

abominations, and thence, as quickly as railways and boats could take me, back to London, determined to revisit my Bedawy, Druse, and Circassian friends at the earliest opportunity.

NOTE ON BONES BROUGHT FROM EASTERN
HAURAN, SYRIA, BY MR. MARK SYKES.

By E. T. NEWTON, Esq., F.R.S.

AMONG the bones submitted to me from east of Hauran, near Damascus, are several "horn-cores" belonging to a form of goat with spiral horns, and the limb bones accompanying these very probably belonged to the same species, which, it would seem, was of larger size than the common European goat, and may be a Syrian domestic animal.

Many of the bones have evidently been subjected to great heat, and some masses of them are surrounded by a vesicular slaggy substance, but there is not sufficient evidence to show whether the heat and the vesicular material are the result of artificial burning or volcanic action.

It may be that the mound from which these bones were derived was of human origin, perhaps a kitchen midden or the refuse from long-continued sacrifices. In either of these cases the burning would be accounted for. But it is quite possible that the accumulation of bones has been encroached upon by the lava, which is said to be close at hand; and, if so, the vesicular matter and the burning may be both entirely due to this natural cause.

It would be interesting to know if bones of any other animal, or perhaps of man, occur in this mound; search might be made with this intent, and also to find, if possible, any human handiwork, such as flint implements or, perhaps, pottery or metal ornaments.

It would likewise be of interest to know whether the deposit of bones extends for any distance under the volcanic rocks which are said to occur around the spot.

It seems probable from the nature of the bones that the accumulation is of comparatively recent origin; but possibly it may be prehistoric. If, therefore, it could be shown that the volcanic lava was subsequent to the deposition of the bones it would indicate a very recent date for the volcanic eruption.
