

9th. Another very curious masonry tomb at Jerusalem, which I explored in Feb., 1874, I have not found described anywhere. It is on the slope of Zion, by a tree close to the point where the valley sweeps round south. It is built almost entirely of rubble masonry, but the entrance is rock-cut, and the rock shows in the roof at the farther end. In fact, in this case, as in Nos. 2, 7, and 8, the rock is merely faced with masonry.

There are four loculi, two each side, measuring 6 feet 6 inches in length. The total length of the central passage is 18 feet 2 inches, by 3 feet 4 inches in breadth. There is a recess 5 feet diameter inside the entrance on the left. There is also a fifth loculus at the end 6 feet 6 inches long, by 2 feet 6 inches broad. It is not in the axis of the passage, but in a line inclined to the right of this axis.

The loculi are lined with very hard cement, brown in colour, and containing many fragments of pottery and small pebbles. The arches of the passage and the *Arcosolia* are semicircular; the loculi are sunk lower than the level of the floor, and were covered in with flat slabs. The height of the main passage is about 7 feet.

10th. The tomb described and planned by me north of Jerusalem (*Quarterly Statement*, Jan., 1873, p. 22), though rock-cut, was surmounted by a building having a tessellated floor like No. 6.

These remarks confirm Dr. Chaplin's statement that No. 8 is a reconstruction of late period, as all noted seem late, and many of them apparently reconstructions.

C. R. C.

25th May, 1876.

## THE ROEBUCK.

IN the winter of 1872-73 we were stationed at Haifa, on the slope of Carmel. During this period the late Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake discovered that a species of deer, which appears to be called *Yahmûr* by the peasantry, existed in the thickets above us. A fine specimen was brought down by the Bedouin, and its skin, horns, and bones, carefully packed in salt, were sent by Mr. Drake to the Museum of Cambridge University, where the species was determined by Sir V. Brooke as being the *Cervus Capreolus*, or ordinary roebuck. The existence of this animal was suspected by Dr. Tristram, but the specimen in question was the first sent to England.

This animal gives its name to a valley in the wildest thickets of the Sheikh Iskander range, which forms a continuation of the Carmel ridge on the south-east. *Wady el Yahmûr* will be found marked on the Survey sheet, No. 8.

In preparing the name index of this sheet I noticed that the Arabic *Yahmur* is the exact representative of the Hebrew *Yahmur* (יַחְמֹר), which is translated "fallow deer" in the authorised version, and noted among the delicacies to be found at the table of Solomon (Deut. xiv. 5, and 1 Kings iv. 23). This identification of the Biblical ruminant

with one still existing in Palestine of identical name is, I believe, entirely new, and it is, as it happens, the only species which had remained entirely unidentified.

The four principal species of ruminants noted in the Bible are therefore as below:—

1. אַיָּל, *Ajal*, translated "Hart" in the A. V., *Cervus Dama*. The Arabic *Ayal*. It is also called *Rim* in Arabic, a name identical with the Hebrew REEM (רֵיִם), translated "unicorn." The Hebrew Reem has, however, been proved from Assyrian inscriptions to have been a species of wild ox, now extinct.
2. יַחְמֹר, *Jahmur*, *Cervus Capreolus*, translated "fallow deer" in the A. V. The Arabic *Yahmur*.
3. צִבִּי, *Tzebi*, probably *Gazella Arabica*. "Roebuck" in the A. V. Arabic, *Dhebi*.
4. דִּישׁוֹן, *Dishon*, probably *Gazella Dorcas*. "Pygarg" in the A. V. The white rump of the ordinary gazelle suits this translation, taken from the LXX. version.

The fallow deer was found in Palestine by Dr. Tristram, who observed it in the wooded country near Tabor. Thus, both the roebuck and the fallow deer noted in the English version are shown to be inhabitants of Palestine, although the names are misapplied. The hart is now apparently extinct, and is not mentioned in Scripture. The fallow deer gives its name to the valley of Ajalon and two towns called Aijalon. There is some reason to suppose that it might still be found not far from the former of these places.

25th May, 1876.

C. R. C.

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## CONFERENCE AT THE SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS LOAN EXHIBITION.

THE following is the report of Lieutenant Conder's address at the Geographical Conferences of this exhibition:—

Lieutenant CONDER referred to the Palestine Fund being originated ten years ago, and spoke of his own work during the last four years. It was determined at the outset to have as far as possible a trigonometrical survey, and Lieutenant Conder gave a succinct account of the work from 1871, when Captain Stuart, R.E., was sent out with two non-commissioned officers of the Royal Engineers and one civilian. It was proposed to survey from Dan to Beersheba, 6,000 square miles. Out of that 4,600 square miles had been already accomplished, leaving only 1,400 square miles to be surveyed. Among the most important facts mentioned were that every native name they could obtain was preserved, and they had mapped at least one to every square mile. To do this special large maps had been prepared, as the existing maps were too small. They had arrived at the conclusion that the nomenclature was Caananitish rather than Jewish. A great help has been a record dis-