Exhibition of Objects from Ancient Grave-Mounds in Peru.

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From the SOCIETY.—Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archaeology. Vol. V.

— Annual Report of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, 1882–3.

— Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries. Vol. IX, No. 2.

— Zweiundzwanzigster Bericht der Oberhessischen Gesellschaft für Natur-und Heilkunde, zugleich Festschrift zur Feier des funfzig-jährigen Bestehens der Gesellschaft.

— I. Jahresbericht der Geographischen Gesellschaft zu Greifswald, 1882–3.

— Schriften der Physikalisch-ökonomischen Gesellschaft zu Königsberg, 1882. Abth. 1, 2.

— Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria. Vol. XIX.

From the EDITOR.—Journal of Mental Science, 1883. Nos. 90, 91.

— Nature. Nos. 713–732.

— Science. Nos. 19–37.

— Revue Scientifique. Tom. XXXI, No. 26; Tom. XXXII, Nos. 1–18.

— Revue Politique et Littéraire. Tom. XXXI, No. 26; Tom. XXXII, Nos. 1–18.

— Revue d'Anthropologie, 1883. Nos. 3 and 4.

— Revue d'Ethnographie. Tom. II, Nos. 2, 3, 4.

— The American Antiquarian. July, 1883.

— Timehri. Vol. II, No. 1.

— Bullettino di Paletnologia Italiana. Nos. 6 and 7.

— Panjab Notes and Queries. Vol. I, No. 1.

The election of the following new members was announced :
 —G. B. BARRON, Esq., M.D.; D. J. CUNNINGHAM, Esq., M.D.;
 H. O. FORBES, Esq.; JAMES SIDNEY HUNT, Esq.; Captain
 EDMUND CECIL JOHNSON; R. M. MIDDLETON, jun., Esq.; Captain
 C. A. MOLONEY; SYDNEY B. J. SKERTCHLY, Esq., F.G.S.; Jos.
 SMITH, jun., Esq.; and JOHNSON SYMINGTON, Esq., M.D.

EXHIBITION of OBJECTS *from* ANCIENT GRAVE-MOUNDS *in* PERU. By JOHN E. PRICE, Esq., F.S.A.

MR. PRICE exhibited a series of objects which had been obtained from ancient grave-mounds in Peru, and explained that he was indebted for the loan of the collection to the Rev. C. L. Acland, M.A., Head Master of the Royal Grammar School, Colchester, and that it formed part of a large series of interesting relics found at Arica, in the year 1868. The discovery was due to the effects caused by the wave of an earthquake, which laid bare a

number of ancient mounds along that particular line of coast. On examination, these were seen to be sepulchres belonging to an antiquity of which no legend or history could be obtained. The objects exhibited were found on the spot by a midshipman, who remarked that had he the opportunity he might have filled his cabin instead of contenting himself with what could be removed in a box. The excellent preservation in which all were found was to be attributed to the absence of rain in Peru; they were covered in and protected by the dry sand, and would appear to be imperishable. The collection comprised objects principally to be associated with the domestic life of the ancient Peruvians; for example, specimens of pottery, pins and needles formed from the hard thorns of the *Acacia*, fish-hooks and pins of bronze, fishing lines with weights attached, leather sandals, a two-edged comb, hair and Llama wool woven into braids and tapes, a harpoon or spear with fine flint head attached, spindles and spindle-whorls, and an interesting little bag containing antimony or other metallic substance, found suspended round the neck of a female corpse; a bolas of a single stone, and an interesting example of the "quipus" or cane, wound round with coloured thread. The quipus, as described by Prescott, was a cord some 2 feet long, composed of different coloured threads lightly twisted together, from which a quantity of smaller threads were suspended in the manner of a fringe, used for recording events and the like among the ancient Peruvians and Mexicans. The threads were of different colours and tied in knots. The colours denoted sensible objects, as white for silver, yellow for gold, and sometimes also abstract ideas, as white for peace, and red for war. The quipus was used chiefly for arithmetical purposes, the knots serving as ciphers. It constituted a rude register of certain important facts or events, as of births and deaths, marriages, the number of persons qualified to bear arms, or the amount of stores in the royal magazine. The mysterious science of the quipus supplied the Peruvians with the means of communicating their ideas to one another, and of transmitting them to future generations.

Mr. Price also referred to the strange but general resemblance to be noted between many of the objects and stones familiar in Roman and Saxon burials, particularly as to the two-edged comb, the pottery and the *vorticelli*, or spindle-whorls, used by the ancients for keeping the thread of the distaff in tension. Examples of these, both of bone and earthenware, discovered in Colchester, were also exhibited.¹

¹ See description of Peruvian Pottery brought over by Consul Hutchinson from Peru, by J. E. Price ("Journ. Anthropol. Inst.," vol. iii, 1874, p. 100).

DISCUSSION.

MR. BERDOE inquired if the coloured register exhibited was the same as the "quipus" described by Prescott, in his fourth chapter of the "Conquest of Peru," and which was said to be used by the Peruvians as means of registering births, deaths, marriages, &c.

The reply was in the affirmative.

EXHIBITION of LAMPS from the ORKNEY ISLANDS.

By J. G. GARSON, M.D.

DR. GARSON exhibited two lamps which he had procured from the Orkney Islands for the University of Oxford Museum (see fig. 4, Plate VII). They were very similar to the lamp of the Eskimo, described by Mr. E. B. Tylor in his paper read at the end of last session. Each lamp consists of two flat receptacles, prolonged into a spout-like depression on the anterior portion. To the upper and posterior edge of one of these receptacles is fixed a narrow piece of iron, into which is firmly inserted an upwardly inclined projecting rest for the upper receptacle, which has a shorter piece of iron with a slit in it attached to its posterior edge. The two receptacles are therefore placed one above the other. Into the upper one the oil is placed. The oil usually burnt is linseed or fish oil, and the cellular pith of a couple of rushes serves for wick. The sole object of the under receptacle is to receive the oil which drops from the upper one. By the inclined projecting bar being notched the pointed extremity of the upper receptacle can be elevated or depressed as required. To the upper extremity of the upright piece of iron is attached a hook by which the lamp is suspended. There is no automatic contrivance in the manner in which the lamp is hung, for the constant supply of oil to the wicks, as some people have imagined. The supply has to be regulated by the person using the lamp, who has to alter the position of the upper receptacle on the rest by moving it forward as the oil is consumed, and so depress the pointed portion of the receptacle in which the wick lies.

This form of lamp used to be very common in the Orkney Islands and in the North of Scotland till about twenty years ago, when the price of paraffin fell considerably, and the ordinary paraffin lamp took its place. It is now entirely a thing of the past, at least so far as the Orkney Islands and the North of Scotland are concerned.