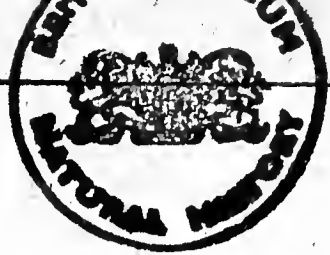


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PRESENTED
19 DEC 1951

ANNUAL REPORT

AND

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

YORKSHIRE

PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR

1950

PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL MEETING,

9th APRIL, 1951.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL.

1951.

The Yorkshire Philosophical Society.

The attention of all members is drawn to

Yorkshire Museum Publications
No. 1. Figure Sculpture in St. Mary's Abbey, York,
by René Marcouse, with 16 plates —
4/6d. 4/9d. post free.

Dr. Marcouse publishes the great figures of prophets and evangelists from St. Mary's Abbey which deserve to be so much better known than they are.

This book makes a charming Christmas present.

The Yorkshire Philosophical Society.

(Founded 1822.)

Patroness :

HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY.



Trustees :

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF SCARBROUGH, K.G.

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF FEVERSHAM, D.S.O.

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GEOFFREY THOMPSON, M.A., F.S.A.

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Officers for the Year 1951:

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Hon. Secretary :

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H. E. HARROWELL	K. E. T. WILKINSON.
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BART.	K. E. T. WILKINSON.
GERALD S. HUGHES.	

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A. A. DALLMAN	E. WILFRED TAYLOR.
J. H. ELLIOTT.	GEOFFREY THOMPSON.
DR. J. H. FIDLER.	J. F. E. GELSON WALKER.
A. WENTWORTH PING.	F. DIXON.

Library Committee:

F. DIXON.	F. E. HARRISON.
R. DOHERTY.	REV. DR. J. S. PURVIS.
MRS. PAYNE.	ARTHUR SMITH.

The President, the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer are *ex-officio* members of all Committees.

York and District Field Naturalists' Section.

Officers elected April, 1951:

President :

A. SMITH.

Vice Presidents :

J. H. FIDLER.

W. G. BIRCH.

G. HOWARD.

C. F. SWEETMAN.

Hon. Secretary :

KENNETH G. PAYNE, A.R.C.S., B.Sc.

West Dene, Manor Heath, Copmanthorpe.

Hon. Treasurer :

G. KIRKMAN,

45 Green Lane, Acomb, York.

The Annual Subscription to the Section is five shillings. Membership is open to both members and non-members of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society. Members of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society are cordially invited to the lectures.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

OF THE

YORKSHIRE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

9th APRIL, 1951.

THE year 1950 has been one of reconstruction. In April, Mr. R. Wagstaffe left the Yorkshire Museum for the post of Curator of Ornithology in the Liverpool Museum, and in August, Mr. G. F. Willmot took over the Keepership of the Museum. The Bird Room has been completely renovated and reorganised, and work has already commenced on the Fish Room. In all departments the urgent work of conservation and cleaning of numerous specimens has been in hand, and, most notably, repair of the Ormside Bowl has been undertaken by Dr. Plenderleith, of the British Museum.

The pressing need of storage of the reserve collections has been met, at least for the time being, by the conversion of the upper galleries into storage cupboards, and it is hoped that before the end of 1951 the whole of our vast collection of fossil material will be properly sorted and accessibly stored.

In the Gallery of Mediaeval Architecture work has commenced on the elimination of a large quantity of unimportant material, and over 200 specimens have been removed.

It should be noted that all these changes have been made by the Museum staff and members of the Society, and it has been unnecessary to call in outside labour.

Work has also commenced on resorting the Library, and a number of unwanted books have been sold.

The usual series of winter lectures has been maintained, though on a reduced scale. The very much larger audiences suggest that a small number of first-class lectures should be the first aim of the Society's lecture programme, rather than a larger number of less attractive talks.

FINANCE

The accounts for the year 1950 show a small surplus of income over expenditure. A substantial decrease in the takings at the gate, owing to long spells of bad weather, was balanced by increased rentals from additional lettings of the Tempest Anderson Hall.

MEMBERSHIP

The number of members of the Society for 1950 was 425, compared with 436 for the preceding year.

NEW MEMBERS, elected in 1950

d'Andria, Dr. Vivienne, 36 Monkgate
 Benson, Geoffrey M., 76 Petergate
 Bloor, Kenneth, 216 The Mount

Brayley, Claude E. W., M.B.E., "Burford", 20 The Horseshoe, Dringhouses
 Carlisle, Mrs. K. M., 16 Queen Anne's Road
 Coleman, W. E., 33 North Parade
 Day, Miss H. M., 34 Severus Avenue, Acomb
 Grey, Col. Charles, D.S.O., West Lodge, Malton
 Harding, G. W., Junr., 7 Coppergate
 Harrison, F. E., O.B.E., 2 St. Peter's Grove
 Head, G. G., "The Poplars", Beningbrough
 Legg, F. H., 43 Bootham
 Murphy, Col. A. V., O.B.E., Deputy Chief Engineer, H.Q. Northern Command,
 Fishergate House, York
 Pearson, Mrs. A. J., 8 Petersway, Clifton
 Poad, The Misses, 1 Avenue Terrace
 Purvis, The Rev. Dr. J. S., M.A., F.S.A., 1a Minster Court
 Ridges, J. Rendel, 16 Western Terrace, New Earswick
 Scholes, John H., The Castle Museum, York
 Scott, Mrs. A. J., 50 Low Petergate
 Thompson, J. Taylor, M.C., M.I.C.E., 20 Clifton Green
 Worsley, Sir William A., Bart., J.P., Hovingham Hall, York

DEATHS

Honorary Member.

