

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the General Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund was held at the offices of the Fund, 38, Conduit Street, W., on Tuesday, July 17th. Walter Morrison, Esq., M.P., occupied the chair.

There were present :—Major-General Sir Charles Wilson, Admiral Sir Erasmus Ommanney, the Rev. Canon Dalton, the Rev. Dr. Rogers, Professor Hull, Dr. Chaplin, Mr. Joseph Pollard, Mr. J. D. Crace, Mr. Henry A. Harper, Mr. Guy le Strange, the Rev. C. Lloyd Engstrom, and others.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, mentioned that the Chairman, Mr. Glaisher, was unable to be present on account of ill-health.

The SECRETARY read letters regretting absence from the following :—The Bishop of Salisbury, Colonel Watson, Sir William Muir, Sir F. J. Goldsmid, Professor George Adam Smith, Dr. W. Aldis Wright, Revs. Dr. Löwy, Dr. Kirkpatrick, Dr. Rigg, W. J. Stracey, Thomas Harrison, H. G. Tomkins, W. F. Birch, Mr. James Melrose, Mr. D. MacDonald, and Mr. F. D. Mocatta.

The CHAIRMAN then called on Major-General Sir Charles Wilson to read the following Report :—

GENTLEMEN,

In resigning the office to which they were elected at the last Annual Meeting, your Executive Committee have the honour to present the following Report :—

They have held twenty-three meetings for the transaction of business.

The excavations at Tell es-Sâfi having been stopped for the summer break on July 16th, 1899, were resumed at Tell Zakariya on September 11th, and on October 9th were recommenced at Tell es-Sâfi and continued there until November, when the camp was removed to Tell ej-Judeideh, where it remained until December 16th, when the advent of the rains put a stop to the work for the winter. On March 19th of the present year the excavations were resumed at Tell ej-Judeideh, and carried on until the beginning of June, when the party proceeded to Tell Sandahannah and began work there.

Dr. Bliss has forwarded the following general account of the work :—

“Excavations have been conducted during the past year at four different sites, within a four-mile radius—Tell es-Sâfi, Tell Zakariya, Tell ej-Judeideh, and Tell Sandahannah. They are all in the Shephelah or hilly country between the Philistine plain and the Judean mountains, Tell es-Sâfi being exactly on the borderline. They all occupy prominent strategic points, and all were fortified at some period or other. Before the permit was applied for, Tell es-Sâfi was chosen by the Committee as the principal field of operations, and they requested me to make an archaeological survey of the neighbourhood in order to add such sites as might appear to be promising. My method of selection was simple, but it has been justified by the results. I chose Tell Zakariya and Tell ej-Judeideh because, in addition to their commanding positions, they showed a considerable accumulation of *débris*, the surface of which was strewn with Jewish pottery, which gave hope of pre-Israelitish stuff in the lower levels. This has since been found in great quantities. Tell Sandahannah was not examined till after the permit was issued. As the area granted for excavation includes the town of Beit Jibrîn, to which this hill belongs, I sank two shafts, finding Seleucidan ware in the upper levels and pottery of the Hebrew monarchy in the lower. The method of establishing the age of a site by the examination of the surface pottery may best be illustrated by a concrete example. The other day I rode to Tell Kubeibeh, some four miles south of Beit Jibrîn. This mound rises abruptly from the valley very much like Tell el-Hesi (Lachish), only it is five or six times as large. The central part has been strongly fortified. I strolled over the crop-planted summit for less than an hour, picking up potsherds. First I noticed the absence of Roman types, then I observed fragments of early Greek ware, then I found the ribbed handles on which Hebrew inscriptions are sometimes stamped, and finally there appeared one such handle with the stamp itself, namely, the four winged scarabæus with the legend: ‘To the King: Hebron.’ I should now risk extensive excavations at Tell Kubeibeh, with no further preliminary examination, in full confidence of finding not only Hebrew remains not far from the surface, but pre-Israelite remains in the heart of the mound.

