

MEDICAL CHIT-CHAT.

DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS IN A PEAT BOG.

A very singular discovery of the remains of a human being has been made in a bog near Omagh. It appears from an account furnished to a local paper, the *Tyrone Constitution*, by the Rev. Geo. Sidney Smith, D.D., rector of Drumragh, that a short time ago some turf-cutters were engaged at their work near his residence when the spade cut out what appeared to be a human hand. On further search, nearly the whole skin of a man of large size was recovered. The antiseptic properties of peat bog are so well known that they need not be dwelt upon, and it is consequently not very wonderful to learn that the structures were found in a perfect state of preservation, as if tanned; but what does not seem so easy of explanation is the fact that no bone of any kind was discovered. When the skin was spread out on the ground much of it was torn in strips, but there remained the whole arm like a coat-sleeve, only split up from the wrist to the shoulder. The right hand with the nails—and very large ones—attached, the skin of the foot with the great toe-nail, reaching up above the ankle, about twelve inches altogether, were recognized. Neither the hand nor foot was split, but whole. The other portions of the integument looked like the coverings of the back, shoulders, chest, and possibly the face; and the remnants were sufficient in quantity to account for the whole skin of the body.

In appearance the structure was black, and as thick as buckskin. It was found about two feet below the surface, and partly covered over with a piece of timber which has since proved to be of oak. From the position of this plank the remains would appear to have been interred. We are glad to learn that they, together with the piece of plank, have been secured by Mr. M. G. Buchanan, who informs us that the tracings of the nails are perfectly distinct, and that the oesophagus and mesentery are both present. The rector writes that it might be supposed to be the skin of a man that had been flayed, were it not that the hand and foot (both of which are very well preserved) exhibit no incisions such as would, he thinks, have been necessary for stripping the skin off. He adds that it may, in probability, have lain in the bog for a century or more. The most curious thing is the absence of all bones, for it seems impossible to conceive that the bog should have exerted any solvent action capable of removing these. It is not stated whether the front and back surfaces of the hand and feet are both present, and the information is deficient in several details of importance; but we have placed ourselves in communication with Mr. M. G. Buchanan, who has kindly offered to answer any inquiries on the subject.

The finances of the British Medical Council are in a flourishing condition. The income for 1872, was £6106, 16s, 7d, or £1169, 15, 4d more than in 1871, a result chiefly due to a great increase in the number of registrations. This income is largely in excess of the expenditure, and the Council is investing its funds in Consols. But why should the profession be taxed so highly in excess of requirements? It is demanded that the registration fees should be reduced.

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