

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual General Meeting of the above Fund was held on Tuesday, June 17th, 1902, at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street. Lord Eustace Cecil occupied the chair, and an address on the recent and proposed excavations in connection with the Fund, illustrated by lantern slides, was given by Major-General Sir Charles W. Wilson, K.C.B., F.R.S., R.E., &c.

In opening the proceedings the Chairman called upon Colonel Watson to read the Annual Report.

Colonel WATSON read the Report, which was as follows :—

MY LORD, LADIES, AND 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 :—

Nineteen meetings have been held for the transaction of business.

It is with much satisfaction that the Committee are able to announce that the local difficulties, which at one time threatened to seriously interfere with the active prosecution of the exploratory work of the Fund under the present Irâdeh, have at last been overcome, and that Mr. Macalister is now at work on the mound that covers the ruins of Gezer. For this happy result the Fund is indebted to the good will of His Excellency the Governor of Jerusalem, to the support of the Embassy at Constantinople, and, more especially, to the ready sympathy and exertions of His Majesty's Consul and Acting Consul at Jerusalem.

During the long period of waiting, Mr. Macalister has been actively engaged upon minor researches in and near Jerusalem, and on a visit to Beersheba, where the building operations of the Turks, on permanently occupying the place, had led to the discovery of the remains of a Byzantine town. The results of these investigations are now being published in the *Quarterly Statement*. Several interesting papers have already appeared, and others will be found in the July number, including a discussion by Professor Clermont-Ganneau of an important Greek inscription copied by Mr. Macalister at Beersheba.

Amongst the more interesting discoveries at Jerusalem have been an aqueduct, partly of very ancient date, which at one time carried the water of the Virgin's Fountain down the valley of the Kidron; the orifice in the rock from which the water issues; and new tombs and ossuaries. In Palestine may be noticed the stele of Seti I, Pharaoh of Egypt, found by Prof. G. Adam Smith at Tell esh-Shihâb, east of Jordan; the Phœnician stele found at Umm el-'Awâmid; and several inscriptions of importance.

The German excavations at Ba'albek, and those of the Austrians at Tell Ta'anuk (Taanach), have been fruitful of results, but only some of the general features of the discoveries have yet been made public. Excavations have been commenced by the German Palestine Society at Tell Mutsellim, believed by many authorities to be the site of Megiddo; and it is believed that the Berlin Academy intends to excavate at Jerash, or some other Græco-Roman town east of Jordan. The American School for Oriental Study at Jerusalem has also been at work, and an effort is now being made in the United States to raise funds for the excavation of an important site in Western Palestine.

These enterprises, which further the objects for which the Fund was created, are being well supported in the countries that have undertaken them, and in wishing them every success the Committee express the hope that the liberality of the subscribers to the Fund will enable Mr. Macalister to make that thorough examination of the ruins of Gezer from which so much is expected.

Financial support is also required for other classes of investigation. One result of the interesting observations on the fluctuations of the surface level of the Dead Sea, which have been made for the Fund by Dr. Masterman, has been to show that a thorough examination of that lake, and of the meteorological conditions in the southern portion of the Jordan Valley, with the more perfect instruments of the present day, is very desirable. On this subject the Committee hope to obtain the advice and assistance of Professor Libbey, of Princeton University, New Jersey, who has recently returned from a lengthened journey in Palestine, which has thrown new light on many questions connected with the physical geography of the Holy Land.

The Memoir, containing full details of the excavations carried out by Dr. Bliss and Mr. Macalister, under the late Irâdeh, will be

published shortly, in large quarto, so as to range with the other volumes of the Survey Memoirs. It contains 103 full-sized plates, 92 illustrations, and a valuable chapter on the imprecation tablets, with transcriptions of the inscriptions, by Professor Dr. Wünsch, to whom the Committee are much indebted.

The Committee are glad to be able to state that their late Chairman, Mr. James Glaisher, though in his 94th year, and unable to attend the meetings of the Committee, has improved in health, and still continues to supply those valuable papers on the meteorology of the country, which have so greatly added to our knowledge of that subject.