“My last annual report described the first two seasons’ work at

Tell Zakariya and the first season at Tell es-Sâfi. At the former place we had found a large fortification, strengthened by towers, and enclosing a space, occupied by houses which appeared to have been built at four different periods. At Tell es-Sâfi we had traced the wall around the ancient town, and had begun a large clearance to the rock at the north-east part of the mound. After the report was sent we found in this clearance, at a depth of some 20 feet, a rude enclosure containing three monoliths, exactly oriented, resting on footstones and embedded in a stratum characterised by pre-Israelite pottery. There seems to be no doubt that we have here an ancient heathen 'high place,' antedating Jewish times. During the summer the excavations were interrupted for about six weeks. Early in September we returned to Tell Zakariya. The fortress occupied only the south-east part of the ancient town, and before suspending operations at the site it seemed best to make a large clearance more in the centre of the Tell, where the *débris* appeared to be less disturbed and showed two strata, one pre-Israelite, the other Jewish. Our hopes of finding cuneiform tablets in the lower stratum and Hebrew steles in the upper were not realized, but our labour was partially rewarded by the discovery of many whole specimens of jars, vases, bowls, &c., which enriched our knowledge of the pottery of these periods. Moving to Tell es-Sâfi in October we were again confronted by the limitations which the present condition of that most important and ancient site sets to excavation. The centre of the mound is occupied by a village; the south end, where the ancient Acropolis probably once stood, is covered by the ruins of the crusading fortress of Blanche Garde, over which extends a large modern cemetery, and even on the north-east plateau, where we began to dig, operations were limited by another cemetery. Choosing the few unencumbered spaces we practically exhausted the possibilities of discovery by a series of large clearances and carefully disposed shafts. The results were very disappointing. The buildings were of the hovel type; the pottery, though ancient, was mostly in fragments; one Babylonian cylinder and four scarabs represented the total of inscribed gems. In my last annual report I mentioned the ancient rubbish heap found covering the ruined city wall, in which we discovered a quantity of objects of various age and character, including masks, heads, and figures in pottery, fragments of stone statuettes,

numerous Egyptian amulets, Babylonian seals, &c. These indicated that somewhere in the Tell important buildings were to be found. Having failed to discover these in the excavations conducted in the available portions of the Tell, we were forced to conclude that they lie buried under the modern village, or under the various cemeteries, where digging was absolutely prohibited. What, then, were the results of our excavations at Tell es-Sâfi, and what light has been thrown on the identification of this site with Gath? First, we have proved that it had an uninterrupted occupation from the earliest pre-Israelite to late Greek times; secondly, that it contained a heathen 'high place'; and thirdly, that it was probably fortified during the Jewish period. As I have stated before, our work has furnished no argument against the Gath theory. We have proved the existence of a city quite as ancient as Gath, on a site where Gath may reasonably be looked for, fortified at about the time when Gath was made a city of defence. The aim of the Fund is the systematic exploration of the Holy Land. It is no temporary organisation staking its all upon a single expedition. It was inevitable that Tell es-Sâfi should be excavated, and speaking as agent of the Fund, notwithstanding my disappointment at the meagre results of the work, I cannot feel that the time spent there was lost. What can be shown by excavation has been shown, and Tell es-Sâfi may now be struck off from the sites to be investigated.

"Tell ej-Judeideh is the southernmost hill of a chain which runs from near Beit Jibrîn for about six miles N.N.E. through the heart of the Shephelah, terminating abruptly at the north with Tell Zakariya. Two seasons have been spent on this site, the first lasting from November 27th to December 16th, 1899, when we were stopped by the winter rains, and the second from March 19th to June 1st, 1900, when preparations were begun for moving to Tell Sandahannah. During the first season we traced the city walls, which enclose an area 800 feet long with an average breadth of 300 feet. The wall is 10 feet thick, has four gates flanked by towers, and is further strengthened by buttresses, which, like the towers, project inward from the inside face of the wall. This line of fortification rests on *débris*, and was found to represent the latest period of construction, which was proved by various indications to date from Roman times. Later, a villa of the same date was traced in the centre of the Tell. The Jewish

