

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the Fund was held at No. 38 Conduit Street, W., on Tuesday, July 16th, 1901, Mr. Walter Morrison in the chair. There were present:—Viscount Sidmouth, Dr. Chaplin, Rev. Wm. Henry Rogers, D.D., Professor Hull, Mr. J. D. Crace, Mr. W. H. Rylands, Mr. H. C. Kay, Mr. Herbert Bentwich, and others.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN announced that letters had been received from the following gentlemen regretting their inability to attend:—Mr. James Glaisher, Major-General Sir Charles W. Wilson, the Dean of Westminster, Canon Tristram, Professor George Adam Smith, Mr. James Melrose, Mr. D. MacDonald, Rev. W. F. Birch, Mr. F. D. Mocatta, and the Rev. Thomas Harrison.

The CHAIRMAN read the Annual 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-one meetings for the transaction of business.

Since our last Annual Meeting the Fund has had to deplore the death of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, who had been Patron of the Society from its origin, and was one of the earliest contributors to its funds. The late Queen recognised that the primary object of the Fund was to aid in making the Bible better understood by a systematic study of the archæology, natural history, and physical geography of the Holy Land, as well as the manners and customs of its inhabitants, and it was because the Palestine Exploration Fund sought to carry on such investigations that Her Majesty gave it her patronage and support.

It is with much satisfaction that the Executive Committee are enabled to announce that the King has been graciously pleased to accede to the request, submitted to His Majesty by the President, that he would become Patron of the Fund in succession to Her late Majesty.

The Committee have also to lament the loss by death of the following members of the General Committee, namely—the Marquess of Bute, K.T., the Bishop of London (Dr. Creighton), Sir H. W. Acland, K.C.B., Mr. Arthur H. Heywood; and the following members of the Executive Committee, namely—Sir Walter Besant, Mr. Henry A. Harper, and Mr. Basil Woodd Smith.

The death of Sir Walter Besant is especially lamented, on account of his long connection with the Fund as Secretary and Honorary Secretary, his intimate acquaintance with all the details of its management, his sincere and deep interest in its work, and the cheerful readiness with which he always gave his advice and help when appealed to.

The excavations at Tell Sandahannah were brought to a close on August 31st. The Firman having expired shortly afterwards, Dr. Bliss had the surface of the Tell restored to its original condition, and then proceeded to Beyrout, whilst Mr. Macalister returned to England.

Portions of their reports and plans have appeared from time to time in the *Quarterly Statements* of the Fund, and they are at present engaged in preparing a full account of the excavations at Tell Zakariya, Tell es-Sâfi, Tell ej-Judeidah, and Tell Sandahannah under the recent Firman. The work will, it is hoped, be published early next year. It will form a companion volume to the "Memoirs," and will contain over 100 full-sized plates of plans, pottery, &c., besides woodcuts. The specimens of pottery have been drawn to scale by Mr. Macalister, and will form a guide to the classification of future finds of pottery in Palestine.

At Tell Sandahannah the foundations of a small walled Seleucidan town were laid bare and planned, with its gates, streets, houses, reservoirs, &c. During the progress of the works some fine specimens of lamps, vases, and jars, three important fragments of Seleucidan inscriptions, 50 stones with inscriptions in Hebrew and Greek, and a group of small figures in lead were found. Casts of the stones have been placed in the hands of Professor Wünsch, of Breslau, who, in a preliminary report respecting them, writes:—

"In spite of all *lacunæ*, these stones furnish us with sufficient information to enable us to declare their general meaning. It was an ancient Greek practice for a man who conceived himself

to have suffered wrong to deposit a statement of the facts of the case in some sanctuary, thus making a sort of appeal to the god from whose inexorable justice he hoped to receive satisfaction. The existence of this custom is proved by numberless documents, the earliest of which is the papyrus of Artemisia, dating, perhaps, from the third century B.C. (*see* Thompson's 'Handbook of Palæography,' p. 119), which has at last been printed in the 'Corpus Inscr. Attic.,' App., p. xxxi. In this papyrus, which she deposited in the Temple of Serapis, Artemisia informs the god that the father of her children refused to see about the burial of their little daughter. 'When he has done justice to me and to his children in this matter, then all shall be well; but should he do injustice to me and his children in this matter, then may Serapis and the other gods forbid that either his children shall bury him or that he shall bury his parents.' And as in this case the appeal to Heaven works out into a curse on the sinner, so also in the Bruttian lead tablet ('C.I.A.,' App., p. ix), on which a woman informs the goddess (probably Hecate) that she has been robbed, and the thief shall never have a quiet moment until she restores to the goddess what she has stolen.

