

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

It was stated in the April *Quarterly Statement* that the whole question of excavation and exploration in the Turkish Empire was under consideration at the Porte. Nothing definite has yet been published. As it seems useless to wait for the new regulations, which may be delayed a long time, the Committee have decided upon immediately undertaking another part of their original programme.

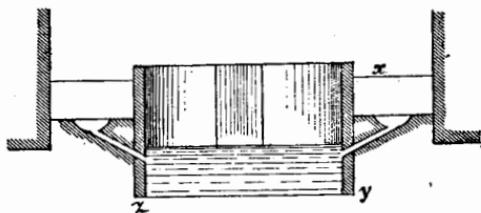
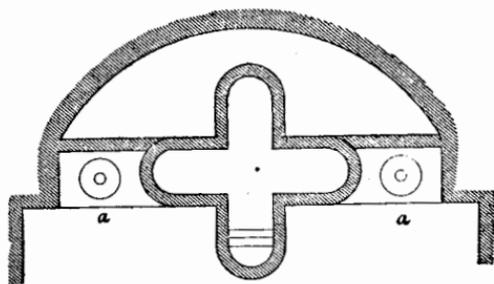
An expedition will therefore be attempted for the autumn of this year, in order to effect the Geological Survey of Western Palestine. In October we hope to announce the formation of the party and the programme in full of the proposed work, its objects, the problems which it is sought to solve, and the Biblical aspect of the undertaking, with an estimate of the probable work of the journey.

Captain Conder has now returned to the service of the Committee, and is at work upon his *Memoirs of the Eastern Expedition*. He has also completed his book called "Heth and Moab," which contains a popular account of that expedition. This will be published in October, uniform with "Tent Work in Palestine," but in one volume instead of two.

Captain Conder writes (22nd June): "In the account of the siege of Philadelphia, or Rabbath Ammon, by Antiochus the Great, in 218 B.C., as noticed by Polybius (v, 17), it is mentioned that a communication with the water supply outside the citadel had been made by a long subterranean passage, and that the citadel was only reduced when this was discovered to Antiochus by a prisoner. It seems to me that this is explained by a discovery which, as far as I have been able to find, was a new one, and due to the recent Survey. In examining the tombs and caves on the north side of the town I lit upon the entrance to a very large rock-cut reservoir, some 30 feet deep. The cave door was almost on the level of the roof, and a steep slope, with a few rude rock-cut steps, led down. I made a plan and sketch, which will appear in the "Memoirs." Just inside the entrance,

which is about 50 paces (125 ft.) north of the middle tower of the north wall of the citadel, I found a little rock-cut passage, which ran at first east and gradually curved round and trended south. I followed it for 40 feet, and then found it very narrow and choked up. It seemed to me to be intended to enable persons inside the citadel to reach this great reservoir, which must have held rain-water, as it was too high up to be fed from the stream. It is perhaps to this passage and reservoir that the historian alludes."

The accompanying plan and section represent a font and portions of a baptistry recently found at Latrûn, close to Amwâs, 15 miles west by north of Jerusalem. The cruciform shape of the font is rare, but not unknown. Somewhat similar examples will be found in the "Dictionary of Christian Antiquities." The section has been copied from the drawing sent home, the dimensions being approximate. A perspective drawing showing the font and accessories more clearly has been asked for, and will, we hope, be given in October.



$$x y = 5 f^2$$

$$y x = 10 f^2$$

An account of the various hospices, &c., at Jerusalem, published on p. 160, is taken from Luncey's "Year Book of Jerusalem." It does not include, however, any account of the new Ophthalmic Dispensary recently established by the English Langue of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. All travellers in Jerusalem will rejoice that such an institution has at last been founded. Under proper management it cannot fail of becoming a great blessing to the country. The Sultan contributed 1,000*l.* towards the hospice. There is a local committee at Jerusalem, consisting of the English Consul, Dr. Chaplin, and Mr. John M. Cook. The surgeon is Mr. J. C. Waddell, M.D. There is already a daily average attendance of from 20 to 150 patients. The committee ask for further

support from those interested in the Holy City. The offices of the Order are at St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, E.C.

At the last meeting of the Annual Committee Lieut.-Col. Sir Charles Wilson was re-elected, on his return from Egypt, a member of the Executive Committee.

The authorised lecturers for the Society are—

- (1) The Rev. Henry Geary, Vicar of St. Thomas's, Portman Square. His lectures are on the following subjects :—

The Survey of Western Palestine, as illustrating Bible History.

Palestine East of the Jordan.

The Jerusalem Excavations.

A Restoration of Ancient Jerusalem.

- (2) The Rev. James King, Vicar of St. Mary's, Berwick. His subjects are as follows :—

The Survey of Western Palestine.

Jerusalem.

The Hittites.

The Moabite Stone and other monuments.

The income of the Society, from March 22rd to June 25th inclusive, amounted in all, including subscriptions, lectures, and payment for maps, measures, and publications to £685 9s. 11^d. The expenditure during the same period was as follows :—

				£	s.	d.
Exploration and Survey	115	0	0
Printing	200	0	0
Maps and Memoirs	337	0	0
Management	178	0	0

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Subscribers who do not receive the *Quarterly Statement* regularly, are asked to send a note to the Secretary. Great care is taken to forward each number to all who are entitled to receive it, but changes of address and other causes give rise occasionally to omissions.

While desiring to give every publicity to proposed identifications and other theories advanced by officers of the Fund and contributors to the pages of the *Quarterly Statement*, the Committee wish it to be distinctly understood that by publishing them in the *Quarterly Statement* they neither sanction nor adopt them.
