

FLINT IMPLEMENTS FROM THE FAYUM, EGYPT.

SIR,—I have read with great pleasure the paper by Mr. Hugh J. L. Beadnell, in the February number, on “Neolithic Flint Implements from the Northern Desert of Fayûm, Egypt.”

I was in Egypt last year, and brought home a collection of flints from the Fayum and other districts. I bought my Fayum specimens from the Arabs. The principal locality was Kasr Qurum. I have all the types figured by Mr. Beadnell except Plate IV, Fig. 2, and many not figured by him.

My specimens are all of the finest workmanship, the production of a race who could only have attained to this degree of perfection after a long period. I have also a number of ‘wideners’ from 4 to 6 inches long, of exquisite workmanship, and mostly for left-handed boring.

I have, however, a number of implements of entirely different types, formed of an impure sort of chert or quartzose flint; these are deeply patinated, and weather-worn to an extent I have never seen in flints of any kind, not even eoliths. They are probably of early Neolithic age, before man had acquired the art of putting a keen, sharp edge on his implements.

JAMES NEILSON.

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OBITUARY.

DR. HUGH EXTON, F.G.S.

DR. HUGH EXTON, F.G.S., was President of the South African Geological Society at Johannesburg from its commencement in 1895; but in December, 1902, retired from the chair on account of ill-health, and died 7th January, 1903. His exertions whilst serving as Medical Officer to H.M. troops during the late war, and afterwards in military camps at Ladysmith and Harrismith, seriously affected his health; and we learn that the meeting of the Society in the second week of January, 1903, was postponed in respectful consideration of his death at the time. He had retired to King William Town, British Kaffraria, on his resignation. Dr. Exton was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of London in 1883; he presented a collection of the Auriferous Conglomerate of the Witwaters Rand, with a note and plan, in 1899 (see *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, vol. xlv, Proc., pp. 3 and 4). In 1901 he communicated to the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE*, November and December, pp. 509 and 549, some interesting notes on the geology of the neighbourhood of Ladysmith, and further notes on the geology near Harrismith were expected.

FREDERICK WILLIAM JUSTEN, F.G.S.—We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. F. W. Justen, only son of Mr. Frederick Justen, F.L.S. (Dulau & Co.), our publisher. Mr. Justen, who died on March 16th at the early age of 42 years, was an expert in scientific literature, and his loss will be severely felt by his father and his many friends.