

THE LATE DR. THOMAS CHAPLIN.

THE Palestine Exploration Fund has lost a staunch supporter and tried friend in the late Dr. Chaplin, who entered into his rest on September 20th, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. From the foundation of the Fund Dr. Chaplin took a keen interest in its work, and the success that attended its operations in the field during the first twenty-one years of its existence was largely due to his unremitting kindness and thoughtful care. He tended the explorers when sick, gave them the best advice in sanitary matters, and unreservedly placed at their disposal his great knowledge of Jerusalem and the Holy Land, and of the people amongst whom he lived and laboured for twenty-five years. Some of those who worked for the Fund found in him a valued friend; none of them can forget his kindness of heart, or that combination of firmness and gentleness in his character which enabled him to win the respect and esteem of Christian, Moslem, and Jew.

On his return to England in 1866 Dr. Chaplin joined the General and Executive Committees of the Fund, and became a regular attendant at the meetings of the latter. His wide experience frequently enabled him to give valuable counsel and advice, and his strong common sense and singleness of purpose were highly appreciated by his colleagues. For more than twelve years he edited the *Quarterly Statement*, to which he contributed several important papers, such as his translations of Hebrew treatises dealing with the Temple and its services—the tracts Yoma, Tamid, and Middoth of the Mishna, with the notes of Rabbi Obadiah of Bartenora, and the Beth Habbechereh of Maimonides; and his papers on the climate of Jerusalem, on his exploration of the 'Ain esh-Shefa, on his discovery of Cufic inscriptions in the roof of the Dome of the Rock, on an ancient Hebrew weight from Samaria, and on other subjects.

The following appreciative record of Dr. Chaplin's work at Jerusalem, where his memory is perpetuated by the erection of the "Chaplin" Ward in the hospital of the Society which he served so well, has been kindly communicated by his able successor, Dr. Percy D'Erf Wheeler, who is ever ready to further the work of the Fund in Palestine:—

(To face p. 14.)



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“Dr. Thomas Chaplin took up charge of the London Jews’ Society’s Medical Mission in Jerusalem on December 21st, 1860. He received his medical training at Guy’s Hospital, London, having taken his degree at St. Andrew’s University. He devoted his life to the work amongst the Jews, and thoroughly identified himself with the past interests of the Mission. By his earnestness and thoroughness as a physician and surgeon, he gained the confidence and respect of his patients. He consolidated the work commenced under Dr. Macgowan, his predecessor, and made it a greater power and success than it ever had been before. He was able, after some years’ residence, to write and converse in Arabic, Spanish, and German. He was well acquainted with Hebrew, and made a special study of Hebrew literature that was directly connected with the Temple and its services. He translated several tracts of the Mishna, &c., into English.

“His clinical observations on malarial fever were of great value. His scientific contributions to the medical journals were many, the chief and best known being ‘The Fevers of Jerusalem.’ He was also successful as a surgeon, sometimes under very peculiar difficulties. The Jews and Moslems had absolute confidence in him, and his name is still a household word. It was through his influence and interest that the present Leper Hospital was founded by Lady Raffinburg. He made a careful and systematic examination of each leper in Jerusalem and Ramleh, and was at that time one of the authorities on leprosy. He was also the means of founding the British Ophthalmic Hospital, and was made an Honorary Associate of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem for the services he rendered. He was a member of the Scotch Meteorological Society, and wrote a special monograph on the climate of Jerusalem. He took an interest in everything that was connected with Palestine, and all his work was thoroughly done.

“It is hardly necessary to speak of his kind-heartedness and nobility of character. His name was respected by all who knew him, and especially by the Jews of Palestine, who felt that in him they had a true friend, as well as an experienced and able doctor. After twenty-five years’ service in Jerusalem he retired from the work. In 1886 he was appointed Inspector of the Society’s Missions, and in 1891 Medical Missionary to the Dispensary at Goulston Street, Whitechapel. His name will never be forgotten in Jerusalem, and although he is dead ‘he still speaks.’”

Dr. Chaplin served on the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and his last work for them was the revision of the Yiddish translation of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. He also served on the Council of the Victoria Institute, and on the Correspondence Committee of the Church Missionary Society. His life was one of strenuous work, and it was only towards its close that the repeated attacks of malarial fever from which he suffered disabled him and ultimately caused his death.

C. W. W.

TENTH QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION OF GEZER.

11 August—12 November, 1904.

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

§ I.—PRELIMINARY.

THE time spent in excavation during the period covered by the present report was about two months. A few days after the middle of August I had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. C. T. Currelly, of the Egypt Exploration Fund and the British School at Athens, to the camp. He came fresh from the important excavation now in progress under the latter institution at Palaiokastro in Crete; and not only did this experience make him a valuable associate in my endeavour to explain some of the objects unearthed at Gezer during his stay, but he was able to inform me of analogous results at Crete to those arrived at in my own work. These, when they have been examined more closely, may be found to involve historical results of great importance. For the present it would be premature to enter into details regarding an investigation, which it will be impossible to carry out thoroughly without the co-operation of the Cretan excavators.

Towards the end of August, as soon as the state of the works permitted me temporarily to close them, I suspended the digging, and with Mr. Currelly went on a short tour through the country. Starting from Sidon, where, through the courtesy of His Excellency