

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the General Committee of this Society took place at the Office, 24, Hanover Square, W., on July 21st. James Glaisher, Esq., F.R.S., occupied the Chair. Among those present were Major-General Sir F. J. Goldsmid, Surgeon-General Hutchinson, M.D., the Revs. C. D. Ginsburg, D.D., W. J. Stracey, W. Henry Rogers, D.D., and A. Löwy, J. D. Crace, Esq., H. C. Kay, Esq., Wm. Simpson, Esq., B. Woodd Smith, Esq., Dr. Chaplin, &c.

The Chairman mentioned that he had received letters regretting inability to attend from Viscount Sidmouth, J. R. Barlow, Esq., Sir William Muir, D. MacDonald, Esq., Rev. Joseph Angus, Henry S. Perry, Esq., Rev. W. F. Birch, Jas. Melrose, Esq., Major Conder, R.E., &c.

The Annual Report of the Executive Committee for the past year was then read.

GENTLEMEN,

Your Executive Committee, elected at the last General Meeting on July 1st, 1890, beg now, on resigning their office, to render an account of their administration during their term of office for the past year.

They have held twenty-one meetings since the last Annual Report was issued.

They have to deplore the loss by death of the late Archbishop of York, the President of the Society for twenty-four years, of the late Dean of Wells, and of the Rev. Henry Geary, who was for more than twenty years one of the Lecturers for the Fund.

They have great satisfaction in announcing the acceptance by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury of the Presidency of the Fund.

The main work of the year has been the excavations at Tell-el-Hesi. Some delay occurred in resuming the work. Mr. Flinders Petrie's old love for Egypt was so strong that your Committee had to look afield for a fresh explorer. It was no easy matter to find one suitable, for, as you well know, so many qualifications combined in one man are necessary.

Mr. Bliss, the son of the President of the American College at Beirout, being highly recommended by the Rev. Dr. Post for the position, was appointed, and proceeded to Egypt, where he underwent a course of instructions with Mr. Petrie in conducting excavations.

In February he arrived at Jaffa, and at once began arrangements for starting work, his several letters reporting progress will be found in the *Quarterly Statement*.

His detailed report of the season's operations has just come to hand, and appears in the present number.

Herr Schick continues to report on all newly discovered objects in or near Jerusalem. His endeavours to find the continuation of the rock-cut channel south of the Virgin's Fountain were at last rewarded by success, though not before sinking several shafts over 30 feet in depth. On striking the channel, which is partly a rock-cut tunnel, he followed it for over 200 feet. What this channel or drain belongs to, or where it comes from or leads to, has not yet been decided. Unfortunately, the work was put a stop to by order of the Governor, owing, it is thought, to the lamentable removal of the Siloam inscription, which has roused the suspicions of the Turkish authorities.

Everyone interested in the archaeology of Palestine will have learned with regret that this famous inscription was cut out of the rock tunnel and carried away some time during last year. It was broken in removal and the fragments sold to a person in Jerusalem. On receiving this intelligence your Executive Committee immediately forwarded to His Excellency Hamdi Bey a resolution expressing their regret and their hope that steps would be taken to secure the fragments. A few weeks later Mr. Kayat, Acting British Consul at Jerusalem, reported that through his endeavours the inscription had been recovered and handed over to the Turkish authorities for transmission to Constantinople.

About the time of the removal of this inscription another "Siloam inscription" was produced, and copies of it sent to several persons. There is one in this office. It is a clumsy forgery in seven lines of Phœnician characters.

Among the more important discoveries of the year are:—

An elaborate rock-cut tomb, and an ancient bath and cistern near Bethany.

Some fine mosaic work in three colours at the so-called "House of Caiaphas."

Another rock-hewn chapel with a Greek inscription at Silwân.

The springing of an arch in "Solomon's Stables" by Mr. Lees. The lower masonry and the part of the arch left are similar to Robinson's Arch and the fragment of an arch near the south-east corner. A paper on this subject by Mr. Wrightson, C.E., a report with plans by Herr Schick, and a photograph of the arch by Mr. Lees, have been published in the *Quarterly Statement*.

Herr Schick and Mr. Lees sent some squeezes and tracings of Hebrew inscriptions and ornamentation found on some ossuaries that were deposited in rock-hewn tombs lately opened up north of the city, on the west side of the Damascus road. These were forwarded to Professor Clermont-Ganneau, who has contributed valuable notes respecting them, which will be found in the current number of the *Quarterly Statement*.