Harmer, Sir Sidney F., K.B.E., Sc.D., F.R.S., 5 Grange Road, Cambridge

Members

Ball-Dodd, Edward, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.I.
 Cooch, Percy, "Hawthorn", St. Oswald's Road
 Gofton, G. H., 33 Bootham
 Hill, R., M.B.E., 4 St. Leonard's
 Lupton, J., 15 Bootham
 Mason, Mrs. M., 37 Sycamore Terrace
 Mozley, Lt.-Col. E. N., D.S.O., Lynwood, Ripon
 Robinson, Major F. A., "Aldersyde", Dringhouses
 Watkinson, Mrs., 17 Bootham Terrace
 Wisker, Mrs., 54 St. Olave's Road

DEATHS AND RESIGNATIONS

Honorary Member	...	...	...	...	1
Members	...	...	...	...	37
Lady Subscriber	...	...	...	...	1
Ticket Holders	...	...	...	...	2
					—
					41
					—

NEW MEMBERS

Members	...	...	...	...	21
Ticket Holders	...	...	...	...	9
					—
					30
					—

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP ON 31st DECEMBER, 1950

Honorary Members	...	...	...	...	23
Members	...	...	...	...	347
Lady Subscribers	...	...	...	...	6
Associates	...	...	...	...	2
Ticket Holders	....	...	...	...	47
					<hr/>
					425
					<hr/>

Dr.		THE YORKSHIRE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.				INCOME	
31st Dec., 1949.		EXPENDITURE.					
£	s. d.	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	
		To Salaries and Wages :					
	1901 11 8	Museums	...	...	1616	5 9
	904 10 3	Lodge and Gardens	...	...	920	6 6
	80 12 0	Staff Pension	...	...	80	12 0
	114 0 2	National Health and Unemployment Insurance	...	...	101	3 4
	106 12 8	Superannuation (Employers' Contribution)	...	...	109	15 2
3107	6 9					2828 2 9	
		To Maintenance of Properties and Land :					
	94 16 2	Rent and Rates	...	...	99	8 7
	474 5 2	Heating, Lighting and Water	...	...	279	7 2
	64 1 3	Museum—Repairs	...	...	87	19 3
		General Expenses :					
	113 9 11	Museums	...	...	281	8 6
	147 9 3	Gardens	...	...	85	7 0
	7 15 2	Bowling Green	...	...	23	6 11
	129 17 2	Estate	...	...	238	11 6
398	11 6					628 13 11	
	1031 14 1					1095 8 11	
		To Miscellaneous Expenses :					
	123 2 0	Books, Printing and Stationery	...	...	165	7 6
	62 3 3	Insurance	...	...	62	12 9
	64 5 8	Telephone and Postages	...	...	71	3 1
249	10 11					299 3 4	
		To Lectures—					
	19 17 6	Fees and Expenses	...	...		6 10 3
		To Additions :					
	31 6 0	Library	...	...	25	10 8
	1 6 0	Museum	...	...	—	—
32	12 0					25 10 8	
		To Bank Charges (Net)					2 5 6
		To Balance being Excess of Ordinary Income over Ordinary Expenditure for the year carried to Balance Sheet...					19 11 5
<u>£4441 1 3</u>					<u>£4276 12 10</u>		
	74 3 7	To Balance brought down					— —
		To Extraordinary Expenditure (Gardens)—					
	73 5 5	Renovations	...	...	—	—
	30 7 0	Additional Planting	...	...	—	—
103	12 5					— —	
	177 16 0					— —	

Dr.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

31st Dec., 1949.

EXPENDITURE.

Wm. REED

£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
32	9	6	To New Books and Binding... ..	24	8	2

 £32 9 6

 £24 8 2

H. J. WILKINSON

£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
35	10	9	To Herbarium Expenses	34	10	3

 £35 10 9

 £34 10 3

SPECIFIC PURPOSES.

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1950.

Cr.

at Dec., 1949.

INCOME.

REQUEST.

£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
23	3	8	By Interest on £579 12s. 5d. 4% Consolidated Stock (Gross) ...	23	3	8
9	5	10	By Balance, being Excess of Expenditure over Income, carried to Balance Sheet	1	4	6
<hr/>				<hr/>		
32	9	6		£24	8	2
<hr/>				<hr/>		

MEMORIAL FUND.

£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
6	11	6	By Interest on £164 8s. 6d. 4% Consolidated Stock (Gross) ...	6	11	6
28	19	3	By Balance, being Excess of Expenditure over Income, carried to Balance Sheet	27	18	9
<hr/>				<hr/>		
35	10	9		£34	10	3
<hr/>				<hr/>		

THE YORKSHIRE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

LIABILITIES.

31st Dec., 1949.
£ s. d.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£
Capital Account.									
Balance as per last Balance Sheet ...					42757	0	2		
Subscriptions paid in advance ...	43	0	0	...				31	15
Sundry Creditors ...	253	8	2	...				278	17
Reorganisation Fund Account :									
Balance at 1st January, 1950 ...				...	1217	11	9		
<i>Deduct</i> :—Expenses on re-equipment and improvement for year ended 31st December, 1950 ...				...	118	18	5		
	1217	11	9		-----			1098	13
Income and Expenditure Account :									
Balance at 1st January, 1950 ...				...	457	11	1		
<i>Add</i> :—Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1950				...	19	11	5		
	457	11	1		-----			477	2

£44728 11 2

Carried forward

£44643 9 1

BALANCE SHEET, AT 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

ASSETS.

1st Dec., 1949.								
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Freehold Property and Land.								
			Museum Gardens.			} Not valued for the purpose of this Balance Sheet.		
			32 and 34, Bootham (Tempest Anderson Bequest).					
			Manor Cottage					
			St. Mary's Lodge.					
			Baths Cottage, Marygate. 10 Bootham.					
			At Cost.					
1250	0	0	35 St. Olave's Road					1250 0 0
Investments								
TEMPEST ANDERSON BEQUEST (At Cost).								
10183	8	9	£10,271 1s. 8d. 3½% War Stock			10183	8	9
2500	0	0	£2,500 York Corporation 2½% Loan			2500	0	0
2000	0	0	£2,000 2½% Defence Bonds			2000	0	0
7967	11	0	£12,876 13s. 8d. 3% Treasury Stock			7967	11	0
1509	8	10	£1,649 6s. 9d. 3½% Conversion Stock			1509	8	10
8000	0	0	£8,000 Mortgage, Ings Property Company Ltd. 4%			8000	0	0
617	13	5	£621 7s. 2d. British Electricity 3% Guar- anteed Stock 1968/73			617	13	5
At Conversion Value on 1st January, 1948.								
900	0	0	£900 Rotherham Corporation Mortgage at 3%			900	0	0
7377	5	0	£7,377 5s. 0d. British Transport 3% Guar- anteed Stock 1978/88			7377	5	0
RAWDON BEQUEST (At Cost).								
856	8	10	£935 17s. 10d. 3½% Conversion Stock			856	8	10
ST. QUINTIN BEQUEST (At Cost).								
250	0	0	£247 11s. 2d. 3½% Conversion Stock			250	0	0
WM. DOVE BEQUEST (At Cost).								
500	0	0	£500 3% Defence Bonds			500	0	0
			<u>43911 15 10</u>					42661 15 10
Note—Market value at 31st December, 1950 = £44,546 0s. 2d.								
66	18	1	Sundry Debtors					81 11 8
Suspense Account (Ellis Collection)—								
			Amount expended			500	0	0
			Deduct:—Subscriptions received to date ..			234	9	3
266	0	9						<u>265 10 9</u>
							<u>£44244 14 8</u>	
Carried forward... ..							£44258 18 3	

THE YORKSHIRE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

LIABILITIES.

