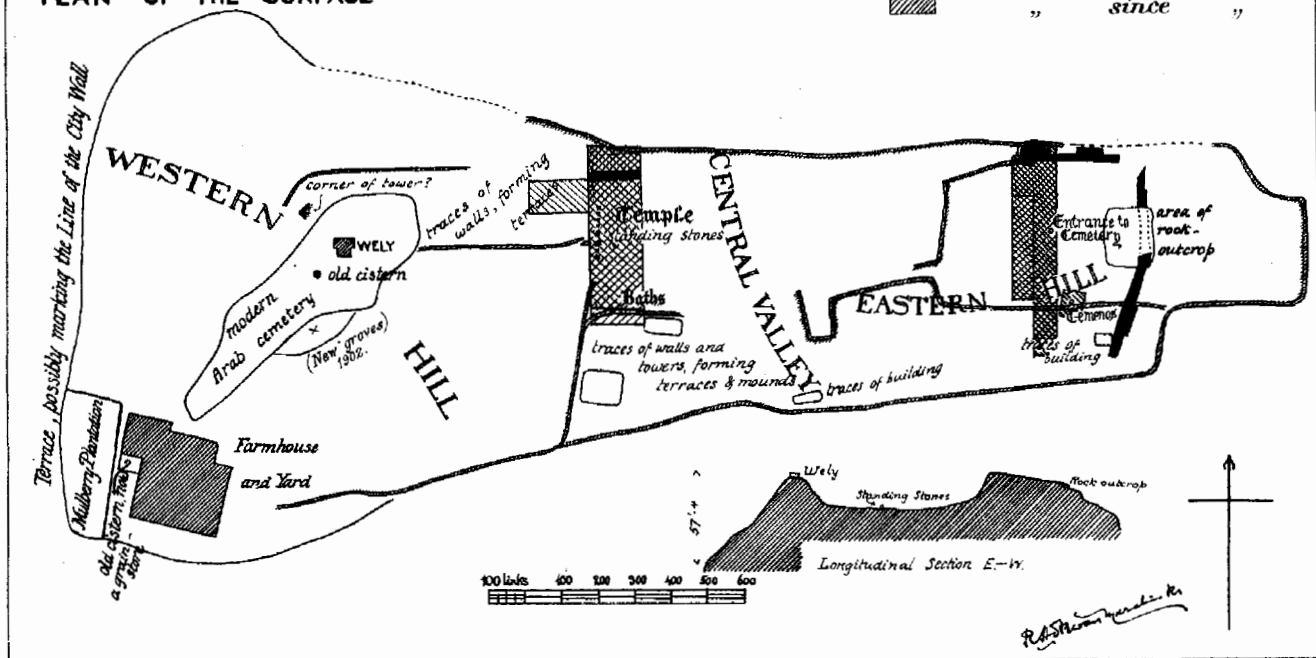


EXCAVATION OF CEZER

PLAN OF THE SURFACE

Excavated before Report II.
 " since "



THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE EXCAVATION OF GEZER.

(1 November—28 February, 1902.)

By R. A. STEWART MACALISTER, M.A., F.S.A.

§ I.—PRELIMINARY.

WHILE the last report was being written the northward spread of the cholera epidemic from the Gaza district, where it had first appeared in Palestine, was causing considerable uneasiness. Already the communications, both by road and by rail, between Jerusalem and Jaffa had been interrupted by quarantine restrictions, and for over a fortnight I had been unable to send to either town for money or for other necessaries. Indeed, had it not been for the kindness of one of the local military authorities, whose favour was obtained by the good offices of Sourraya Effendi, the Imperial Commissioner, I should have been shut out from Ramleh also, and the provision market and post office would have been inaccessible; as it was, special permission was accorded to one of the camp servants to pass through the cordon surrounding the town so long as the immediate neighbourhood of the camp remained free from the disease. Within a week after the last report was forwarded, however, the epidemic reached Abu Shusheh and Kubâb, the two villages from which the majority of the workmen are drawn, almost simultaneously, and it became obvious that the work must be suspended.

The camp was accordingly moved, in the middle of November, to the quarantine station at Bab el-Wâd, and 10 days later was transferred to Jerusalem. It was not possible to return to Abu Shushch till the end of January. The disease attacked Kubâb with especial violence, so that the Government officials thought it advisable to isolate it by a special military guard from the surrounding villages, otherwise it would have become a centre of infection for the whole district. The mortality in Abu Shusheh, a small village, has been 31; that in Kubâb has been variously

estimated—I have heard the number put as high as 700, which must be an exaggeration; it cannot, however, have been less than 250. The deaths in Abu Shusheh have had an unfortunate result for the excavation, a number of new graves having been added to the cemetery which already cumbered an important part of the mound; a space some 40 feet square has thus been withdrawn from the surface previously available for excavation.