Herr Schumacher, acting on instructions from the Committee, proceeded to Kana, a village east of Tyre, and photographed (we believe for the first time) and examined the sculptured figures mentioned by Guérin and Renan. No inscriptions were found. Major Conder believes the figures to be of the Roman or Greek period.

Your Chairman has continued his valuable papers on the "Comparison of the Atmospheric Pressure and Temperature in Palestine and in England in the Ten Years ending 1889." These papers are teeming with information on the climate of Palestine.

An important paper on the Maronites by Mr. F. J. Bliss was received early in the year. The Committee hope to publish this early in the coming year.

The Rev. Dr. Post has contributed an account of his trip to Palmyra, and his second valuable essay on the "Sects and Nationalities of Palestine."

Dr. Chaplin reported the discovery, at Samaria, of a Hebrew weight, having an inscription of two lines, in ancient Hebrew characters, which, translated by Professor Sayce, reads: "Quarter of a quarter of a Netzeg." It is believed to belong to the 8th century B.C.

Professor Hayter Lewis obtained, through the kindness of Miss Amy G. Smith, a squeeze of an inscribed Assyrian tablet, which was found many years ago, when the Sisters of Zion were making excavations near the Via Dolorosa. Mr. E. Wallis Budge reports that it is a fragment of an inscription of Sargon (705-721 B.C.), and came from that monarch's palace at Khorsabad.

The premises in Adam Street being now too small for the purposes of the Fund, the commodious rooms in which we are met have been taken.

Your Executive Committee are pleased to report that the collection of objects of interest brought home by officers of the Fund is now entirely in their own hands, and is being arranged for exhibition at the Office of the Fund.

The Rev. Greville J. Chester has rendered valuable assistance in arranging these objects, and Mr. Flinders Petrie has classified and dated the pottery, &c., found during his excavations at Lachish.

Your Treasurer, Mr. Walter Morrison, has presented to the Fund for Exhibition in the Museum room, six beautiful water-colour paintings by Mr. William Simpson.

1. Bahr-el-Kebir, or the Great Sea (underneath the Haram area).
2. The Well of the Steps.
3. Column found in driving a Gallery.
4. Scarped Rock in Gallery.
5. Fallen Voussoirs of Robinson's Arch.
6. South-east Corner of the Haram Wall.

These paintings are quite unique, owing to most of the places having been filled at the conclusion of Sir Charles Warren's excavations. The best thanks of the Committee are due to Mr. Morrison for his valuable gift.

The Executive Committee have pleasure in reporting that since the last General Meeting 207 new subscribers have been added to the list of annual subscribers.

PUBLICATIONS.

The new publications of the year have been—

1. A new, cheap and revised edition of "The Bible and Modern Discoveries," by Henry A. Harper. This edition is very popular, and has met with a steady sale.

2. Mr. Flinders Petrie's account of his excavations at Tell-el-Hesi was published in January. It is full of detailed information, with many drawings of

the objects found, which are tabulated according to the period they belong to. In the museum room will be found a carefully-classified set of fragments of pottery from Lachish, comprising Phœnician, Amorite, Jewish, and Greek forms, which will be of great value to students of the subject. Corresponding sets have been left by Mr. Petrie at Jerusalem, Jaffa, and Beirût for the instruction of travellers.

3. "The Fauna and Flora of the Wâdy 'Arabah and Sinai" has been sent out to all subscribers to the first edition in order of application.

"The Archæological Mission of Professor Clermont-Ganneau." Proofs of the illustrations of this work have been sent to M. Ganneau, who is engaged in arranging them and preparing the letter-press.

The raised contour map is in progress. Casts of it in three sections have been made, and Mr. Armstrong, when his other duties permit, is closely engaged in working it up for reproduction. It is intended to publish it in plaster of Paris and papier maché. The physical features of the country and Biblical towns will be shown as far as the scale will permit. Fuller information will be given in the *Quarterly Statement*, previous to publication. This very remarkable production of Mr. Armstrong's skill and industry will be of the greatest value for use in higher schools and to students generally.

Amongst the reports and papers which have been published in the *Quarterly Statements* since the last General Meeting of Committee are the following:—

By Baurath C. Schick—

"The New Road North and East of the City Wall;" "Discoveries at the House of Caiaphas;" "Another Rock-cut Chapel at Silwân;" "Christian Tombs in Jerusalem;" "Excavations on Mount Olivet, at the Second Aqueduct, at the Golden Gate, and at Rujm-el-Kahakir."

