons? Is not the large spoon for the bowl, the intermediate size for the jug, and the smallest for the glass?

The fact that such spoons are sometimes found in tea-caddies proves no more than many other incongruous associations, such, *e.g.*, as the "Cow and Snuffers,"^a or, at any rate, no more than that the tea-caddy was a convenient place for keeping such spoons.

The origin of salt-spoons, like that of tea-spoons, is so modern as to call for very little comment. They do not seem to have been used before the eighteenth century, and their form appears to have followed on a small scale that of larger spoons of contemporary date, at any rate as far as their stems were concerned. Their bowls are, however, generally round, or nearly so, except where by some eccentricity they have been made in a fantastic form which has had no appreciable effect upon any prevailing fashion.

There remains to be considered one description of spoon intimately associated with a habit which obtained in the world of fashion from the commencement of the eighteenth century until very near our own time. The habit referred to is that of snuff taking, which was introduced into England in the reign of Queen Anne, and was consequent upon the capture of vast quantities of snuff by Sir George Rooke in Vigo Bay. The manner in which many a fine lady, and, indeed, many a fine gentleman also, titillated their nostrils with the pungent dust required the use of the snuff-spoon, which was generally carried in an *étui*. With the spoon a small quantity of snuff was extracted from the box, and either taken between the thumb and forefinger, or placed on the back of the left hand, whence it was sniffed into the nostrils. The disagreeable sensation caused by the snuff getting under the finger-nails in taking a pinch out of the box being thereby avoided.

Snuff-spoons were of very small size. So small are the examples which have survived loss as to be frequently mistaken for toy spoons. The earliest appear to be of the transitional form which immediately succeeded the trifid-ended stem of the beginning of Queen Anne's reign, and in every case of change of form they follow the fashions of the larger spoons, both in stem and bowl, so closely as to be a perfect reproduction in miniature of the table-spoon of the period, and when the *étuis* to which such spoons belong are without date mark the date may be fixed approximately by the fashion of the snuff-spoon.

^a The sign of a tavern at Llandaff, Glamorganshire.