I am glad to report that I have lost only a few of my workmen. Their names are as follows:—Ahmed 'Ali, surnamed Shalbak, 'Alī Moḥammed, surnamed Ka'akirim, Amin 'Ali, Ḥasan 'Abd-Allah, Ḥasan Salem, surnamed Sawwan, Ḥosein Ghandūr, Rashīd Muṣṭafa—all from Kubāb. Two of the women—namely, Subḥa ed-Dibwāni, of Abu Shusheh, and Subḥa Ahmed, of Kubāb—have also died. The village of Zakariya, from which, thanks to their experience with Dr. Bliss, the most reliable workmen come, was passed over by the epidemic without a single case.

The present report will necessarily be brief, and I fear less interesting than its predecessors. I have no important discovery to chronicle this quarter. This was to be expected, for the actual period of digging reported on covers merely a single week in November and the short month of February—a month interrupted by frequent heavy rainstorms, which make excavation impossible while they last, and difficult when they are over, owing to the sodden condition in which they leave the ground.

§ II.—BUILDINGS.

Houses.—Information is gradually being accumulated on the normal arrangement of the Gezerite dwelling-houses. The subject is full of difficulty: for, though the material is ample, it is also fragmentary. Thus, the walls are nearly all so much dilapidated that, even when the complete outline of a room can be made out, in comparatively few cases does the threshold of the door remain. Hence it is often impossible to ascertain whether two adjacent chambers communicated, or whether they did not even belong to two different buildings.

It is, however, becoming clear that through all periods the houses consisted of two or three living rooms, say about 15 feet square, more or less—rarely much more—and a series of store chambers. The latter are always small—many of them mere

cupboards—three or four in number and separated by thin walls one from another. Their purpose is indicated by the presence of burnt grain which is often found, especially wheat, barley, and also peas or other vetches; I have not yet found olives here,



FIG. 1.—Large Vase used as a Grain Store.

though a mass of them was discovered on the rock at Tell Sandahannah. Grain was also stored in large earthenware jars, similar to those containing the bones of sacrificed infants in the temple. These jars, when filled, were buried in the ground in an upright position (Fig. 1).

The rooms were probably, as they are in modern houses in the country, roofed with flat coverings of wattle and mud. Many of the enclosures, which I am obliged to call "rooms," were probably, when complete, open unroofed courts. As to floors, these were almost always of beaten mud: indeed, in the majority of cases the floor-level is cut through in excavating without any special indication of its presence being noticed. Less commonly a floor of mortar or limestone paste is to be found.

In the ruins of individual houses details are occasionally found which are not very easy to comprehend. I send photographs of

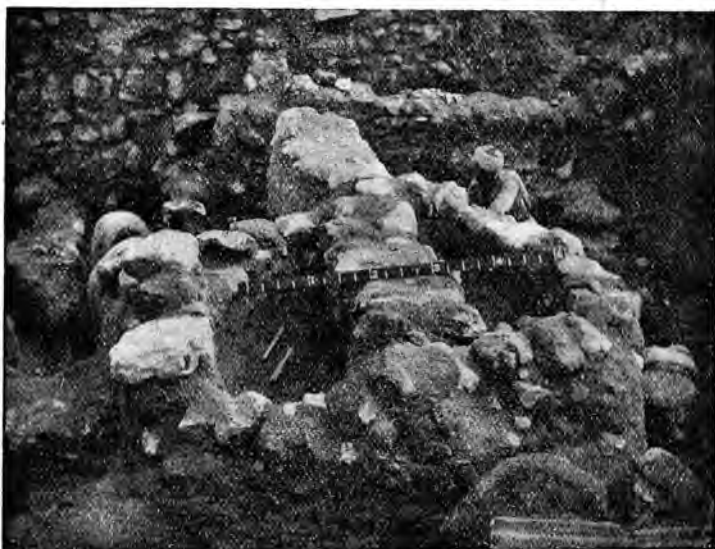


FIG. 2.—Store Chambers (?).