The Committee are greatly indebted to Dr. Torrance and Dr. Masterman for the trouble they have taken in observing the fluctuations of surface-level in the sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea; and to the following gentlemen for the papers they have contributed to the *Quarterly Statement*:—

To Dr. Bliss for his account of the German excavations at Ba'albek, and to the editor of *The Builder* for permission to reproduce an illustrated article on the same subject from that paper.

To Colonel Conder for his paper on "Hebrew Weights and Measures."

To the Rev. James Nies for his "Notes on a Cross Jordan Trip."

To Prof. George Adam Smith for the interesting record of his journey from Tiberias through the Hauran to Damascus.

To our Chairman, Sir Charles Wilson, for his papers on Golgotha.

Prof. Clermont-Ganneau continues his series of Archæological and Epigraphic Notes:—8. Betomarsea-Maioumas, and "the Matter of Peor." 9. The Hebrew Mosaic at Kefr Kenna. 10. Dannaba and Job's Country. 11. Zeus-Helios and Baal-Bosor. 12. Some Greek Inscriptions in the Hauran. 13. Fresh remarks on the Hebrew Mosaic of Kefr Kenna. 14. Baal-Bosor or Baalkosor. 15. The Repository of Ancient Arrows in the Castle of David. 16. The Plasterer Sosibios of Gaza.

The following papers by Mr. Macalister have been published:—On certain Antiquities in the neighbourhood of Beit Jibrin; The Birak esh-Shinanir; A note on West Palestinian Dolmens; Addenda to the List of Rhodian Stamped Jar-handles from Tell Sandahannah; The Nicophorich Tomb; A newly-discovered Tomb

North of Jerusalem; Inscription from the Wâdy Samâr; The Ancient Necropolis at Kerm esh-Sheikh; Further Jar-handles with Rhodian Stamps; The "Egyptian Tomb" at Silwân; The Mosaic in the Church of Notre Dame de Spasme, Jerusalem; The Sculptured Cave at Sarîs; The Hill over Jeremiah's Grotto.

Your Committee have also to record their thanks to many scholars and investigators who have sent to the *Quarterly Statement* notes and articles of much interest.

No new publication has been issued by the Fund since the Annual Meeting in July last; but we are pleased to announce that the Director-General of the Ordnance Survey, with the authority of the Board of Agriculture, has kindly transferred the moulds and casts of the models of Sinai and Jerusalem to the Fund. As soon as arrangements can be made, copies of these models will be offered to museums, universities, colleges, schools, &c., at a reduced rate.

The large Relief Map of Palestine has had a very gratifying reception. Copies have been sent to nearly every country in the world, and in consequence of the wish frequently expressed by subscribers and others, our Acting Secretary, Mr. George Armstrong, has been engaged during his spare time for the last two and a half years in preparing a similar map on about half the scale of the large one. This is now completed, and casts in fibrous plaster are being prepared. It is constructed on exactly the same basis as the large model, and will be fully coloured and framed, and issued at a moderate price. The original, with a partly-coloured copy, is now on view at the office of the Fund, in Conduit Street.

Since the last Annual Meeting 75 names have been added to the list of subscribers, and 86 have been struck off through death and other causes.

Our warmest thanks are again due to our honorary local secretaries for their willing help in collecting and forwarding subscriptions to the office of the Fund; and especially to our Honorary General Secretary in America, Dr. Theodore Wright, and to the subscribers in the United States, who have given such liberal support to our work.

The Committee regret to record the loss by death of the following members of the General Committee—viz., the Marquis of

Dufferin and Ava, K.P.; Dr. Wescott, the late Bishop of Durham; Sir Richard Temple, Dr. Conrad Schick, and Mr. T. Rymer.

The reports of Dr. Schick will be much missed, he was long resident in Jerusalem, and was always on the alert for any new discovery that would add to our knowledge of underground Jerusalem. His last reports were discoveries at the "Virgin's Fountain," and "the Muristan, or the Site of the Hospital of St. John at Jerusalem," and the "Hill over Jeremiah's Grotto."

