

surface and built on it, then for the two middle piers they put wood on the ground and built a flat arch over it, and on the arch the wall and piers ; the next pier they putt on the old slanting masonry, and the last on the eastern corner on the remains of the second wall. There are four layers of old stones, the one at the bottom lying on a small rock scarp. The aqueduct coming from the Mammilla Pool is also shown, and then the rock as it is under the new building, and also at the castle ditch. Both elevations are put on a level at 2,500 feet above the sea.

C. SCHICK.

## RECENT DISCOVERIES.—NOTES AND NEWS FROM GALILEE.

By G. SCHUMACHER.

1. *Zimmârn*.—At the flourishing colony of Roumanian Jews, founded and maintained by the Baron Edmond de Rothschild, of Paris (situate at the ancient site of Zimmârn, and now called Zicron-Jacob), antiquities of interest are daily brought to light by the remarkable and warm attention which is paid to their discovery by its President, Professor Wormser. On the slope between the actual Khirbet Zimmârn (Palestine Map, Sheet VIII) and the south-western summit (marked 554 feet on the map), a large building, with remains of arcades, small and large rooms, partly paved with Mosaic, partly with marble-plates, was discovered. The walls built of large hewn stones of 2 feet and 2 feet 5 inches in length are set in mortar ; now and then a red brick piece masoned between the blocks is discovered. The mortar is good and contains lime and sifted parts of the local Maleki-rock, but no sea sand. A southern small room of about 6 by 4 feet was laid a foot lower than its neighbouring rooms, was carefully plastered, and contained, as mentioned, a marble floor ; the other divisions are not yet entirely opened, but also show a cover of solid plaster and side-openings near the floor similar to water conduits. The upper part or roofing, entirely destroyed, lies from 2 to 3 feet below the present surface of the ground, which consists of an alluvial brown earth. No marks or signs have been as yet discovered. To judge from the general divisions, we here have a bath, which by its position may have been supplied by a near spring, which may be hidden below the "Ulleik" bushes (raspberry) of the slope, and which, according to native views, are a true sign of live water. Continued excavations will soon enable me to furnish a plan of it.

Near by this bath several column capitals were found ; they are of a Corinthian and an Ionic style, with rough sculpturings. The Corinthian capitals are of marble, much defaced, but the acanthus-leaf ornament can still be sufficiently distinguished ; the Ionic specimens are of limestone, very primitive, and have the shape figured ; from which it is seen that the volutes end in a cross of Byzantine-

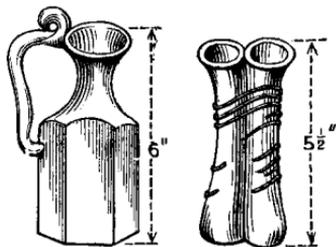
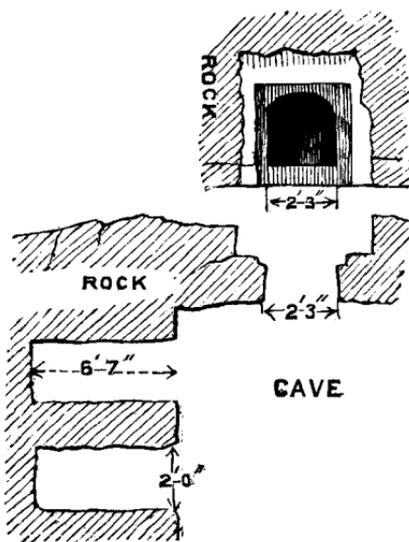
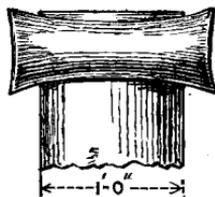


Constantine shape. To judge from other similar remains on which indistinct signs of Christian emblems are seen, I should place the mentioned baths with these remains, which evidently belonged to it, in the Byzantine area.

