

## IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY IN PALESTINE.

MR. WILLIAM SIMPSON, in his interesting paper (p. 55 January *Quarterly Statement*), mentions the system of pits for water connected with shafts at intervals, and linked by an underground tunnel, as seen by the Rev. Mr. Harper and the Rev. J. Niel in the Vale of Siddim, also found at Surtabeh and Damascus.

Mr. Simpson found the same system in use in Persia and Afghanistan, where the pit and tunnel are called Karaize. Sir R. Burton also mentions them. The same system is still in use in Cyprus, where professional well and aqueduct makers construct them 'as in olden times, in what look like waterless districts. The word used in 2 Kings iii, 16, is גַּרְבַּי (reservoir), and also in Isaiah xxx, 14, Jeremiah xiv, 3, and again of the Siddim Vale in Ezek. xlvii, 11, where our version gives "marishes." The same word is still in use in Palestine, e.g., the well known Jebb (جَبَّ) Yussuf between Siberias and Safet.

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## THE STONE (EBEN) OF ZOHELETH.

As no one has yet produced an instance (1889, 44) from the Bible of *eben* meaning a *cliff*, it may safely be concluded that such is not to be found. Major Conder's note (*id.* 90) fails to meet the case, for he quotes Gesenius as rendering *eben rock* (Gen. xlix, 24), but the dictionary says that "some persons apply the term (*rock*) to a stone of any size, and speak of boys throwing *rocks* at each other—a supremely ridiculous expression."

In the verse above, the A.V. and R.V. render the word "the stone of Israel." The Arabic *Zehwele* (for all that I know) may come from the Hebrew *Zohelath*; but it is an utter impossibility for a solid *cliff*, however slippery, at the village of Siloam, ever to have been the moveable stone of *Zohelath*, close to Enrogel, several hundred yards distant from that village.

Several explanations have been given of the word *Zohelath*. If the expression means the stone of "moving to and fro," let me offer the conjecture that it was a *logan* (or rocking) stone which will *log* again, whenever the *débris* of centuries is thoroughly cleared away from near Enrogel.

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## GIHON.

ON p. 124, Dr. Chaplin thinks it not improbable that the name Gihon (Fountain of the Virgin) was derived from "*gahan*, to bow down, to prostrate oneself, and was originally applied not to the fountain, but to