

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. יַחְמוּר, *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.

## 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-

covered of 120 towns captured, of which there are three copies. The names of the towns are given in the order of their position in the country. They are names of the time between Abraham and Joshua. Three-fourths of the existing names have been traced to their origin. Two of the most important results of the work have been the fixing of the site of the Cave of Adullam and the site of our Lord's baptism. The Cave of Adullam is one of a series of caves which would accommodate 300 men. There are two kinds of caves, those of water-worn origin, damp, the abode of bats, and unhealthy, and small dry caves, still inhabited and showing traces of inhabitation at different periods. Among the Adullam caves is one larger than the others, used, probably, by David himself. The site of our Lord's baptism is recorded as being at a ford near Bethabara. They determined to trace all the fords of the Jordan, and on an average they found three fords to a mile. Nothing was found at all answering to their search, when near the end of the survey of the Jordan they found a ford called Abara—without the "Beth," which means a house. The position with regard to the villages where our Lord is recorded to have been just previously suits admirably. The concluding part of Lieutenant Conder's paper was given to a consideration of the present physical condition of Palestine as compared with the past. There are traces of terraces and indications of using the land to the utmost for corn and vine. Now cultivation is neglected; oaks that used to flourish have disappeared; still the changes are rather of degree than of kind. The reason for stopping work for the present was stated to be an attack from fanatics, from whose wounds Syrian fever set in. Cholera, too, existed in that part of the country which remained to be surveyed. The party was, in consequence, ordered home to recruit, to superintend the publication of the work already done, and it is hoped that by the end of the year work in Palestine may be resumed.

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### LETTER TO THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

The following letter has been sent to the President of the Royal Geographical Society:—

Royal Geographical Society, 1, Savile Row.

To the President of the Royal Geographical Society, &c., &c.

SIR,—We, the undersigned Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society, desire to bring before your notice the following facts connected with the early history of the Society.

In the year 1804, or thereabouts, there was formed in London a Society which took the name of the Palestine Association. Its objects were to promote the Exploration of the Holy Land, and to publish from time to time such information as the Committee could procure as to the state of the country, its geography, its people, its climate, and its history. The only volume which, so far as we have yet learned, the Society published, was a "Brief Account of the Countries adjoining the