

NOTICES OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS.

Die Provincia Arabia auf Grund zweier in den Jahren, 1897 und 1898, unternommenen Reisen und der Berichte früherer Reisender, beschrieben von Rudolf Ernst Brünnow und Alfred v. Domaszewski. Erster Band: Die Römerstrasse von Mädebâ über Petra und Odruh bis El-'Aqaba unter Mitwirkung von Julius Euting: Strassburg, Verlag von Karl J. Trübner, 1904 (price 80 marks).

The summary accounts which Professor Brünnow communicated to the *Mittheilungen und Nachrichten des Deutschen Palästina Vereins* (1897, &c.) of his own and Professor v. Domaszewski's journeys in Moab, Edom, and other lands to the east of Jordan, were full enough of geographical and archaeological data to give promise that when these two scholars were able to give us the full results of their travels we should find our knowledge of the geography of Moab and Edom, and of their history especially in Roman times, immensely increased. This promise has now been fulfilled by the publication of the sumptuous volume, an abridgement of whose title-page is given above. It is a large quarto of 530 pages, on the printing, illustration, and binding of which neither art nor expense has been spared, and from that point of view alone it is worth its high price. The illustrations consist of 276 autotypes from photographs taken for the most part by the authors themselves or under their direction; four plates in heliogravure, two in colours, three large maps on the scale of $\frac{1}{1000000}$, and one general map on $\frac{1}{700000}$, of the country east of the Jordan; one large map and 20 others of Petra; 11 plates of Nabatean inscriptions prepared by Professor Euting; two double plates, 272 drawings and plans, and 24 sketches in zincotype, and 13 sheets in lithography by Paul Huguenin; a truly magnificent list of illustrations, executed with care and taste by their distinguished artists, among whom we have further to name the well-known firm of Wagner and Debes as responsible for the maps.

Nor is the scientific interest of the volume less than the æsthetic. Messrs. Brünnow and v. Domaszewski have carefully surveyed the land of Moab south and east of the part covered by Colonel Conder's survey, and the land of Edom south of that. Professor Brünnow's triangulation is grounded on a great triangle formed by the three far-seen summits of Shiḥān, Jebel Jiyāl and Hafret Ka'dān, with a measured base of 1,000 metres in the neighbourhood of el-Ḳaṣṭal. He has connected this triangulation with that of the English survey, and claims for it a correctness north of the Wady el-Heṣā within 200 metres. South of that wady he was unable, on account of weather, to reach the same degree of correctness, but he believes that even here the probable error is not more than 500 metres. These calculations were further tested by determinations of latitude, frequent and careful notes of the times occupied on his journeys between different points, and by sketches of variations in the

level of the ground. To all this were added numerous observations of heights by aneroid. The calculations have been re-worked by Professor Kunze.

Very careful attention has been paid to the archæology of the region ; but, except in Petra, this has not been carried behind the Roman occupation, and the authors have avoided all identification of Old Testament names. Travellers east of the Jordan will recognise the need of the one remark which Professor Brünnow permits himself to make in connection with this latter subject. I have pointed out how apt the ancient names have been to drift in this region, and he rightly reminds us that there is a question as to whether their present attachment is the same as that which held in Old Testament times, or is not rather due to later identifications in the times of either the Maccabees or the Christian Church. The authors had no firman for excavation, but they have carefully examined and reproduced the monuments and inscriptions which are above ground. Even where their stay in a place has been short their reports and illustrations will facilitate future investigations. They have produced a standard work, which, partly from their own achievements, and partly by their full quotations from previous travellers, supersedes, within its limits, every other in the same region, and will prove itself indispensable, whether to the excavator, geographer, or historian of Moab and Edom. Professor Brünnow's claim is just, that "never before has the land been so systematically investigated upon one consistent plan, never yet has the attempt been made to treat all the ruins from a comparative standpoint, and to trace them to their origin, although even here a good deal of detail, especially with regard to the Roman Limes, has been anticipated by the French Dominicans and Assumptionists in Jerusalem. But it is Domaszewski's thorough investigations which for the first time have clearly laid down the course of the Limes, and defined its origin and gradual extension towards the desert."

A second volume will treat of the later Roman road running from Ma'ân northwards along the border of the desert to its junction with the old Trajan road at the Kāl'at ez-Zerka and through the eastern part of Ajlûn to Bosrâ and thence by Suwêdâ, Kanawât and Shuhba to ed-Dumêr. This volume, after tracing the connective routes to Jerusalem, follows Trajan's road from Mâdebâ southwards by Petra and Ođruh to el-'Akaba. It consists of four sections—first, a geographical survey of the country east of the Jordan in general, and in its various divisions ; second, detailed itineraries on the Roman road from Mâdebâ to Petra, with excursions along the tributary routes ; third, monographs on Petra ; fourth, Ođruh and the Roman road to el-'Akaba. There are added the first part of a very full bibliography, both of works of travel, and works on the antiquities of Petra ; indices of names, Greek proper names and words, Nabatean proper names, and other matters.

