

Pieces of a Meteorite.

PRESENTED BY H. H. THE MAHARAJA RANA BAHADUR
OF JALAWAR.

A brilliant meteor was seen by H. H. the Maharaja Rana of Jalawar on the 22nd January, 1911, at about 4 p.m., and reported to the Society. The account appears in JOURNAL Vol. I No. 4 page 94. His Highness heard lately that the meteor had burst and fallen in a shower of stones. He obtained three specimens which he has sent to the Society. They appear to be unique specimens as far as India is concerned, and the following note on them by Dr. Harrison is of great interest.

The following is an extract from a letter received by the President from His Highness the Maharaja of Jalawar :—

“A brief note regarding the meteor which was seen here (Jhalrapatan) at 3.55 p.m. on the 22nd January last has already appeared in the JOURNAL of the Astronomical Society. The following facts apparently relate to the same meteor : A few weeks ago His Highness the Nawab Sahib of Tonk visited my capital, and in the course of conversation one of his officials told me that on the 22nd of January last a very loud report was heard at Chabra at about 4 in the afternoon, and was followed by a shower of small pieces of black stone. At my request a few of these pieces were sent to me, for which my thanks are due to His Highness the Nawab Sahib. Some of these pieces I now send to the Director Meteorite Section.”

The fragments were examined by Mr. Tipper and Dr. Christie of the Geological Survey of India. They feel convinced that the meteorite is of the rare carbonaceous type, consisting probably of almost pure carbon. There appears to be a metallic crust in certain places which may be due to the presence of the magnetic alloy of iron and nickel, and in one or two spots there appear to be very small pieces of meteoric stone. The fragments of meteorite are probably very valuable, as only eight other meteorites of the same type are known to have fallen, and the present specimen is the only carbonaceous meteorite ever recorded in India. Mr. Tipper kindly gave a list of the other recognised falls of this type. They are as follows :—