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

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

During the year 1901 the receipts from all sources amounted to £1,936 14s. 9d., which is recorded under the following headings :—

	£	s.	d.
From Donations and Subscriptions	1,464	1	3
„ Lectures	10	5	4
„ Sales of Publications	462	8	2

At the close of 1900 the balance in the Bank, which included £10 8s. 0d. for subscriptions paid in advance, was £291 7s. 11d., making the total available £2,228 2s. 8d.

It is to be regretted that the receipts for the year have been seriously diminished, probably by the causes which have affected so many societies.

The Donations and Subscriptions vary in amount. The highest being £20; the lowest, 5s.

The amount received for Lectures came from America. The sales from publications are made up from Maps, £150 8s. 4d.; from Books, £274 3s. 4d.; from Photographs, Casts, and Lantern Slides, £37 16s. 6d.

The expenditure during the same period was—on Exploration, £448 4s. 3d.

On printing and binding, including the *Quarterly Statement*, £393 5s. 9½d. The expenditure under this heading is mainly on the production of the Journal itself, which is issued free to all subscribers of half a guinea and upwards.

On maps, lithographs, illustrations, photographs, casts, and lantern slides, the total under these headings amounting to £170 19s. 9½d.

On advertising, insurance, stationery, and sundries, £59 11s. 11d.

The postage on the *Quarterly Statement*, and on all book and map packets sent out, amounted to £121 17s. 2d.—£70 3s. 6d. of this sum being incurred for the postage of the Journal.

On the management, which includes salaries, wages, rent of office and museum, light and coals, £619 5s. 2d.

The liabilities at the end of 1900 were reduced by £250.

The balance in the Bank on December 31st, 1901, was £164 8s. 7d.

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
Balance in Bank, December 31st, 1901.. ..	164	18	7	Printers' Bills and Current Expenses	427	5	11
Subscriptions in arrear..	349	11	0				
Also the stock of Publications in hand, Surveying Instruments, Show Cases, Furniture, &c.							
The valuable library and unique collection of antiques, models, &c.							

The amount received through our Hon. General Secretary, Professor Theodore F. Wright, from America, was from—

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions	205	15	6
Lectures	10	5	4
Sales	27	13	7
Total	<u>£243</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>

WALTER MORRISON, *Treasurer.*

The CHAIRMAN.—Ladies and gentlemen,—In moving the adoption of the Report which you have just heard, and which tells you so much of what the Society has done during the past year, I feel that my task is more or less made easy. But I think it is only right that I should call attention to the great losses that we have sustained by the death of some of our illustrious members. I mean notably those names that have already been read out to you, that of Lord Dufferin, whom I may claim as a personal friend of my own, of Dr. Westcott, Bishop of Durham, and Sir Richard Temple, all learned in the law of the East, and all brought up in the wisdom of the West. Of Dr. Conrad Schick I had no personal knowledge, but I knew that he was a most indefatigable member of this Society, one who was extremely learned, and who did his work in a most marvellous manner, and whose loss we must all very sincerely regret, as well as that of Mr. T. Rymer, and others. The Report has told you that we have lost a certain proportion of subscribers during the last year, as many as 86, and that there is a slight falling off—only a slight falling off, and I trust only temporarily—in the

number of new subscribers who have joined us ; and I look forward, now that peace is happily re-established, hoping that our attention will be more turned to scientific subjects, especially to the work upon which this Society is engaged. Considering what has been done in the past, I think we may look forward to a better report in the future, and to enlisting more and more subscribers to help carry out the great work which for 36 years we have been engaged in. The record of work, I think you will agree with me after listening to the Report, has been a very good one. You have just heard that many of the excavations in and around Jerusalem have been fruitful, and that an ancient aqueduct has been discovered which conducted the waters of the Fountain of the Virgin down the Kidron Valley, and that other discoveries have also been made. But the one point which I think the Report lays great stress upon, and upon which you will, no doubt, hear a very interesting account from the worthy Chairman of the Executive Committee, who sits at my right hand, is with regard to the excavation of the ruins of Gezer, a well-known town in Philistia, as those who are familiar with the Bible will recollect. I will not enlarge upon that subject, because I know that Sir Charles Wilson will touch upon that and other subjects also contained in this Report ; but I cannot forget that all our thanks are due to the discoverers of these monuments for the great work they have helped to do, and especially I ought to mention the name of Mr. Macalister, who has rendered great service, and who is as clever, I believe, with the pick-axe and shovel as he is with his pen. I have had the advantage of reading many of his works, I am afraid not thoroughly, but of looking at some of the works of which he is the author, and of which there is a long list in the Report before me. They are all most interesting, and all show what a worthy and efficient servant we have had to help us in the great work this Society undertakes. I ought also to mention the names of Dr. Masterman, Dr. Torrance, and others, for no doubt all, small and great, have helped us, particularly in the physical geography of Palestine, and with regard to the Dead Sea. I speak now as one who has not seen the Holy Land for a matter of 30 years or more, and I have no doubt I should find a great many things changed, and perhaps not all for the better, if I went there. I am afraid I should not very much approve of the railway between Joppa and Jerusalem, but, then, I am an old Conservative, and rather prejudiced in the matter.

