

A collection of Fossil Organic Remains from Touraine was presented by Sir George Mackenzie, Bart.

Specimens of Fossil Vegetables and Shells from Shetland and Skye, by Professor Necker of Geneva, Hon. F. R. S. Ed.

The following Communications were made :—

1. “ Sir Charles Bell requested leave to withdraw his paper *on the fatal effects of air admitted into the veins of the neck during surgical operations*, in order to make additions.

“ He stated some interesting facts from veterinary practice. But the principal addition he desired to make was the notice of certain experiments made on the human subject after death, and which Dr Reid repeated and verified.

“ A small incision being made in the lower part of the neck, the external jugular vein was found flat ; but an incision being made into it on raising the shoulder and clavicle of that side, the vein opened. On holding open the integuments so that the wound might hold fluid, milk was poured into it : the milk remained stationary as in a cup ; but on elevating the shoulder and clavicle, the milk descended into the vein and disappeared.

“ The experiment was repeated and varied, but always to the effect of shewing that, by the elevation of the shoulder and clavicle, and the mastoid muscle attached, pressure was taken off the veins of the neck ; while on the descent of these parts, the fluid sucked into the vein was conveyed downwards.

“ These experiments Sir Charles maintained fortified the conclusion to which he had come by process of reasoning in his paper, viz. that air enters the veins of the neck during surgical operations when the veins are opened, and the patient shrinks and inspires deeply.”

2. On the Origin and Progress of Grecian Sculpture. By Dr Traill. Part I.

“ The author adduced arguments to prove, that the Egyptians were the real masters of the Greeks in the arts of Design. The Greek writers admit that, when their ancestors were barbarous, the Egyptian colonists of Argos and Athens imported with them the arts of a more polished people ; that they brought into Greece images of the Gods ; and that the most ancient sculptures mentioned by Pausanias and Pliny bore the impress of an Egyptian character ; especially the wooden statues ascribed by Pausanias