

tion of any Arabic word in order to test its likeness to the Hebrew or Canaanitish.

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, it 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.
