

Mr. Davis (No. 232) is also, in its oldest form, the bull's head. The same sign occurs often on Hittite monuments.

The suggestion as to *Gimel* is novel, as is also that about *Zain* (supported by the peculiar form of the letter as appearing on the Siloam text). The sign for *Yod*, "the open hand," and that for *Caph*, "the closed hand," both resemble signs used in Hittite. The sign for *Resh* is also exactly like one of the most peculiar of the Hittite hieroglyphs. These comparisons have the advantage of accounting for the names of the letters, which have never been explained by the theory of Egyptian origin.

NOTES ON THE "QUARTERLY STATEMENT."

By Major C. R. CONDER, R.E.

THE *July Statement*, 1894, contains very valuable papers, and shows continued vitality in the Society.

P. 171. The discoveries on Zion seem to confirm the conjecture that Hadrian's Wall on the south side of Jerusalem followed the old line. I do not think there is any evidence that the Phœnicians used drafted masonry before the Greek period. The "pock-marked" dressing occurs on the later Roman masonry in Palestine, and the stones with rude bosses usually belong to this period. The Jewish masonry of the second century, B.C., and of the Herodian period (at 'Arâk el Emîr 170 B.C., and at Jerusalem) has drafted stones with the faces carefully finished and flat. The "comb dressing" occurs at Jerusalem but not at 'Arâk el Emîr. There is nothing to surprise us in the discovery of Crusaders' work on Zion, as the great Church of Holy Zion was close by. Mr. Mandslay found a Crusaders' tombstone during the course of his excavations.

P. 172. I think that the pick-marks in the plaster indicate that a finer layer of cement once covered the picked surface. Such is at least often the case in the lining of cisterns, as I have had occasion to notice.

P. 175. If Dr. Bliss carries out excavations at Jericho I hope he will select the months of February and March. The autumn at Jericho is most deadly. There can to my mind be no doubt that the building at Kh. Mefjir is some kind of hospice or monastery. The apse, which now seems to be destroyed, appeared to me to be evidently Norman work of the twelfth century, and I should be inclined to ascribe the ornamentation to about 1130 A.D. Dr. Bliss may be able to compare it with that on the south door of the Cathedral of the Holy Sepulchre, and in the Church of St. Mary la Grande just opposite. The early Crusaders adopted a semi-Byzantine style, and their Gothic work belongs to the latter half of the twelfth century. The plans of the monasteries at Kasr Hajlah and Kasr el Yehûd may be compared with that of the building at Kh. Mefjir. The ruins at Er Rîha are naturally of twelfth century, since this was the

Crusaders' site for Jericho, which does not appear, as far as I remember, to be mentioned by the earlier travellers. Dr. Bliss remarks (p. 181) that the buildings here are of the same date with Kh. Mefjir. Much excavation has been done here since the date of the survey.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the General Committee was held at the Office of the Fund, 24, Hanover Square, on Tuesday, July 17th, 1894.

James Glaisher, Esq., F.R.S., occupied the Chair.

Among those present were Major-General Sir Charles W. Wilson, K.C.B., F.R.S., &c. ; Basil Woodd Smith, Esq. ; Rev. Wm. Rogers, D.D. ; Professor Edward Hull, LL.D., F.R.S. ; Rev. A. Löwy, LL.D. ; Rev. Canon Dalton, C.M.G. ; Admiral Sir Erasmus Ommanney ; Guy le Strange, Esq. ; J. Pollard, Esq. ; Wm. Simpson, Esq. ; Rev. W. J. Stracey ; &c.

Letters were received from Sir William Q. Ewart, Bart. ; Sir William Muir ; Major-General Sir F. J. Goldsmid ; Colonel Goldsmid ; Professor Flinders Petrie ; Professor Greenwood ; Mr. Walter Besant ; Mr. H. H. Bolton ; Mr. Geo. F. Watts ; Rev. W. F. Birch ; Mr. D. Macdonald ; and several others, regretting their inability to attend.

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY read the following Report of the Executive Committee :—

GENTLEMEN,

In resigning the office to which they were appointed at the last Annual Meeting of the Fund, your Executive Committee have the honour to render the following Report of their labours :—

Your Committee have held twenty meetings for the transaction of business, and there have been seven meetings of Sub-committees.

The Firman for excavating at Tell el Hesry having expired, a new Firman for excavating at Jerusalem was applied for, and has been granted by the Sublime Porte.

Mr. Bliss having been much strengthened in health by a stay of some months in England, returned in the autumn of last year to Palestine, and is now engaged in carrying on excavations outside the southern wall of Jerusalem with the view of ascertaining whether any remains of the ancient wall or gates of the city exist there.

He began work outside the English burial ground, at the point where Mr. Henry Maudslay, M. Inst. C.E., left off in the year 1875. It was then supposed that the great heap of rubbish lying there covered the foundations of a tower ; to prove this, Mr. Bliss opened up a trench, and found the southern and eastern sides of the tower, formed of a scarped rock with several courses of drafted masonry resting on it. He will