

## REMARKS ON THE JANUARY, 1901, "QUARTERLY STATEMENT."

THE buildings at the Fountain of the Virgin have been examined lately by Mr. Macalister, who points out, in a letter, some errors in Dr. Schick's report in the January *Quarterly Statement*, which were no doubt due to failing health and memory at his great age.

The following corrections should be made:—P. 30, lines 7-9, should read: "The vault here is about 10 feet wide, or rather more than the breadth of the upper stair (the top of which is 8 feet long). The second or lower staircase commences in the middle of the landing, and is 4 to 5 feet wide."

*The Buildings*, p. 33, lines 8-15. The so-called "masonry facing" not only supports the arch, but does not appear to have rock behind it for at least a distance of 3 feet. The masonry is old, much rougher than that of the arch, and projects beyond the intrados, but it is not necessarily older than the arch itself. The height of the arch is not more than 10 feet above the landing. The ancient incised writing (line 17) proves to be modern Arabic *graffiti*, consisting of short, pious ejaculations. The arch is of one date, not two (line 8 from foot); there is a discontinuity in the masonry of the arch, about the middle of the vault, which is due simply to a settlement, the outer half having slightly dropped. This was probably caused by the foundation of the inner half of the arch (on the north side) being rock and the other half masonry. At the end of the paragraph (p. 34, line 1), for "a stone slab" read "a row of stones": they can be easily stepped over.

It is believed that the course of the new rock-hewn aqueduct is not quite accurately shown on the plan, and that the top of its roof is nearer  $9\frac{1}{2}$  feet than  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet below the landing. Dr. Masterman does not consider that the general character of the work in the aqueduct is, as Dr. Schick supposed, very similar to that in the "second aqueduct," as described in the *Quarterly Statement* in the passages indicated in the note (p. 38)<sup>1</sup>. They are, however, not improbably sections of the same aqueduct. Unfortunately, there are no levels of either. On the section (p. 32) for *mosque* read *mastaba*.

<sup>1</sup> Here, for "vol. 1886, pp. 92, 97," read "vol. 1886, pp. 92, 197."