three structures, all found at the south end of the temple trench.¹ The first, belonging to the fifth stratum, is a circle about 5 feet 6 inches in diameter: nothing was found in or about it to explain its purpose. Such circles not infrequently turn out to be the tops of the shafts of cisterns, but this was not so in the present case. Smaller circles than this—say, about 2 feet 6 inches in diameter—are not uncommon. Some of these seem to bear marks

¹ These and certain other photographs will be published in the concluding memoir.

of fire, and are perhaps hearths. The second, which belongs to the sixth occupation, is a curious ϕ -shaped structure (Fig. 2). I can but guess that this is a pair of D-shaped store-chambers. What to make of the third structure I have no idea. It is a solid circle of stones about 1 foot 3 inches in diameter. It is ancient, having been built within a foot of the rock. Could it have been a domestic altar?

Cisterns.—Probably in the modern villages round Gezer cisterns are few or little used: the copious spring of 'Ain Yerdeh, and the lesser Bir et-Tirásheh and Bêr el-Lusiyeh are freely accessible, and are inexhaustible throughout the year. But when the city was subject to sieges water from these natural sources could not always be obtained, and it was important to supply a sufficiency of reservoirs within the walls of the city.

Accordingly the rock was honeycombed with cisterns, one appropriated to each house or group of houses: it cannot yet be ascertained on what principle they were distributed through the town. Since the discovery of the second burial-cave, reported upon in January last, I have attached great importance to clearing out these cisterns whenever found: the chance of an equally remarkable discovery is worth the necessary expenditure of time. A considerable number of these excavations have now been examined, and curious finds have been made in them. There is always a large accumulation of potsherds, no doubt the fragments of vessels broken by careless dipping; a good many sound jugs have also been found, the cords by which they were dropped probably having broken. I have also found a small gold disc, which probably fell off a girl's head when she was drawing water; an Astarte-plaque of the usual type; several small jugs, such as would not naturally have been lowered for water; the bones of some unfortunate person who fell or was thrown into the water—a record sufficient to justify the slow and laborious process of emptying out the earth with which all are nearly filled. One of the jugs recently recovered is of a type of which no sound specimen has previously been found.

The cisterns themselves are fairly uniform in character. A circular shaft, about 3 feet in diameter and 5 feet deep, cut through the rock, expands downwards into a chamber roughly square or circular on plan, about 13 to 25 feet in diameter, and generally about 20 feet deep. In the centre of the floor, under the entrance,

is a hollow, from 6 to 18 inches deep. This is not, as I had at first supposed, for dipping in when the water is low; modern analogies show that it is for accumulating silt and impurities held in suspension in the water. The wall is generally covered with coarse plaster.

One cistern, the clearance of which has just been finished, was evidently enlarged from one of the more ancient troglodyte caves, the original steps of which appear at its entrance.

Oil Presses.—The extraction of oil and wine from olives and grapes was, as might be expected, an important branch of Gezer industry. Several specimens of the durable portions of the mechanism for this purpose have from time to time been found. I have on several occasions, in the *Quarterly Statement*, described or referred to rock-cut presses, such as are to be found everywhere in Palestine. When a rock-surface was unavailable—as would obviously be the case in the upper occupations on the tell—its place was supplied by a large flat stone, usually circular, about 5 feet in diameter. The top surface of this stone was slightly hollowed, and the olives were crushed within it; a series of channels radiating over the surface conducted the juice to a little cup deepened at one side of the hollow. In this cup the oil was collected.

Owing to the loss of the wooden appurtenances that completed the apparatus, it is not quite clear how the oil was pressed out. In but a small proportion of the presses I have examined is there any indication of the way in which the fruit was manipulated. No doubt in many cases the presses are for grapes, which would be trodden by the feet. In some examples, however—there is a notable series in the vineyards round Malḥah—the fruit was crushed by a heavy lever, the butt end of which fitted into a socket cut in the vertical wall at the back of the vat. Whether the curious screw apparatus, of which I send a photograph from a specimen at 'Ain Karim, had any existence in ancient times there is no evidence to show.

The large stone vats found in considerable numbers in all tells are, perhaps, for refining the oil or wine pressed out on these stone presses, the oil being allowed to stand in them till impurities had sunk to the bottom. A fine single example of such a vat, from Tell eṣ-Ṣâfi, is figured in *BM.*, p. 24. I send illustrations of a group recently found at Gezer, which must be for some such special

purpose. An identical group was found within the Acropolis at Tell Zakariya.

