were, however, one or two Rhodian jar-handles with stamps impressed upon them. Except a carnelian bead, nothing else calling for special remark has been found by me on the surface of the ground.

A curious system of aqueducts and waterworks seems to radiate from the copious springs round the tell which still call for examination: these appear to be of the Roman period, or later. And, in conclusion, I may remark that the fever for tomb-robbing which has recently spread over Palestine does not yet seem to have reached the immediate neighbourhood of Abu Shushsheh, so there is reason to hope that one cemetery may yet be rescued from the clutches of the syndicate of fellahin, pedlars, and tourists who are rapidly making Palestine archaeologically a desert.

REPORTS BY R. A. STEWART MACALISTER, M.A., F.S.A.

I.—BIĀR ES-SEB'A.

In company with my friends, Dr. Paterson, of Hebron, and Messrs. Bergheim and Peters, of Jerusalem, I visited Biār es-Sob'a ¹ (Beersheba) last April, and submit the following report on observations made at the time. This place, till recently deserted except by Bedawin, is being “developed”; a large Government house and a Khān have been built, and barracks, shops, and houses are being rapidly erected. The population is said to number about 300 at present.

The materials for these new buildings are nearly all being taken from the ruins of a Byzantine town lying E.N.E. of the new site, and about a quarter to half a mile distant from it. Men are busily engaged in mining stones from the ancient foundations and in carrying them to the new sites, where they are being re-faced and built into the new houses.

If any antiquities are being found they are carefully concealed; the only object shown to any of our party was a defaced Byzantine

¹ I prefer to use the modern name, as the remains show that the biblical Beershebas cannot have been on this site—they are not old enough. Possibly the ancient town was at Tell es-Seb'a, about 2½ miles to the east.
copper coin. Many fragments of ornamented stone are being uncovered, however, and are lying about in all directions. Large numbers of slabs of fine white marble, mostly plain, but some ornamented with mouldings, wreaths, and other designs, are to be seen.

The following is a catalogue of the principal fragments noted during our visit; drawings and photographs, some of which are here reproduced, may be seen at the office of the Fund:

(I.) A large font, adapted for total immersion. It is 5 feet in diameter, 2 feet 7 inches thick. We were given to understand that it is proposed to turn this into a basin for a fountain. In the bottom is a square hole, no doubt for a tenon or dowel to keep the font in position. About four weeks before our visit this font was still in situ in the baptistery, where it was found, and near it was a mosaic, which was seen by Mr. Hoyer, of Hebron, and described by him to me as the finest he had seen in Palestine.
Apparently it contained conventional patterns only. This has been completely destroyed.

(II.) The upper stone of a rotary corn-grinder, made to fit on a convex nether-stone, and turned by men or animals pulling the poles fitting into the side sockets. The grain to be ground was poured in through the top. Material, a hard, black, porous stone. Height and diameter each, 1 foot 10 inches.

(III.) Small Corinthian anta-capital in soft limestone, 10\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches high, 1 foot 9\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches long, 10\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches broad.

(IV.) [Page 234, figs. 1*, 4, 5*, 13.] Slabs of fine white marble, with mouldings and other ornament.

(V.) [Ib., fig. 2*] Fragment of a marble dish, with bead and reel ornament.

(VI.) [Ib., fig. 3.] One of a number of conduit channels found together. Limestone.

(VII.) [Ib., fig. 6.] Fragment of a frieze, very debased, built upside down into a new house wall.

(VIII.) [Ib., fig. 7.] Cornice in soft limestone.

(IX.) [Ib., fig. 10.] Byzantine lintel of common pattern. There was a second in the same building yard, which I noticed; it had a plain cross, with the ends of the arms slightly expanding, in a circle. On returning the next day to sketch it, I found that in the meanwhile the ornamented face had been tooled away.

(X.) [Ib., fig. 11.] Coarse debased Doric capital. Many similar to this are lying about. I saw also a much damaged Corinthian capital rather less debased in style.

(XI.) [Ib., fig. 12.] One of a large number of boundary posts of common pattern. The four sides are shown in consecutive order. Two others are utilised in the staircase of the new Government house.