"A whole collection of such lead tablets has been brought to light of late by the excavations in Cnidus. They were first published by Newton, in 'A History of Discoveries at Halicarnassus, Cnidus, and Branchidæ,' vol. ii, part 2, p. 719, and lately in the 'C.I.A.,' App., p. x. The first of these tablets runs thus:—

"'A vow of Antigone to Demeter, Kore, Pluto, and to all the gods and goddesses of Demeter's court. If I have given poison to Asclepiades, or have the thought of doing him any evil, or if I have given one of the temple women a mina and a half to send him out of the world, then may Antigone be consumed with inward fire until she comes to Demeter and confesses her sin, and may Demeter not be gracious unto her, but rack her with grievous torments.'

"The inscribed stones from Tell Sandahannah belong to the same category. The exact formula of the curse we do not know; but we do know well the matters wherein the writers were injured."

An application for a new Firman to examine a well-known site was sent through the Foreign Office on February 26th. The

Committee have reason to hope that shortly a favourable reply will be received. Mr. Macalister, who has already rendered good service to the Fund, will be in charge.

Some interesting observations by Gray Hill, Esq., on the rise and fall of the waters of the Dead Sea, which were recorded in the July *Quarterly Statement* of last year, have given rise to considerable curiosity with regard to the origin and nature of the fluctuations of level in the surface of the Dead Sea. The Committee, at the suggestion of Sir C. Wilson, instructed Mr. Macalister to cut a mark on a rock, washed by the waters of the lake, from which the level of the surface could be measured and its monthly fluctuations ascertained. On October 9th, 1900, Mr. Macalister cut a horizontal mark on a rock near 'Ain Feshkah, at a height of 14 feet above the surface of the lake on that day. Monthly observations have been taken since, and the results will be published when the observations for a year have been received and compared with those taken at Tiberias and with the rainfall.

Dr. Torrance has made a similar mark at Tiberias, and has made arrangements for monthly observations of the rise and fall of the surface of the Sea of Galilee.

Apart from reports of the systematic researches of the Officers of the Fund, the *Quarterly Statements* contain valuable reports and articles by well-known scholars and explorers.

Mr. F. B. Welch has contributed a paper on "The Influence of the Ægean Civilisation on South Palestine"; Dr. Samuel Ives Curtiss, a description of a "High Place and Altar at Petra," which was rediscovered by Professor G. L. Robinson, Ph.D., of Chicago; the Rev. J. E. Hanauer, an account of the discovery of ancient "Rock-hewn Vats near Bir Eyûb," and other papers; Mr. Jennings-Bramley, a description of "Sport among the Bedawîn"; the Rev. Putnam Cady, a valuable account of an "Exploration of the Wady Môjib from the Dead Sea"; the Rev. John Zeller, a "Lecture on the Bedawîn."

Mr. P. Baldensperger's interesting papers on "Womau in the East" have been concluded, and Dr. Schick has contributed articles on "The Ancient Churches in the Muristan," "Kubeibeh," by some supposed to be the ancient Emmaus, and many paragraphs for "Notes and News."

M. Clermont-Ganneau has commenced his series of Archæological and Epigraphic Notes, and the following have already been published:—

1. Seal of the Leper Hospital of St. Lazarus, Jerusalem.
2. Rhodian not Jewish Amphora Handles.
3. Inscription from the Columbarium es-Sûk.
4. Roman Inscriptions on a Jerusalem Aqueduct.
5. Greek Inscription from Beersheba.
6. The Land of Promise, mapped in mosaic at Mâdeba.
7. The Cufic Inscription in the Basilica of Constantine and the Destruction of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre by the Caliph Hâkem.

