

Annual subscribers are earnestly requested to forward their subscriptions for the current year when due, at their *earliest convenience*, and without waiting for application. It is best to cross all cheques and post-office orders to Coutts and Co.

The Committee are always grateful for the return of old numbers of the *Quarterly Statement*, especially those which are advertised as out of print.

Ladies desirous of joining the Ladies' Associations are requested to communicate with Mrs. Finn, The Elms, Brook Green, London, W.

Cases for binding the *Quarterly Statements* are now ready, and can be had on application to Messrs. R. Bentley and Son, 8, New Burlington Street, or to the office of the Fund. They are in green or brown cloth, with the stamp of the Society, uniform in appearance with "Our Work in Palestine," price one shilling. They can be obtained for any year by subscribers who have complete sets.

TOMB AT JERUSALEM.

A VERY interesting tomb has recently been opened about two miles from Jerusalem in the direction of Sur-bâhir. It consists of a cave in which has been constructed of masonry a chamber measuring seven and a half feet by ten feet, with "deep" loculi, also of masonry, on each of its four sides. The roof of this chamber is formed by the rock, which slopes downwards towards the door. The loculi are eighteen in number—eight on the left side (four above four), six on the right (four above two), two at the end opposite the door, and one on each side of the door. They are all somewhat larger than the usual rock-cut loculi, measuring nearly two feet by two feet. They were each closed by a stone slab carefully fitted, and these slabs have been removed by the fellahin, and are now lying upon the floor of the chamber. On the north side, opposite the door, is the usual bench, also of masonry. The entrance is by a descent of seven (or eight) steps; it is closed by a stone door still *in situ*, and swinging on its pivots, and having a groove on its inner side for the lock. Some of the lead with which the lock was fixed still remains. The masonry is of large well-dressed stones, and the joints are carefully cemented. The loculus farthest from the door on the western side leads into a portion of the cave beyond the masonry, and in this are ancient loculi sunk in the rock. In one of the loculi remains of iron nails and wood were found, which probably formed part of a coffin. No inscriptions or crosses were discovered upon the masonry, or the lamps found in the tomb, but a cross is rudely cut on the rock outside, and there can be

little doubt that the masonry is of the Christian period; an old sepulchral cavern, whose loculi had crumbled away, having been utilised by building new tombs within it. On a hill just above is a site called Khirbet Subkhah, where are several cisterns and large stones. One of the latter bears some rude crosses cut upon it. Masonry tombs are very rare in South Palestine, and the stone door still upon its hinges is unique. It is much to be desired that this monument be preserved from destruction, but there is probably little chance of this, as the stones are valuable for building. The swinging stone door in a tomb of comparatively recent date is of considerable archæological interest, as showing that these doors were in use at a later period than is commonly supposed.

THOS. CHAPLIN, M.D.

Jerusalem, March 2nd, 1876.

THE STONE OF FOUNDATION.

THE following from the Mishnah Yoma, v. 2, translated for me, January 30, 1872, by the late Emanuel Deutsch, may prove interesting with reference to Dr. Chaplin's paper on the "Stone of Foundation," published in the *Athenæum*, p. 608, 1875:—

Yoma, v. 2. "Since the ark had been taken away [*i.e.*, since the days of the first Temple] there was [only] a stone there [in the Holy of Holies] from the time of the first prophets; and its name was Shithiah [foundation], three fingers' height above the ground, and upon it did he [the high priest] place it [the incense]."

CHARLES WARREN.

Waltham Abbey, Jan. 28th 1876.

NEW PHOTOGRAPHS.

THE following is Lieut. Kitchener's complete list:—

1. Scene of the Return of the Ark.
2. Scene of the Attack on the Philistines' Camp by Jonathan and his Armour-bearer.
3. Mount Moriah, the Site of Solomon's Temple.
4. Site of Solomon's Palace.
5. Elisha's Fountain.
6. Bethlehem.
7. Interior of Dome of the Rock.
8. The Jordan.
9. Cana in Galilee.
10. Bethany.
11. Way of the Cross.