

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Committee desire to appeal very earnestly to subscribers and their friends to assist them in completing the Excavations of Gezer thoroughly. The extension of time now granted by the Sultan would make this possible ; but only if the force of workpeople can be increased, for which more money is necessary. *Special donations* are invited. An additional £1,000 is required.

The Tenth Quarterly Report is chiefly devoted to a detailed explanation of the fragments of walls which at first appeared to Mr. Macalister to belong to Crusading times. Further excavation has proved that the fragments form part of an extensive structure which was in all probability of the Maccabean period, if not earlier. Of more general interest, perhaps, are the supplementary remarks upon the food deposits found in the earlier tombs of about 1200 B.C. It has been observed that with the vessels containing food there were exactly identical vessels containing one or more human bones. Most noteworthy is the fact that *infant bones* preponderate. Parallel customs have been found elsewhere, but the explanation of the rite is at present purely conjectural. Another interesting feature was the discovery of a sherd of pottery of Cretan origin, and it is not the least important result of the Fund's excavations up to the present that several extremely important analogies between Cretan and Palestinian culture as exemplified at Gezer have been brought to light. What is to be made of the "spindle-whorls" of the heads of human femora it is difficult to say ; they seem to form a class by themselves. Perhaps some anthropologist can furnish a clue ?

It is characteristic of the *tell* at Gezer that wherever a pit is sunk something of interest is invariably discovered, and the discovery is in the majority of instances of a quite unexpected character. The richness of its contents makes the *thorough* excavation of the site a matter of supreme importance, and the Committee's ambition to attain this end will scarcely be possible unless additional means are forthcoming. That the work was kept going to the extent which has accomplished so much has been largely due to the generosity of Mr. Walter Morrison, our Treasurer, under whose personal guarantee the Committee were able to obtain a loan of £500, without which the work would have been very seriously checked. This is by no means the first occasion on which the Treasurer has enabled the work of the Fund to be carried on through a difficult interval.

The special donations to the expenses of the excavation of Gezer comprise the following:—James Hilton, Esq., £20; Walter Morrison, Esq., £10; Viscount Sidmouth, Professor George Adam Smith, Charles S. Buckingham, Esq., General A. C. Cooke, and George Mathieson, Esq., James Melrose, Esq., £5 each; small donations, £30 2s. 0d.; £90 2s. 0d. in all; bringing the total up to £849 13s. 2d.

At the St. Louis Exhibition the Palestine Exploration Fund has been awarded the following prizes in the several departments indicated:—

Maps and apparatus for geography	...	Grand Prize.
Books and publications	Gold Medal.
Ethnography.	Gold Medal.

Among the awards to collaborators, the Gold Medal is awarded to Mr. George Armstrong, our Acting Secretary, for his Raised Maps of Palestine—an award than which none is better deserved.

The Rev. J. E. Hanauer, writing from Jerusalem on December 2nd, mentions that, two days previously, some workmen digging the foundations for a new wall on the grounds of Bishop Blyth's Mission, on the west side of the Damascus Road, and near the "Tombs of the Kings," came upon a vaulted chamber of well-dressed masonry. With the Bishop's permission, Mr. Hanauer descended

by a ladder into the vault, which he found to be about 10 feet long by 7 feet wide, and arched over. On the earth at the bottom lay 10 skeletons, intact except that the skulls lay about in disorder. At the western end there seemed to be a blocked-up doorway. No lamps or other objects had been found. A plain mosaic pavement was found at a level of about a foot above this chamber. Mr. Hanauer hopes to make further examination of the place.

Mr. Hanauer informs us further that the Russians have bought the old hermitages at the Wādy Fārah, on the southern side of the spring, and have enclosed their property with a wall. In the course of excavating the ruins they discovered the apse of a church or chapel. Moreover, in digging the foundation for a wall to the English-German cemetery, there was found the broken drum of a fluted column, about 30 inches in diameter. Mr. Hanauer goes on to remark, "I know of but one other piece of a vertically-fluted column in or about Jerusalem."