Anyway, there is one thing mentioned in the Report which I should disapprove of, and that is the rapid manner in which all the excavations out there and all the antiquities are being more or less disturbed and interfered with, sometimes for reasons of profit, by the natives and others. I think that is a very serious matter, and I am afraid it is not only the case in Palestine, but in Egypt and elsewhere, as the railway, by giving greater facilities, enables people to get there much more readily than they did in former times. I most cordially agree with the paragraph which says that our warmest thanks are again due to our honorary local Secretaries, especially to our honorary General Secretary, Dr. Theodore Wright, and to subscribers in the United States of America. I wish to lay particular stress upon that, because I believe that America in the past, as in the present, and as I hope in the future, has always been most liberal to this Society, and a great deal of our success is due to our cousins on the other side of the Atlantic. I think it only right to do so, and I am very glad to be able to endorse what is said in the Report. I do not think I ought to detain you any longer, because I know you are going to listen to a very interesting statement from the Chairman of the Executive Committee. I will now ask Dr. Rogers to be good enough to second the motion that this Report be received and adopted.

Dr. ROGERS.—Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen,—I have very great pleasure indeed in seconding the resolution that has been proposed. There are some things which may profitably be postponed, but the exploration of Palestine is not one of those things. We have to prosecute that and with vigour, and the time is emphatically *now*. We have the good fortune to have secured a number of able archaeological experts; we have at last obtained a firman, and what renders the matter still more pressing is that grave-robbers and riflers are at work, and if you wish to obtain as much information as possible of the past, and transmit it to posterity, we must be up and doing now. Therefore there is a special call at this time, more than any that I can remember, to increase the funds of the Society, and if those who have been good enough to attend here to-day will try and circulate this idea amongst their friends it may help us. I notice that while we are honoured with the presence of many young ladies, most of the men

present are like myself—well, no longer what we were 36 years ago. Most of us joined the fund as young men, and I have seen most of these faces from time to time, not in this room, but in others. Now, I should like to see a number of young men who will carry on the work after we have passed away. There are a few, but very few, in the present assembly, perhaps the ladies will endeavour to secure a few of these. I should be very glad if this meeting should be the means of supplementing the deficiency in the Fund, and restoring the losses that we have sustained by the death of so many friends during the past year. I have very great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—I will now ask Sir Charles Wilson to be good enough to give us his Address, which I know will be most interesting.

SIR CHARLES WILSON.—The work of the Fund under the last Irâdeh was the excavation of certain mounds in the Shephelah or low country of Judah. An examination of these mounds would, it was thought, add to our knowledge of the race or races living in the district during the Israelite and pre-Israelite periods, and at the same time throw light on the sites of Gath, and other places not yet identified. A full account of the work so well carried out by Dr. Bliss and Mr. Macalister is given in the forthcoming *Memoir*, which is illustrated with reproductions of Mr. Macalister's beautiful and accurate drawings. It is only possible on this occasion to give a brief summary of the results that have been obtained.