31st Dec., 1949.

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
44728	11	2			

Brought forward

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
			44643	9	1

44728 11 244643 9 1

FUNDS FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES.

WM. REED BEQUEST.

Balance at 1st January, 1950 677 7 10

Less:—Excess of Expenditure over Income for
the year ended 31st December, 1950 ...1 4 6

677 7 10

676 3 4

H. J. WILKINSON MEMORIAL FUND.

Balance at 1st January, 1950 233 0 3

Less:—Excess of Expenditure over Income for
the year ended 31st December, 1950... ..27 18 9

233 0 3

205 1 6

£45638 19 3£45524 13 11

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF

We have examined the foregoing Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts with
have verified the Cash Balance and Investments.

8, Coppergate, York.

14th February, 1951.

BALANCE SHEET, AT 31st DECEMBER, 1950—continued.

ASSETS.

1st Dec. 1949.										
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
44244	14	8				Brought forward ...			44258 18 3	
Cash at Bank—										
	95	4	4			Midland Bank, Ltd. (Capital Account) ...	95	4	4	
	59	0	2			Do. (Current Account) ...	49	14	10	
	215	18	8			York County Savings Bank ...	68	9	11	
370	3	2	<hr/>				<hr/>			213 9 1
	113	13	4			Payments in Advance ...			171 1 9	
44728	11	2	<hr/>				<hr/>			44643 9 1

FUNDS FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES.

WM. REED BEQUEST.

650	0	0	£579 12s. 5d. 4% Consolidated Stock (at cost)	650	0	0			
Note:—Market Value at 31st December, 1950=£602 16s. 1d.									
	27	7	10	Cash at Midland Bank, Ltd. ...	26	3	4		
677	7	10	<hr/>			<hr/>			676 3 4

H. J. WILKINSON MEMORIAL FUND.

185	0	0	£164 8s. 6d. 4% Consolidated Stock (at cost)	185	0	0			
Note:—Market Value at 31st December, 1950=£171 0s. 1d.									
	48	0	3	Cash at Midland Bank Ltd. ...	20	1	6		
233	0	3	<hr/>			<hr/>			205 1 6

£45638 19 3£45524 13 11

THE YORKSHIRE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

the Books and Vouchers of the Society, and certify the same to be in accordance therewith. We

PULLEYN, CREER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants

FORM
OF A
BEQUEST TO THE SOCIETY.

Every person desirous of bequeathing to the Society any sum of Money, Specimens, Books, Instruments, or other Property, is requested to make use of the following form:—

*I give and bequeath to the Trustees, for the time being, of the Society established at York, called “**The Yorkshire Philosophical Society,**” for the use of the said Society, the sum of _____ to be paid out of such part of my personal estate as I may legally charge therewith. [Or here enumerate the effects or property intended to be bequeathed.] And I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer of the said Society, for the time being, shall be an effectual discharge to my Executors for the said legacy.*

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
YORKSHIRE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
1950.

HONORARY CURATORS' REPORTS

MEDIAEVAL ARCHITECTURE.—Honorary Curator, Mr. J. Stuart Syme,
F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A.

The rearrangement of the contents of the Mediaeval Room has continued to receive the attention of the Committee during the past year, and the clearing-out of redundant items of the collection is now under way. Many objects of limited interest and little intrinsic value have been earmarked for removal, and the bulk of the smaller pieces which can be easily handled has been taken out and deposited in suitable and convenient places in the grounds.

This work has been done by the Keeper with the assistance of some of the members of the staff.

The disposal of the larger pieces is now being arranged for. Many of them weigh as much as half a ton, and their removal will necessitate the employment of builder's labourers who are accustomed to handling such objects. The Council has already been notified that these operations will entail some expenditure, and the Committee will report on the cost incurred from time to time during the progress of the work.

Much thought has been devoted to the question of the ultimate arrangement of the exhibits for their effective display, but it has been found difficult to arrive at a comprehensive plan while the available floor space is so encumbered with redundant pieces.

The proposal to transfer the magnificent early mediaeval figures to the main hall on the ground floor does not now appear to be practicable because the structure of the cases there does not lend itself to their alteration and removal to make a place for the statues. The Committee now favours the idea of grouping them in the recessed space at the far end of the present mediaeval room. This matter, however, is still under consideration, and it may be possible to devise a more effective method of displaying them which will at the same time involve less labour and expense.

It is intended to arrange the exhibits generally in such a way that a better view will be obtained of the remains of the Chapter House vestibule, now standing in their original position. It is also hoped to make a more imposing feature of the beautiful stone screen which formed the entrance from the vestibule to the Chapter House itself.

Certain stones which have been misplaced will be repositioned and a serious effort will be made to reconstruct one or more of the arched heads of its three

openings. One of these arches has been erected at some time in a wrong position, thereby conveying a false impression of the original appearance of this most attractive and interesting feature.

Other projects which the Committee has in view include the more perfect reassembling of the remains of St. William's shrine and the reredos which formerly stood in the Minster. The appearance of these two outstanding examples of mediaeval craftsmanship is at present marred by mistakes in the placing of some of the stones, and it is intended to correct these errors. It is proposed at the same time to make the restoration more complete by incorporating many fragments which have been discovered among other unrelated items in the collection.

The programme which is outlined above, will take some years to complete because of the difficulty of obtaining the skilled labour necessary for the proper execution of the intricate and difficult work which is involved.

It will also entail a very substantial financial outlay, and will demand strenuous efforts on the part of the Committee and the Keeper, and the full support of the Council.

ARCHIVES.—Honorary Curator, The Rev. Dr. J. S. Purvis, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.

The Society owns a small, but interesting, collection of MSS., which at present are very unsuitably stored. They are kept in a large tin box, either unwrapped, or in big untidy envelopes, and mixed with a strange assortment of prints and other topographical material. The printed catalogue includes only a part of the whole collection, for much has come in by accessions since the catalogue was printed.

The collection has been examined on several occasions by your Honorary Curator, the topographical material has been separated, and those MSS. described in the catalogue have been checked by the list. There are some minor errors in the descriptions. So far as the list goes, all the entries are accounted for, except one, a small charter which has apparently been missing for many years.