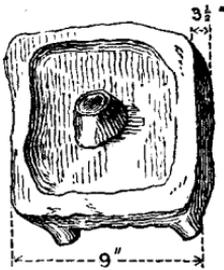
In addition to the above, the farmers of the colony, while ploughing, came upon subterranean caves which proved to be of a sepulchral character, and in their disposition similar to those described in the Memoirs and by me near Fureidis and Khirbet en Nuzleh. These caves generally lie on the slopes of the mountain, the summit of which is crowned by the colony, opposite old Zimmârîn to the south-west. The inference drawn from these

discoveries is that the caves evidently have never been opened before. Their entrance is formed by a square opening 2 to 3 feet wide and high, and a rounded upper part, as a rule shut by a simple stone gate. The interior shows a rock-cut room of from 10 to 15 feet square and 6 feet high; the main axis varying in every direction, as the caves honey-comb the whole slope. Each of the sides generally show 3 to 4 koka, and the end wall 2 loculi, giving 6 to 8 koka and 2 loculi in all; in some I found 7 to 9 koka, but no loculus. *Each of these graves yet contained human bones and skulls, some complete skeletons, ornaments in copper,*

as arm bracelets, large nails, and defaced instruments; also quantities of all sorts of glass remains, single and double lachrymatories, drink-dishes of glass, and glass bracelets, the most of them complete, well conserved, and especially the small lachrymatories of a wonderful thin shining glass composition. One of the single lachrymatories has a hexagonal form, and looks, if abstracted from the primitive work and the antique glass, quite modern; the double lachrymatory, although one single piece of glass, is twisted by a thin silver wire, partly broken, which must have been formed into the glass while still warm. At the top of a skeleton, next to the head, a small mortar of basaltic stone, 9 inches broad and but  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, standing on three legs, was



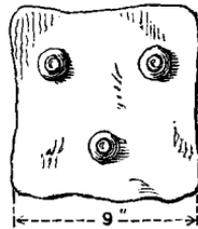
found ; a small rounded piece of a hard stone mass yet lie in the interior of the mortar, showing clearly its character as a pounder, probably to



Mortar of basalt.



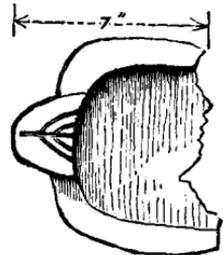
Section.



From below.

pound in it spices and use them in the memory of the dead. In another grave (loculus) a similar mortar, but broken, of marble was found ; it shows two-sided handles, on one of which I discovered a five-armed candlestick, primitively sculptured, thus :—

On other basaltic mortars there are also indistinct signs closely alike the candlestick mentioned. The discovery of this ancient Jewish emblem and of that of lead sarcophagi with grape ornaments, found years before at this place, together with the Christian emblems already mentioned, prove that Zimmârin was once occupied by both religions ; the first, the Jewish, being probably the more ancient.

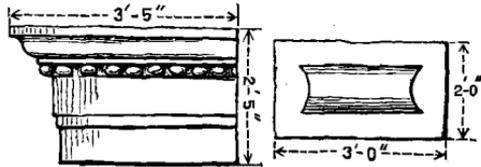


Marble mortar.

The excavations on the slopes, where many signs of tombs are yet discoverable, will still be continued, and it is to be hoped that they will gradually lead to good results. The ruined site, named *Umm el Jenâl*, one mile north-east of Umm et Tât (Sheet VIII), will be next put to a thorough examination by being settled by the above-mentioned Jewish Society. The height of the neighbouring village, *Shefeia*, I found to be 304 feet above the Mediterranean.