During the regrettable illness of the Chairman, Mr. Glaisher, Sir Charles Wilson has acted as Vice-Chairman. He has also contributed notices on foreign publications and other matters to the *Quarterly Statement*.

Through the courtesy of His Excellency Hamdi Bey, the Director of the Imperial Museum at Constantinople, the Committee have received duplicates of some of the objects found during the recent excavations of the Fund. The duplicates include Jewish and Rhodian stamped jar-handles, some of the curious little figures in lead which M. Clermont-Ganneau supposes were intended to represent persons against whom incantations were directed (*Quarterly Statement*, 1901, p. 58), lamps, and pottery of various ages. All have been placed in the Museum of the Fund at 38 Conduit Street.

The small Library and Museum of the Fund at Jerusalem has recently been moved to a large room in St. George's College, which has most kindly been placed at the disposal of the Fund by the Right Rev. G. Popham Blyth, D.D., Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, acting for the Anglican College Council.

Since the last Annual Meeting 59 names have been added to the list of subscribers, and 118 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 following is the Treasurer's Statement, which was published with the Balance Sheet in the April number of the *Quarterly Statement*:—

THE TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

The income of the Fund during the year 1900 amounted to £2,529 6s. 11d., which was contributed under the following headings:—

From Donations and Subscriptions, £1,999 7s. 5½d.; from Lectures, £11 5s. 6d.; from sales of publications, £518 13s. 11½d. At the end of 1899 there was a balance in the bank of £241 5s. 4d., which included £41 11s. 6d. paid in advance for 1900, making the total available balance £2,770 12s. 3d.

On comparing these sums with those of 1899 it will be seen that the subscriptions are less by £82 10s. 0d., and sales of publications by £91 5s. 0d., nearly.

The expenditure during the same period was:—

On exploration, mainly carried on at Tells Sâfi, Judeideh, and Sandahannah, descriptions of which appeared in the *Quarterly Statement*, £1,063 9s. 0d.

On printing, binding, including the *Quarterly Statement*, £391 0s. 3d.

On maps, lithographs, illustrations, photographs, &c., £209 7s. 0½d., which included a reprint of the 12 and 20-sheet Old and New Testament maps, colotype print, &c.

Against these two sums (£600 7s. 3½d.): the Fund received £518 13s. 11½d.

On advertising, insurance, stationery, &c., £:9 12s. 0½d.

On postage of the *Quarterly Statement*, books, maps, &c., £131 12s. 1d.

On the management, which includes salaries, wages, office rent, gas, coals, &c., £594 3s. 11d.

The balance in the Bank on December 31st, 1900, was £291 7s. 11d.

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
Balance in Bank, December 31st, 1900.. ..	291	7	11	Printers' Bills and Current Expenses	605	10	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	210	0	0
Sales of publications	31	15	4
Total	241	15	4

The CHAIRMAN.—The first business which we have is to consider the Report, and I have to ask the gentlemen present to be good enough to adopt it. It is with great regret that I find I have to take the chair to-day. You are probably aware that Mr. Glaisher is getting well on in years, and we are very sorry that illness prevents his being present here with us to-day. All the members of the Executive Committee recognise the very great services which he has rendered to the Fund. He has been a most admirable Chairman from every point of view, very attentive and constant in his attendance on the Committees, and doing a great deal of work outside the Committee meetings. He is a man well known in the scientific world, known all over Europe, and we of the Executive Committee recognise fully his administrative ability, and the manner in which he was able to make things go well. From the tone of his letter we hope that he will be again able to attend our meetings.