and pre-Israelite occupations covered an area over twice as long, though the greatest accumulation falls within the northern half of the space later enclosed by the wall. During the spring season we made six large clearances to the rock within this space, examining some 125,000 cubic feet of stones and earth, usually sifting the latter. As to construction, the results were not important. The buildings unearthed were rude, but the *débris* was very rich in pottery, and we recovered many types valuable in helping out a complete history of Palestine ceramics. The most interesting feature of the pottery here was the prevalence of jar-handles with Royal stamps. Out of the 61 specimens found by us up to June 1st, 37 came from Tell ej-Judeideh, and 24 from all the other sites excavated. The discovery of these stamps well illustrates the quietly progressive nature of the work of a Society which can afford to wait. The first specimens were discovered by Sir Charles Warren over 30 years ago, and showed a two-winged symbol with the Hebrew words, 'To the King' above, and the name of a town below. Ziph and Shocoh were the two towns identified, while the third, the first part of which was missing but which ended in —*shat*, remained a mystery. Well, we have found not only the names of Ziph and Shocoh, but also that of Hebron, and have solved the mystery of the doubtful word, only to substitute for it another mystery. Several perfectly clear stamps show in the place for the town-name the four Hebrew letters M. M. S. T., which we may vocalise provisionally and quite arbitrarily Memshath. Where and what was this Memshath? As no such term is mentioned in the Bible, we must assume either that it falls under the category of unenumerated villages referred to in general in the lists of Joshua, or that it was a purely Jewish town founded after the lists were made out. A study of the 61 specimens shows that 30 bear the symbol referred to above, which appears to me to be a bird, but which others take for a winged disc, while 31 have in its place a four-winged beetle, treated sometimes conventionally and sometimes naturally, with body fully articulated. On 25 the place-name is illegible, while of the 36 legible specimens 15 read Shocoh, eight Hebron, seven Memshath, and six Ziph. The name Shocoh has been found at Jerusalem and at four other sites; Ziph and Memshath at Jerusalem and three other sites; Hebron has been found at three sites in the Shephelah. The wide geographical

distribution of these four names, and of these four names alone, seems to me to be best explained by the theory held by Professor Sayce, that they were sites of royal potteries which, like the potteries of the present day, distributed their wares far and wide. In the July *Quarterly* I gave a *résumé* of other theories advanced by Messrs. Ganneau, Macalister, and others.

"The work at Tell Sandahannah was begun June 5th, and is going on while I write. The name is comparatively modern, being an Arabic corruption of Sancta Anna, to whom the church in the neighbourhood was dedicated. The Tell is about 600 feet long by about 450 feet wide, and has no great depth of accumulation, rock being found in two shafts along the central axis at 12 feet and 17 feet respectively. We are employed in tracing out the fortifications, streets, and houses of the Greek town, which, though ruined down nearly to the level of the door-sills, and barely covered by the surface soil, shows a beautifully preserved ground-plan. Stamped Rhodian jar-handles are numerous, over 200 having been recovered already, though the majority are from the fields surrounding the Tell, from which they were doubtless washed down. In tracing the inside line of the city wall we have been fortunate in striking a flooring, from 2 feet to 3 feet below the surface, buried in *débris*, which contains many fragments of soft limestone, covered with Greek writing, in some cases very minute. Some of these have the regular tablet form, with writing on the edges as well as on both sides, while others are merely flakes of stone, smooth on one side and rough on the other. The largest fragment found thus far is 9 inches long. The specimen shows writing in Hebrew. Several are clearly school-boys' writing books, as we have the same line repeated from top to bottom: in one case the contrast between the master's elegant script and the boy's unsuccessful attempt to imitate this is noticeable. Others, however, are evidently of a more serious character, but the attempt at deciphering must be left till the delicate process of cleaning has been accomplished. The material is of exceeding softness, and a camel-hair's brush is the only implement that leaves no marks. The mine is still being worked. This report would be far from complete without a reference to the important and minute investigations conducted by Mr. Macalister in the artificial caves in which this region abounds, and which have thus far been studied only very superficially. Most of his results are still unpublished.

"The date of this report finds the party in excellent health and spirits. The weather has been wonderfully cool. Our workmen are chiefly men who have worked with us for nearly two years, and who have followed us from Zakariya to our various sites. Our commissioner, Showkat Effendi, continues his valuable services in connection with all negotiations with landowners. Our finds form the nucleus of a small museum in the Government School in Jerusalem, and a selection has been made from them to go to Constantinople."

The value of the reports has been greatly enhanced by the excellent plans and drawings by Mr. Macalister, who also has forwarded valuable notes on the rock-cuttings of Tell es-Sâfi and Tell Zakariya, and an elaborate report on the rock tombs in Wâdy er-Rababi (Valley of Hinnom).