Many of the earlier MSS. are charters of the XII and early XIII centuries, and are of considerable interest; one, relating to a hospital at Whitby Abbey, is of some importance, and of great beauty as an example of XII century script. There is a defective reference to this MS. in the Surtees Society volume of the Whitby Abbey Chartulary, where the original is regarded as lost. These charters are generally in good condition, but much in need of better storage; wherever possible they should be unfolded, and kept flat in suitable covers.

The well-known Scriveners' Play is in good condition, except for its deplorable staining with galls. It is important that this notable MS. should never be allowed to be exhibited so that it is continuously exposed to light. Actual repair is needed for few of the documents.

The MSS. which have come in as accessions since the catalogue was printed are various in nature; perhaps the most notable are some books and papers relating to minor York Trade Guilds in their later periods. These accessions are in process of examination, and of checking by reference to the general

register of accessions. It is proposed to prepare a detailed list of the whole, and to submit it to the Society, together with any recommendations for treatment and preservation which may appear desirable.

COINS AND MEDALS.—Honorary Curators, Mr. J. F. E. Gelson Walker, M.A., and Mr. Geoffrey Thompson, M.A., F.S.A.

In the *Numismatic Chronicle*, 1949, parts iii-iv, p. 253, Mr. G. K. Jenkins, an Assistant Curator of Coins and Medals, British Museum, gives a detailed account of coins found at Skipton Bridge, Thirsk, on 12th July, 1949.

As stated in last year's report, the British Museum kindly allowed this Society to acquire 126 of the coins.

These consist of:—

Groats. Edward III (1327-77).

London (including 1 of Series B) 13, York 2, Calais 1.

Half Groats. Edward III.

London 18, York 3.

Pennies. Edward I (1272-1307).

London 7, Berwick 2, Bristol 1, Bury St. Edmunds 2, Canterbury 4, Durham 5, York 1, Irish 2.

Edward II (1307-27).

London 2.

Edward III.

London 7, Durham 18, York 19.

Richard II (1377-99).

York 12, Mint doubtful 2.

Henry IV (1399-1413).

York Heavy Coinage 2, Scotland 3.

The London Groat, Series B (Roman M), and the two Henry IV York Heavy Coinage pennies are very rare.

Several gifts of Roman, English and Tokens have made a welcome addition to the collection.

A public display-case has been arranged, showing the types of coins and tokens used in Britain (especially Yorkshire) from the Brigantes period onwards, with short explanatory notes. The case contains about 120 specimens (originals and electrotypes) and is designed to show, by internal lighting and a mirror, both sides of each specimen.

ENTOMOLOGY.—Honorary Curator, Dr. J. H. Fidler, M.A.

Owing to various difficulties, little work was carried out in this department during the early part of the period under review. During the winter, however, work was again started on re-arranging the various collections of insects in the Society's possession. With the help of Mr. J. H. Elliott, who was at this time appointed Hon. Curator of Hymenoptera, cabinets temporarily occupied by part of the vast collection of Coleoptera, were cleared. These will now be available for the setting out of the Hymenoptera specimens, of which the Society possesses a fairly representative collection, especially amongst the Aculeates.

The whole question of cabinet space, which is limited by the high cost and the lack of any additional space in the Students' Room, has been considered. It is hoped that, with careful re-arrangement, there should be sufficient space to store all the present collections in cabinets now available.

METEOROLOGY.—Honorary Curator, Mr. A. Wentworth Ping, M.A.,
F.R.Met.Soc.

Recorder, Mr. A. Colley.

Statistics of Station: Longitude $1^{\circ} 5' W.$; Latitude, $53^{\circ} 57' N.$; height above mean sea level, 56 feet.

Rainfall. Rain or snow fell to the amount of 26.96 inches as against 19.98 inches for 1949, an increase of 6.98 inches, and 2.54 inches above the average of 24.42 inches for the preceding 50 years. The wettest months of the year were August 4.86 inches, February 3.37 inches and November 3.33 inches. The driest months were March 0.98 inches, June 1.12 inches, and October 1.20 inches. The heaviest fall of the year occurred on 12th August when 0.84 inches fell.

Temperature. Temperature ranged from $88^{\circ} F.$ on 7th June to $19^{\circ} F.$ on 1st February; the range of temperature for 1950 being $69^{\circ} F.$ as against $65^{\circ} F.$ for 1949.

The mean temperature for the year (mean of max. and min.) was $49.3^{\circ} F.$ as against $51.2^{\circ} F.$ for 1949. June gave the highest mean with 62.3° , then July with 61.7° . December and January were the lowest with 34.3° and 40.3° respectively.

Barometer. A mean pressure of 1012.2 millibars (29.89 inches) (1000 millibars = 29.531 inches of mercury) at M.S.L. (corrected for diurnal variations) has been recorded as against 1016.8 millibars (30.02 inches) for 1949. February gave the lowest mean for the year, 1004.3 millibars (29.66 inches). January was highest, 1021.1 millibars (30.15 inches). The highest reading of the barometer was taken on 6th March, 1035.3 millibars (30.57 inches), and the lowest on 11th February, 978.5 millibars (28.90 inches), all readings corrected to M.S.L.

The extreme range was, therefore, 56.8 millibars (1.67 inches), as compared with 84.2 millibars (2.49 inches) in 1949.

Winds. Observations of winds show that during 1950 we had "strong" winds on 65 days (force 4—8 Beaufort Scale) as against 66 in 1949. The winds observed at 9 a.m., G.M.T., were S.W. 80; W. 65; N.W. 61; S. 56; S.E. 37; N. 31; E. 18; and N.E. 17.

Thunder, Snow and Hail. Thunder was heard on 14 days as against 12 in 1949; snow or sleet fell on 17 days as against 13 days, and hail was recorded on 7 days as against 4 days the previous year.

Sunshine. Sunshine recorded at Bootham School amounted to 1338.5 hours as against 1560.8 hours in 1949, a decrease of 222.3 hours. The daily mean was 3.66 hours, and the percentage of average 30 as against 35 in 1949.

The sunniest months of the year were June 239.3 hours and July 195.2 hours. January and December were lowest with 18.1 and 37.5 hours respectively.

There was a great contrast between the year 1949, with its exceptionally sunny weather, and 1950, which had a rainfall above the average and much less sunshine.

January was mainly dry and mild, but had few hours of sunshine. Snow fell on the last few days of the month. February, one of the wettest months of the year, was followed by a dry March. A variety of weather was recorded for April, and the sunshine for May was lower than of recent years. June was fine and warm. July and August, however, were very unsettled, August being the wettest month of the year. Unsettled weather continued into September, but October showed an improvement. November was a wet month with rain on 22 days. Wintry conditions were experienced early in December and continued throughout the month with snow falling on 10 days, and on the whole this was the most wintry December for many years.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY—THE YORKSHIRE MUSEUM, YORK, 1950.