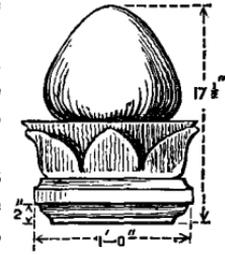
2. *Tiberias*.—The road from the city of Tiberias to the hot baths is nearly finished, and a carriage drives regularly, at the expense of the municipality, over the *débris* of Roman villas, to bring the sick and not sick to and from the renowned hammi. The heaps of ruins which were opened at the construction of the road, proved to be, for the greater part, old baths, as a regular course of aqueducts of 1 foot in depth and 10 inches in width, masoned and well plastered, could be followed up from near the hot baths to the present Jewish cemetery, running *through* the mentioned buildings, and the native traditions, that the hot springs formerly were in the interior of the city, may find an explanation in the above. Most of the Roman buildings along the lake, familiar to every explorer of Tiberias, are now totally destroyed by the “*chaussée*,” but not

without great efforts, as the masonry work was an exceeding solid one. Among the basalt building stones near the foundations, several large carefully hewn blocks of a strange white lime-rock were found, as if they belonged to a preceding building. They were from 3 to 5 feet long, 2 feet high and wide, and showed Roman mouldings, thus :—



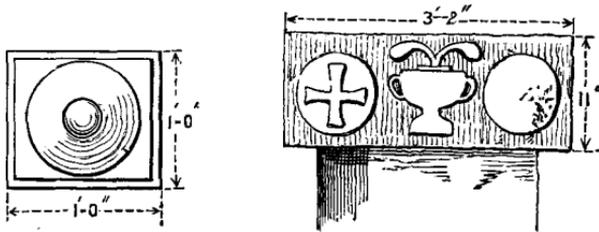
In comparing the different remains of Tiberias along the lake, I find that the wall remains south of the hot baths, which, commencing at the shore, take a western course towards the mountains and end at the building of Rabbi Maier, have the highest age among all ; larger, huge building stones, different mortar and construction. They embrace the largest area of the old site.

Among the old Jewish graves, which I mentioned in a former report, lying north-west of the city, the road constructions brought the sketched top-piece to the daylight, hewn of basalt.



Basalt top-piece, Tiberias.

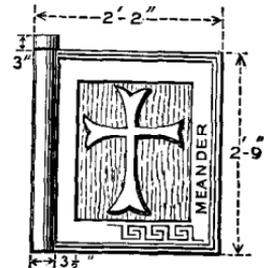
At the Jâmia el Bahr, the mosque on the sea at Tiberias, I discovered, among other ornaments, the following Christian emblems on the basalt lintel of a side door ; the ornamentation has a Haurân character.



Jâmia.

In the yard of the Latin convent of Tiberias, where foundations are laid for a new "pilgrim house," a large wall, 4 feet thick, running parallel with the shore, was struck ; among the building stones the annexed stone gate of basalt was also found :—

On one side it shows a cross embraced by a meander ornament. The gate is 6 inches thick.

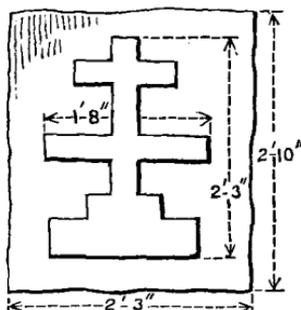


Basalt gate.

3. 'Akka.—The road works have also here brought a stone to light

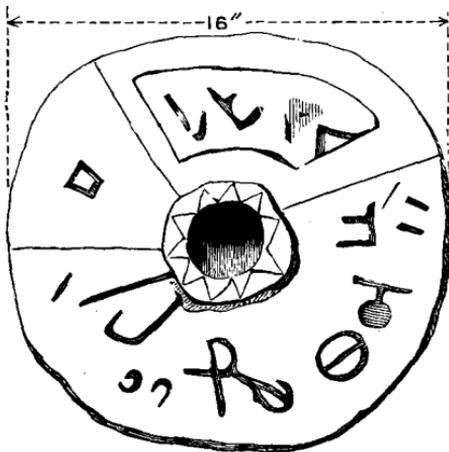
found south of the present Christian cemetery, half way between the gardens on the large Haurân (Safed) road :—

The stone shows a curious double cross on a base, carved in relief, and seems to be of some age ; a priest who stood near when I sketched it, pretended that it represented (known by its form) the grave of a bishop ; but no bishop has been buried near here for a century and more. Against any other sort of excavations the military Government of 'Akka, puts forward every objection possible, which is a great archæological loss.



