

NOTES ON THE RESULTS AT TELL EL HESY.

BY W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE.

MR. BLISS has favoured me with a list of sixty-two weights discovered by him ; pending the conclusion of the work at Tell el Hesy it would not be worth while to treat these in much detail, but I find peculiarities in them which are of historical value. Only one (585 grams) cannot be identified; the others are as follow—

System.	Number.	Per Cent.	Mean Value. grains.
Phoenician	27	44	217
Aeginetan	18	99	192
Attic	6	10	65.6
Egyptian	4	6	151
Assyrian	3	5	128
Hittite	3	5	80.5

It is strange that no small weights seem to have been found, all of these being between 6 and 26 ounces, and therefore more used for food than for valuable imports. They show the weights to be almost entirely on the Phoenician and Aeginetan systems ; the latter is of great antiquity, as the oldest known weight from Egypt (4,000 B.C.) is of that system. It is very remarkable that the Egyptian and Assyrian standards seem to have such very slight influence ; and it shows that the foreign trade line did not touch Lachish. The mean values found for the standards are stated in the last column, and they agree well with what is known elsewhere, except that the Phoenician is rather light.

The curious lines of stone bases found by Mr. Bliss seem to have been the supports for pillars, either of brick or of wood. The three halls indicated—each of 40 × 27 feet—do not seem to be parts of a temple or palace, by their equality and want of connection ; nor to have been store-houses, for which smaller separate chambers are more adapted ; the lack of trade, which we have noticed above, prevents our calling them a market ; but as the place was always a strong fort, many soldiers must have had quarters here, and these large equal halls are well suited for barracks. It is possible that the niches along the north wall may have been for a line of men to stand on guard in the shade, and out of the way of traffic, lining the approach to the Governor's quarters, which would, doubtless, be close to the barrack. I found similar niches for guards on the outside of the fort at Tahpanhes, on the road between Egypt and Syria.

I may add that I have obtained here at Tell el Amarna, in Egypt, the Phoenician *bilbils* with long necks, the pointed-bottom little jugs, and the Cypriote hemispherical bowls, all dated to 1,400 B.C., fully confirming the age which I assigned to them at Lachish. I have also found the waste

scraps of the Cuneiform scribe, who wrote here the answers to the celebrated tablets from Babylonia, discovered here a few years ago.

LETTERS FROM HERR SCHICK.

I.

RECENT DISCOVERIES AT THE "NICOPHORIEH."

JERUSALEM, *November*, 1891.

IN my last I mentioned that the Greek monks had made some excavations in their ground called "Nicophorieh" on the western hill outside the town. They found some things of much interest of which I now report.

In the Ordnance Survey plan of Jerusalem, scale $\frac{1}{25000}$, edited 1864-65, will be found marked west of the city, on the top just opposite the south-west corner of the present city wall, west of the "Birket Es Sultan," and 1,200 feet distant from the city wall (measured as a straight line in the air) a narrow long rock extending north and south, and on its side the word "cave," as there is a cave beneath it. This place is called "Awairiyeh," i.e., the place of "Awair" or of the Awair people. At several points the rock looks out from the ground with indications of scarps, and any one examining these points closely comes to the conclusion that there was once something of importance there. Here the monks were digging with the intention to make a cistern, as they wanted water there for gardening purposes.

The late Dr. Schulz, the first German (at that time Prussian) consul at Jerusalem, says in his "Vorlesung" on Jerusalem, Berlin, 1845, page 39:—"A little south of the little Greek church St. George, and on the height of the ground are the ruins of an Arabic village called 'Aboo Wair,' which for 100 years has been deserted." In the Jerusalem volume of the Survey, also, page 343, under the number 87, the name "Abu Wair" is given. It had a small castle called "Kusr-el-Asafir"—"the birds' castle"—of which the ruin is still existing (*see* Ordnance Survey plan $\frac{1}{25000}$). At page 72, Schulz (when speaking of Titus's wall of circumvallation, according to Josephus, Bell. v., 12, 2) identifies the "Camp of Pompeius" with the hill-top Abu Tor ("Jebel Deir Abu Tor" or "hill of evil counsel" on the map) where the wall made a bend towards the north, and after which Josephus mentions as the next point the village "Eribinthaë," and after it the "Monument of Herod." Schulz put the said village at "Abu Wair," and the monument of Herod in the neighbourhood of the "Birket Mamilla," as there are there some ancient rock-cut tombs. This identification is open to objections, so Baron von Alten, German Consul in Jerusalem from A.D. 1869-1874, points out that