By Mr. Flinders Petrie—

"Journals"; "Explorations in Palestine"; &c.

By Mr. F. J. Bliss—

"Letters on the Progress of the Excavations at Lachish."

By the Rev. J. E. Hanauer—

"Proverbs and sayings among the Spanish Jews;" "Notes on Palmyrene Inscriptions;" "A Subterranean Passage in Solomon's Stables;" "Cuttings in the Rock in the Haram Area."

By James Glaisher, F.R.S.—

“Comparison of the Atmospheric Pressure and Temperatures in Palestine and in England in the ten years ending 1889, from Observations taken at Saron, near Jaffa.”

By the Rev. George E. Post, M.D.—

“Narrative of a Trip to Palmyra;” “Land Tenure, Agriculture, etc., in Palestine.”

By the Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Salisbury—

“Note on an Inscription from the Church of St. Stephen’s.”

By Dr. Chaplin—

“An ancient Hebrew Weight from Samaria;” “A Stone Mask from er Rām” (the Hebrew weight and stone mask are to be seen in the Museum); “Gihon.”

By T. Wrightson, M.I.C.E.—

“On Relation of certain Arch Springings found within the Area of the Temple of Jerusalem.”

By Dr. Selah Merrill—

“On the Pits in the Shittim Plain;” “Castle at Khan Minieh;” “Visits to Umm Shita;” “The Natural Bridge at Pella;” and “Inhabitants of Bashan.”

By Major Conder, R.E., LL.D., D.C.L., M.R.A.S.—

“The Sculptured Figures near Kana;” “The Native Name of Palmyra;” “The Moabite Stone;” “The Battle of Kadesh;” “The Conquests of Rameses in Galilee;” “Jews and Gentiles in Palestine;” “Monumental Notices of Hebrew Victories;” “On the Chronology of Pottery;” “On the Hebrew Weights;” “Lachish Inscription;” “Quotations of Psalms;” “On the Khabiri or Abiri;” “The Sculptured Tomb at Shefa ‘Amr;” “The Early Akkadians in Lebanon;” “The Hittite Prince’s Letter;” “On the Altar from Tell Amarna;” “The Hebrews on the Tell Amarna Tablets;” “On Baalgad;” “Mahanaim.”

By Professor Hayter Lewis—

“An Assyrian Tablet from Jerusalem;” “Ruins of Church on the Skull Hill, Jerusalem.”

By Professor R. W. West, M.A.—

“Barometrical Determination of Heights in Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon.”

By William Simpson, M.R.A.S.—

“Entrance to the Holy Sepulchre”

By Major Watson, R.E., C.M.G.—

“The Holy Sepulchre.”

By Rev. W. F. Birch—

“The ‘Gutter’”: “Gihon.”

By George St. Clair, F.G.S.—

“Millo”; “The Fuller's Field.”

By Surgeon-General Hutchinson, M.D.—

“Notes on Figures in the Cave of Saris, and on Malula and its Dialect.”

By W. C. Winslow, D.D.—

“On Acoustics at Mounts Ebal and Gerizim.”

By Mrs. Finn—

“The Dead Sea visible from Jerusalem.”

By Rev. James Neil—

“Pits in the Shittim Plain.”

By Rev. Greville J. Chester—

“The Stone Mask from er Ram.”

By Rev. J. H. Cardew—

“Note on the Identification of Zoar.”

By Professor Sayce, LL.D.—

“The Lachish Inscription.”

By Henry Gillman—

“On the site of the Holy Sepulchre.”

By J. Stow—

“On Mount Horeb.”

Your Executive Committee desire again to record their special thanks to the Honorary Local Secretaries for their efforts so cheerfully and readily made on behalf of the Society's work.

It is proposed that the following gentlemen be invited to become members of the General Committee :—

Lieut.-Col. Goldsmid, War Office.
 Joseph Sebag-Montefiore, Esq.
 Isidore Spielman, Esq., C.E.
 John Dickson, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem.
 Rev. R. Appleton, Trinity College, Cambridge.
 W. M. Flinders Petrie, Esq.
 G. F. Watts, Esq., Manchester.
 F. D. Mocatta, Esq.