Height above Ground:—Thermometers 4 ft. Rain-gauge 1 ft.

1950.	Air Temperature in Degrees Fahrenheit.										Earth Temperature			Rainfall.			Weather.						Bright Sunshine.		
	Means of		Means of		Absolute Extremes.						At 1 ft.	At 4 ft.	Total.	Max. Fall.	Day.	Number of Days of						Total.	Daily Mean.	Per-cent- age of aver- age.	
	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	H. Max.	L. Min.	Day.	L. Max.	H. Min.	Day.	° F.	° F.	in.	in.	Day.	Precipitation 0.2 in. or more.	Precipitation 1 in. or more.	Snow and Sleet	Snow Lying at 9 a.m.	Hail	Thunder heard	hr.	hr.	%	
	° F.	° F.	° F.	° F.	° F.	° F.	° F.	° F.	° F.	° F.	° F.	° F.	in.	in.	Day.	0.2 in. or more.	1 in. or more.	Snow and Sleet	Snow Lying at 9 a.m.	Hail	Thunder heard	hr.	hr.	%	
Jan.	44.5	36.2	40.3	26	56	11	30	33	46	11	41.7	45.6	1.38	0.65	30	11	5	3	2	0	0	18.1	0.58	54	
Feb.	47.1	34.8	40.9	19	58	16, 17	1	39	51	16	39.7	43.0	3.37	0.51	12	16	16	1	2	0	0	69.5	2.44	132	
Mar.	53.1	38.2	45.7	28	60	23, 25	1	42	47	19, 24	42.8	43.6	0.98	0.25	2	13	7	0	0	0	0	111.1	3.58	99	
April	52.8	38.5	45.7	27	62	7	25	43	49	8	45.4	45.8	2.64	0.68	17	19	18	3	1	2	2	135.4	4.51	104	
May	59.1	45.0	52.1	38	71	12, 31	17	50	53	29, 30	50.9	48.6	1.69	0.42	21	16	12	0	0	0	0	137.7	4.44	87	
June	71.7	52.8	62.3	42	88	7	15	63	61	7	60.7	54.5	1.12	0.28	29	12	8	0	0	1	2	239.3	7.98	138	
July	69.6	53.7	61.7	46	83	9	2	61	61	21	61.2	57.4	1.91	0.46	15	13	9	0	0	0	3	195.2	6.30	120	
Aug.	68.7	52.9	60.8	47	77	6, 7	28	64	60	12	59.6	58.1	4.86	0.84	12	22	18	0	0	1	5	157.4	5.08	104	
Sept.	62.2	48.9	55.5	39	74	4	27	55	55	2, 11, 17	55.0	56.7	2.65	0.59	6	23	16	0	0	0	2	98.6	3.29	77	
Oct.	55.6	44.1	49.9	31	72	5	30	44	55	6	51.1	53.5	1.20	0.33	1	11	8	0	0	1	0	84.5	2.73	95	
Nov.	47.0	37.4	42.2	28	53	8, 28	27	40	45	4	44.6	49.1	3.33	0.62	27	22	15	0	0	0	0	54.2	1.81	104	
Dec.	37.9	30.8	34.3	24	47	9, 10	4, 15	32	41	10	38.7	44.5	1.83	0.36	14	17	12	10	10	2	0	37.5	1.21	141	
Totals	669.3	513.3	591.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	591.4	600.4	26.96	—	—	195	144	17	15	7	14	1338.5	439.5	—	
Means or Extremes	55.8	42.8	49.3	19	88	June 7	Feb. 1	32	61	—	49.3	50.0	—	0.84	Aug. 12	—	—	—	—	—	—	111.5	3.66	30	

NOTE ON AN EARLY STOCKING IN "SPRANG" TECHNIQUE
FOUND NEAR MICKLEGATE BAR, YORK

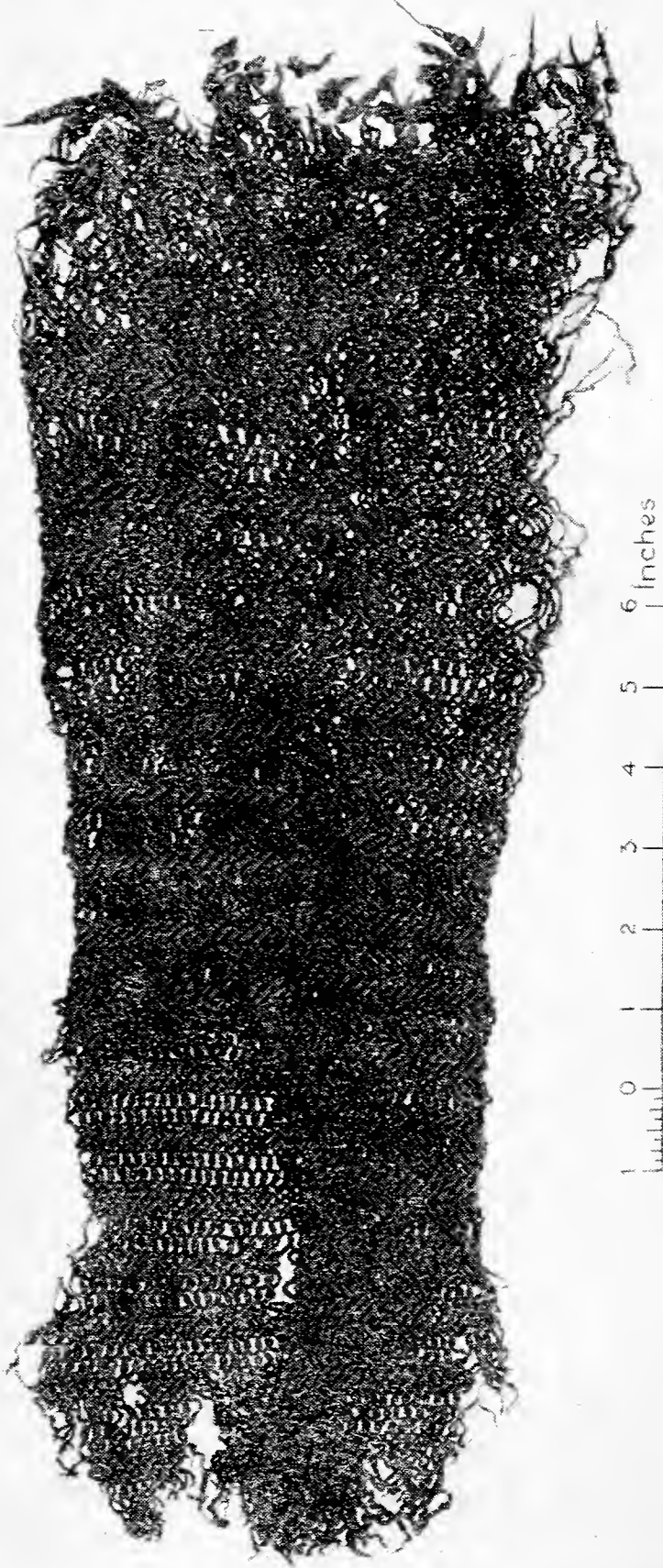
By AUDREY S. HENSHALL.