Tell Zakariya, the first site attacked, rises above the Vale of Elah, and from its summit there is a striking view of the battlefield upon which David slew Goliath. Here the excavations disclosed the existence of a town, founded in the late pre-Israelite period, which commences about 1500 B.C., fortified in Jewish times, possibly by Rehoboam, occupied during the Seleucid period, and deserted after a brief Roman and Byzantine occupation. No clue was obtained to the name of the town, but Dr. Bliss suggests that it may have been Azekah or Socoh.

Tell es-Sâfi, supposed by many authorities to be the site of Gath, stands at the mouth of the Vale of Elah, as a natural fortress between the Shephelah and the Plain of Philistia. Here, unfortunately, the space available for excavation was small, for most

of the summit of the tell is occupied by a village and large cemeteries. The excavations showed that the site was occupied in the early pre-Israelite period, certainly as far back as the 17th century B.C., and that the occupation was continuous down to Seleucid times. Then, apparently, the place was abandoned until the arrival of the Crusaders, who, in 1144, built upon it the important fortress of Blanche Garde. Perhaps the most interesting discovery was that of three upright monoliths, with the remains of enclosing walls, which evidently formed one of those "high places" so frequently mentioned in the Bible. The town walls appear to date from the Jewish period, probably from the reign of Rehoboam. In the *débris* of the Jewish town were found jar-handles with royal stamps; early Greek ware (700-550 B.C.), and a few specimens of Greek black and red-figured ware (550-350 B.C.). Nothing was discovered which directly identified the place with Gath, but its history, as disclosed by the excavations, certainly favours the identification. The tell is easily accessible from the maritime plain, and it is interesting to compare the abundant evidence of the influence of Ægean or Mykenæan, and of later Greek civilisation found in it with the slight traces of either found at Tell Zakariya, a few miles eastward, near the foot of the hill country of Judah.

At *Tell ej-Judeideh*, the next site, which lies south of Tell Zakariya, the excavations disclosed the existence of a town founded in the early pre-Israelite period, abandoned long before the Hebrew conquest, reoccupied during the Jewish monarchy, and apparently fortified in Roman times. In the centre of the mound a Roman villa was found. No clue was obtained to the name of the place, which naturally would not appear in the lists of Joshua, since the site was deserted before the Israelites crossed the Jordan.

The excavations at *Tell Sandahannah*, about one mile south of Beit Jibrin, were of exceptional interest. They proved the existence of a walled Seleucid town, built on the ruins of a Jewish town, which was almost certainly the Biblical Mareshah. The name, in the form Khurbet Mer'ash, still clings to a small suburb about three-quarter mile distant. In Seleucid and early Roman times Mareshah played an important part. It was plundered by Judas Maccabæus, taken by John Hyrcanus, restored to the Idumæans by Pompey, and finally destroyed by the Parthians

in B.C. 40. The finds in pottery were unusually rich and valuable for the illustration of the Seleucid period. Here were found three Greek inscriptions of the same period. One is on the base of a statue of a Ptolemaic Queen, Arsinoë, whom M. Clermont-Ganneau identifies with the lady who was sister and wife of Ptolemy IV, and who played an important part at the battle of Raphia, in which Antiochus the Great was defeated; another bears part of the name Berenike, possibly the mother of Ptolemy IV; and the third, on part of the base of a colossal statue of an eagle, has been ingeniously restored by M. Clermont-Ganneau as—Skopa]s, son of Kraton, to Apollo [addresses his] prayer.

Near the south-west corner of the town some 50 fragments of very soft limestone, covered with inscriptions, were found. The cleansing and casting of these tablets, which were very lightly engraved, was, from the friable nature of the material, a task of much delicacy and difficulty. But it was successfully carried out by Dr. Bliss, and Professor Dr. Wunsch, of Breslau, has contributed an interesting chapter on the inscriptions to the *Memoir*. Four of the tablets are inscribed with Hebrew words, and two cannot be deciphered. The remaining inscriptions are in Greek, which shows a state of transition from capital letters to a more cursive method of writing; their date is later than the third century B.C., and earlier than the fourth century A.D.