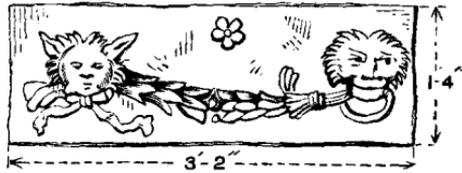
4. *Rushmia*.—The work for a suggested aqueduct from the renowned spring of this crusading castle near Haifa to the city, has again begun. The spring was formerly led to the wâdy near by a vault, and heaps of large hewn building stones, a gigantic trough, and remains of pottery are found. The head of the family of the *Sahly* at Beled esh Sheikh, near Haifa, convinced me that the old name of Rushmia was *Deir Mishnia* دير مشنيا, and “was only corrupted by the Franj,” and that of *Beled esh Sheikh* was *el Mughâr* المغار, it being altered from this original name, since the Sultan gave the village to their grandfather, a grand Sheikh of the last century, as a recompensation for his pilgrimage to Mecca. This history was confirmed to me by other old Sheikhs of adjacent villages.

*Beirut*.—In the court yard of the Serail, among antiquities of more or less value, I observed on a sort of small grinding stone (sandstone), 16 inches in diameter, the following very much defaced characters, which may be Hittic inscriptions. The few minutes I could spare to copy them sufficed not for a squeeze ; the stone was immediately exported to the Constantinople Museum, together with the Saida antiquities. I could not make out from whence it was brought ; some said from Saida, some from Homs.



5. *Saida*.—I am able to forward to you to-day a description of the excavations and discoveries (sarcophagi) of Saida, noted in the scientific paper “Le Bachir,” of Beirut, very exactly by those who stood in closest relation-

ship with the excavations (see p. 201). Of special interest is the inscription on the recently discovered Phœnician sarcophagus, which, according to decipherings obtained from Paris, reads as follows:—"I Tabnite, priest of the Astarte, and King of Sidon, who lies in this tomb, say: Come not to open my grave, it contains neither



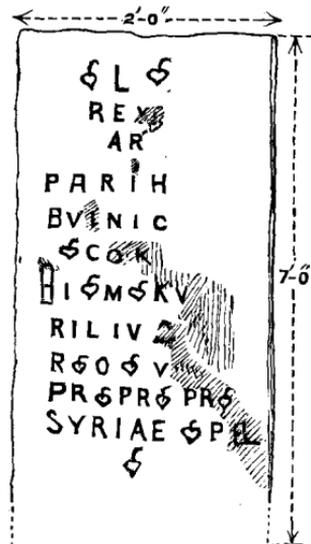
Saida, Khân.

gold nor silver nor treasures. Whoever will open this tomb shall have no prosperity under the sun, and shall find no rest in his sepulchre." This inscription indicates that the mummy found in the sarcophagus is that of Tabnite, King of Sidon, the father of Eshmunazar, King of Sidon, whose tomb was transported to the Louvre, and which was also crowned with an inscription.

Photographic views of the grand discoveries at Saida will, I hope, follow. I had been called to the place and have examined the discoveries with His Excellency Hamdy Bey, the Director-General of the Constantinople Museum. They are superior to any other classical work I came across, and it is a pity that no more excavations are made, as the vicinity clearly states the presence of a large necropolis.

In the walls of the new Khân I found the annexed relief ornament, worked of sandstone. On my way homewards I found, near Saida, in the field, an old broken granite column, 2 feet in diameter, on which the following defaced Latin inscription was readable.

(Haifa) *Tell es Samak*.—In addition to Mr. Oliphant's report on our excavation work done at this site, I must add that the Government has stopped the work, and has forbidden a continuation of same for the moment.



Saida Column.

Haifa, June 30th, 1887.

G. SCHUMACHER.