

No. VI.—*Muriate of Strychnia and Nicotine (simultaneous)*.

SMALL CURLY BLACK DOG.

	Minutes.
1. Gave 1 gr. muriate of strychnia, 1·5 gr. nicotine, in gelatine capsule, in butter,	0
2. Vomited dose,	10
Recovered, and did not seem injured.	

No. VII.—*Strychnia only*.

SKYE TERRIER.

	Minutes.
1. Gave 1¼ gr. muriate of strychnia, in butter,	0
2. Twitching and slight rigidity of extensors,	20
3. First tetanic convulsion,	30
4. Dead ; bladder voided,	63

I do not make any remarks on the preceding, although they suggest several points of much interest ; I prefer simply adding them to the stock of facts already accumulated on the subject.

Dr. Edward Bewley suggested the possibility that other sedative poisons might act as antidotes also, their action on the nervous system being antagonistic to that of strychnia ; and he gave his reasons for making the suggestion by relating an accidental experiment which the late Dr. Boxwell, of Abbeyleix, and he made, some thirty years ago, when strychnia was first introduced into this country. They wished to put a speedy end to the existence of a mangy cur ; and, as Dr. Bewley had just read Magendie's " Report upon Strychnia," in which he says that " the sixteenth of a grain will kill the *largest* dog," he determined to make sure work of his *very little* animal, and accordingly administered what was supposed to be half a grain, or more. Either Magendie had made a false statement, or the drug was adulterated ; for, at the end of ten minutes, the dog was not dead. He was bent backwards in a bow, and seemed to suffer so much from tetanic convulsions that it was resolved to put him out of pain at once. Dr. Bewley mixed at least half a drachm of medicinal prussic acid of the shops with a little milk, in a saucer, and managed to thrust it under the patient's snout. He lapped the milk with avidity, and in less than a minute discharged his stomach, got upon his legs, ran away, and recovered !

Dr. John Aldridge remarked that Mr. Haughton's proposal involved the introduction of a new principle in toxicological science, hitherto overlooked, namely, the employment of a physiological, not a mere chemical, antidote ; the object being, not as heretofore, simply to render the poison inert, but to neutralize the poisoning.

W. R. Wilde, Esq., presented the following donations to the Library and Museum :—

On the part of the Marquis of Kildare, a copy of his recently published work, "The Earls of Kildare and their Ancestors;" Dublin, 1858.

On the part of Dr. Bewley, a copy of "The Vital Statistics of the United States," by James Wynne, M.D.; New York, 1857.

From John Purser, Esq., a copy of "Doomsday Book."

From the Rev. C. P. Meehan, C. C., a shale celt, found near a cromlech in the townland of Corcahan, parish of Kilmore, and county of Monaghan (No. 513).

From the Rev. Edward Clarke, of Lifford, a stone effigy of a bishop, 9 inches high (No. 31), and also a perforated oval stone of greenstone porphyry (No. 128), similar in shape to those oval tool-stones described in the Catalogue of the Stone Materials in the Museum, at p. 94. Both these objects were said to have been procured in the county of Donegal; but their history is unknown, as they were purchased from an itinerant collector.

On the part of Dr. Kelly, of Mullingar, a cubical stone, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, and marked No. 129 in continuation of the printed Catalogue. It is indented on two of its sides, like No. 121 among the sink-stones in the Museum, described at page 98 of the Catalogue. It was found in an ancient rath in the county of Westmeath. Also, a fine flint spear-head (No. 1276), of a white colour, 4 inches long, but wanting about an inch of the top. It was found resting on the gravel, ten peats deep, in the bog of Curraghmore, near Mullingar, county of Westmeath.

On the part of Charles Haliday, Esq., two slender gold armlets, weighing 14 dwts. 12 grs., a portion of the great "Clare Find," of which the Academy is already in possession of the finest specimens. See "Minute-book of Committee of Antiquities."

From Arthur A. Nugent, Esq., and Mr. Richard Murray, of Mullingar, two imperfect human crania, and the long bones of two skeletons, together with a rude urn, found in a tumulus in the townland of Barrettstown, parish of Dysart, near Lough Ennel, now called Belvedere Lake, in the neighbourhood of Mullingar, county of Westmeath. Mr. Wilde stated that these remains had been exhibited to the Ethnological Section of the British Association, at the Dublin Meeting in 1857, and that, having recently visited the locality where they were discovered, he had drawn up the following abstract:—