In 1903 the German Oriental Society sent Drs. Thiersch and Hölischer to Palestine to report upon the most suitable sites in the country for excavation, and it has recently published the interesting results of their journey in a copiously-illustrated pamphlet (*Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft*, No. 23, September, 1904). Drs. Thiersch and Hölischer visited every important site east and west of Jordan, and they write in very appreciative terms of the excavations which are being carried out for the Fund at Gezer under the "excellent" direction of Mr. Macalister. They point to them as the first instance of systematic and exhaustive excavations in Palestine, and hold them up as, in many respects, a model of what such work should be.

Last August Dr. Masterman gave an interesting lecture on "Jerusalem from the Sanitary Point of View," which is published, in part, in the little monthly paper, *Home Words for Jerusalem*, printed at the L.J.S. House of Industry. After remarking on the natural advantages of the city, its height, its pure mountain air, the absence of marsh land, and the facilities afforded by its position for efficient drainage, Dr. Masterman comments on the scarcity of good drinking water. The water from the *'Ain esh-Shefa*, the

"Virgin's Fountain," and *Bir Eyáb*, is unfit for drinking; but the limited supply through the iron pipes and from the best cisterns is good.

The drainage of the city is in a most faulty condition. The drains are constantly leaking and becoming blocked, and they are conducted to no definite terminations. The lecturer suggests schemes for the improvement of the water supply and drainage, but they would involve a considerable outlay.

Malaria is the great scourge of the city. It is not endemically of a severe type, but pernicious cases from other places, especially from the Jordan, are constantly bringing fresh stocks of virulent malaria parasites. The *Anopheles* mosquitoes, the carriers of malarial poison from the sick to the healthy, are only too common. The cistern water from outside and inside the city frequently contains the characteristic *Anopheles* larvæ, and some cisterns swarm with them. The remedies proposed are to keep cistern mouths closed, to substitute pumps for the old-fashioned buckets, and the systematic treatment of malaria all over the city.

No care is taken to check epidemics. Small-pox, diphtheria, typhus, typhoid, and cases of advanced consumption are left to spread infection in overcrowded houses without the slightest enforcement of means to prevent spread of diseases.

There are no statistics of disease nor are death certificates required, except by some of the Consuls. It is believed that cases of premature burial occur, and cases that in England would lead to unpleasant verdicts in a coroner's court are entirely overlooked.

Dr. Masterman makes many important suggestions for improvement, including the appointment of an international medical officer of health, supported by the leading Consulates, and the erection of proper hospitals for infectious diseases.

The report of the Jewish Colonisation Association for 1903 shows that large purchases of land have been made at Tiberias and elsewhere, and that slow but steady progress is being made by the

colonies. The cultivation of almonds and oranges is extending, and the olive trees planted some years ago are now commencing to bear fruit.

The railway from Damascus to Mecca is being made by the Turkish military authorities for military and political purposes: the rolling stock comes from Germany. The construction of the line is due, apparently, to a desire to check the increase of foreign influence in the Hejaz, and to possess a means of rapidly reinforcing the Turkish troops in Arabia. Its protection and, at the same time, that of the fertile districts between the Jordan Valley and the Syrian desert, has been secured by the plantation of strong Circassian colonies at important points along its course. The Circassians, when they settle down, make good frontier colonists; but, in their search for building material, they are merciless destroyers of antiquities, and it is much to be feared that the fine ruins at Jerash, 'Ammân, and other places will suffer irreparable damage.

It was originally intended to purchase the Damascus-Mezeirîb Railway and continue it to Mecca, but, not being able to come to an agreement with the French Company, the Turkish Government decided to make their own line from *ed-Dera'a* (Edrei) to Damascus. This section of the railway was completed in five months, and the two rival lines now run nearly parallel to, and often within sight of, each other for some 60 miles through a sparsely-populated country. The present intention is to connect the railway from *Haifa* to *Beisân* with the Mecca line at *ed-Dera'a*.

