rains had in many places washed the sand entirely away and exposed
the hard, dark-red marl beneath, and such an opportunity may not
occur again for years. I found that this marl was in places strewn
with flakes of flint, amongst which I discovered a beautiful leaf-shaped
lance and two saws, shaped out of yellowish flint. Half a mile to the
south-east of this spot I came on another place of the same kind, where,
if possible, the flint-flakes were even more numerous than in the first.
In subsequent visits I picked up two carefully worked lance-heads, some
more saws, and two larger implements. That these flint implements
were made on the spot is plainly evident, for I discovered at least
eight little mounds where the flint-worker had sat chipping at his
manufacture. These spots abounded with large flints, as well as in flakes
and more perfect specimens. It is to be feared that these interesting
mounds will be speedily reburied in sand. Besides the relics of the
prehistoric period, this site abounds in remains of later epochs and
people. Great quantities of fragments of broken glass of various
colours are strewn about in all directions, and belong, apparently, both
to Greco-Phoenician and Roman times. To the latter, also, may be
referred the numerous tesserae and pieces of green Egyptian porphyry,
verde antico, and other precious and now extinct marbles, which are
always signs of occupation by wealthy people. I found also a small
Phoenician and a small Roman coin in copper. M. Peretie, I under­
stand, has obtained numerous coins from the same place.

Note.—Since writing the above I have seen the Rev. Henry
Maundrell's "Journey from Aleppo to Jerusalem," 1697; Second
Edition, 1707. He gives an interesting account of his visit to Amrit
(he did not cross over to Ruad), tolerably correct engravings of the
two principal towers, and a plan of the sepulchral chambers, now
closed up, which he found underneath them.

ARABIC AND HEBREW.

I WOULD call attention to the manner in which many modern
Arabic words may differ from the Hebrew or Aramaic, just as do
modern Spanish words from the Latin. Thus we have in Latin and
Spanish respectively:—Porcus, puerco; Bono, bueno; Bos, Buéy;
Capillulus, Cabelluelo; Cornu, cuerno; Tempus, tiempo. And we have
in Hebrew and Arabic:—Socho, Shuweikeh; Saphir, Sawafu, &c. Following on this track we obtain from Lüweireh, Loreh; Dâwaimeh,
Dumeh; Sûweimeh, Sumeh; Kawassimeh, Kassimeh; Hawara, Harz,
&c. No doubt there are many known differences in European languages
which may be found to apply also to Hebrew and Arabic. I have to
suggest that a few simple rules on this subject might be arrived at
which would aid the explorer in rapidly making a tentative examina-
NICHES FOR SKULLS.

Charles Warren.

18th June, 1875.

NICHES FOR SKULLS.

2nd August, 1875.

In reference to Lieutenant Conder's opinion that the pigeon-hole niches at Masada were for skulls, I may mention a recent example which I saw in the island of Samos. A small Greek church, built about twenty years ago, had on each of the two bay sides six such niches. Each contained a skull and crossbones—an extraordinary sight. These, I was told, were in honour of the founders of the church. The other bones, as is common among the Asiatic Greeks in burial, had been destroyed by quicklime. Whether this is in any degree a vestige of cremation may be worth investigation. While a Turkish village is surrounded by numerous tombs, giving rise to the vulgar error of the decay of the population, a Greek village of the same or larger size will not show any beyond the very small graveyard.

Hyde Clarke.