Architectural Ornament.—Since Professor Petrie found certain slabs at Lachish, showing carved volutes and mouldings, no ornamental building-stone, certainly anterior to the Seleucidan period, has been found in Palestinian excavations. A certain interest, therefore, attaches to the base of a column, crude though it be, which was found at the extreme south of the trench containing the temple alignment (so far as it has been excavated). It belongs to Stratum Va, or possibly IV. In an upper stratum (VI) a stone curiously marked was found built into a wall. I send a photograph, but am unable to explain the marks.

Baths.—As yet Gezer has little to show of buildings for special purposes other than dwellings—of course, with the signal exception of the great Temple. Perhaps the most remarkable are a pair of large tanks, associated with the Maccabæan stratum, but sunk through the lower cities. These have been found south of the Temple.

The City Walls.—Some particulars may here conveniently be given respecting the city walls, so far as excavation has thrown light on their rather complex history.

I. The earliest defence adopted by the inhabitants of Gezer was an earth bank of no great height, lined inside and outside with stones. A section of this rampart, with the dimensions (which are not, however, uniform throughout its length) figured, will be seen on Plate IV. This wall has been found in the trenches both in the Eastern Hill and in the Central Valley on the north side: I have not yet carried the excavations far enough southward to pick it up at the other end of the trenches. It may, however, be fairly deduced that it surrounds the whole tell. No gate has yet been found in it.

This rampart is founded on the rock, and might be taken as the work of the most primitive inhabitants, save for one circumstance. It is built up against the standing stone already illustrated (*Quarterly Statement*, October, 1902, p. 323), which presumably existed previously in the line the builders intended to take. This suggests to me that the standing stone is a monument of the primitive pre-Amorite inhabitants, and the earth wall the work of the earliest Semitic settlers, whose occupation commences with the third stratum.

II. The second defence in point of time runs outside the line of this rampart. It has been traced for a length of 206 feet, running from the large tower at the north end of the trench already opened on the Eastern Hill (*see* Plate I) to the north-east corner of the enclosure, and just inside the line of the great wall indicated on the plate. Its line seems coincident with that of the great wall, which evidently superseded it along the eastern end of the town. I think I have found it again at the south side, but am not yet sure. It is much ruined, and has apparently been used as a quarry along its inner face in different places, for though the line of the outer face remains constant the thickness of the wall ranges from 2 feet 6 inches to 11 feet. The only detail yet found in this wall is a solid square tower, just inside and partly concealed by the tower on the outer wall to which reference has just been made. West of this tower the wall stops abruptly, and no trace of it is to be found. I suspect that in this tower I have the eastern jamb of a gate, the western jamb of which will be revealed when the next trench is opened on the Eastern Hill.

This second wall has not been found in the central valley, and must therefore be confined to the Eastern Hill. It is too early yet to speculate on this point, so I merely content myself with indicating its importance in passing. It will throw the Temple and its human sacrifices to their proper place outside the city wall, and thus get rid of a difficulty to which I referred in my previous report.

III. The third wall is the splendid structure I have already briefly described (*Quarterly Statement*, October, 1902, p. 320). There is as yet little to add to this description. The course of the wall, as each section is laid bare, is added to the plan accompanying the quarterly reports on the excavation (*see* Plate I).

The chronology of this wall and that just described can conveniently be considered together. The fact just mentioned, that the inner face of a tower of the third wall overlaps the outer face of a tower of the second, is an indication that the two are not contemporary. The assigning of the earth rampart to the third stratum gives us a major limit of date. A minor limit is indicated by the fact that the third wall circumscribes the whole tell, and therefore must have been built when the whole tell was inhabited—for we can hardly consider it probable that the townsmen would incur the expense of enclosing a large unoccupied area within their town wall, thereby lengthening unnecessarily the course of the wall

that had to be built and defended. The latest date for the great wall is consequently that of the fifth stratum. We may therefore with probability assign the second wall to the fourth stratum.

The great wall, however, shows evident signs of having been added to and strengthened. This is most clear at the north-east and south-east corners. (A plan and isometric sketch of the former will be found on Plate II, p. 116.)

At the corner is a solid four-sided tower, not quite rectangular, about 24 feet by 31 feet. Against this tower the ends of the great wall butt without bonding. The tower is well built, with drafted corner stones, and (one would think) was intended to be exposed: but it is concealed by a battering face of stones built against it. This also is not bonded with any masonry with which it comes in contact.