Leaving the fertile plain of Damascus, the Turkish line crosses the *Nahr el-'Awaj*, the *Wâdy el-'Ajam*, and the shoulder of *Jebel el-'Aswad*; and then, skirting the curious volcanic district of *el-Lejâ*, and passing through *Ezraâ*, runs across the plain to *ed-Dera'a*, where there is to be a large station and an hotel. The line continues southward by *Nasib, es-Sumrâ*, where the ruins have greatly suffered, and *Ḳal'at ez-Zerkâ*, to 'Ammân; and thence by *el-Ḳaṭrâni* and *M'Shetta* to *Ma'ân*, the present terminus at the edge of the Arabian desert.

The new railway, on which special accommodation can sometimes be obtained on application to the railway officials at Damascus,

offers peculiar facilities for visiting the remarkable ruins in the *Haurân*, *ed-Dera'a*, with its subterranean dwelling-places, *Jerash*, *'Ammân*, and *Petra*, which is an easy day's ride from the terminus at *Ma'an*.

Through the sudden death of Dr. Samuel Ives Curtiss, Professor of Old Testament Literature at the Theological Seminary of Chicago, on September 22nd, 1904, Semitic research has lost one of its most useful workers. From the *British Weekly* we quote the following:—
 “Dr. Curtiss was in his youth a favourite pupil of Franz Delitzsch at Leipzig. He came to the front in the Robertson Smith controversy, publishing a book on *The Levitical Priesthood*, in which he traversed the contentions of the higher critics. Delitzsch contributed a preface, and the book attracted attention. Principal Rainy spoke of its ‘singularly upright and candid tone,’ and Robertson Smith reviewed it in the *Academy*. Later on Curtiss, like Delitzsch, went over to the other side. But he retained the warm evangelical piety for which he was known among the Leipzig students, and was always concerned to maintain a large Mosaic element in the legislation of the Pentateuch. Within the last two or three years he struck a new vein by studying the religious practices of the East as they exist; and he published a book to show that these confirmed the traditional view of sacrifice. . . . The last thing he did was to send two articles for publication in the *Expositor*, giving the gist of his argument. His comparatively early death is a great loss alike to scholarship and to religion.”

The “new vein” referred to is, of course, his *Primitive Semitic Religion to-day*, 1902, which contains one of the most valuable and interesting accounts of modern cult and custom in Palestine that has ever been written. A great deal of his evidence was obtained at first hand, and this, combined with his extensive knowledge of ancient Semitic literature, gives his work a lasting value. The subject was one that occupied him to the last, and it is only a few months ago that the lamented scholar entered into correspondence with the present writer in connection with a remarkable Semitic custom which he had come across in the course of his researches. It is worth adding that, although the conclusions of Professor Curtiss have not met with unanimous approval, he recently made fresh discoveries which seemed to him to confirm his original views.

Here it may not be amiss to notice an interesting article on the Kissil Bashi of the Upper Tigris which appeared in the *Standard*, September 19th. Under the rather popular title "The Last of the Baal Worshippers," a correspondent draws attention to a number of remarkable customs, most of which find parallels in the Semitic world no doubt, but are rarely met with in any one single community, as in this instance. The customs are on a line with the traces of primitive Semitic cult discussed by Professor Curtiss and others, and only want of space forbids a detailed notice of the more interesting features. It is much to be hoped that travellers in Palestine and Syria would pay careful heed to the superstitions and beliefs which they encounter in the more out-of-the-way districts. Puerile and senseless though these may often seem, they become of great interest when studied in the light of comparative custom, and it is anthropology, or the comparative study of man, particularly in Semitic regions, that helps us to understand and appreciate Semitic literature. Who, for example, when he reads that among the Kissil Bashi the new-born infant is solemnly salted over before the "Father-priest" in front of the sacred tree, will not at once recall Ezekiel xvi, 4, and speculate upon the connection? And this is only one, and not the most important, of parallels that could be mentioned.