Sir Charles Wilson is away in Wales, and so my colleagues on the Executive Committee have been good enough to ask me to take the chair to-day as being the oldest member present on the Committee and also as Treasurer of the Fund. I am sure you will agree with us in deploring the loss of Sir Walter Besant. When this Fund was first established Mr. George Grove was our honorary secretary. Some of you will recollect Mr. Grove as a man of very great ability, with a large amount of energy and activity. The chief defect which he felt in the constitution of the universe was that there were only 24 hours in the day. Mr. Grove had that unbounded energy which led him to be always ready to take up any work in which he felt an interest. He was secretary of the Crystal Palace Company, which was quite a big undertaking, and as it was in difficulties it gave him a great deal of harassing work, and at that time he had a number of other interests. Also the remainder of us who were on the Executive Committee were all men who were, and are, busy in different ways, and it became necessary to appoint some one, on a salary, who would be able to give continuous attention to the work. I remember, and I mention it as an illustration of Mr. George Grove's willingness to undertake work, that when the book called "The Recovery of Jerusalem" was being written he gaily agreed to edit it, and as an editor of the "Dictionary of the Bible" he was about the best man to fulfil that task. The time passed on

and on, and we were under contract to deliver that book by a certain date to the publisher. At the last moment Mr. Grove said it was utterly impossible for him to do it. As there was nobody else on the Committee to do it at the time, it was thrown upon me, and in 10 days I had to edit that book, and consequently was compelled to work at it 10 or 12 hours a day. First of all, I had to cut down the papers to about one-third of their bulk in order to reduce them to the limited space to be occupied. I also had to reduce all the transliteration of the Arabic names to the common denominator, thereby, of course, offending every one of the writers.

About this time Mr. Besant came home from Mauritius, where he had been Professor of Mathematics in the Royal College, and was appointed Secretary to the Fund. His perfect knowledge of French was of much service to us. He was a man of much ability, and soon brought the affairs of the Fund into order. He established a regular system of accounts, and started the *Quarterly Statement*. He had the literary gift which enabled him with ease to throw off a number of papers and prefaces, and other literary work, in the most satisfactory way to us and to the members of the Society. And then also we had great advantages from his nature; his was a strong and simple character, and he had the gift of sympathy; everybody got on well with him. He had a great knowledge of men, which must have stood him in good case in his profession of novelist, and he seemed to have the gift of extracting information in a quiet way, so that one found oneself almost insensibly obliged to give up everything one knew of the matter in hand. Owing to his other avocations Sir Walter was not, in his later years, regular in his attendance here in the Committee Room; but we could always rely upon him whenever we were in difficulties and whenever we wanted the advice of a sensible, intelligent, and capable man. His loss is very great. It was not until he had satisfied himself that Mr. George Armstrong was capable of taking his place that he discontinued attending our meetings.

I ought to mention that Canon Dalton is one of the most regular attendants and valuable members of the Committee. He is unable to be present to-day because he is accompanying his old pupil, Prince George, on his visit to the Colonies; but we hope

that when he comes back again he will show as much energy and zeal in the work of the Fund as he has done in the past.

With regard to the General Report, you will see that we have been still engaged in excavating the different sites in the Holy Land. We have been urged from time to time to continue our excavations at Jerusalem, but there seems to be more prospect of useful work being done in the very numerous Tells which are found scattered over the surface of the country. The difficulty, of course, is to select sites, but we are gradually getting together the materials for greatly increasing our knowledge of the land and of the habits of the people in ancient times. Professor Wünsch is, I understand, about the highest authority on the subject of the ancient Greek inscriptions which have been found, and you will agree that the extracts from his letter which I have read are very interesting indeed. We have applied for a new Firman, but our experience of the Turkish Government is very similar to the experience which some of us have had of other Governments as well. It takes a long time to get their decision upon any subject whatever. We have a good friend at Constantinople, His Excellency Hamdi Bey, who takes a very deep and intelligent interest in archæological work, and I can only express a hope, as the Committee have also done, that we shall receive shortly a favourable reply. As soon as we get the Firman we shall trust our work to Mr. Macalister, who has already done good service to the Fund under the leadership of Dr. Bliss. Mr. Macalister has learned Arabic, and has a good working knowledge of archæology. You will observe that we state our hope that when the new volume of "Memoirs" on the excavations at these sites is published, it will form a standard guide for the classification of future finds of pottery in Palestine.

I think we owe to Professor Flinders Petrie the systematic arrangement of pottery in such a way as to indicate date. Of course, other people besides Professor Flinders Petrie have seen that there are differences in pottery, and that there are different kinds belonging to different ages; but Professor Flinders Petrie was the first to carry on the study of this pottery in a systematic way. Dr. Bliss was Professor Flinders Petrie's pupil, and was sent to Egypt for six months to study under him the methods of excavation, and especially the way of identifying the age of pottery. No doubt our new book will be of great value to

scholars in all countries. I do not know that I have any other remarks to make, but I shall be very happy to hear any observations on the Report.