(XII.) [Ib., fig. 14.] Fragment of a cornice (?) in fine white marble.

The following inscriptions are to be noticed:—

(a) A small fragment of fine marble, bearing the letters OY and part of a cross—probably the concluding letters of an epitaph.

(b) [Ib., fig. 8.] Fragment of a white marble slab, with a wreath and the words . . . π\(\alpha\)βε\(\alpha\)ς 'Ιωάννς . . . . . .

* The fragments marked with an asterisk are small, and were not measured, so that I cannot give their exact dimensions.
“... of the falling asleep of John...”. Now in the Government house.¹

(c) [Page 234, fig. 9.] This important stone is also in the Government house. It is a fragment of a marble slab bearing portions of two columns of writing. It is a list of names of towns, preceded by numerical signs, which I take to be their distances—presumably from the original position of the stone. The letters are all perfectly clear except the top line, which is worn. I read—

\[
\begin{align*}
N \kappa \beta & \varsigma \iota \ [A] \sigma \tau o \nu[\xi] \\
[N - \varsigma - N \epsilon k] \omega t o l e o s & N \nu' \varsigma \gamma' \ Tau \ beta[\\
[N - \varsigma - B] \gamma t o w r o u s & N \lambda \varsigma \gamma' \ Beta[\\
[N - \varsigma - A i n] \omega n a & N \iota \beta \varsigma \ Tau \is \Delta o[\\
[N - \varsigma] \sigma \Sigma e \beta \alpha s t e s & N \lambda' \varsigma \gamma' \ Beta[\\
[N - \varsigma - K e ] \rho i o u M a w h \eta t h a v n & N \eta' \varsigma \Gamma e \sigma \chi a l [\nu]\\
[N - \varsigma - \Gamma] a \zeta \gamma a v & N \iota \beta \varsigma \ Tau \is \Delta o n[\\
[N - \varsigma - \Delta i o k a i a a r] & N \xi \varsigma \Lambda e \iota n[\\
[N - \varsigma' - T o u B i x a r i o n] & N \mu \varsigma \ Tau[\\
[N - \varsigma - A i l i a & N \varsigma \varsigma \ Tau[\\
[N - \varsigma - B e \tau o s ?] o x a' & N \varsigma \varsigma \ Tau[\\
\end{align*}
\]

I presume \( \varsigma \) means \( \sigma t \'\varsigma \iota \), but I cannot guess what \( N \) stands for.

The inscription, therefore, as we have it, commences by stating that the place is 22 "\( N \)" 10 stadia, from Ashdod (\( ? \)), and then proceeded to give the distance from Nicopolis [\( ' A m w \)\( s \)], Bethhoron, Ainon, Sebaste, Kir Moab [\( K e r a k \)], Gaza, Dioecesarea [\( S e f t u r i y e h \)], Fik (\( ? \)), Aelia [\( J e r u s a l e m \)], and, perhaps, Beth-Zacharia (\( ? \)). The second column has the distances intact, but the names (except Giscala) are not recoverable. I do not understand \( \tau o i \), with which four of them begin; it is not (like \( B e t h \) and \( ' A i n \), also illustrated) a common geographical prefix; and analogy with the rest of the inscription would lead us to expect a genitive rather than a dative—no doubt governed by an imaginary \( \delta \pi o \). I was unfortunately not provided with material for taking a squeeze, so have to rely on a very careful drawing, reproduced on the plate.²

¹ See Professor Clermont-Ganneau’s note, p. 259.
² See, further, the discussion of this stone by Professor Clermont-Ganneau, pp. 270, et seq.
II.—A Tomb near Edh-Dhāherīyeh.