In the October number of the *American Journal of Semitic Languages*, Professor Breasted gives an interesting account of the great geographical list of Shishak (Sheshonk I) on the "Bubastide Gate" of the great Karnak Temple, "of the 10 rows of names comprising the list, the fourth and tenth rows have entirely perished, involving the loss of 31 names; while 12 more in different places have also disappeared." The writer proceeds to state that the list is rapidly perishing, and many names once legible are no longer so, yet in spite of this, this record has never been fully copied or published. The article is devoted to a notice of the names which can be safely identified, but its most interesting feature is the discovery of a place-name "the field of Abram." Nos. 71, 72, the cartouches in question, had been read by Maspero as a plural of 'âbêl, "meadow," but if Professor Breasted's identification is correct, this will be the earliest mention of the great traditional ancestor of the Hebrews.

It has been pointed out by some of our correspondents that the inscription upon the lamp figured in the last quarterly report from

Gezer (October, p. 348, Plate III, No. 4) is not Hebrew but Latin! It is really upside down, and although it is difficult to read all the characters with certainty, it is probable that they contain merely the maker's name. Professor Flinders Petrie points out that the style is very much like the Roman type of the first century A.D., and Professor Clermont-Ganneau conjectures that the inscription may perhaps be read as UAL(erius) CRE(sceno).

Professor Rudolf E. Brünnow has written from Vevey assuring us that he has no intention of publishing an English translation of his work, *Provincia Arabia*, in its complete form. The original German edition (Trübner, Strasburg) has expanded from the one volume first contemplated to three. If any translation is ever undertaken it would be in some abbreviated form.

As we go to press the Secretary has received from Dr. Gurney Masterman his report on the changes of level in the Dead Sea during the latter half of the year. A continual fall has been observed; the level taken on October 26th was 10 inches lower than in August, and $23\frac{1}{2}$ inches lower than in April, 1904—the lowest of 1904 being $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches lower than the lowest of 1903. The report will be given in the next issue.

Among the various contributions in the present number many of our subscribers will no doubt be interested to notice one of the papers which the indefatigable Dr. Conrad Schick left behind him.

About the end of September last an old subscriber to the Fund, Dr. Hingston Fox, of Gordon Square, made a very generous contribution to our Library in the form of books bearing on various subjects connected with Palestine. A list of them is subjoined (p. 11 *sq.*, below).

It may be well to mention that plans and photographs alluded to in the reports from Jerusalem and elsewhere cannot all be published, but they are preserved in the office of the Fund, where they may be seen by subscribers. Those sent by Mr. Macalister illustrating the excavations at Gezer which are not reproduced in his quarterly report are held over for the final memoir.

A number of lectures are to be delivered in Scotland and the provinces on the Fund's excavations at Gezer, and it is hoped that where arrangements have not yet been made, subscribers and those interested in the work will communicate through the Local Secretary.

The attention of subscribers and others is called to *A Table of the Christian and Mohammedan Eras*, from July 15th, A.D. 622, the date of the Hejira, to A.D. 1900, price by post, 7d. Also to the *Meteorological Observations at Jerusalem*, with tables and diagrams by the late Mr. James Glaisher, F.R.S. Tourists and all desirous of accurate information about the climate of Jerusalem should not fail to send for a copy, price 2s. 6d.

The attention of subscribers is also 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 are in 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., Beirut, 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 September 20th to December 16th, 1904, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies and a legacy of £100, £805 5s. 9d.; from sales of publications, &c., £186 14s. 4d.; and from lectures, £4 3s. 4d.; making in all, £996 3s. 5d. An additional loan of £200 has brought the available total to £1,196 3s. 5d. The expenditure during the same period was £802 17s. 5d. On December 16th the balance in the bank was £494 2s. 6d.

Subscribers will greatly facilitate the Committee's efforts by sending their subscriptions in early, 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 1904 will be published in April 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:—Professor Alexander Macalister, Cambridge, in place of Mrs. Burkitt, resigned; the Rev. John Martin, Dundee, in place of the Rev. John Reid, gone to Inverness; the Rev. J. du Plessis, Sea Point, Cape Colony.

The Acting Secretary has now completed 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 the map 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 $6\frac{1}{4}$ 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.

A complete set of the *Quarterly Statements*, 1869–1903, containing the early letters, with an Index, 1869–1892, bound in the Palestine Exploration Fund cases, can be had. Price on application to the Acting Secretary, 38, Conduit Street, W.

