

NOTES.

(1) MR. SCHICK'S WORK AT JERUSALEM.

OUR esteemed contributor, Baurath Schick, furnishes some interesting information relative to excavations made by him in the vicinity of Jeremiah's Grotto. The excavations were undertaken in the hope of finding the continuation of the remarkable aqueduct leading to the convent of the Scours de Sion (see *Quarterly Statement*, 1872, p. 47), and resulted in the discovery of the remains of several rock-hewn channels, but unfortunately at such a level as to preclude the possibility of their being connected with the aqueduct, and we have still no clue to the source from which it derived its supply of water.

In front of the scarped rock at Jeremiah's Grotto, Mr. Schick excavated to a depth of fifteen feet without reaching rock, and found that at some period a number of buildings had been erected against the rock. Excavations were also made at the foot of the scarped rock in a garden a little to the north, and here a row of arched chambers was found running along the face of the rock, and following the line of the escarpment on the eastern side of the garden. In the middle of the garden excavations were made in an old pool, uncovering a portion of a well-built pier of masonry, on which were found some masons' marks similar to those on the churches built in Palestine during the Crusading period. In the face of the rock escarpment, at the north end of the garden, the entrance to a rock-hewn chamber was discovered. This chamber, 15 feet wide and 11 feet long, was at one time divided into two rooms, and provided with a window to admit light, as well as a door with iron hinge and bolt. It was found to be half full of bones and earth, and apparently had been used as a general tomb—possibly Christian, as two crosses were painted in red on the walls. A skeleton was also seen in the rubbish at the side of the excavation. Mr. Schick is of opinion that in these remains he has found the old convent and church of St. Stephen, but they are more probably those of the Asmerie, which was left standing for some time after the capture of the city by Saladin.

(2) LIEUTENANT CONDER'S ROCK PLAN OF JERUSALEM.

Lieut. Conder writes that the contour plan of Jerusalem, published in the October number (1873), was not, as stated in the preface, constructed entirely from previous work, and that it contained the results of his own work, from which the Valley of the Sisters of Zion and the lie of the rock in the Muristan were deduced.

(3) THE PROMISED SPECIMEN OF THE NEW MAP.

It has been found necessary to postpone the Carmel map, taken from Lieutenant Conder's Survey, for another three months. The

proof, sent to Palestine for correction and annotation by that officer himself, has been returned, but too late for production in the present number.

(4) THE AMERICAN SOCIETY.

A second "Statement" has been issued by the American Society, in which the work has been brought down to the commencement of Lieutenant Steevers's expedition into Moab. Want of space obliges us to postpone a notice of this interesting publication till the July number.

(5) THE FRAGMENTS OF THE MOABITE STONE.

At a meeting of the General Committee, held in the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster Abbey, on Tuesday, Feb. 24th, 1874, it was resolved "that the application of the French Ministry of Public Instruction, Worship, and Fine Arts, for the fragments of the Moabite Stone, containing fifty-six characters, to complete the much larger portion possessed by the Museum of the Louvre, be acceded to, in the interests of science and archæological knowledge."

(6) PROFESSOR HAYTER LEWIS ON THE REPORT OF M. CLERMONT-GANNEAU.

The following is extracted from a letter by Professor Lewis:—

"M. Ganneau is quite right in thinking that the tool marks will be of important service in identifying the buildings in which they are found.

"The peculiar delicate looking tooling (always anglewise) distinguishes nearly every specimen of Norman masonry with which I am acquainted. You may see it close here, in St. Bartholomew's Church, Smithfield, and wherever else time has left the surface tolerably perfect. The Norman tooling goes across the flat stone, but follows the lines of the mouldings. This also M. Ganneau has noticed. The dotted marks are, I have no doubt, the well-known thirteenth century tooling, which was done by a claw tool, leaving a number of notches or dots, and so was quite distinguished from the diagonal Norman. I have no doubt whatever that if M. Ganneau finds the mosque of Hebron to be, as I believe that Mr. Fergusson thinks it to be, English work of the thirteenth century, he will also find that the pillars have been tooled with such a tool, and bear the marks which he describes as dotted.

"But in addition to the above, the size of the stones should be noted. The Norman work is very peculiar. The stones are seldom above nine inches square, or a size near this; very regular and well jointed, closely at the uprights, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to $\frac{3}{4}$ in. at the beds. To a practised eye this masonry can be detected at a glance. With the thirteenth century came more machinery and larger stones; still very regular masonry."