On the west side of the road from Hebron to Edh-Dhāherīyeh, and not far from the latter village, is an interesting tomb-chamber, which appears to have been recently opened. I entered it with some difficulty (the chamber being almost full of earth), and examined it as well as I could; unfortunately, I had no candle, and was obliged to light the cave with matches only. I estimated the main chamber, to which the entrance shown gives access, to be about 12 feet square. In each wall are two deep arched recesses. These are choked up with earth, except those in the back wall of the cave; they each show a doorway leading to a plain, square, sepulchral chamber, without any provision for the reception of bodies. Presumably, the arched recesses in the side walls also lead to sepulchral chambers, but only the semi-circular tops are at present to be seen.

III.—Rock-cut Tomb near Bethlehem.

I am indebted to the Rev. J. E. Hanauer for calling my attention to the very interesting tomb, a representation of which is here given. It is situated in a vineyard belonging to the American convent, about half-a-mile east of Rachel’s tomb, and a little distance south-east of the house in the vineyard. The tomb consists of one chamber, about 13 feet square, entered by a flight of five wooden built steps from a doorway, which is closed by a swinging stone door—an extremely rare device in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem. This door, which is 2 feet 6 inches square, has four moulded panels picked out in red, and has been secured by a bolt, the handle of which passed through a slit in the door, and was padlocked to a staple that formerly was let into the left-hand jamb. These fastenings have, of course, long since been torn away, as well as the ring with which the door was closed. The door to the tomb is at the bottom of an open court, 9 feet 5 inches deep below the present surface of the ground, and entered by steps running down its eastern side. Indications are not wanting that this court was originally a cistern, afterwards adapted as the entrance to the tomb: in the wall above the door are some signs of a shaft having been formed. The entrance to the tomb is an irregular hole, filled in with the necessary jambs and lintel of the door, with smaller stones as “packing” between them and the edge of the rock.
There are five subsidiary chambers opening off the main chamber. One—the first on the left-hand side—has evidence of having had an arcosolium on the eastern wall; the second on the same side is broken into a natural cavity in the rock. The other chambers, which are plain, four-sided, and rather roughly cut, do not call for any special notice.

These subsidiary chambers were closed by square stone slabs fitting into the openings, by which they communicated with the central room. Four of these remain. They were evidently once provided with metal rings in the centre of the outside for lifting and securing them; these, like the other portable contents of the tomb, have naturally disappeared. On the outer face of the sill of each is cut a Greek index-letter corresponding with letters cut on the doors themselves, and showing which door fitted which doorway. Large-scale facsimiles (from rubbings) of the letters are shown in the plan (p. 239), each letter being written within the chamber which it...
TOMB NEAR BETHLEHEM

scale for letters

[Diagram of a tomb near Bethlehem with various cavities and numbers labeled]

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denotes. The letters under the doorways are picked out with red paint. They are Џ, А, Є, Ω, І, the Є being inverted as though it had been cut by someone lying on the floor of the inner chamber and leaning over the door-sill. It will be noticed that these letters are not in alphabetical or numerical order. They may have been chosen at random; if not, I can only guess that they are meant to read backwards, making what sounds like a not impossible Greek name, Зωστας.

The principal chamber is plastered, and the plaster ornamented with roughly-painted panels outlined in yellowish-brown paint. Some of the panels contain a circle in the same colour; a few of these circles have been hacked away. Under the door of the chamber marked А the plaster is broken, and thereby some device (or inscription?) has been quite destroyed.

Beside the open court leading to this tomb is a wine or olive press with remains of a mosaic floor. There are also one or two other caves, tombs, and cisterns in the same vineyard, none of which, however, display details of interest.

IV.—A GREEK INSCRIPTION FROM NABLUS.

I forward a squeeze, given me by Dr. Masterman, of a Greek inscription shown him by Dr. Wright, of Nablus, during a recent journey through the country. It is cut on a slab of limestone, measuring 1 foot 6 inches by 11½ inches by 2 inches. The inscription runs thus—

\[ \text{"MTAФSTHCMAKAPSIDOЗACIACOY"} \]
\[ \text{"ГАТРSD} \]
\[ \text{"ПАЙМЕНWNTTHYYXH} \]
\[ \text{"TWNOCTEWNTOUTWNKТOMYCTH"} \]
\[ \text{"PIОNTOUΘANATOYKTHNWПANTHC"} \]
\[ \text{"КРІСЕWCMHДICPI} \]
\[ \text{"ФАНОΝМТЕOCTEONXW} \]