Viscount SIDMOUTH.—I should like to ask whether the powers of the late Firman are exhausted.

The CHAIRMAN.—Yes. The powers of the Firman were exhausted at the end of October last.

Viscount SIDMOUTH.—I suppose no further excavations can be made without a further Firman?

The CHAIRMAN. I think not. It has always been our experience that it takes several months to get a Firman.

Viscount SIDMOUTH.—I shall be very happy to move the adoption of the Report.

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

The Report was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—It is proposed by the Executive Committee to place on the General Committee Professor Macalister and Mr. Charles Francis Fellowes.

Mr. J. D. CRACE.—I will move that.

Mr. RYLANDS.—I shall be glad to second it.—Carried.

The CHAIRMAN.—We ask you to elect as members of the Executive Committee the following gentlemen:—Dr. Thomas Chaplin, Colonel C. R. Conder, J. D. Crace, Canon Dalton, Dr. Ginsburg, James Glaisher, Professor A. Macalister, Walter Morrison, Professor Flinders Petrie, Joseph Pollard, W. H. Rylands, Professor Sayce, Canon Tristram, Lieut.-General Sir Charles Warren, Colonel Watson, Major-General Sir Charles W. Wilson, Dr. W. Aldis Wright, with power to add to their number. We should very much have liked to put upon the Executive Committee some younger men. We are all of us getting on in years, and would be very glad to find some younger men who are more or less in touch with modern Palestine—gentlemen who speak Arabic, who know Hebrew, and who have travelled in Palestine preferably. It is rather a burden to some of us to come up and attend the meetings. For instance, I have to come all the way from Yorkshire.

Professor HULL.—I have great pleasure in moving that these gentlemen be invited to form the Executive Committee.

Mr. BENTWICH. I shall have much pleasure in seconding that. It seems to me it is an advantage to get new men into the Executive Committee from time to time, especially when we find, according to the Report which you read, Sir, that the number of subscribers has decreased by death or other unavoidable causes, and the numbers have not been made up by new comers. The introduction of new interests into the Executive Committee may be a means of interesting others, and of increasing the income of the Fund.

The CHAIRMAN.—I think all societies are suffering in the same way. It is due to the great number of Funds which are asking for subscriptions. For instance, the Queen Victoria Fund, and the Fund which has been got up for our countrymen in South Africa.

The proposition was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—We must fill up the vacancy caused by the death of Sir Walter Besant. I intended to ask you if you would appoint our friend Mr. J. D. Crace as Honorary Secretary for the next year. He has been in Palestine, and knows a great deal about the subject. He is an energetic man, and one of our most regular attendants on the Committee. I do not think we could find a better man. Mr. Crace says he would be willing to act as Honorary Secretary, at all events for a year, if you were to appoint him; and he hopes that during the year some younger man can be found who will be willing to take an energetic interest in the work. Mr. Crace has got his work to do in the world as well as most of us. I have pleasure in proposing Mr. Crace as Honorary Secretary.

Dr. CHAPLIN.—I shall be glad to second that.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. D. CRACE.—I have to thank the General Committee for putting so much confidence in me. What you have heard of Sir Walter Besant is enough to make any man backward in undertaking the duties of Honorary Secretary even for a year. In mentioning the term a year, I feel strongly it is most essential that we should get in young blood, not only on the General Committee, but that the general interest of younger men should be enlisted in the objects of the Fund. I think we require to make considerable effort to get into closer touch with the Universities

for one thing. There are a great many men coming out of the Universities now who are greatly interested in things archaeological, and who are full of enthusiasm and energy. And I cannot help thinking that we might get into touch with some of these men and induce them to make the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund an object of interest.

The CHAIRMAN.—That is a good idea, and if anybody can suggest any names we shall be very happy to consider them. I suppose we have power to add to our numbers. Certainly if we could get the right sort of men it would be an advantage. But we want to get people who can and will attend.