The space at my disposal forbids a detailed criticism, nor do I feel competent to deal with the sections on Petra and the road thence to

el-'Akaba. I will merely offer a few observations on the second section so far as it deals with the stretch of the road between Mâdebâ and Kerak, referring the reader for further details to a paper on this district which I had prepared for the *Quarterly Statement* before this great volume came into my hands.¹

It does not derogate from the value of the volume to point out the gaps which both its itineraries and maps leave in the geography of Moab. The most noticeable of these covers the complicated system of wadies south of the Zerka Ma'in, tributary to the Wady el-Wâleb, and lying between the Roman road on the east and 'Attârus and Machærus on the west. Professor Brünnow appears to have traversed or skirted this district (*see* pp. 23 f.); but he offers no place names and marks no wadies on his map west of the Wady "Minshef Abu Zeid." In my paper I have given the names of four wadies which I received here from natives. Again, nothing would have been more valuable among all that he has given us than a detailed description of the ruins of Dibân with a plan of them and of the hills and wadies over which they are scattered. Previous travellers describe the site as on two hills; there are really three within the main city walls and the surrounding wadies, and ruins lie scattered besides across the latter. Again, the maps fail to mark the important ruins on the east base of the Jebel Shihân, and the milestone on the north slope of the latter discovered by Dr. Bliss is omitted.

In the Wady el-Môjib, in the description and plan of the Roman ruins, a few minutes above the bed of the stream on the south side (to which the name Mehattet el-Ḥajj is sometimes applied equally with those above on the edge of the plateau), no trace is given of the remains of the stables on the terrace in front of the ruin, with their stone mangers and troughs: an omission very remarkable where such pains have evidently been taken with the reproduction of the main building; nor is any indication given of the scattered blocks in the centre of the quadrangle. Dr. Brünnow is also in error as to the numbering of the two groups of milestones below and above this building. He gives the former as 15 (p. 36), the latter as 16 (p. 40) from Mâdebâ. But as he has already correctly given the neighbouring group on the north bank of the Wady (and therefore nearer Mâdebâ), as by their own evidence 20 from that city (p. 34), his numbers, 15 and 16, must be wrong. Father Germer Durand (*Revue Biblique* VI, 1897) had already the correct numbers. On one of the higher groups he read MP XV, and on one of the lower A RAB MP XVI, *i.e.*, 15 and 16 miles respectively, not from Mâdebâ, but from Rabba.

These, however, are slight blemishes in a work so generally distinguished by its numerous additions to the geographical and archaeological data of Moab, and by its great carefulness and accuracy. They serve to prove, what Professor Brünnow himself will be the first to admit, that a very great deal remains to be done before we have a map

¹ See above, pp. 367 *seq.*

of southern Moab as reliable as that which we possess for the northern part.

In conclusion, I must draw attention to the way in which Professor Brünnow's results have revolutionised our knowledge of the tributaries of the Mōjib and of the wadies which combine to form at el-Kerak the Wady el-Kerak. Hitherto the latter have been supposed to rise far to the east of el-Kerak, near the Ḥajj road. But Professor Brünnow has proved the existence of a high ridge immediately to the east of Kerak, and the rise of the Kerak wadies to the west of this and south of el-Kerak; and shown that the northern tributaries of the Mōjib extend east of el-Katraneh and the Ḥajj road, and far south over the plateau to below the latitude of el-Kerak.

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Correction.—On p. 282 the reference to the "holy fire" should read, "Under the date April 21st, 1101 (Easter Day), we read that, in consequence of the non-appearance of the 'holy fire' on Easter Eve, the Patriarch," &c.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

1. *Remarks on the Gezer Tablet.*—It will be admitted that the personal names in this tablet can be read in various ways; and they perhaps add to the indications.

The date being 649 B.C., and the name of the Assyrian eponym for the year being as yet unknown in Gezer, it seems impossible that the expression *Bel Pikhati Bar Khalši*, "Local Governor of Bar-Khalšu" can apply to the official succeeding *Assur-dur-ušur*, as no one could say if he belonged to that place.

This title therefore would seem to stand alone, as meaning "The local ruler is the ruler of Bar Khalši." If this be admitted, the local ruler would appear to be specified as having his head-quarters at Beer-Khalši, which might be very well Eluša, south of Beersheba. This would represent an Assyrian province in the lowlands of Palestine, extending from the borders of Egypt to Gezer.

In the obverse (line 5) we have the signs (in their original language) GUM-UKU-MES. AL-RI AN-AA. Dr. Pinches has probably reasons for rendering this "slaves" (*GUM-UKU-MES*), but I should have supposed the natural meaning to be "natives" of