Accepting a correction that Père Legrange has made (to whom the expansion of the initial abbreviation is also due), my interpretation of this curious epitaph is as follows:—
"Μόνος τάφος τῆς μακαρίας Δοξασίας, θυγατρος Δώρα καὶ Μεγάλης, ἀναστημένων τῇ ψίχῃ. Καὶ τὸν Θεὸν τῶν ὀστέων τούτων, καὶ τὸ μυστήριον τοῦ θανάτου, καὶ τὴν ὀραν τῆς κρίσεως, μηδὲς ρέψῃ ὅσοι μὴ χίμψανοι μὴ ὀστέον χωρίς ἐμοῦ.

"The single [i.e., separate, private] tomb of the Blessed Doxasia, daughter of Dôra and Megalê, whose lives have closed. And [I adjure] the God of these bones, and the mystery of death, and the hour of judgment, that no one here tear either relic or bone out of me."
The apostrophe is a mark of abbreviation, except after ψυχη in the third line, where it fulfils the functions of a full stop. The iotacism in μηδεις and λιμψανων [for λειψανων] is also to be noted. The formula of adjuration here employed, so far as I know, is unique.

[Canon Hicks, to whom a copy of the above was submitted, has kindly favoured us with the following notes:—

"The only doubt I have concerns the M at the opening of line 1. It stands either for μοι(νος) or μοι(νον), 'the sole grave,' or 'exclusively the grave.' The sense is the same either way."

In regard to the rest of the epitaph, he notes the unclassical construction of τον Θεον, "by the God," and the unusual character of the objects of adjuration. The names Doras (so, not Dora, writing Δωρα̇) and Doxasia are new to him. For Megale we may compare the Greek inscription from Gaza, edited by Professor Clermont-Ganneau, Archæological Researches, II, p. 401, seq. "Doxasia is easily formed from Δοξα̇ςων. Doras is an abbreviation of the ordinary kind (especially in later and Alexandrian times) from Δωρο̇ςων, like Ἀρτεμισίας from Ἀρτεμισίων." His translation runs:—

"The sole tomb of the blessed Doxasia, daughter of Doras and Megalē at rest in the spirit. And by the God of these bones, and the mystery of death, and the hour of judgment, let no one cast into this grave either corpse or bone without my permission (or, except me)." He ascribes it to a date not later than the 2nd century, A.D.]

V.—AN OLD HEBREW SEAL FROM DEIR ABAN.

I forward a wax impression (given me by Mr. Hanauer) of an amethyst seal that recently came into the market at Jerusalem. It is one of the results of the wild fever of illicit digging that has spread over the whole country south of the Jaffa and Jerusalem railway. The inscription, in old Hebrew letters, is—

לְמַעְסֵיָה

"Of Ma'aseiah [son] of Meshullam."

Both names occur in the Old Testament; by a curious coincidence a "Maaseieh the son of Shallum" is mentioned in Jeremiah xxxv, 4.
There is a small stop rather like a straight apostrophe or a vertical accent, after the final ꞏ. Similar marks have been found in jar-handle inscriptions as hyphens or word separators.¹

[Professor Sayce writes respecting this seal:

"The seal is of the usual Israelitish type, the double name of the owner recorded on it being divided by two straight lines. As I have suggested in a former communication, the double name probably means 'X the son of Y;' like Mustafa 'Ali or Mohammed Hasan in modern Arabic. The letters resemble in form those of the Siloam inscription, though the shin and the upper part of the mem show a somewhat later development, like the corresponding letters in the Phœnician graffiti at Abu Simbel. Paleographically, therefore, the seal must be assigned to the end of the 7th or the beginning of the 6th century B.C.

"The inscription reads:

| לְמַעְשֵׁי יְהוֹ | מֶשְׁלוּל | שָׁמֶל |

'Belonging to Ma'aseiah Meshullam.'

"If the final waw of the first name was ever written, it must have been engraved over the border of the seal. After the second name a perpendicular line is drawn, marking the end of the legend.