The piece of textile under discussion (Pl. I) was found in a cist in the Railway Excavations near Micklegate Bar about 1838, and was presented to the National Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh by Dr. S. Hibbert (later known as Dr. Hibbert Ware) to whom it was given by the workman who found it (Wilson, 1863, I, 475).

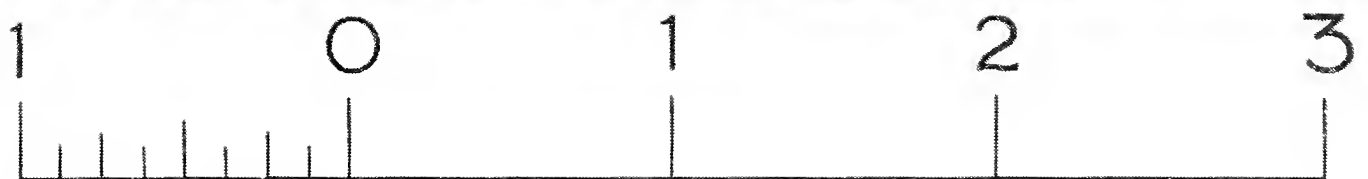
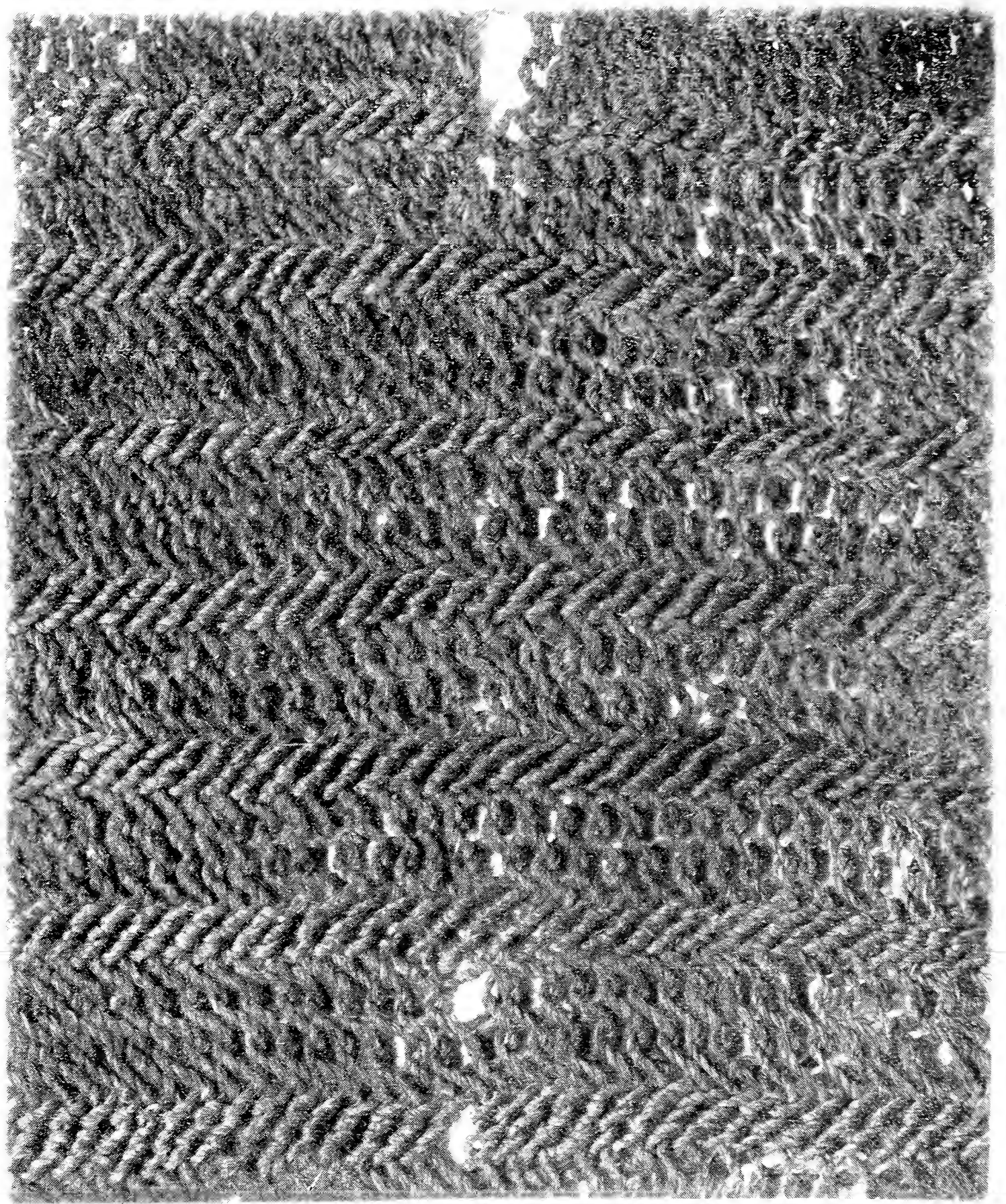
The object has been made by the technique known as "sprang", the name given in Scandinavia to a certain kind of netting, fully described and discussed in Broholm and Hald, 1940, 137-142. It is a feature of this work that very little is required in the way of equipment: for a large piece some sort of frame is needed, but for a small piece only two fixed horizontal bars, and a pair of rods to hold in position the work which has been done. The yarn is wound round the horizontal bars, the distance between them being roughly the length of the finished work. No weft is used; the warp is twisted in the fingers and the rods are inserted when a row has been completed, one being pushed to the top of the work and one to the bottom, so that the twist in the threads is in place. Then the next row of twists is made on the fingers and similarly pushed into place. Thus the work grows from either end simultaneously towards the centre; one end mirrors the other. The middle is generally secured by one thread looping through its neighbour in a kind of chain stitch, the last loop being firmly secured (Fig. 1).