The only reasonable explanation of this complex structure seems to me to be as follows:—The wall originally met at a simple angle without a tower. This was not considered safe or strong enough and the angle was cut out and the square tower built in. The want of bond was felt to be a weakness, and the battering outer face was built up to conceal the joints.

The great tower with battering face at the north end of the trench on the Eastern Hill is also applied to the wall, or rather to a small projection about 1 foot in thickness, without bond; and it is probable that this tower was added at the same time as the reconstruction of the corner. The only historical event known which would account for these elaborate fortifications is the repair of the city by Solomon; and it is not improbable that in these towers we have his work.

The south-east corner is identical with that at the north-east, save that the inner (second) wall is not found at this point.

IV. In my last report I referred to a large wall that might be the boundary of the temple enclosure (*Quarterly Statement*, January, 1903, p. 35). I am now convinced that this is impossible, and that we have here another city wall. It is nearly as massive as the great wall, but seems to have been built with haste, for it is not founded on the rock—indeed, in places its foundations are not as deep as the level of the temple, which is quite sufficient to disprove any connection between them. It is not found on the Eastern Hill, therefore must be later than the settlements there, for it is too massive to be a mere acropolis wall inside the outer

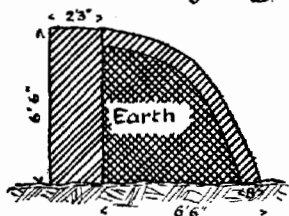
EXCAVATION OF CEZER

DETAILS OF THE CITY WALLS

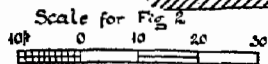
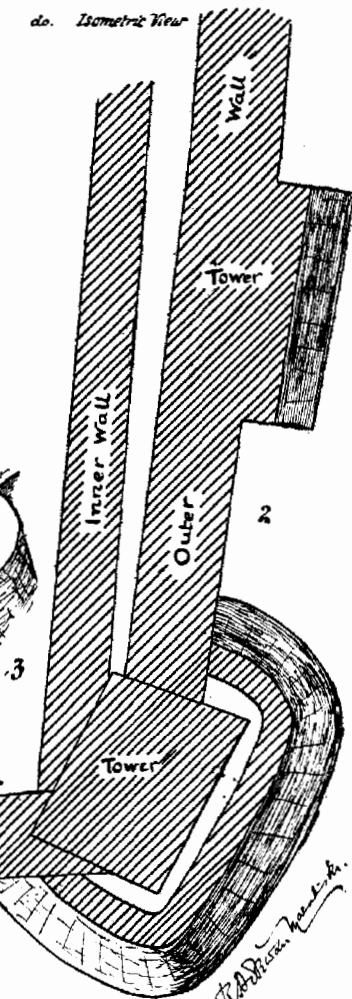
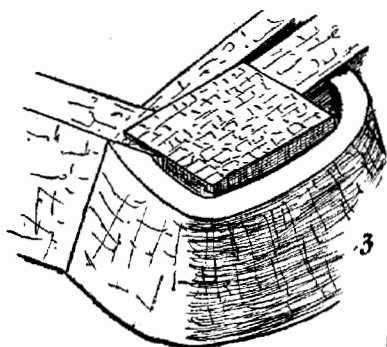
1. Section of the Earth Rampart

2. N.E. Corner, (third wall): Plan

3. do. do. Isometric View



1



W. A. P. ...

city wall, such as was found at Zakariya.¹ It must therefore be post-Solomonic and probably post-Exilic. I am inclined to connect it with 1 Maccabees ix, 52, which names Gezer (Gazara) among places fortified by Bacchides. The sign of haste just mentioned well fits with this identification: if it be objected that the wall, even as it stands, is too great a work for Bacchides to carry through in the time at his disposal, it may be answered that the third wall runs within a few feet and affords an almost inexhaustible quarry.

§ III.—STONE OBJECTS.

Flint.—Nothing new has been found. But a splendid core, from which knives had been flaked off, is well worth mentioning. It is 6 inches in height.

Weights.—A large number of stone weights in dolerite, or some similar dark rough stone, have been accumulated. They have flat bases, and are cylindrical or dome-shaped. At first I was inclined to take them for pounders or pestles; but the discovery of some examples too small to be grasped in the hand, and too light to serve the suggested purpose, made me cognisant of their real nature. Some are reduced to the required weight by cutting a hollow depression in the base.

A small dome-shaped weight when examined in Jerusalem was found to have faint traces of letters upon it. These were distinct enough to make the reading 𐤇𐤏 certain. It is the lightest perfect weight yet found so inscribed, being 9.28 grammes, as against three from Tell Zakariya weighing respectively 9.45, 10, and 10.21 grammes.