"Ma'aseiah and Meshullam are names characteristic of the later period of the Jewish monarchy. The first name is that of several persons in the books of Jeremiah and the Chronicles. One of these is 'Maaseiah, the son of Shallum, the keeper of the door,' mentioned in Jeremiah xxxv, 4, in whom those who will may see the Ma'aseiah Meshullam of our seal."

VI.—A NEW GREEK INSCRIPTION FROM JERUSALEM.

Mr. Herbert Clark, the U.S. Vice-Consul at Jerusalem, has kindly allowed me to make a squeeze (which I forward) of a fragment of limestone with a portion of a Greek inscription, recently found in digging the foundations of his new house at Jerusalem. The situation is on the north side of the road leading to the Convent of the Cross, some distance east of the great cemetery which contains the Birket Mamilla.

The slab measures 1 foot 2 inches by 1 foot 6½ inches. The inscription is shown reduced to scale in the annexed diagram, and apparently reads

+ Ὀῇκη ἔμαφ[ἔρουςα] (sic) | 'Ἀροντέιου [νιότ ὁ?] | τοῦ Θουπ[ . . . .]

"Private tomb of Aronteios son of Thoup[ . . . .]."

¹ See also the remarks upon the seal by Professor Clermont-Ganneau, p. 263.
No other fragments of the stone were found. It was not in
its original position, having been adapted at a later time as a
building stone in the lining of another grave. The latter,
apparently, showed no details calling for notice.

VII.—On a Tomb Beside the Bethlehem Road.

The combination of masonry with rock-cutting is very rare in
the tombs round Jerusalem. It is found (1) in the great tomb
commonly called Mariamne’s, on Nicoporiae, the chambers of which
are lined with stone slabs; (2) in the tomb No. 29, in Wady
er-Rabab (Quarterly Statement, 1901, p. 145), in which a weak part of
the stone has been strengthened by building a pier against it; (3) in
the Sur Bahir tombs (see Mr. Dickie’s description in Excavations at
Jerusalem, p. 239); (4) probably formerly in the “Tombs of the
Kings”; and (5) in the so-called “Gordon’s tomb,” in which not
only was one grave formed by a moveable slab, but the doorway
must have had some structure of masonry against it. A trough
running in front of the door shows that this tomb must have been
closed by a rolling stone of the flat disc-shape, also found at the "Tombs of the Kings," at "Mariamne's tomb," in one of the St. Stephen’s group, and in the "Ferdus er-Rām," in Wādy er-Rababi. A masonry casing must necessarily have existed to prevent this stone disc from falling outwards. This, by the way, effectually disposes of the claim of the tomb in question to be the Sepulchre of Christ, if we are to accept literally the statement of Matthew xxviii, 2, that the angelic apparition sat upon the stone. Such a statement necessarily implies a spherical boulder, rolled freely up to, and away from, the door (as in tomb 29, Wādy er-Rababi), not a flat disc constrained to move in a built-up alley.

A sixth tomb in which masonry is combined with rock-cutting is that shown in the accompanying plan and sections. It is a small single chamber, about 6 feet each way, underground on the east side of the road from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. The hole in the roof, giving admission to the chamber, will be found on the edge of the road just beyond the convent of the Clarisses. There are two sunk bench graves, much broken, hewn in the rock, in arcosolia, the arches of which are built and support moveable cover-slabs. The tomb is considerably injured, and much choked with fallen stones and rubbish.

VIII.—'Ain el-Khandūk.

'Ain el-Khandūk (عين الخندوق, "the spring of the ditch") appears in its proper place on the inch map, Sheet XVII, in a valley between 'Ain Karim and 'Ain el-Ḥābiṣ,1 about a couple of miles west of the former place. No notice of it is to be found in the Memoirs.