The Greek inscriptions are all connected with ancient imprecatory rites. Conspicuous amongst them is the "prayer which was believed to *fetter* the object of imprecation—*i.e.*, to lame him or kill him outright." In one case a man, who had been reduced to helplessness by an imprecation, beseeches the god to deprive his enemy of speech and the enjoyments of love. In another a man's marriage is cursed, and in two instances a bridegroom, possibly by a disappointed lover. In all cases of imprecation the choice of material was considered important. In Greece lead, the deadly metal, was used; in Egypt, the "sacred paper"; and in Palestine, apparently, limestone had some significance. In this connection Dr. Wunsch cites the "white stone," inscribed with "a new name," which was to be given "to him that overcometh" (Revelation ii, 17).

In addition to the custom of cursing their enemies by means of these stones, the rite of bewitching by means of dolls was prevalent. These "revenge dolls," common to all nations, are "leaden figures shackled with chains. They were named after an adversary, and it

was then believed that whatever was inflicted on them would befall the enemy himself."

These two ancient modes of imposing a curse throw a valuable sidelight on the life of the inhabitants of a small country town in Palestine.

During the progress of the excavations the remarkable caves in the vicinity of the several sites, and more especially of Tell Sandahannah, were systematically examined and planned by Mr. Macalister; and to him we owe the first attempt to grapple with the difficult task of classifying and approximately dating the rock-cuttings of Palestine. In his suggestive contribution to the *Memoir*, he has given plans, sections, and drawings of typical specimens, and brought together a mass of information upon which all future investigation must be based. It is true that, in one sense, the result is disappointing, for little was found in the caves to throw light on the origin and history of those who made, and in some cases lived in, them; but it is not likely that more precise information can be obtained without the complete excavation of a few selected caves.

Mr. Macalister's conclusions are that a few of the caves are later than the Seleucid period; that a few others are earlier than the end of the Jewish monarchy; and that there is Scriptural evidence that similar caves existed at a still earlier date. Certain chambers are prepared for special purposes, as cisterns, store-chambers, &c., and these being required at all periods, may be of any date. Other purposes, such as chambers for religious rites, filters, traps for wild beasts, prisons, quarries, &c., may be inferred from the character of the chambers, or from Scriptural reference to them. Some caves were used as places of refuge. There is reason to believe that other caves contained a troglodyte population, not improbably distinct from the inhabitants of the towns and villages on the surface, and possibly aboriginal. There is archæological evidence from which it is possible to infer that cremation was practised by these troglodytes, and perhaps taught by them (with the use of columbaria) to the inhabitants of the surface.

In Palestine, where the number of objects that can be dated is so small, pottery affords almost the only basis for the establishment of chronological order. The foundations for the study of the pre-Roman pottery of Palestine were laid by Dr. Petrie in 1890, when he excavated the stratified mound of Tell el-Hesi (Lachish). This

site, with its 60 feet of *débris*, was an ideal place for excavation. Owing to the nature of the material—sun-dried brick—the stratification was but little disturbed. When one town fell into ruins it was buried in its own ruins, its ground plan being in part preserved, and on these ruins rose the foundations of the next. It was thus possible to note the changes in the styles of pottery from town to town; to compare the pottery of each town with the other articles, such as amulets, scarabs, &c., found in it; and to divide the pre-Roman pottery into groups or periods, which have been termed by Dr. Bliss and Mr. Macalister early pre-Israelite, late pre-Israelite, Jewish, and Seleucid.

In the *early pre-Israelite period*, which ends about B.C. 1500—*i.e.*, before the Hebrew conquest—the pottery is characterised by a complete absence of Mykenæan or Phœnician influence. Similar types found by Petrie in Egypt are believed by him to have been introduced by an immigration from Palestine 2,000 years before the First Dynasty. Most of the pottery is hand made; and the surface is generally covered with a red wash, though yellow and black washes were also used. The earliest specimens show the richest colour and highest polish. No lamps were found with the pottery of this period.