Mr. F. B. Welch, of the British School of Archæology at Athens, who recently visited Palestine, was requested by the Committee to visit Dr. Bliss's camp and the small museum in the Government School at Jerusalem, to examine and report on the various types of pottery found during the excavations carried out by the Fund at "Tell el-Hesi," "Tell es-Sâfi," "Tell Zakariya," "Tell ej-Judeideh," and "Tell Sandahannah." His report has just come in, and will be of great assistance to those engaged in the study of this branch of archæology.

From Mr. W. E. Jennings-Bramley, who has recently travelled in the Desert of the Wilderness, we have received several interesting reports, many photographs, and route surveys.

To Dr. Conrad Schick the Fund has been indebted for reports on various interesting discoveries in and around Jerusalem, and for articles on "Jacob's Well," "The Rose of Jericho," "Tower of Edar," and the ancient Convent of Mar Metri.

Major-General Sir Charles Wilson has contributed a report on inscriptions from Kerak; the Rev. J. E. Hanauer notes on inscriptions in Baron Ustinow's collection, the discovery of rock-hewn vats near Bîr Eyûb, and an account of modern colonisation in Palestine; Mr. Charles Hornstein has forwarded reports of a Latin inscription at Baalbec and a newly-found tomb on Mount

Scopus; and Professor Porter has sent an account of antiquities in the American Museum at Beirût, including a cuneiform tablet, a translation of which, with notes, has been communicated by Mr. Theophilus G. Pinches.

The *Quarterly Statements* of the year have also contained valuable notes and articles by Professor Sayce, Professor Clermont-Ganneau, Lieut.-General Sir Charles Warren, Colonel Conder, Colonel Watson, Mr. Philip Baldensperger, Mr. Gray Hill, and others.

The Meteorological Observations taken for the Fund at Jerusalem and Tiberias have, with very great labour, been prepared for publication by our Chairman, Mr. James Glaisher.

The concluding volume of the set of Memoirs called "Survey of Palestine," viz., "Archæological Researches," by Professor Clermont-Ganneau, was issued in December last. The whole set, as advertised, consists of:—"Survey of Eastern Palestine," in one volume; "The Fauna and Flora of Sinai, Petra, and the Wâdy 'Arabah," in one volume; "The Archæological Researches," in two volumes.

A reprint of the Collotype print of the Raised Map has been prepared; this makes the fifth edition.

A new edition of the plan of Jerusalem and neighbourhood, showing all the latest discoveries in red, with a reference sheet to the reports in the *Quarterly Statements* and other publications in which the discoveries are recorded, has been prepared, and will soon be ready to send out.

Since the last Annual Meeting 75 names have been added to the list of subscribers, and 153 have been lost through death and other causes.

Our warmest thanks are due to the honorary local secretaries for their generous help in collecting and forwarding subscriptions to the office of the Fund.

The Committee have to deplore the loss by death during the last 12 months of the following members of the General Com-

mittee, viz.:—His Grace the Duke of Westminster, the Earl of Harrowby, His Grace the Duke of Argyll, Sir George Grove.

The following is the Treasurer's Statement which was published with the Balance Sheet for 1899 in the April number of the *Quarterly Statement*:—

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

The income of the Fund for 1899 amounted to £2,701 2s. 11d., made up as follows:—

From Donations and Subscriptions, £2,081 18s. 0d.; from sales of publications, £609 19s. 11d.; from Lectures, £9 5s. 0d.; being an increase of £100 17s. 1d. over that of 1898.

At the end of 1898 there was a balance in the bank of £674 9s. 1d., making the total amount available for the year, £3,375 12s. 0d.

The expenditure during the same period was:—

On exploration, £1,495 11s. 1d. Excavation work was carried on during the greater part of the year.

On printing, binding, including the *Quarterly Statement*, £513 10s. 11d.

On maps, lithographs, illustrations, photographs, &c., £200 3s. 3½d. Against these two sums the Fund received from the sale of all publications, £609 19s. 11d.

On advertising, insurance, stationery, &c., £111 9s. 6d.

On postage of books, maps, &c., including the *Quarterly Statement*, £151 11s. 11d.

The management, including rent of office, £661 19s. 11½d.

On December 31st, 1899, the balance in the Bank was £241 5s. 4d.