The following is the balance sheet of the year 1890 :—

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1890.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.		EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
To Balance in Bank, 31st December, 1889 ..	375	6	5		By Exploration.. ..	550	17	6
Donations and Subscriptions	2,674	18	1		Printing and Binding, including <i>Quarterly Statement</i>	790	15	10
Proceeds of Lectures ..	26	14	8		Maps, Lithographs, Photographs, Illustrations, &c., including those for the <i>Quarterly Statement</i>	583	7	9
Sales of Memoirs of Western and Eastern Surveys, and Books published by the Society	619	17	4		Management, including Rent, Salaries, Wages, Advertising, Insurance, Stationery, &c.	587	6	5
Sale of Maps	278	16	10		Postage and Carriage of <i>Quarterly Statement</i> , Books, and Maps	142	7	10
Sale of Photographs ..	25	9	7		Liabilities paid off ..	535	0	0
					Balance in Bank, 31st December, 1890 ..	811	7	7
						£4,001	2	11

This balance sheet was published in the April number of the *Quarterly Statement*, with the following notes by the Chairman:—

In the absence of our Treasurer, Mr. Morrison, it becomes my duty to make the following remarks on the balance sheet for year ending 31st December, 1890. The subscriptions and donations show a large increase on those of the year 1889. This was due to an appeal for funds for carrying on the excavations in Palestine, which brought in about £1,000.

The expenditure amounts to £3,189 15s. 4d. This sum is made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Exploration	550	17	6
Publications	1,374	3	7
Management	587	6	5
Postage of Books, Maps, and <i>Quarterly Statement</i>	142	7	10
Liabilities paid off	535	0	0

The Society was on March 17th practically out of debt. A sum of about £350 was due to the printers. This, however, is a liability which varies considerably from time to time. The apparent discrepancy between the amount received from the sale of publications and that expended upon them, is mainly due to the fact that the *Quarterly Statement* is given to all subscribers—

an arrangement which gives stability to the Society, but costs between £300 and £400 a year. When allowance is made for this, it will be found that the difference is very slight; and indeed it disappears if the stock of maps and books in the hands of the Society be taken into account.

The CHAIRMAN.—The Report, I think you will see, indicates a steady continuance of work under some difficulties. The difficulties do not decrease as time goes on, in fact the Turkish Government becomes a little more suspicious, and the breaking up of the Siloam inscription has increased our difficulties, as suspicion has been created on all sides; yet, considering the nature of our work, I think the Report will be regarded as satisfactory from the large number of persons who have been interested and are steadily working to increase our knowledge in the direction in which we want it to be increased. I shall be glad if any gentleman will make any remarks on the Report before I put it to the meeting.

SIR FREDERICK GOLDSMID.—I venture to say, as a comparative outsider, that the Report appears to me most satisfactory, and especially so in this respect—that I have always considered that where it is necessary to keep a Quarterly Statement of any Society published every year, and certainly one like the Palestine Exploration Fund, in a short time subjects must to a certain extent become more or less exhausted, but I must say that the Palestine Exploration Fund has always struck me as having resources which no other Society that I am aware of can muster. It seems to me never to come to the end of matters of interest, and the last number of the *Quarterly Statement* and the previous number are to me most interesting documents. I see no falling off, no lack of interest in the publications of this Society, so much so that my own impression, without reference or talking to other people on the subject, has been, what a misfortune it is that the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund is not better known among educational establishments in this country. I cannot help thinking that in public schools, and in other educational establishments, something more ought to be known of the work of this Fund. I believe that it would draw young men to the study of the Bible in what I may term a pleasing and agreeable way, instead of this being done by compulsion, as it were. Unfortunately, one must use the word “compulsion” even with so great a subject as the Bible, but in works like that of the Palestine Exploration Fund you draw students towards the Bible almost imperceptibly, and therefore if it were possible to introduce it into the curriculum of schools or of educational establishments a very great advantage would be conferred. I must beg pardon for being perhaps rather irrelevant and even for getting up and speaking at all; for although you have done me the honour to put me on the General Committee, and I think it a very great honour, still I am a comparative outsider, because as I live in the country I have not been able to attend the meetings of the Society, and I can only feel my interest in the distance, as it were. (Cheers.) I beg in conclusion to move the adoption of the Report.