I have now to move that a cordial vote of thanks be given to Dr. Bliss, Mr. Macalister, and Dr. Schick, to Mr. Armstrong, our Acting Secretary, and to the Editor of the *Quarterly Statement*, for the work they have done for the Fund in the past year. We have just had a letter from Professor George Adam Smith, describing the great respect and affection in which Dr. Bliss was held by the workpeople he employed.

Mr. BENTWICH.—I should like to be allowed to second that. I have personally had the privilege of benefiting by the assistance which Dr. Bliss was always ready to give to visitors to the Holy City. Although I and my party were perfect strangers to him, he showed the greatest interest in evoking interest from us, and that interest which he did evoke has remained with all the party who were with me, several of whom became subscribers to the Fund. I think Dr. Bliss has had the interest of the Fund at heart, and has induced a living interest in many people who previously had no knowledge of the marvellous work which is being done by the representatives of the Fund on the spot. I am glad also that that feature is being continued in a marked degree by his successor, Mr. Macalister, who not only does the work of the Fund, but who is always glad—I speak from experience—to follow up the smaller interests of individuals who have inquiries to make on the spot, and to interest others in the work which the Fund is carrying on. I am sure that this vote will be unanimously accorded, and I think it a high privilege to be able to bear testimony to the valuable work which is being done, and to the interest which at the same time is being drawn to it.

The resolution was carried.

The CHAIRMAN. I hope Mr. Macalister will be able to say a few words.

Mr. MACALISTER read the following notes which he had prepared:—

“I may, perhaps, be permitted to make a few remarks upon the site that has been selected for examination, and to attempt to forecast what we may expect to find there. It has several times been impressed upon the Society that, as compared with the neighbouring countries, Palestine may be described as archæologically poverty-stricken. The almost total absence of inscriptions older than the Ptolemaic period is especially disappointing. This may be ascribed partly to the alleged indifference of the Jewish nation to historical records, partly to climatic causes. But it is to me inconceivable that the meagre Siloam inscriptions should be the solitary record of the monarchy remaining to our time in the country. I feel convinced that somewhere steles of great importance remain to be found, and they are at least as likely to lie buried in the ruins of the selected site as anywhere else. One such historical document would probably be the greatest prize that could fall to the Palestinian explorer.

“But even if we were unable to expect so important a discovery, there are many problems whose solution would be a reward nearly as ample. Such is the question of the disposal of the dead in Pre-Israelite and early Israelite times, upon which all light has so far been obstinately withheld. A careful special search will, it is hoped, be made for the cemetery of the Pre-Israelite town on the selected site. This question is of great importance, and on its solution hangs the solution of other problems relating to the ethnological affinities of the Pre-Israelite tribes of Palestine.

“Among the other questions that call for solution, upon which the excavation of such a place as the selected site might be expected to throw light, may be mentioned: the nature and extent of the influence exerted by Mycenæan and also by Egyptian culture on the art of Palestine; the period of the introduction of iron, a metal seemingly unknown in the earliest periods of Pre-Israelite occupation; and the development of various implements—knives, arrow-heads, &c.—which it may be found possible to trace out in detail, much as the development of pottery has been systematised by Drs. Petrie and Bliss. At the selected site, also,

we are so far west that we may possibly hope to advance one or two steps in reading the riddle of the Philistines—their ethnological position, and their historical connexion with the country.

“Unless the surface indications are misleading, or have been wrongly interpreted by me, I should say that there, if anywhere, light on Biblical, archæological, ethnological, perhaps I may add philological, questions may be expected; and if the two years’ exploration permitted by the Ottoman Government pass without material additions to our knowledge, I for my part will be grievously disappointed.

“I may, in conclusion, mention one or two departments of work other than excavation which, as they do not require a Firman, can be prosecuted at any time, and may be regarded conveniently as ‘holiday tasks,’ to be undertaken when the time of year does not permit active excavation. One very important work is the testing of the identification of sites. Many identifications, resting for the most part on similarity between ancient and modern names, have been propounded and universally accepted, which will probably have to be reconsidered. Since these identifications were suggested a new criterion of accuracy has been developed: this is the chronological scale deducible from the knowledge we have gained of the history of pottery in Palestine, a knowledge to which our excavations recently closed have contributed a very large proportion. An identification can now no longer be maintained if it involve an epoch different from the period of the potsherds found strewed on the site which happens to be under discussion.