1عين الاحديس, "the spring of the hermit," but on the map simply marked El-Habs, الاحديس, "the prison."
The water rises in a spring, in the heart of the rock at the foot of the hill, on the east side of the valley. Probably it originally escaped by a fissure; this has been artificially enlarged to the dimensions of a tunnel, not unlike the great Siloam aqueduct in appearance. This tunnel I was able to measure for 37 feet: at this distance from the mouth the floor drops suddenly, and the water, for the last 12 feet or so, is too deep to wade through. The total length of the tunnel is thus about 50 feet. Its height inside is about 4 feet and its breadth 2 feet; these dimensions are suddenly increased near the entrance, where there is an arch built up. A branch tunnel runs southward from about the middle of the main tunnel, 45 feet long, and of about the same average cross-dimensions as the main tunnel, except at the inner end, where the height drops to about 2 feet. This branch tunnel probably conducted
water from a now dry second spring: no water runs along it, and the floor is covered with damp mud. All the water rises in the deep part, at the inner end of the main tunnel. It trickles into a large, irregular, open pool, with a maximum diameter of about 30 feet, and about 10 feet deep. This pool is constructed of masonry covered with cement. The floor of the pool is covered with sandy mud. Some irregular steps in the north-west corner lead down into the pool. A peculiar semi-circular platform has been made in the wall of the pool just south of these steps, and beside them are the usual stone troughs for watering cattle, &c.

When not in use the water runs in a channel across the muddy floor of the pool, and escapes under the bottom step into a built-up drain, 72 feet long, 4 feet high, and 2 feet across (these are the maximum dimensions; in one or two places the drain is almost impassably narrow, and at the mouth it is not more than 2 feet high for the last 6 feet of its length). This drain is constructed of unmortared stones, with cover-slabs for the roof. When water is required for cattle, washing clothes, &c., a pad of cloth is squeezed under the step to dam the exit; the water then slowly rises to the height of the bottom step, which lies across the entrance to the drain. It cannot rise higher, for it runs over the bottom step into the drain.

I owe thanks to Miss G. Dickson for assisting me in the not very easy task of examining and measuring this pool and its associated tunnels and drain.

IX.—A PECULIAR ROCK-CUTTING IN THE KEDRON VALLEY.

A singular rock-cutting (photographs and a plan of which are sent), will be found by the west side of a road descending from the main road to Bethany into the north end of the Kedron Valley, near to the north-east corner of the city. The rock bearing it is a flat outcrop, 10 feet long, 7 feet across, and 1 foot 3 inches in maximum height above the ground. The cutting consists of a rectangular sinking, 1 foot 7 ½ inches long, 7 inches across, and 3 to 4 inches deep below the original surface of the rock, with a reveal for a cover-slab rather less than 2 inches deep running round three sides. This reveal is 2 inches wide on the eastern and southern, 6 inches on the western side. Around the sinking is a water-channel to conduct rain away, and prevent its penetrating
into the sinking. Obviously some object was to be deposited and covered up, and rain-water was to be kept out—either to prevent the object itself from being injured, or to keep the cement with which the cross-slab was, perhaps, secured from being loosened. The only guess I can frame—not wholly satisfactory—is suggested by the resemblance of the cutting to a miniature tomb, and by its position in a valley full of rock-tombs, namely, that it was formed for receiving the body of a prematurely-born infant. In exploring Khurbet el-'Ain, near Tell ej-Judeideh, I found a miniature tomb-chamber, with three tiny arcosolia (of which a plan and section will appear in the forthcoming *Memoir* of the recent excavations). This probably was for a similar purpose. Children's graves are a common adjunct of the tombs round Beit Jibrin, but are extremely rare near Jerusalem; this adds to the interest of the Kedron Valley example, if the explanation of its purpose here suggested be correct.

X.—A **Rock-cut Press near Jerusalem**.

In the garden known as "Abraham's Vineyard," on the north-west side of Jerusalem, is a rock-cut press for the extraction of wine or olive oil, a plan (*see* p. 249) of which is here given. It is probably the finest work of its kind in the neighbourhood of the city, and it is of sufficient interest and extent to merit special attention.¹

¹ [A full account of this press will appear in the following number of the *Quarterly Statement*.—Ed.]
ROCK-CUT PRESS NEAR JERUSALEM