Subscribers of one guinea and upwards 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.

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 acknowledge with thanks from Dr. Hingston Fox the following :—

"Journal in the East" (1839), by C. Jos. Wolff. "The Dead Sea" (1857), by Rev. A. A. Isaacs. "U.S. Expedition to Jordan and Dead Sea" (1850), by W. F. Lynch. "Phoenicia" (1855), by John Kentick. "A Mouth in Palestine" (1889), by Countess Cowper. "The Land of Gilead" (1880), by Laurence Oliphant. "A Voyage into the Levant" (1718), by Journeport. "Sinai and Arabia" (1878), by Charles Beke. "Pastor's Memorial of Holy Land" (1847), by G. Fisk. "Israel in Wilderness" (1865), by Rev. C. Forster. "Travels in Mediterranean, Jerusalem, &c." (1822), by Robert Richardson, M.D. "Van de Godsdiens der Mahomt" (1718), by Adrian Reland. "Historical Geog. of New Testament" (1708), by Ed. Wells. "Voyage en Orient" (1850), by Alph. de

Lamartine. "Travels to Jerusalem and the Holy Land through Egypt" (two vols., 1835), by Viscount de Chateaubriand (translated from the French by Fred. Shoberl). "The Dead Sea, a New Route to India" (1855), by Captain W. Allen. "Letters from Palestine" (1839), by Rev. J. D. Paxton. "Travels in the East" (1792), by Niebuhr. "Stirring Times" (1878), by James Finn. "The Temple and the Tomb" (1880), by C. Warren. "Memoir to accompany Map of Holy Land" (1858), by C. W. M. Van de Velde. "Syria and the Holy Land," by W. K. Kelly. "Ride thro' Syria" (1887), by Ed. Abram. "Journey Round Dead Sea and Bible Lands" (1854), by F. De Saulcy. "The Tent of the Khan" (1857), by R. W. Stewart. "Visit to Egypt, Sinai, Jerusalem" (1833), by Sir F. Henniker. "Journey from Aleppo to Jerusalem in 1697" (1810), by H. Maundrell. "Syria and Egypt under Turkey, 1799-1849" (1876), by John Barker (Consul). "Palestine on Monuments" (1714), by Adrian Reland. "Travels in the East" (1754), by A. Drummond. "Travels in Barbary and the Levant" (1738), by Thomas Shaw. "Travels among Arab Tribes," by J. S. Buckingham.

The Committee also have to acknowledge with thanks the following:—

- "Al-Mashrik : Revue Catholique Orientale Bimensuelle."
- "Babylonian and Assyrian Laws, Contracts, and Letters" (Library of Ancient Inscriptions ; T. and T. Clark), by the Rev. C. H. W. Johns, M.A.
- "Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale." Tome VI, Livraisons 13-19. From the Author, Professor Clermont-Ganneau, M.I. Among the varied contents are : "Sur un passage des épitaphes d'Echmounazar et de Tabnit" (§ 24) ; "Textes Araméens d'Égypte" (§ 25 *bis*) ; "Tanit et Didon" (§ 27) ; "l'Empereur Adrien et Jérusalem" (§ 28) ; "l'Empereur usurpateur Achilleus" (§ 31) ; *Fiches et Notes* (§§ 23, 33), &c., &c.
- "Echos d'Orient," vols. i-vi. From the Editor.
- "The Tabernacle : its History and Structure." By the Rev. W. Shaw Caldecott. From the Religious Tract Society.
- "See "Foreign Publications," pp. 82 *sqq.*, below.

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.

For list of authorised lecturers and their subjects, see end of the Journal, or 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.

FORM OF BEQUEST TO THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

I give to the Palestine Exploration Fund, London, the sum of _____ to be applied towards the General Work of the Fund; and I direct that the said sum be paid, free of Legacy Duty, and that the Receipt of the Treasurer of the Palestine Exploration Fund shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors.

Signature _____

Witnesses {

NOTE.—*Three Witnesses are necessary in the United States of America;
 Two suffice in Great Britain.*
