VI. *Note on a Variety of Objects discovered during the progress of Excavations for Sewerage in Salisbury.* By JOHN YONGE AKERMAN, Esq. F.S.A. Secretary.

Read 25 May, 1854.

By the kind permission of Mr. Edward C. Brodie, of Salisbury, I submit to the inspection of the Society a very numerous collection of objects discovered in that city during the progress of excavations for the new sewers. They consist of—1. Knives, of various descriptions; 2. Shears; 3. Spoons; 4. Padlocks; 5. Keys; 6. Weapons; 7. Buckles; 8. Pilgrims' signs; 9. Rings; and some other relics, the uses of which are not easily ascertained.

The knives appear to range from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century. Many of these were doubtless for personal use, and carried in the girdle. There are others, however, which seem to be the implements of curriers or cordwainers. Several are marked with the letter W within a double square, but one has the mark of an open human hand.^a They do not appear to be of a very early date, but are doubtless examples of the cutlery for which Salisbury was long famous.

The shears are all small, but of different sizes and very simple form, and are not unlike the examples of the Anglo-Saxon period, though probably not earlier than the fifteenth century.

The spoons are of latten and lead, and present nothing remarkable. The makers' stamps are a crowned full-blown rose between the letters I. R.; a fleur-de-lis, which is stamped also along the handle; a key between the letters R. G.; three spoons between the letters G . . . and DOVBEL; a key and a sword in saltier between the letters R. I.; a crowned lion's head; R. G., and another stamp of W.; I. G. within a beaded circle; a crowned rose between M. H.; and a spoon between two inverted G's and L. R.

The padlocks are for the most part of a comparatively late period, some of them resembling the padlocks of globose form still used in the Netherlands. Two or three are, however, apparently as early as the fifteenth century.

^a Probably the device of a maker named Gauntlett. A tobacco-pipe maker of that name is mentioned by Fuller and by Aubrey.

The keys are the most numerous objects in this collection. They include many interesting examples, ranging perhaps from the thirteenth to the sixteenth century. But the most remarkable objects are the latch-keys, the age of which might be questioned if they were not known to have been found with other keys at least as old as the fifteenth century.

The heads of weapons consist of a specimen of a spear of very powerful make, barbed darts of several sizes, an old English arrow-head, the head of a cross-bow-bolt, and the head of a bird-bolt.

The buckles present nothing worthy of special notice.

The pilgrims' signs in lead are devices which appear not to have been hitherto noticed. One evidently represents Saint Michael, without however his characteristic arms; the other the sun within a crescent, and the third the bust of a man within a pulpit (or a font?), surrounded by a square frame or border inscribed SOLI DEO HONOS ET AMOR ET GLORY. Above the whole, the rising sun.

There are several other relics, among which is a stonemason's chisel, compasses, a small hammer, and some fragments of chain-armour.

Of all these objects, which have been rescued from dispersion by the conservative zeal of Mr. Brodie, the heads of various missile weapons (represented in the accompanying Plate) are perhaps the most deserving of the notice of the antiquary, especially of those who have given their attention to our military antiquities, of which these are interesting illustrations.

No. 1, represented like the others of the actual size, is distinguished from the rest by the form of the barbs, which are bent inwards. It appears to be too small for a dart cast by the hand, and was probably projected from a balista or large cross-bow.

No. 2 is another dart-head, the barbs of which appear to have been broken off. No. 5 closely resembles it, and appears likewise to have lost its barbs.

Nos. 3 and 4 are dart-heads, with very long barbs, similar in construction to one exhibited in January, 1852, by Mr. Greville Chester, at a meeting of the Archæological Institute, in whose *Journal* (vol. ix. p. 112) it is described as "a pheon found at Blenheim." I have seen several examples of these heads, and possess one found in the Thames. They appear to have been the heads of feathered darts cast with the hand. An illustration of their use may be seen in the exquisite illuminations of a copy of Valerius Maximus, a MS. of the fifteenth century, in the British Museum (MS. Harl. 4374, fol. 161), and another of "Jehan de Saintre" (Cott. Nero, D. ix.)

No. 6 is a remarkable and uncommon example. It is probably the head of a dart projected from a balista, for which its trilateral head would peculiarly adapt

HEADS OF MISSILE WEAPONS FOUND AT SALISBURY.

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it. Thus propelled it must have been capable of piercing any kind of defensive armour.

No. 7 appears to be the head of a cross-bow bolt.

No. 8, the head of the old cloth-yard arrow (?)

No. 9, the bifurcate head of a bird-bolt, similar to one found at Mentmore, Bucks, and described by Mr. Ouvry in the *Archæologia*, Vol. XXXV. p. 382. In 1852 Mr. Octavius Morgan, M.P., exhibited four specimens of this description of head, found behind the wainscot at Machen Place, an old seat of his family in Monmouthshire. This form of bolt appears to have been used in field-sports. A very curious picture, exhibited by Mr. Farrer at a meeting of the Archæological Institute (*Journal*, vol. v. p. 303), represents a stag-hunt given by the Elector of Saxony to Charles the Fifth, and other great personages, who appear shooting with the cross-bow with bolts having heads of this peculiar form. They are conjectured, however, by some antiquaries to have been used in war, from the circumstance of several similar heads having been found on the memorable battle-field of Towton, but this at best seems doubtful. Forked arrow-heads have long been used by the Chinese, and it was with shafts thus armed that Commodus performed his famous feat of decapitating an ostrich when at full speed in the amphitheatre.

J. Y. AKERMAN.

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