"The parish of Dysart borders Lough Ennel on the western side, and contains several ancient raths, as well as some curious subterranean chambers and passages, formed of uncemented masonry, and of great antiquity. It is likewise memorable in history from containing the great rath or fortress of *Dun na Sgeath*, or Fort of the Shields, the seat of Malachy II. The tumulus in which these remains were found presented a small oval nipple upon the rise of some sloping ground in place called Carawn, the property of Mr. Nugent, to whom the Academy is already indebted for several donations. The surrounding mould and some cart-loads of small stones having been removed from the surface of the heap, two large flags, laid horizontally,

were exposed, each about 3 feet 6 inches in length, 2 feet 6 inches in breadth, and 4 inches thick; one of these is said to have shown marks of fire, and on it were found some remnants of charcoal. Underneath these were found two small chambers, lying east and west, divided by an upright flag, and floored with stones similar to those on top. The largest of these chambers, which was of a pentagonal form, was but 2 feet 3 inches deep, and about 3 feet 6 inches in its greatest diagonal. Both chambers, but particularly the western, were nearly filled with 'an umber-coloured, fine flour-like mould, evidently the deposition of ages, from the surrounding mound, which forced its way through the chinks of the kistvaen.' Each contained a human skeleton, a sufficient number of the bones composing which were collected to lead to the belief that when interred they were quite perfect; but in what position the bodies were placed, or whether they were denuded of the flesh before interment, were questions which the furnished accounts do not enable us to determine. It is greatly to be regretted that when excavations are about to be made into ancient tumuli, the assistance of persons already conversant with such matters is not sought, and sketches are not made of the precise position of the remains when first discovered. Fortunately, Dr. Kelly, of Mullingar, visited the spot very shortly after the discovery, and furnished 'The Westmeath Guardian' of the 6th and 20th of August, 1857, with all the particulars attending the excavation.

"The eastern chamber contained portions of the skeleton of a middle-aged man, with fragments of a skull of a globular form, with a high frontal development, and light thin bone plates, similar to that found in a stone-chamber at Dunamase, now in the Academy's collection, and which I described in the Proceedings, vol. iv., p. 35, in 1848, and to which I then assigned the name of *Tuatha da Danaan*, in contradistinction to the long-headed, low-foreheaded *Firbolg* race found in the tumulus in the Phoenix Park. The teeth throughout the whole dental series, both above and below, have their crowns so much worn down as not only to obliterate the tubercles, but to hollow out the bony portion so deep as to leave in some teeth nothing but a hollow surface, with a thin shell of enamel all round it. This peculiarity in the very earliest of the Irish skulls I have long since called attention to, and believe it to be produced by the trituration of hard grain food, such as parched corn. Coexisting with such formation, we find a stout jaw-bone, with a well-developed prominent chin process. None of the teeth in either of these skeletons, nor, indeed, in any ancient Irish crania which I have examined, exhibit any signs of decay. The only other object found in this chamber was a large boar's tusk.

"All the bones which we have received of both skeletons,—consisting of those of the head already described, the long bones of the legs and arms of one, and those of the arms of another skeleton,—are exceedingly light and friable, and evidently do not contain as much animal matter as those found in the Phoenix Park tumulus.

"The western chamber contained a skeleton in somewhat better preservation, and with it the remains of the skull of one of the long-headed

or Firbolg race, evidently belonging to a younger individual, who was probably about 5 feet 10 inches high. The lower jaw is lighter and narrower, with the chin not so prominent or well developed as in the globular headed race.

“In this chamber, between the leg bones, was placed the cinerary urn herewith presented to the Academy. It is of the very rudest form, and of reddish unglazed pottery, more pyramidal than globular in its form, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches high, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide at the top, and standing on a base $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches across. It is much thicker than the better class of vessels of this class in our collection, and its ornamentation is of the very rudest description, consisting of a few scratches and indentations. It is now numbered 46 in the addition to the collection of such vessels already enumerated in the printed Catalogue. It did not contain any incinerated bones, but was said to be found filled with the fine clay which occupied a great portion of the kist.

“The fact of these two heads being found together is exceedingly interesting, as it shows not only that the two races existed contemporaneously, but that they were there and then, at least, in such amicable relation as to have a common tomb, yet separated by a partition, as if to mark the distinction which even in death remained between them. The urn, which probably originally contained the incinerated bones of a human sacrifice, may have been common to both. Outside, and in close contiguity with the western chamber, were found some fragments of human bones, and portions of the upper and lower jaw of an individual who had probably not exceeded twelve years of age.”

A vote of thanks was then passed to the various donors for the foregoing presentations to the Library and Museum.

Dr. Petrie presented, on the part of Sir Richard Griffith, Bart., an antique seal, which had been found by the workmen of the Board of Works, when sinking for the foundations of the new buildings in the neighbourhood of the Four Courts.

After some explanatory observations from Dr. Petrie on this seal, which he said belonged to the thirteenth century, a vote of thanks was passed to Sir R. Griffith, and the meeting separated at a quarter past 11 o'clock.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1858.

JAMES HENTHORN TODD, D. D., President, in the Chair.

THE REV. WILLIAM REEVES read the following paper—

THE monastery of Reichenau (Augia Dives), situated on an island in the lower part of the Lake of Constance, was in early times much resorted to by the Irish. Walafridus Strabo, its Abbot from 842 to 849, has left us an account of the martyrdom of the monks of Hy by the Danes in 825, more full than anything on record at home. The oldest copy extant of Adamnan's "Life of S. Columba" was preserved there till