The Rev. A. Löwy.—As one of the old men in this room—one of the oldest men in this room, I venture to say a few words. In the first place this Report, which is so highly interesting, certainly deserves every possible support. The previous speaker has hit upon a point which has very often struck me as a matter of regret. There is no question that this Society does a great service underground and overground. There is an immense amount of knowledge being brought to light which has been hitherto buried under the earth. In addition, I believe, though it is not intended, the Society is really a precursor of an improved state of civilisation in Palestine, because the Society, in its valuable publications, draws attention to the condition of the modern occupants of the country, and many suggestions which are incidentally offered in the publications will help to improve the condition of the people. But I shall call attention to the lack of sympathy which, on the part of the public, seems to exist with regard to this Society. However well it may be supported, it ought to be supported infinitely better. I take the liberty of throwing out a hint—I won't call it a suggestion. It seems to me that if you had periodical meetings, giving lectures on the work of the Society, it would be of very great advantage in every way. I recollect the ancient Mohammedans used to call the Israelites "Ahl el Kitáb," meaning, the religionists, the people who cultivate the Scriptures; but some Mohammedan writers take that as a kind of ridicule. They state that the Israelites confined themselves to writing only, and it seems to me that if this Society, in addition to its valuable writings, were also to offer us, periodically, valuable lectures, not speeches, but lectures, it would draw. There are a great many persons who, in these days, when we are so overdone with literature, would much rather hear a lecture than read one. And so if it should be thought fit on the part of the Executive to give periodical lectures, at most, say, once a quarter—not once a month—it would draw a great many persons who are at present outsiders. With this observation, I cordially second the motion which has been proposed. (Cheers.)

The Rev. W. J. STRACEY.—It strikes me, sir, that the change of rooms is a very great improvement. I think it brings the Fund so very much more into public notice than where it was stuck down close to the Thames Embankment.

Mr. GUY LE STRANGE.—I venture to make some small suggestion, especially after what Sir Frederick Goldsmid has said. It seems to me that it would be a good thing to have in the *Quarterly Statement* something in the form of "Notes and Queries;" that is to say, that there might be, a little by itself, a part for queries and for answers. Several times latterly in the *Quarterly Statement* questions have been asked and I have often very much regretted that answers have not been given to them, and I think perhaps that more attention would be called to the queries if something in the form of the publication of "Notes and Queries" were adopted, if there was a page of the *Quarterly Statement* set apart simply for queries. I don't know whether that would be possible.

The CHAIRMAN.—The Editor is here, and I have no doubt he will make a note of what you are saying, but we must leave the Editor to deal with that.

Mr. GUY LE STRANGE.—It would certainly bring the Palestine Exploration Fund into greater notoriety if it were known, if it were forcibly brought before people, that through the *Quarterly Statement* they could ask questions on Biblical subjects, and on Archæology.

The CHAIRMAN.—Before putting this motion, I should like to say the gentleman who has moved it has touched upon a subject that has often been before the Committee, how and in what manner we could bring our work before the schools with the view and the object that he has mentioned. Our Treasurer, Mr. Morrison, has often spoken on that subject. It still is in our minds that we want both sides of the Jordan thoroughly explored and mapped for schools; we don't like to see the one side more complete than the other. But there has been a little difficulty, which I believe has been before the meetings on a good many occasions, and I daresay it will continue till we shall at last succeed in some way in doing what we want to do. As to the gentleman who has seconded the motion, up to the present moment we have had no rooms to give lectures in. We have now got a room such as we never had before, and we are surrounded by something that is very interesting in our Museum. With those remarks I now put the resolution before the meeting.—Carried unanimously.

The REV. MR. TRACEY moved the re-election of the Executive Committee.

Mr. ROGERS.—I have pleasure in seconding the motion.

The CHAIRMAN, having put the resolution to the meeting, it was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—Then, gentlemen, I have to ask you to give your best thanks to Mr. Schick. Mr. Schick neglects no opportunity of doing that which the Committee wishes. There is not a bit of ground opened in Jerusalem, there is nothing found there, but he has his eyes upon it, and, if possible, supplies us with the information quite truthfully. I would ask you then to give Mr. Schick, as you did last year, your thanks for his continued efforts, and the faithful reports which he has made to the Fund.

The resolution was seconded, and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—Then, gentlemen, Mr. Bliss has only been one year with us, but his letters tell you that he is earnest. He had some experience with Mr. Petrie in Egypt, before he went to Palestine, and I hope that in the future he may outdo Mr. Petrie himself, but he has got to win his spurs in that respect. I should like to thank him for the efforts he has already made.

