

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE present number contains a report of the Annual General Meeting held on June 22nd, a short notice of which appeared in the July *Quarterly Statement*. The account of the results of the excavation at Gezer excited the greatest interest, and everywhere confidence was expressed that the report for the ensuing year would be as satisfactory as the last. Already this seems in a fair measure to be justified. Mr. Macalister's quarterly report shows that his unremitting labours continue to reward him with interesting discoveries, probably the most important of which is a rock-surface with cuttings and caves which appears to have been a sacred place of the aboriginal inhabitants. Some remarkable inscribed stones have been found, but nothing of considerable length, comparable to the Lachish tablet, or to the tablets which Dr. Sellin is reported to have unearthed at Taanach, has as yet come to light.

On the other hand, some valuable additions have been made to the lamp and bowl deposits, and Mr. Macalister's provisional theory of their origin (p. 307, *see* also Sir Charles Wilson's remarks, p. 288) should be carefully noticed. It is interesting to recall a Greek inscription from the Haurân, where mention is made of one whose grandfather was Beeliabos, father of Neteiros τοῦ ἀποθεωθέντος ἐν τῇ λέβητι δὲ οὗ αἱ [ἐ]ορταὶ ἄγονται. Professor Clermont-Ganneau, in the course of an illuminating discussion of these words (*Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale*, vol. ii., pp. 61-78), argues that the "apotheosis" of Neteiros was evidently some exceptional occurrence worthy of being recorded by a later member of the family, and suggests that Neteiros was doubtless a sacrificial victim. Whether this be well founded or not the evidence is certainly interesting enough to be taken into account in discussing the phenomena of the puzzling lamp and bowl deposits.

The special donations for the excavation of Gezer (*see Quarterly Statement*, pp. 97 sq., 188) since the amount recorded in the last number comprise: Walter Morrison, Esq., J.P., £105; James Hilton, Esq., £20; Williamson Lamplough, Esq., £5 5s.; Professor George Adam Smith, £5 5s.—total, £410 3s. It will be remembered that about £2,000 is urgently required if the work of excavation is to be carried out to the finish, and with that thoroughness which the importance of the site and the success that has already attended the Fund's labours warrant.

The Palestine Exploration Fund will be represented in the Geographical and Exploration Section of the St. Louis Exhibition by the Great Survey of Western Palestine, the Old and New Testament Maps, and the large and small Raised Maps, and by the various publications of the Fund. There will also be exhibited casts of some of the more important inscriptions; and a separate feature will be made of the excavations at Gezer now in progress, of which a large plan has been prepared, and which will be further illustrated by enlarged photographs of the parts excavated, and by casts of some of the objects found during the excavations. Colonel Watson, R.E., a member of our Executive Committee, is appointed the British Commissioner.

Dr. Merrill writes that an effort is being made by the local government to increase the water supply at Ain el-Hôd, better known as the Apostles' Fountain, below Bethany, on the road to Jericho. The valley from the west drops down rapidly, and goes past the fountain eastward. The road comes down a steep grade round the foot of the hill, crosses the valley by a large culvert, and goes on between the fountain and the coffee shop. Starting from the fountain, and going up the valley on the right hand side as one faces west, 10 pits have been sunk, and at a distance of 300 feet from the fountain the covered pit or cistern was found. The shafts dug vary in depth from a few inches to 40 feet. That below and nearest the road is 22 feet. The aqueduct leading from the cistern is 17 inches wide and 14 inches deep at the start. These dimensions grow smaller as the fountain is approached. The walls of the aqueduct are coated with cement worn very smooth. In the bottom of the aqueduct there is a bed for a terra-cotta pipe. This aqueduct might be called a tunnel, but its smooth sides show that

it was designed to convey water, and so was the terra-cotta pipe which is nicely buried in the bottom. The concealed cistern or source in the hillside is 10 feet by 8 at the bottom, 30 feet deep to the spring of its arched roof, and the roof is 8 feet high, with several feet of earth above the top. The stones of the arched roof are small, and those at the bottom of the cistern are large. It is proposed to tap the cistern at the side by means of an iron pipe, lead the water horizontally to the side of the valley, which at that point resembles a V, and thence on the top of the ground along the bank of the *wādy* to the fountain. There is some water in the cistern, which appears to come from the mountain above. How much the supply of water will be increased it is impossible to tell. Brought in an iron pipe on the top of the ground it certainly will not be cooler than it is at present. The work is not yet completed.

In reference to the scarabs found at Gezer, Professor Sayce writes that the first Egyptian scarab published in Plate II (*Quarterly Statement*, July, p. 212), and found in the third stratum at Gezer, bears the name of a king [Ra-] Kanefer. The name was that of several kings of the VIIth-Xth Egyptian dynasties, but the spiral ornamentation of the scarab belongs rather to the period of the XIIth-XVIIth dynasties, and the eighty-fifth king of the XIIIth dynasty, according to the Turin papyrus, was another Ra-Kanefer or Nefer-Ka-Ra.