“I may, perhaps, be pardoned if I refer also to a branch of field work in which I have taken special interest: I refer to the comparative study of rock-cut tombs. During the last year of the recent Firman I explored and made a report, as exhaustive as I could, on the tombs in the so-called Valley of Hinnom. There are other groups of tombs near Jerusalem and elsewhere as interesting as these, and possibly the study of them may lead to a better knowledge of the history of this branch of architecture (if I may so term it) than we can claim to possess already. I may also remind you that one result of the systematic study which I gave to the Valley of Hinnom tombs was the re-discovery of two inscriptions which had been sadly misread, and for some

30 or 40 years completely lost sight of, notwithstanding the special searches that had been made for them. I would not risk the charge of egotism by referring to this, were it not that I wish to illustrate the possibility that epigraphic novelties may still be hoped for even in so well ransacked a district as Jerusalem and its neighbourhood. My only fear is lest by over-riding this hobby of my own I weary the readers of the *Quarterly Statement*.

"I have only to add my sincere thanks for your kind words about myself, and to express the hope that when the coming season is over I may claim to have deserved them."

The CHAIRMAN.—There are a number of casts and photographs in the room of things which have been discovered, which, perhaps, gentlemen would like to have explained to them.

Mr. GUY LE STRANGE.—I hope, before we part, you will allow me to submit a vote of thanks to Mr. Morrison for presiding to-day, and for all that he has done as Honorary Treasurer during the past year. We have, I suppose, had a rather bad year, like every other society, and if we are in a favourable financial position, I am sure that is greatly due to Mr. Morrison's care.

Viscount SIDMOUTH.—I would like to second that. I am very glad of the opportunity of meeting Mr. Morrison again after the many years since we first came into contact. I am sure we are much indebted to him for taking the chair on this occasion, and I hope that he will continue the office of Treasurer.

I also wanted to ask a question. Three or four years ago some very interesting remarks were made here about availing ourselves of whatever information could be had from the few who are now left of the Samaritan race; I think I saw it stated that not more than 140 or 150 of them were left. The suggestion was made here that no time should be lost in obtaining whatever information could be had from the manuscripts, or at any rate from the traditions which still remain among them.

Mr. H. W. RYLANDS.—I think the Chief of the Tribe was over here five or six years ago, when I met him. He sent four or five sons over here at different times to be educated. I met him at the house of the Jewish Rabbi, and there the Jews did have communication with the Samaritans. He was a fine, big tall man, six feet two in height.

VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH.—I think it was suggested at the time I speak of that we should put ourselves into communication with a native medical man, who would have greater opportunities of conversation with the females, so that he could obtain from them information not to be had from the men. It was supposed that the native medical men were the only persons who could get into conversation with them. I do not know whether any report has been founded upon that.

MR. J. D. CRACE.—I think the articles which have been coming out in the *Quarterly Statement* are partially due to communications of that kind. I think a good deal of that information has been obtained through the native doctors.

DR. CHAPLIN.—I have been acquainted with the Samaritans for nearly 40 years, and quite recently I saw the son of their Chief Rabbi. From him I learned what is a very curious fact: that, although the Samaritans had dwindled in number to about 150 some time ago, yet within the last few years they have increased slightly, so that there are now nearly 200 of them. They are very poor. The member of their community who came over here some years ago is no longer living. The Chief Rabbi is an intelligent man, very amiable, and of course thoroughly acquainted with the Samaritan literature and the traditions of his people. I do not think there is very much in the traditions of the Samaritans that differs from the traditions of the people around them, at all events as regards the social and family life. They themselves maintain and believe that they are really of Israelite origin, although I think I am not wrong in saying that, on the whole, the Jews do not regard the Samaritans as their brothers, and that is rather in accordance with the Scriptural account. There is an English medical missionary residing at Nâblus, who no doubt could tell us much about their traditions.

The meeting then terminated.