Whistle.—One of the most curious objects yet found is a whistle of steatite from the fifth stratum. It is represented in the accompanying cut (Fig. 3). It is conical in shape, 4 inches long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in maximum diameter at the end, slightly under $\frac{1}{2}$ inch at the mouthpiece. A reed, of the

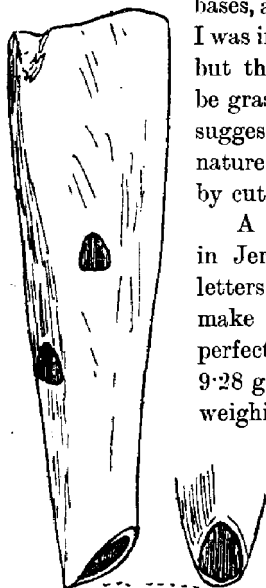
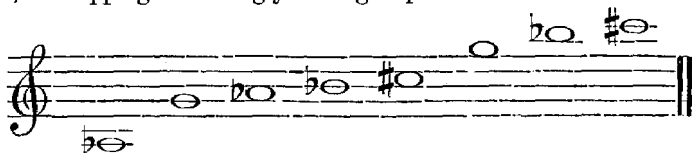


FIG. 3.—Stone Whistle.

kind employed in that abomination, the Palestine shepherd's pipe,

¹ In a recent visit to Tell Zakariya I found a few stones rather low down on the north side of the tell, evidently a fragment of the wall surrounding the whole hill. These had, I think, previously escaped notice.

must have been used to sound it. The following are the notes it is capable of producing by leaving the two finger-holes and the end open, or stopping them singly or in groups:—



From this it is quite clear that it is impossible to play upon it anything that can be called a tune: not even one of the artless melodies which the fellahin have inherited from their remote ancestors.

Corn-grinders.—In *Quarterly Statement*, October, 1902, p. 326, I have already noticed that three distinct methods of grinding corn can be deduced from the apparatus discovered. These are—mortar and pestles, rubbing-stones, querns. These three types are used contemporaneously, and no trace of evolution of one to the other can be detected.

Mortars and pestles need not delay us long. The former are simply heavy stones, perhaps a foot or two across, in whose upper surface a hemispherical hollow is cut. The pestles are cylindrical, with concave bases, which not unfrequently display marks of rough treatment.

Rubbing stones consist of the nether and the upper stone. The nether is a flag of rough hard stone, generally granite or some similar kind, about 2 feet 6 inches or so long, and about 1 foot wide. The surface on which the upper stone plays is not quite flat, but curved upwards at the ends, so as to be rather C-shaped. The upper stone is about 1 foot to 1 foot 6 inches long. There are two varieties. Both have a convex side and a plane side, the plane side being pointed at both ends; in one variety the plane side is straight throughout, in the other it rises into horns at the points, so that on the whole this side also is rather C-shaped.

In a photograph reproduced in *B.M.*, p. 143, the rubbing-stones are shown in use, but further study has convinced me that there is a serious error in this photograph. The upper stone should be reversed, so that the convex side, not the plane side, comes in contact with the nether stone; and the woman should sit so as to grasp the two ends of the upper stone with her hands. This is borne out by the obvious adaptability of every example that has been discovered for grasping in the manner indicated.

The quern-stones differ from the modern type now found all over the world, in Palestine as in the Hebrides. They are always small, rarely being as much as a foot across. The second hole, for a stick by which the upper stone is rotated, is never found.

The lower stone is always more massive than the upper, it is generally slightly hollowed on its upper surface so as to have a raised collar all round (but not invariably), and shows a hole in the middle partially penetrating through the stone. The upper stone is distinguished by the central hole, which is wide, countersunk, and pierces through the stone.



FIG. 4.—Quern-stones.

It is not quite obvious how these stones were manipulated. My own idea is that a rather narrow spindle was run through the holes, and that the upper stone was grasped with both hands (the fingers clasping the edge, the thumbs being between the spindle and the stone) and worked through about one-third of a rotation, backward and forward. From time to time the machine would be fed, probably by a second person, with fresh grain poured through the spindle-hole.