The piece of work from York is made from wool, now darkish brown in colour. It is two-ply, S-spun and Z-twisted, the spinning is very light, and the twist of the ply heavy. The weight of the yarn varies considerably. It is 19 inches long and 15 inches wide at one end, where it is finished by a row of knots each consisting of two threads in a half reef knot, and 12 inches wide at the ragged end. As the two long edges, or the sides when it was being worked, are sewn together, the object forms a tube $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches across. The work is graduated from a circumference of 15 inches to 12 inches by a gradual tightening of the working, and the seam is made with heavy oversewing in the same thread as that of which the garment is made. There are eighteen transverse ribs which appear heavier, and nineteen lighter ones, which give the work a ribbed appearance. The pattern is formed by two rows of twists with a row of under and over without a twist (Pl. II). This last tends to close up and is hardly noticeable. Alternate groups of rows of twisted threads seem to be heavier, but this seems to be due to the way the work is stretched. There are also some errors in the pattern although it is a very simple one. An analysis of the pattern rows is given, fig. 1, where rib one is shown with an extra row of twists. On two occasions, in the fourth and eighteenth light ribs, counting from the knotted end, there is an extra row of twists, while in the fifth light rib and the eighth and thirteenth heavy ribs there is a twist less.

As the nature of "sprang" means that the top half is identical to the bottom half, and mistakes occur in both simultaneously, it is clear that the example in the National Museum at Edinburgh represents a half, or less, of the whole work because the faults in the pattern are not repeated. Nor is there any sign of fastening off across the centre of the work. So the whole piece was originally at least 38 inches long.



STOCKING FOUND NEAR MICKLEGATE.



DETAIL OF "SPRANG" TECHNIQUE IN STOCKING FOUND NEAR MICKLEGATE.

It seems probable that this "sprang" work was in reality a stocking, or part of a stocking. The measurements suggest this, 15 inches being an average circumference for the top of a woman's stocking unstretched. The slight tapering of the work is also suggestive. It would be convenient to make a pair of stockings on one warp, cutting the warp in the centre, and knotting the threads here to prevent them untwisting, as this would avoid the rather ugly feature of the securing of the centre, especially unbecoming when occurring in the centre of the stocking leg, and the symmetry of a pair could be achieved more easily if both stockings were being worked at the same time. "Sprang" is a very suitable medium for working stockings as it is elastic and adaptable, and quickly worked with a minimum of apparatus. "Sprang" was a particularly convenient substitute for knitting, which does not seem to have been used in England before the 14th century A.D., or possibly even later. For such things as stockings, caps and gloves, a more elastic fabric such as is produced by knitting, "sprang", or "naalebindung", is far more suitable than any woven fabric. It seems likely that the decline of the two last techniques may be due partly to the popularity of knitting, which has the advantage of needing less equipment than "sprang", and can also be carried about more easily.

"Sprang" was known in the Danish Bronze Age (Broholm and Hald, 1940, 99-100, 73), for the caps from Skrydstrup and Borum Aeshøj are executed in this technique, and indeed, the cap from Borum Aeshøj is worked in a more complicated pattern than the York stocking. There are also examples of "sprang" of Early Iron Age date from Scandinavia: the cap from Arden belongs to this period and is worked in a very similar pattern to the York piece (Hald, 1950, 23-26). The example from Tegle, Norway, is probably 3rd or 4th century A.D. in date (Dedekam, 1921-24, 16-22, 30-32), and is in fact a stocking, but worked in a rather advanced pattern of triangles. There are various Coptic examples of the work in the form of bags belonging to the 4th or 5th century A.D. (Victoria and Albert Museum. Kendrick, 1921, 89-91), and a frame for "sprang" work was found in the Oseberg ship burial (Grieg, 1928, 176-9, 335). The technique of "sprang" has survived until modern times in parts of Europe and North Africa (Hald, 1950, 457). The actual pattern of the York stocking is one of the simplest which can be worked, and is not comparable to these later examples. Though no exact parallel can be quoted, the caps from Skrydstrup and Arden (Hald, 1950, figs. 259 and 260), are very similar, which may point to an early date for the York piece, and the fact that it was found near Micklegate which is inside the Roman *Colonia*, an area which has not produced any Saxon remains,¹ suggests that it may belong to the Roman period.

As far as I know this is the only extant piece of "sprang" found in this country. However, Mortimer found some fabric with a Bronze Age inhumation which he describes as knitting (Mortimer, 234), and a fabric described as netting was also found with an undated inhumation at Fetteresso, Kincardineshire (Arch. Scot. 2, 462). Both these finds suggest that they may have been the remains of "sprang" work. There is an early 10th century Viking brooch from Unst, Shetland, in the National Museum, Edinburgh (IL, 223) (Shetelig, II, 1940, 104; P.S.A.S., XVII, 17), which inside bears a positive impression of some fabric. The mesh forms slender diamond shapes, and a fine plain "sprang" seems to be the only technique which would leave such an impression.

¹ Information from Mr. Willmot.