ASSETS.			LIABILITIES.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance in Bank, December 31st, 1899..	241	5 4	Printers' Bills and Current Expenses ..	243	13 4
Stock of Publications in hand, Surveying Instruments, Show Cases, Furniture, &c.					
In addition there is the valuable library and the unique collection of antiques, models, &c.					

WALTER MORRISON, *Treasurer*.

The amount received from America through the Rev. Professor Theodore F. Wright, Honorary General Secretary, was from—

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions	230	10	5
Sales of publications	45	19	7
Total	276	10	0

Having read the Report, Sir CHARLES WILSON said, in conclusion:—The Chairman has asked me to move the adoption of the Report, and I do this with great pleasure. I think the Report is satisfactory, and some of the reports and papers that have been received are very interesting. I hope that the find of tablets with inscriptions at Tel Sandahannah will prove to be of great value. I have read Mr. Welch's report, and may mention that it is of much interest, and exactly what was wanted. Mr. Welch has studied at the British Archæological School at Athens, and been engaged on excavations in Cyprus and other places, and he has now compared the pottery obtained during our excavations in Palestine with that which has been found in Greece, Rhodes, Cyprus, and other places. We now know within narrow limits the age to which the pottery of Palestine should be ascribed, and can distinguish the types derived from the Mykenæan civilisation or from Egypt, and those which have developed locally in Palestine. I have also read Mr. Jennings-Bramley's reports. They, too, are valuable, but circumstances render it desirable to postpone their publication for the present. Mr. Bramley is one of the few men who have really got to the bottom of Bedawi life. He has lived amongst the Bedawin, and his reports give a valuable picture of Bedawi life in the "Wilderness of the Wanderings." He has sent us a number of photographs of the desert, and of places not previously visited by Europeans, and his geographical work certainly throws new light on several districts which are interesting from their position with regard to the route taken by the Israelites when they left Sinai. Dr. Bliss's work has been close and very good, but unfortunately it has not led to any very striking results. He has, however, found articles of pottery and stamped jar-handles, which are of great value, and in some cases the negative results obtained are almost as valuable as if they had been positive results. I beg to move the adoption of the Report.

Admiral Sir ERASMUS OMMANNEY.—I shall be happy to second the adoption of the Report, which appears to be very satisfactory.

Professor HULL.—I should like to make one or two remarks upon the very interesting Report which Sir Charles Wilson has just read. It stands out from the others that have been brought before us in one fact, viz., that it records the decease of Sir George Grove. If I am not mistaken, Sir George Grove was the founder of this Society, and therefore his is a name which we shall miss from amongst the members in the future. He has, by founding the Society, greatly contributed to the archæological discoveries which have been made in Palestine and the neighbouring districts. In looking through the Report hastily, for I have not had time to do more than that, I could not help noting that Mr. Gray Hill, the gentleman who sends a report from the shores of the Dead Sea, refers to one very curious physical phenomenon there, namely, the rise of the surface of the waters of the Dead Sea. He states that a few years ago there existed an island at the north end of the lake which is now entirely submerged, and the neck of land between the north promontory jutting out from the east shore is now disconnected from the land, and that his Arab guides were unable to take his party along the cliffs of Jebel Usdum on the western shore, because the waters of the Dead Sea now wash the base of those cliffs. Well, when Mr. Armstrong and I were in that country in 1883-4, we were able to ride very comfortably along the strand between the waters and the base of those cliffs, but I do not think there were more than five or six feet of level on an average between the base of the cliffs and the surface of the waters. A rise of five or six feet in the general surface of the Dead Sea is an interesting fact. The author of the report referred to endeavours to account for it in various ways, but I cannot agree with his views. I think whatever changes of level have taken place in the surface, or may take place in the surface, of the Dead Sea will be due either to the excess or deficiency in the rainfall in the mountains of Lebanon. There may have been an excess of rain, and to it, I think, we must attribute the extraordinary rise. I have much pleasure in supporting the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN.—It cannot be by volcanic action, because that would be only local; so I think it must be due to some change in the rainfall and evaporation.

Professor HULL.—Yes, depending on the relative amount of evaporation and rainfall.

The CHAIRMAN.—It would be an interesting thing to find out.

Professor HULL.—The rainfall to which I allude would not be that of the Jerusalem district, but of the Lebanon.