The nineteenth scarab figured on the same plate and found in the cistern is a Hyksos one of well-known type. The inscription in the centre plays upon the name of the Hyksos Pharaoh *Khá-n-Ra*, and the common legend, *Ra n Ra*, "the Sun of the Sun," for which, in Semitic fashion, *Ren-n-Ren*, "the Name (Shem) of the Name," or *Ren-n-Ra*, "the Name of the Sun," is often substituted.

We learn from Mr. Hanauer (upon whom has recently been conferred the distinction of "Associate of St. George's Collegiate Church, Jerusalem") that the Moslem cemetery on the hillock of El-Adhemiyeh is now walled in and inaccessible. There has been a good deal of quarrying of stone, especially on the western side, in order to obtain materials for the enclosure-wall. This quarrying has quite altered the contours on the west, and the face-profile of the skull, as shown in former plans, is now altered.

Mr. Hanauer has kindly forwarded photographs of some objects that were dug up during the excavations carried on some years ago in front of the old rock-hewn tomb now popularly known as "Gordon's Garden Tomb." It will be remembered that the excavations were made upon a portion of the site of the old Asnerie or Donkey-house of mediæval times. The objects include limestone effigies of horses and horsemen, fuller particulars of which will be found below in "Notes and Queries" (p. 358).

Mr. Hanauer also contributes a supplementary note (p. 355 below) to his interesting article in the last number on the traditional "harbour of Solomon" at Jaffa. It is gratifying to learn from it that his suggestion regarding its position appears to be borne out by the actual results of excavation. With reference to the cistern at Neby Daūd (p. 191 above), he writes to confirm the discovery. Three of the skeletons were seated, leaning against the wall, and had evidently died in that attitude. He observes, however, that in the charnel-house (*ib.*) not every skeleton had three iron nails as at first described.

It is understood that the Russians are negotiating for the purchase of the place at Beit Sha'ar, where a mosaic inscription is said to have been recently discovered containing the names of John and Zacharias. Being about half-way to Hebron, it will be a convenient hospice for the Russian Palestine Society, and as a "holy place" may even supplant 'Ain Karim.

The observations made at Jaffa by the Rev. J. Jamal show that the rainfall at that place from 3rd October, 1902, to 28th April, 1903, amounted to a little more than 28 inches. In 54 days there fell as follows:—

2 days in October, 1902	...	...	1·29 inches.
14 " November, 1902	...	...	5·51 "
10 " December, 1902	...	...	5·24 "
10 " January, 1903	...	...	6·70 "
9 " February, 1903	...	...	5·90 "
7 " March, 1903	...	...	2·76 "
2 " April, 1903	...	...	0·65 "
54			<hr/> 28·05 "

The conclusion of Sir Charles Wilson's articles on "Golgotha and the Holy Sepulchre," and the "Notices of Foreign Publications," are unavoidably held over until the next number of the *Quarterly Statement*.

The attention of subscribers is called to a work by Sir Charles Warren, entitled "The Ancient Cubit and our Weights and Measures." He brings evidence to show that all weights and measures (except those of the metrical system) are derived from one source—the double-cubit cubed of Babylonia.

The Museum and Library of the Palestine Exploration Fund at Jerusalem have been removed from the room opposite to the Tower of David to the Bishop's Buildings, near the Tombs of the Kings, where the use of a room has been kindly permitted by the Rev. Dr. Blyth, Bishop in Jerusalem and the East. The Museum is open daily, except Sundays, and the Honorary Secretary, Dr. D'Erf Wheeler, will give all information necessary.

The "Flora of Syria, Palestine, and Sinai," by the Rev. George E. Post, M.D., Beirût, Syria, containing descriptions of all the Phaenogams and Acrogens of the region, and illustrated by 441 woodcuts, may be had at the office of the Fund, price 21s.

The income of the Society from June 23rd, 1903, to September 22nd, 1903, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £327 2s. 4d.; from sales of publications, &c., £112 2s. 11d.; total, £439 5s. 3d. The expenditure during the same period was £552 0s. 11d. On September 22nd the balance in the Bank was £244 11s. 2d.

Subscribers who have not yet paid their contributions for this year will much facilitate the Committee's efforts by sending their subscriptions, the outgoings on the excavations at Gezer being just now a heavy drain on their funds.

Subscribers to the Fund are reminded that, whilst the receipt of every subscription and contribution is promptly acknowledged by the Acting Secretary, they will henceforth be published annually, and not quarterly. A complete List of Subscribers and Subscriptions for 1903 will be published in due course in a separate form.