The *late pre-Israelite period* is that during which Mykenæan or Phœnician influence appears in the pottery. It commenced shortly before the Hebrew conquest, and ended during the Jewish monarchy, extending from about B.C. 1500 to about B.C. 800. Amongst the pottery found were direct importations of Cypriote and Mykenæan ware, showing the characteristic glaze and patterns; local imitations of Cypriote ware; and Mykenæan and sub-Mykenæan types. Associated with the pottery displaying marked Mykenæan characteristics were local styles, which originated not long before the establishment of the Hebrews in Palestine, and continued into the times of the Jewish monarchy. A careful analysis of the painted sherds (Græco-Phœnician and native coloured ware), their date, technique, and patterns, was made by Mr. Macalister, who considers that, whilst in some cases Ægean or Mykenæan analogies are suggested, the remains most nearly approximating to them are those found by M. Chantre at Boghaz Keui and Kara Euyuk in Asia Minor.

During the *Jewish period*, which extends from about B.C. 800 to B.C. 300, Mykenæan and Phœnician influence is almost lost; the

peculiar coloured decoration, direct foreign importations and imitations, and other features have gone; older types survive in a degenerate form, side by side with new styles, and, as a rule, the pottery is coarse and ungraceful. The most interesting fragments belonging to this period are the jar handles with royal and potters' stamps. The *royal stamps* display either a two-winged or a four-winged figure, and in each case bear above the symbol the legend "To the King," in old Hebrew characters, and below it the name of one of the four towns, Hebron, Socoh, Ziph, and an unknown place, Mmst, which has been provisionally vocalised Memshath, all in relief. The four-winged figure is sometimes treated naturally and sometimes conventionally. One specimen displaying a four-winged beetle with well-articulated body and well-shaped head, shows that the symbol represents the Egyptian scarabæus with outstretched wings. The two-winged figure is probably a simple winged solar disc, but it has been held to be the figure of a god developed from the winged disc, a two-winged scarabæus, and a bird. Various theories have been advanced with regard to the use of the jars and the meaning of the legend: that the town-names indicate the sites of potteries connected in some way with the king; that the jars were intended to contain tribute of oil, wine, or grain for the royal storehouses, and that the stamp was the official certificate of their capacity; that the four towns were the centres of districts in which dues in kind were collected, and that the jars were officially stamped measures of capacity which varied locally. Unfortunately no perfect jar was found. The *potters' stamps* generally consist of two names, enclosed in a circle or ellipse, and separated by one or two horizontal bars. In nearly every case the names are biblical—Hosea, Shebaniah, Abdi, Menahem, &c. A few bear devices such as a figure hunting a stag, a horse, a man with a staff, the ancient sign called "Solomon's seal," &c.

The *Seleucid period* extends from B.C. 300 to Roman times. The pottery is very rarely associated with the red and black figured Greek ware, which disappears about B.C. 350. It includes Greek imports, such as Rhodian amphoræ with stamped handles, and "Samian" ware, Jewish survivals, and ware displaying Greek influence. Special interest attaches to the large find of lamps, which supplies a link in the historical chain of development of the lamp in Palestine. The legends of the stamps on the Rhodian amphoræ contain the name of the magistrate eponymous of the

year in which the jar was stamped, or the name of the merchant, and the month of the magistrate's year of office.

The burial of jars, in combination with lamps and bowls, within the limits of towns is of great interest. Dr. J. G. Frazer, Trinity College, Cambridge, suggests that these jar burials may be an example of the widespread custom of going through a form of burial in the cases of persons whose bodies could not be obtained. Specimens of pottery, representing, in some cases very rudely, human and animal forms, were found in the *débris* belonging to the pre-Israelite and Seleucid periods. Flint implements, rude stone images, stone vases and dishes, weights with Hebrew inscriptions, and a large variety of small objects in bone, brick, bronze, and iron, were also dug up at the various sites.

Turning now to the future work of the Fund, it will be observed that the site which Mr. Macalister is excavating is one that has a continuous history from a period long prior to the Hebrew conquest to that of the Crusades. Mr. Macalister's paper (*see* p. 227) gives a succinct account of the history of Gezer, and of the state of its site at the present day. It is only necessary here to allude to the statement in the Bible, that the Pharaoh of Egypt burnt Gezer, and gave the site to his daughter, Solomon's wife, and that Solomon rebuilt the town. If, as there is every reason to hope, a well-defined layer of ashes marks the position of the burned city in the accumulated *débris*, all objects found below that layer must be earlier than Solomon's reign, and all above it later than the destruction of the town. Thus there will be a definite historical fact to which all finds can be referred, and it will be possible to verify the system of classification which has been provisionally adopted with regard to the pottery. Some light may also be thrown on the history of the Philistines, and upon the civilisation of the country during the reign of Solomon. The mound is the most extensive yet excavated by the Fund, and its thorough exploration is of great importance to biblical archaeology. For this undertaking a large sum is required, and the Committee hope that the subscribers will give it that financial support which is so liberally accorded by Austrians and Germans in the case of their excavations at Taanach, Megiddo, and Ba'albek.

