

loads of meat are transported in large boats of moose-skin. They practise ivory and wood carving, produce fire by means of a drill, cook their food in water-tight wicker baskets, and formerly tattooed their persons with characteristic marks. The dead are exposed on platforms, out of reach of the wild beasts. European culture is fast obliterating the national peculiarities.

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9. *On the Australian Natives.* By Miss J. A. FOWLER.

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10. *On a Modification of the Australian Aboriginal Weapon termed the Leonile, Langeel, Bendi, or Buccan.* By R. ETHERIDGE, JUN.

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11. *On an Unusual Form of Rush-basket from the Northern Territory of South Australia.* By R. ETHERIDGE, JUN.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19.

The following Papers and Reports were read:—

1. *Recent Introduction into the Indian Army of the Method of Finger Prints for the Identification of Recruits.* By FRANCIS GALTON, F.R.S.

Mr. Galton read copies of official letters just received by him from Surgeon Lieut.-Colonel Hendley, of Jeypore, who had memorialised the authorities in India in favour of affixing to the nominal roll of recruits an impression in ink of the fore, middle, and ring fingers of each recruit, offering at the same time to do so in respect to those whom he himself examined for fitness to serve. In reply the Commander-in-Chief 'approved of the proposal to employ prints of finger-tips as marks for identification, as they are so extremely easy to make, and so useful in guarding against personation.'

Surgeon Lieut.-Colonel Hendley has had considerable experience in taking such imprints, having already sent to Mr. Galton those of the ten digits of nearly 1,000 persons, most of whom were prisoners in the gaol of Jeypore.

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2. *On the Excavation of the Stone Circle of Lag-my-Boiragh on the Meayll Hill at Port Erin, Isle of Man.* By P. M. C. KERMODE, F.S.A.Scot., and Professor W. A. HERDMAN, F.R.S.

This was found on excavation to be a circle of eighteen graves arranged in six sets of three. In each set two graves are tangentially placed, and the third is radial, projecting outwards from the circle. For such a triradiate arrangement the term 'tritaph' is proposed. The sides and ends of the tangential graves are usually formed of single large stones (up to ten feet in length), while the radial graves (?) have two pairs of smaller upright stones at their sides, and no end stones. Possibly they may have been built as passages, but remains of cinerary urns were found in them, as well as in the tangential graves. About two feet from the surface was the floor of the grave, composed of flat slabs of various sizes, and under these slabs we found the broken urns, charcoal, fragments of charred bone, black oily earth, several flint arrow-heads, scrapers, knives, &c. Near the floor of the grave was also found in every case a number of rounded white quartz stones, evidently brought up from the sea-shore.

A full account of the excavation will be published shortly in the 'Trans. Biol. Soc. Liverpool,' vol. viii.

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