There are occasional varieties of this type found, one of which is shown in the accompanying cut (Fig. 4). The upper stone, instead of having a hole, has a projecting conical horn which fits

into the hole in the lower stone. The upper stone is broken, and only a small portion was found. In the second there is no hole or projection in the upper stone, which is simply kept in position by the raised collar of the nether stone. A hole in the centre of the nether stone suggests that the present upper stone may have been a makeshift substitute for a stone that had got lost or broken.

§ IV.—METAL OBJECTS.

The harvest of metal objects has been very scanty this quarter, and of discoveries the number worth special notice is extremely small. These are :—

In *bronze*, a fine anklet fastened by a couple of wires twisted round the ends of the ring and plaited on each other by a complex spiral knot, and an equally fine chisel.

In *iron*, a spike with a socket, probably an ox-goad, or perhaps a chape, for the end of a spear, and a key.

In *gold*, the small pendant ornament already referred to as having been found in a cistern. It is ornamented with rows of dots in repoussé.

§ V.—POTTERY.

We may for the present pass over the majority of the objects in pottery, none of which are of any special importance, with the

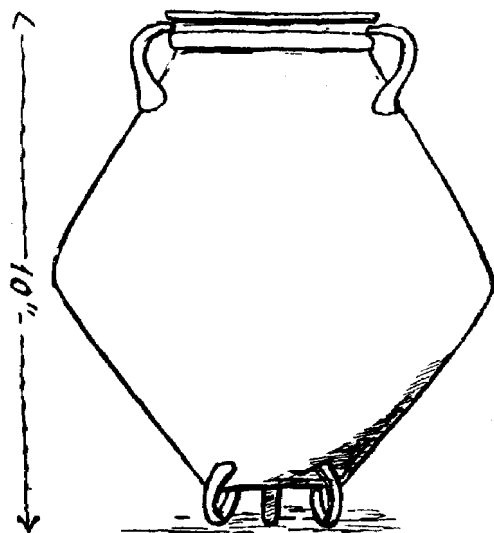


FIG. 5.—Jar with Three Handle-shaped Legs.

exception of a jar, recovered from one of the cisterns. This is peculiar in having had three handle-shaped legs supporting it: one of these remains intact. Fragments of pots of this type have previously been found at Gezer and elsewhere; but no nearly complete specimen has till now been discovered. It is represented in Fig. 5.

An interesting painted jug of the Jewish period, with the neck ornamented with curious anchor-like devices in red and black, was also brought to light.



FIG. 6.—Vessels Buried with Sacrificed Infants.

Fig. 6 illustrates a set of three vessels, found previous to the forwarding of the last report, but not photographed till afterwards. They are interesting as having been deposited in a large jar with one of the sacrificed infants in the Temple. It is not easy to guess the reason for these deposits. Were they food-vessels?

Compared with other tells—notably Tell ej-Judeideh—the Jewish stratum at Gezer has proved very poor in jar-handles with Hebrew stamps. Till the present quarter no example of handles with the seals of private potters had been found at all. I have now to record the discovery of two: the decipherment of both have,

however, so far beaten me.¹ One of these, found on the eve of forwarding this report, is the only one I have yet seen with the stamp repeated twice on the handle. I hope to return to these handles in a subsequent report.

§ VI.—EGYPTIAN OBJECTS.

The last quarter has been fairly productive in objects of Egyptian provenance, a selection of which are represented on Plate III. The principal hoard was found in a chamber in the fifth stratum, south of one of the two great baths above described. These objects were as follows:—

A large collection of coloured paste beads, mostly spherical, but some cylindrical. Also one or two of carnelian.

Two scarabs, one (figured) of large size, each of them bearing the legend *M⁴t-R⁴-nb* [*Maat-ra-nub*].

Fragment of a jade scaraboid with the hinder half of an animal's figure upon it.

Head of Sebek in paste, enamelled yellow and blue.

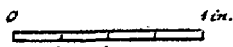
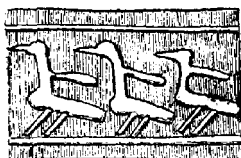
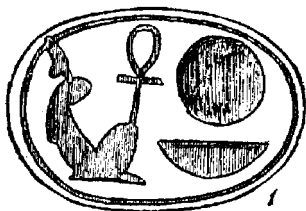
Two cylinders, figured with the above, were found in the same place.

