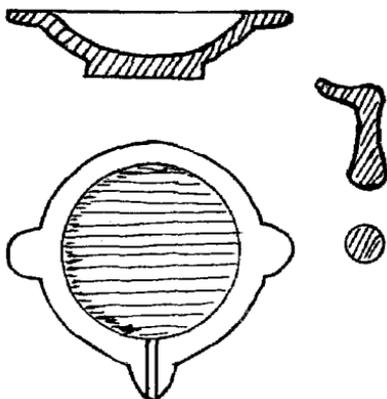


a stone basin, or bowl, found in the grave. It has a diameter of 10 inches, on two opposite sides ears, or handles, and on one side between these a beak with a groove on its upper surface, so that when the basin was taken by the two ears, or handles, and tilted sideways towards the beak, its fluid contents would run off (*see* the drawing). As



SKETCH OF A STONE BASIN.

there was found with it a stone rubber or grinder, I think the basin was once used for rubbing paint, and that the implements were put into the grave of their owner who had used them in his lifetime. The basin is of ordinary Jerusalem stone, and the rubber of the red Jerusalem marble, so called.

## NOTES ON DR. BLISS'S DISCOVERIES.

By Major C. R. CONDER.

THERE appears to me to be no doubt that the line of wall and scarp discovered is that of the ancient Jewish Wall of Nehemiah and of Herod. The direction is that in which Dr. Robinson drew this wall, and which appears on most of the later maps, including those which I have made at various periods since 1879.

As regards the masonry, two periods seem now to be clearly indicated: 1st, the rubble and rough masonry on the rock; 2nd, the hewn masonry of three kinds—smooth, drafted with smooth face, and drafted with bosses. The two walls are not, I understand, exactly on the same line.

The whole of the hewn masonry, as described and drawn by Dr. Bliss, resembles, in the proportions, the finish, and the wide irregular drafting, as well as in the admixture of smooth and drafted stones, the masonry of the Byzantine monasteries throughout Palestine with which I am

familiar, belonging to the fourth, fifth, and sixth centuries, A.D. Dr. Bliss compares it with that masonry on the south wall of the Haram, which is later than Hadrian's age, and usually attributed to Justinian.

In 1881 I saw the wall on Ophel uncovered by Dr. Guthe, south of Warren's great tower. The masonry was of the same character as that described by Dr. Bliss, and I was at the time convinced that it was not Jewish, but Byzantine masonry. I also saw the wall found by Dr. Guthe immediately west of the Pool of Siloam, and this also appeared to be Byzantine. Dr. Chaplin informed me, at the time, that the hewn masonry of the Ophel wall, discovered by Sir Charles Warren, was similar to that found further south on Ophel by Dr. Guthe. Hence it would seem that a Byzantine wall went from the Protestant Cemetery to Siloam, and thence to the south-east corner of the Haram.

On the other hand, Sir Charles Warren found rough masonry at the base of the Ophel wall, which seems to answer to the rough masonry of the older wall found by Dr. Bliss. No excavator has found any masonry, on the south wall of Jerusalem, resembling that of the Haram foundations which—following De Vogüé—I have always attributed to Herod the Great.

As regards the gate found by Dr. Bliss, and which appears to be the Gate of the Essenes and the Dung Gate of Nehemiah in Bethso, three lintels are determined, of which the lowest belongs to the period of the rough masonry, the second is directly superimposed, and the third is separated by a thickness of rubble, and belongs to the period of hewn masonry. The lower lintels are not exactly under the upper, the gate having been shifted to one side. It is possible that the gate may have received a new lintel, when much worn by traffic, without the wall having been rebuilt, but the topmost lintel seems to belong to the Byzantine wall. The paved street seems to belong to the older period.

The conclusions to which I think we shall finally be forced to adhere are :—

1st. That the rocky scarp is that of the Hebrew kings.

2nd. That the rough masonry may represent the work of Nehemiah.

3rd. That the Byzantine wall is that of the Empress Eudocia, about 450 B.C., as Canon Dalton supposes.

I shall be surprised if it can be proved that Josephus was wrong as to the course of the wall, in his time, at Siloam. If the Spring was within bowshot of the wall it would be protected. It is highly important that the excavations near Siloam should be exhaustive, and that the older line should be sought above the pool, as well as the Byzantine line traced.

Canon Dalton will, I think, find that the passages in the "Jerusalem" volume of "Memoirs" (pp. 230, 231, 393), bear my signature, and that Sir Charles Warren is not committed by them to any opinion. My view was based on what I saw of Dr. Guthe's excavations in 1881.

BALLA, Co. MAYO,  
July 7th, 1895.