The CHAIRMAN.—I feel sure you will all agree with me in thanking Sir Charles Wilson for his very interesting lecture. I learnt

one thing that I never realised before—viz., that pottery is the oldest art in creation. I only wish some of those beautiful forms we saw could be brought into our civilised life; I have no doubt they would find a market, and would justify a position on our sideboards. I think what the lecturer has told us about water and aqueducts generally, only shows how far superior they were in the days of the Israelites in those matters. The new aqueduct, which cost so much money, is really inferior to that of Solomon's time. There is nothing new under the sun, and I am very glad that the works of Solomon should be reproduced, for it really shows the science of the present is not superior to the science of the past. Anyway, however that may be, I quite endorse the feelings of the audience present, that we owe a deep debt of gratitude to Sir Charles Wilson, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, for having so well told us, and so well illustrated, the work of the Society during the past year. In conclusion, we hope that all present will considerably increase their subscriptions.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Crace, and carried unanimously, that the following gentlemen be elected to the General Committee:—Colonel Johnston, R.E., Director-General of Ordnance Survey; Colonel Bramble; Sir William Charley, K.C.; the Dean of St. Patrick's; Mr. James Hilton; the Rev. Arthur Carr, and Dr. E. W. Gurney Masterman.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Colonel Watson, and carried unanimously, that the Executive Committee be re-elected with the addition of Mr. F. A. Eaton, Secretary of the Royal Academy of Arts.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Crace, a very cordial vote of thanks was given to the Council of the Royal Institution for their kindness in allowing the Annual Meeting of the Fund to be held in the theatre of the Institution.

SIR CHARLES WILSON.—There is one duty I think we ought to perform before we part, and that is to pass a vote of thanks to Lord Eustace Cecil for taking the chair at our Annual Meeting. We know that this is a very busy time for one who is so fully engaged, and we are much indebted to Lord Eustace for so kindly coming here to-day. Lord Eustace has visited Palestine, and has always taken a warm interest in the work of the Fund. I am

afraid that if he went out now he would find very great changes, and not all for the better. In fact, the country is changing every year, and to those who knew it in the old days the changes are not all improvements. I have much pleasure in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to Lord Eustace Cecil for taking the chair on this occasion.

Dr. GINSBURG.—I beg to second that.

The vote of thanks having been carried unanimously,

The CHAIRMAN, in responding, said: Ladies and gentlemen, I give you my cordial thanks for the vote of thanks that you have just passed. It has afforded me very great pleasure indeed to take the chair on this occasion. Sir Charles Wilson has referred to the vandalism of the present day; I remember also the vandals of the past. When I went to Ba'albek I saw the interior full of the names of everybody under the sun, from all parts of the world, but there was one witty Frenchman who had written underneath the names in very large letters: "The names of fools are to be found everywhere." Now, I am afraid there is a deal of folly of that kind. The folly of writing your name is not very great, but when it comes to breaking off a piece of an old monument, and taking it away in your pocket, and putting it into your portmanteau, I think that man or woman, from an historical point of view, commits a very serious misdemeanour. I hope that what has been said to-day, and what the Committee have said before, and have tried to impress upon the public, will bear some fruit. I only wish the Turkish Government could be induced to give a little more protection to these monuments, otherwise I am very much afraid that, with the vandalism of the East and the vandalism of the West, monuments of every sort and kind will, in a very short time, become things of the past. I not only hope that this Society will be able to continue the good work of increasing our knowledge, but trust that it will be able to do something towards the protection of those monuments. I beg to thank you very much indeed.

The proceedings then terminated.