A selection of these objects is shown on Figs. 1–5 of the plate. Besides these there have been found a small pendant Sekhet head in green enamel paste (lower part, sixth stratum); a scaraboid with *M⁴* (*Maa*) feathers on one side, and *Imn* (*Amen*) on the other (Fig. 6, *a*, rather deeper than the last); fragments of a Horus-eye, and two fragments of Bes figures (the eye and one Bes from stratum V; the other Bes from a cistern); a scarab with two *nh* (*ankh*) and *nb* below (Fig. 6; under part, fifth stratum); a minute figure of a lion (?) in green paste (fourth stratum); a scarab, probably late, with a plain device on the base, from immediately under the surface outside the wall of Bacchides (Fig. 7); and four jar-handles with scarab stamps upon them (Figs. 8–11). The decipherments of the latter I offer with considerable hesitation: they are excessively difficult to make out. The portions shown are drawn, as indeed are all the figures on this plate, with the camera lucida.

¹ Of one of these, the bottom half of the seal is not impressed on the handle. The top half has four letters, which may be 𐤌𐤍𐤏 , but there is considerable doubt as to the first two letters. No such name is known.

EXCAVATION OF CEZER

SCARABS, &c



Edwin A. M. ...

§ VII.—CORRECTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS ON PREVIOUS
REPORTS.

October, 1902, p. 321. The stone circle here described was destroyed by some mischievous boys herding sheep on the tell. I took this as a not altogether unmixed evil, for it left the site of the circle free for examination. I should have myself been unwilling to destroy the structure. The opportunity was taken, but nothing was found.

Page 328. It has been suggested to me that Fig. 4, *c*, may be a fish-hook. This occurred to me, but I felt that the object was too like an ordinary pin, bent, to be assigned to so specific a use. Besides, there are no known fish-ponds or streams anywhere near Gezer. Professor Petrie kindly informs me that two specimens resembling Fig. 4, *d*, were found at Gurob, Fayoum.

Page 329, line 6 from end. *For tong-like read tongs-like.*

Page 335, line 19. *For stands read sherds.*

Page 336. Professor Petrie calls my attention to the fact that some of the potter's marks illustrated on this page are found in the "Egypto-Mediterranean Signary."



Page 337, line 5. *For B. MMC., Plate LXII, read B. MMC., p. 62.*

Page 338, line 30. *For spindle-wheel read spindle-whorl; also at p. 39, line 1, January, 1903.*

Page 338, foot-note. *For cross-patching read cross-hatching.*





Page 352. The removal of the walls round about the Burial Cave entrance some days after I had sent the report to England, and the cleaning of the rock surface, revealed a larger number of cup-marks in connection with the cave and the *massébah* than I had previously suspected.

Page 363. On a second visit to the stone circle here mentioned, I came to the conclusion that it was probably not an artificial structure at all.

January, 1903, p. 9, line 29. *For sandstone read syenite.* Add  after  inside the ring in the line of hieroglyphic writing.

Page 16. The knife and two spearheads figured on Plate II fell hopelessly to pieces shortly after they were found.

Page 28, line 27. *For Appendix F read Appendix D.*

Page 37, line 5, of hieroglyphic writing. For  read , and after  insert .

Page 38, line 25. For $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick read $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 1 inch thick.

Page 39, line 10. For amulets read annulets.

Page 42, line 1 under the figure. For embossed upon read attached to.

Page 43, line 3. For the branches read other branches.

Also in Plate VIII, October, 1902, read $\frac{1}{2}$ foot for $\frac{2}{2}$ inches at the left-hand end of the upper scale.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND EPIGRAPHIC NOTES ON PALESTINE.

By Professor CLERMONT-GANNEAU, M.I.

22. *The "Gate of Nicanor" in the Temple of Jerusalem.*—The Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund has been kind enough to submit to me the squeeze of a bilingual Greek and Hebrew inscription, which was noticed by Miss Gladys Dickson¹ on an ossuary from a sepulchral cave in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem.² The text is lengthier than the inscriptions usually found upon the small funerary vessels which belong to Jewish archæology, and is easily read. Its historical interest, if I am not mistaken, is of the first rank.

¹ [According to Miss Dickson's letter, "this ossuary is 2 feet 8½ inches long by 11 inches by 1 foot, and is ornamented on both sides, on one end, and on the lid. On the remaining end is the inscription lightly engraved. The ornamentation on the one side, the end, and the lid consists of roughly painted red lines, forming zigzags and frets. The other side is ornamented by four small circles containing sexfoils, and set in square panels, divided by borders (all painted)."]

² For reasons which will readily be understood, I refrain from indicating more precisely the place where it was found. I merely limit myself to the remark that the ossuary, which was found along with many others, is adorned with sculpture.