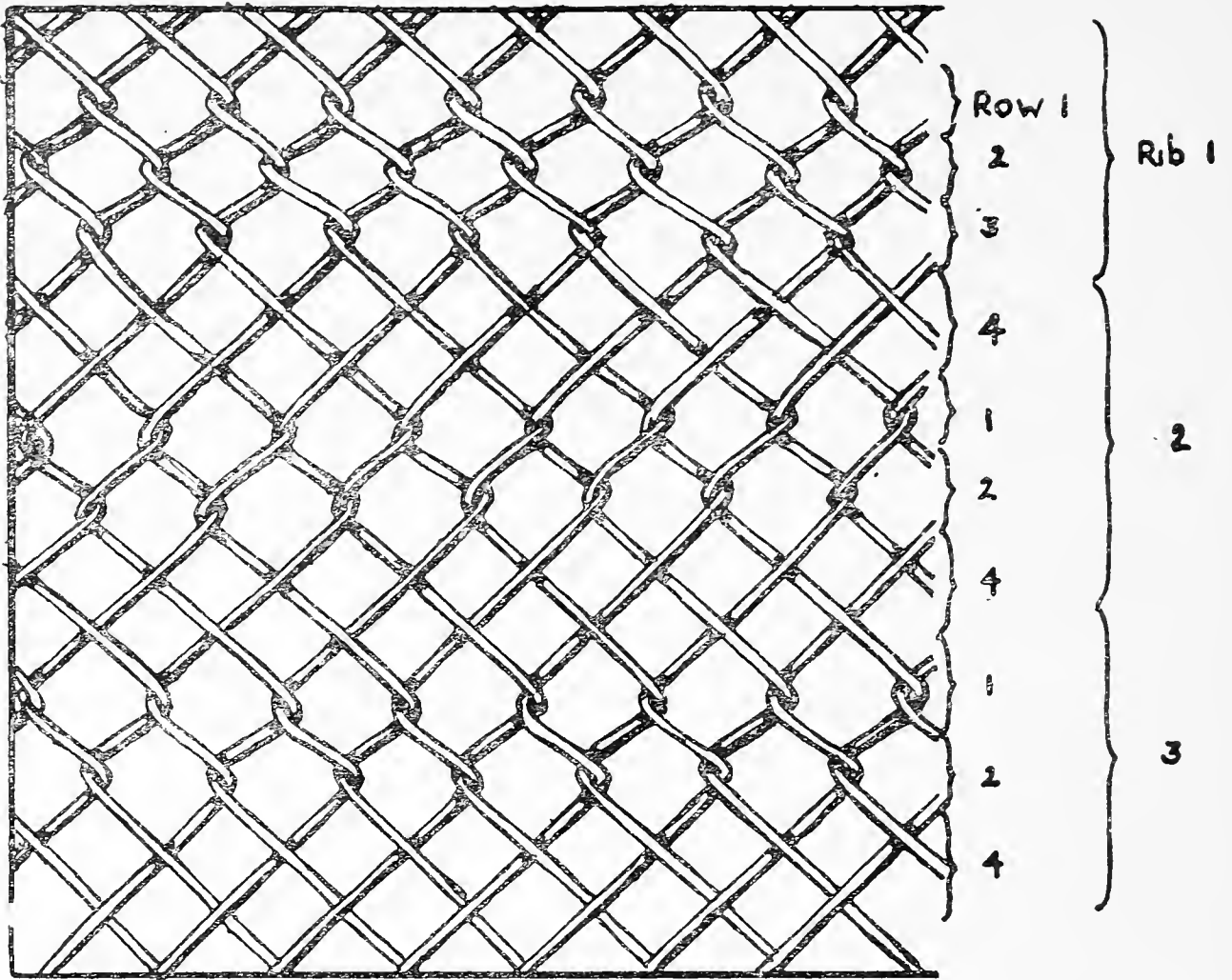


Fig. 1. WEAVE IN "SPRANG" TECHNIQUE.

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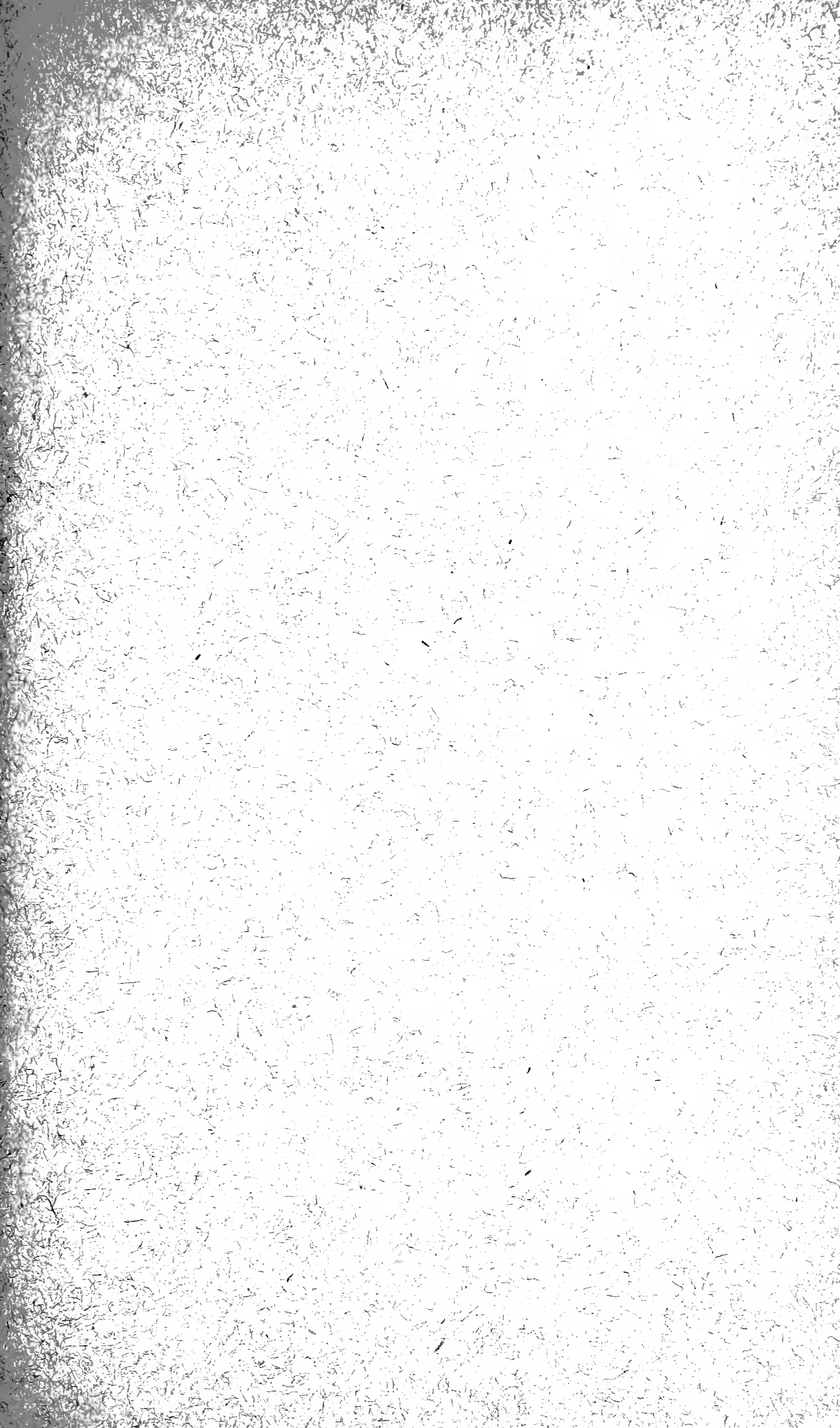
THE interests of THE YORKSHIRE MUSEUM are primarily devoted to Natural History and Archaeology. Its fine collections cater not only for the general public, but also for specialist students in these two branches of cultural activity.

The Keeper would be interested to hear at all times of collections, large or small, which other institutions or private persons may have for disposal, and which could be used to extend the educational facilities already afforded the archaeologist, systematist and biologist at THE YORKSHIRE MUSEUM.



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