

## NOTICES OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS.

*Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale*, vol. iv, parts 9 and 10.—M. Ganneau comments more fully on the inscriptions from the Jewish necropolis at Jaffa, in the collection of Baron Ustinow, which were copied by Rev. J. E. Hanauer and published in *Quarterly Statement*, 1900, pp. 110–123. The author is inclined to think that inscription No. 8 is of Jewish origin and connected with the restoration of a synagogue, and finds in it the name Jacob as well as Lazarus. The Barbabi of No. 10 is compared with the Talmudic name, Ben Babi, and the name *Baḥās* in an inscription from Arsûf. In No. 18 *Πρεσβύτερος* is not a title, but is used in the sense of “elder,” as opposed to “younger,” and the inscription may be translated: “Here lies Isaac the elder, of Tarsus of Cappadocia, linen merchant.”

*Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina Vereins*, vol. xxiii, parts 3 and 4.—Professor Dr. M. Hartmann completes his valuable contributions to our knowledge of the Syrian desert, and gives a very useful index of place-names. There is also an interesting paper by Dr. Graf von Mülinen on the registration of land in Turkey, which explains the classification of lands as laid down by the law of April 21st, 1858, the technical terms in use, and the method of dealing with landed property under the various regulations that have been issued. The steps which have to be taken to purchase and register a plot of land in Turkey are illustrated by a complete statement of a case which occurred near Jaffa. Amongst other matters the purchaser had to make a declaration before a notary that he would allow no Jews, whose residence in Palestine is forbidden, to live on the land, and that he would build no church, school, hospital, or dispensary without previous permission.

*Revue Biblique*, 1901, part 1.—Father Hugues Vincent gives the results of his exhaustive examination of the *Tombs of the Prophets* on the Mount of Olives, with a plan and sections. It is proposed to publish a full notice of his article in the *July Statement*. Father Vincent agrees with M. Clermont-Ganneau in considering that the tomb is of Christian origin, and not a readaptation of a Jewish tomb.

A fragment of an inscribed *Roman milestone*, No. III on the Jerusalem-Neapolis Road, has been found near Sh'afât. The stone bears two texts:—

*Imp(erator) Nerv[a] aug(ustus), pont(ifex) m[ax(imus)] tribun(iciae)  
po[te]statis) . . . . , and  
[Imp](erator) Caesar [Traj]anus aug(ustus) . . . .*

Both the inscribed milestones previously discovered on this road, V and probably XXV, bear the names of Marcus Aurelius and Verus, who apparently repaired the road made by Trajan, and perhaps commenced by Nerva. Nos. III and V, being exactly two Roman miles apart, are

probably in their original position, and a measurement of three miles back from the former places the point of origin south of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, near the centre of Jerusalem.

A plan, section, sketch, and details are given of the remains of the *Church of St. Mary Latin-the-Less* which have been recently destroyed during the building operations of the authorities of the Greek Church in the western half of the Muristan. The three apses, well preserved when uncovered, and recalling the fine masonry of the Church of the Samaritan woman at Nâblus, have been pulled down to make room for the foundations of new shops; and of the lateral walls seen during the excavations there is no longer a trace. This lamentable and needless destruction of the remains of historic buildings, hitherto preserved by accumulations of rubbish, is greatly to be regretted. (A brief notice of this Church by Dr. Schick will be found, *ante* p. 51.)

*Le Mont Thabor, notices historiques et descriptives*, by Father BARNABÉ, of Alsace, O.F.M. Paris, 1900, 8vo, pp. 176.—A monograph on Mount Tabor, in four parts. Part I deals with the history of the mountain from the earliest period to its fortification by Josephus, a portion of whose walls is said to have been discovered. Part II is a strong plea in favour of the tradition that Mount Tabor was the scene of the Transfiguration. The author contests the view that the summit was occupied by a town before the time of Christ. Part III gives a pretty complete history of Tabor from its occupation by Tancred, in 1099, to the present day. Part IV contains a description of the mountain, of the view from it, and of the ruins recently found on its summit. The interesting remains of the great Church with three aisles, a rock-hewn crypt, a baptistery and two chapels, and of the other buildings uncovered by the Franciscans are fully treated. But the account of the ruins in the possession of the Greek Church is less satisfactory. The book is illustrated with photographs of Mount Tabor and of the ruins on its summit; and there are a plan showing the results of the excavations, and a map of the surrounding country.

*Autour de la Mer Morte*, by LUCIEN GAUTIER. Geneva, 1901, 8vo.—A pleasantly written account of a journey round the Dead Sea in March, 1899. M. Gautier travelled *viâ* Hebron, Engedi, and the Ghôr es-Safieh to Kerak, and returned to Jerusalem by Lejjân, er-Rabba, Medeba, Meshetta, and Jericho. The notices of the country and people are good, and there is an interesting description of a freshet, after heavy rain, in the Wâdy Mojib—a great, dusky-brown wave coming down the valley and carrying everything before it. In an Appendix M. Gautier gives the original of his article on the Dead Sea in the “*Encyclopedia Biblica*.” The book is illustrated with photo-lithographs, and one of these shows the “white line” of foam stretching from N. to S. on the surface of the lake which was first noticed by Molyneux in 1847.