The CHAIRMAN.—We have reports from Tiberias, which is not so far from Lebanon. Referring to Professor Hull's remark about Sir George Grove, you will see we have officially noticed his decease in the *Quarterly Statement*. Some of you may not know how this Society was started. Mr. Grove bought Pierrotti's book and wrote to the "Times" saying he was disappointed with it, and invited anybody to go down to the Crystal Palace to have pointed out to him copies of the publication. I went down and found there Mr. James Fergusson and Mr. Grove and Roberts and Hodges. Sir Charles Wilson had already been surveying round about Jerusalem, and then Mr. Grove said, "Why should we not have something systematic?" And that was really the first suggestion that brought about the origin of the Society. Mr. Grove was the motive force in the early days, but afterwards he gave his attention to other matters.

Professor HULL.—Everything has a beginning, like the British Association, which arose from about half a dozen scientific men getting together. I am sure we are all glad to see you, as one of the founders, still a member of the Fund.

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

The CHAIRMAN.—The next business is, we suggest that you should add the name of Dr. Bliss to the General Committee. We are sorry to say that Dr. Bliss has been obliged to send in his resignation on account of ill-health. Those who have met him know that he is a delicate man, but he has done much good service to the Fund. There is always a certain amount of danger from fever from the malaria which frequently arises when you turn over ancient sites, and we all know there are many places where, if you turn up even virgin soil, you are almost certain to get the fever. I am sorry we are going to lose the services of Dr. Bliss. He will finish the work on which he is engaged up to the end of the present season, which will be about October. I hope you will agree to add Dr. Bliss's name to the General

Committee of the Fund. We have done the same thing in the case of all the previous explorers, and I think we ought to do it in the case of Dr. Bliss.

Mr. J. D. CRACE.—I shall be very pleased to second the addition of Dr. Bliss's name to the General Committee. His contributions have continued up to the present time, and have been full of interest, although the results have not been those which appeal to the public mind.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—Now the election of the Executive Committee. Our suggestion is that the same Committee should be reappointed, with the exception of Professor George Adam Smith, who has resigned, and the addition of Mr. Harry Rylands. Mr. Harry Rylands, as I daresay you all know, is the Secretary of the Society of Biblical Archæology, a society which was established for the purpose of discussing questions relating to Africa and Asia, and one of the features of its constitution is that they are not to discuss the Bible. I went as a vice-president to that society to form a link between the Palestine Exploration Fund and the Society of Biblical Archæology, and it would make a still stronger link if we had Mr. Harry Rylands on our Executive Committee.

Mr. POLLARD.—I shall have much pleasure in proposing that.

Professor HULL.—I shall be glad to second it.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

The CHAIRMAN.—Now I have very great pleasure in moving a vote of thanks to Dr. Bliss and Mr. Macalister and Dr. Schick for their services to the Society. Dr. Schick has spent very many years in that country. He is always on the look-out for all sorts of odds and ends of archæological discovery, and has obtained for us a large amount of valuable information. You have heard that a new edition of the plan of Jerusalem is about to be issued, showing the various discoveries which have been made since it was first prepared by Sir Charles Wilson, and I think you will find a considerable number of those discoveries are to be attributed to Dr. Schick. We must also especially thank the Editor of the *Quarterly Statement*, and our excellent Acting Secretary, Mr. George Armstrong. Our *Quarterly Statement* is

a great addition to the history of the world on this class of subjects.

Mr. J. D. CRACE.—I beg to second that.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Professor HULL.—I think, gentlemen, we have now only to accord our thanks to Mr. Morrison for presiding this afternoon, and at the same time to express our regret at the absence of our Chairman, Mr. Glaisher, on account of ill-health. It is the first time in my recollection that he has been absent.

Sir ERASMUS OMMANNEY.—I shall be glad to second that.

The CHAIRMAN.—I am much obliged for the compliment. I have been connected with the Fund from the beginning, and, with a little exception, I have always been a member of the Committee. As you know, I am the Treasurer, and I am sorry to say we are suffering, like everybody else, from the war. Up to yesterday we had only received £1,310 for subscriptions, sale of publications, and everything else; for the corresponding period last year it was £1,661. Mr. Armstrong has taken out the figures for the last seven years, and they show that this is the worst year we have had. When we come to the month of October we shall not only have exhausted all our resources, but we shall be considerably in debt. But we must go on exploring, so as to find out all there is to be found.

The proceedings then terminated.