Subscribers in U.S.A. to the work of the Fund will please note that they can procure copies of any of the publications from the Rev. Professor Theo. F. Wright, Honorary General Secretary to the Fund, 42 Quincy Street, Cambridge, Mass.

The Committee will be glad to communicate with ladies and gentlemen willing to help the Fund as Honorary Secretaries. The following gentlemen have kindly consented to act:—D. H. Ayers, Esq., Troy, New York; Hon. William Niles, Esq., La Porte, Indiana; and Professor Robert L. Stewart, Esq., Lincoln University, Chester Co., Pennsylvania.

The Acting Secretary has been engaged upon the preparation of a small photo-relief map of Palestine, on a scale of 10 miles to the inch. It has been made from the large raised map published in 1893, and contains all the principal biblical sites and their altitudes. All the chief topographical features are faithfully reproduced, and students of the Bible will find it an indispensable guide. Fuller particulars may be had on application to the office, where advance proofs may be seen.

Subscribers and others may be reminded that the new Raised Map of Palestine, constructed from the Surveys of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and other sources, by the Acting Secretary, is ready. It is on the scale of $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the inch, and measures $3' 6'' \times 2' 6''$. It has already been used with great success by Professors of Old Testament history, and by teachers in Sunday Schools, and may be especially recommended for large classes of students. Further particulars may be had on application.

Subscribers will please note that they can still obtain a set of the "Survey of Palestine," in four volumes, for £7 7s., but the price has been increased to the public to £9 9s. The price of single volumes to the public has also been increased. Applications should be made to the Acting Secretary.

The price of a complete set of the translations published by the Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society, in 13 volumes, with general index, bound in cloth, is £10 10s. A catalogue describing the contents of each volume can be had on application to the Secretary, 38 Conduit Street.

The Museum at the office of the Fund, 38 Conduit Street (a few doors from Bond Street), is open to visitors every week-day from 10 o'clock till 5, except Saturdays, when it is closed at 2 p.m.

It may be well to mention that plans and photographs alluded to in the reports from Jerusalem and elsewhere cannot all be published, but all are preserved in the office of the Fund, where they may be seen by subscribers.

Photographs of the late Dr. Schick's models (1) of the Temple of Solomon, (2) of the Herodian Temple, (3) of the Haram Area during the Christian occupation of Jerusalem, and (4) of the Haram Area as it is at present, have been received at the office of the Fund. Sets of these four photographs, with an explanation by Dr. Schick, can be purchased by applying to the Secretary, 38 Conduit Street, W.

Branch Associations of the Bible Society, all Sunday Schools within the Sunday School Institute, the Sunday School Union, and the Wesleyan Sunday School Institute, will please observe that by a special Resolution of the Committee they will henceforth be treated as subscribers and be allowed to purchase the books and maps (by application only to the Secretary) at reduced price.

The Committee will be glad to receive donations of Books to the Library of the Fund, which already contains many works of great value relating to Palestine and other Bible Lands. A catalogue of Books in the Library will be found in the July *Quarterly Statement*, 1893.

The Committee acknowledge with thanks the following :—

- “Sacred Sites of the Gospels,” with illustrations, maps, and plans by Professor Sanday, D.D., LL.D., Litt.D., with the assistance of Paul Waterhouse, M.A., F.R.I.B.A. From the Author.
- “Notes de Mythologie Syrienne.” From the Author, M. René Dussaud.
- “Mission dans les Régions Désertiques de la Syrie moyenne.” From the Author, M. René Dussaud.
- “Al-Mashrik: Revue Catholique Orientale Bimensuelle.”
- “Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale.” Tome V, Livraisons 20–23. From the Author, Professor Clermont-Ganneau, M.I. *Sommaire*:—§ 50. Inscriptions grecques de Djerach. § 51. Sur deux épitaphes puniques. § 52. La notion de la sainteté chez les Sémites. § 53. La “Porte de Nicanor” du Temple de Jérusalem (pl. VII). § 54. L'autel de Kadès. § 55. Le Mont Hermon et son dieu, d'après une inscription inédite (pl. VIII). § 56. Fiches et Notules: Nouvelle inscription phénicienne de Sidon; Inscription nabatéenne d'Oumm el-Qotain; Inscriptions grecques du Haurân; Kaioumas; Inscriptions grecques de Bersabéc; La prise de Jérusalem par les Perses; Inscriptions grecques d'Antinoé; Θεός Ἀραμεθηνός et 'Aramta. .

For list of authorised lecturers and their subjects, write to the Secretary.

Whilst desiring to give publicity to proposed identifications and other theories advanced by officers of the Fund and contributors to the pages of the *Quarterly Statement*, the Committee wish it to be distinctly understood that by publishing them in the *Quarterly Statement* they neither sanction nor adopt them.