

cut away (as in one of the olive presses, in which one upright staple has been replaced by masonry, the others all being rock), and (c) vaulting over a chamber or passage near the top surface of the rock. In the majority of cases the vault is a barrel arch of narrow span (there is one fine wide arch only) with regularly cut voussoirs. There is one false-arch dome in the series stopping up a temporary manhole. The masonry is all built in brick-shaped blocks of *howwar* (clunch), and is always remarkably true and well finished.

## ALPHABET OF LETTERS USED ON OLD-HEBREW JAR SEALS.

By R. A. STEWART MACALISTER, M.A.

THE preparation of the accompanying plate, intended to illustrate the report printed in the July number of the *Quarterly Statement*, was unavoidably delayed. All the varieties of the different letters are shown and compared with the characters of the three principal monuments engraved in the "Phoenician" alphabet. The reference letters denote the type of handle on which the letter was found. H, S, Z, M, stand for Hebron, Shocho, Ziph, and מִשְׁתָּה respectively; H<sup>2</sup> and H<sup>4</sup> denote "two-winged type" and "four-winged type" of "Hebron" seal: and so for the rest. The letters Wt. stand for "weight," indicating that the character appeared on one of the small dome-shaped stone weights found at Zakariya and elsewhere. When no indication of source is given the stamp is one of those bearing the names of private owners.