This vote of thanks was seconded and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—Now, gentlemen, in the Report there is a statement about Mr. Armstrong. I should like you to look in that corner of the room at that raised map. I am deeply indebted to Mr. Armstrong, for

were there no one here in whom I could place implicit confidence, I should have no easy mind. I should be constantly coming here with great effort to myself; but with Mr. Armstrong about it is different. I would therefore ask you to thank one so faithful as Mr. Armstrong has been, to give him your best thanks, and to express our hope that he may continue to discharge his duties to our satisfaction as well as he has done in the past.

This vote was seconded and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—Then there is the Honorary Secretary. There are two telegrams waiting for him to-day. Something has prevented Walter Besant being with us. He fully intended to be here, but he is not here. He is a busy man. Sometimes, I think, taking too much upon his hands, for it may close a useful life too soon. I ask you to thank our Honorary Secretary for the time he has given to us, and the interest he still takes in our success.

The vote was unanimously accorded.

The CHAIRMAN.—And lastly, though not least, there is the Editor of our *Quarterly Statement*. Not a word that has been said about the Notes and Queries, or in what way the *Statement* can be improved, will have fallen upon ears that have not listened, and he will think and see whether the proposal can be carried out. I need not say how and in what manner the *Quarterly Statement* is conducted. I was delighted to hear one speaker remark that it is read with interest. The *Statement* ought to have a more extensive reading, but I meet with it at times where I do not expect it, and find that the effects of our *Quarterly Statements* are of the most beneficial character, that they do guide people to the reading of the Bible, and the study of the Bible. Persons who in their schooldays looked upon the Bible as a book of punishment which they were compelled to read are now looking upon it as a book of pleasure to be studied and thought of. It is a great thing that all our work in Palestine has tended to confirm every year the accuracy of the Bible. I wish we could have more subscribers. We should then be more powerful. Every expenditure is made with economy, strict economy. I do look into the expenditure of all monies for every purpose. I am in a position of trust, and if subscribers should call upon me at any time to give an account of that trusteeship, I am always prepared. There is money that has come in for the excavations very well indeed. We have carefully and economically used that money, and we have done a very great deal with the money. I am certain that will be the general impression. Gentlemen, I thank you very much for your attendance to-day. I thank you for the kind observations you have made to help this Society. I do not know that there is anything more to say. Our meeting is completed, and I hope that at our next annual meeting every one of you will be present, and that we shall have a good account to give of the year's work.

The vote was unanimously approved.

Mr. J. D. CRACE.—Before the meeting breaks up I should like to ask

the members who are present to return one more vote of thanks, and that is to our excellent Chairman (cheers), whose energies seem equal to every occasion, and to the members of the Executive Committee. It is the Chairman who has attended every one of our meetings; at any rate he has attended a majority in excess of any other member of the Committee. I believe he has only been once absent, and that through ill-health. There is hardly a detail, financial or otherwise, with which the Chairman is not more intimately acquainted than any other member of the Committee, and his efforts are just as fresh, as energetic, now as they were so many years ago when he accepted the post, with a diffidence which was quite unnecessary, as events have proved. I shall venture to ask his permission to put that to the vote for him.

The vote was carried by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN.—Thank you, gentlemen; thank you, indeed. I feel as I always felt that the thanks to your Chairman is a vote of thanks to your whole Executive Committee. Were it not for them it would be scarcely possible for me to get on with the work, but I have an excellent Committee; their hearts are in their work, every one of them. I have a Committee of an extraordinary kind. I could hardly repeat all the qualifications of my Committee; but here I am, and they allow me to be their head, and to assist in their labours. I can assure you that your thanks just given are well earned by every member. I thank you for thanking them, and I will convey to them your thanks. Let me congratulate you on the nucleus of our museum. Look around here; last year and the year before and for several years it was at the South Kensington Museum, but it was comparatively hidden there, though it was open to the public, and we told everybody. But everyone did not find that little corner where the things were placed. We were compelled to remove them. We had no place to put them in, so for the last two or three years we put them in boxes and deposited them at Taylor's to be taken care of, and now for the first time we have a place in which to exhibit them. Look even at those lamps before me; what a delight and a charm—a charm that grows upon you. The gentlemen who have taken an interest in this Fund may now take a greater interest in it through seeing our collections. I would ask everyone to take a deeper interest in it, and to enlist as many others as they can, for certain I am that there is not a gentleman or an educated person who will take up our works and read them, but he will be more and more interested in the subjects to which they relate. I thank you in the name of the Committee for the kind vote you have just passed.

The Committee then adjourned.