

NOTICES OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS.

The Biblical World, published by the University of Chicago, 1904.—In 1903 a friend of the University offered a substantial sum of money to be available annually for five years for exploration and excavation in Bible Lands. On this offer was founded the *Oriental Exploration Fund*, which obtained a firman for excavating at *Bismya*, probably the Isin or Nisin of Babylonia. Work has been commenced on the ground and the results have been very promising. Dr. Masterman concludes his well-illustrated paper on the "Feasts and Fasts of the Jews." Those included in the volume are the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles, the Feast of Dedication, the Feast of Purim, and the Feast of the Passover. In an interesting, illustrated article, Professor S. I. Curtiss, the lamented author of *Primitive Semitic Religion of to-day*, gives the result of his examination into the survival of primitive institutions in Syria and Palestine during the summer of 1903. Under the heading "The Temple at Jerusalem in Jesus' Day," Mr. C. W. Votaw notices the restoration of the Temple proposed by Dr. Sanday and Mr. Waterhouse in "Sacred Sites of the Gospel." In "How was the Curse of Jericho Fulfilled," Professor Theodore F. Wright, Hon. Secretary General of the Palestine Exploration Fund in America, basing his remarks on Mr. Macalister's discoveries at Gezer, points out a probable explanation of Joshua vi, 26, viz., that when the wall was commenced the body of Hiel's eldest son was placed beneath the foundation stone, and that the body of his youngest son was buried under the last gate that was completed.

Vol. xxiv, Nos. 1-5, 1904.—Additional reports on the excavations at *Bismya*, where a large marble statue has been found far below the rains of Naram-sin's time. Three lines of an inscription in the most archaic character give the name of the temple, the king, and the city—*Udnun* (pp. 377-379). An interesting paper, "The Levitical cities of Israel in the light of the Excavations at Gezer," by Professor G. A. Barton, shows the importance attached to Mr. Macalister's work for the Fund at Gezer. Dr. Barton points out that the selection of Gezer as a Levitical city was probably due to the previous existence of the Canaanite "High Place," and that the other Levitical cities appear to have had a similar origin (pp. 167-179).

Inscriptions Égyptiennes du Sinai, by Raymond Weill, in *Revue Archéologique*, 1903.—Captain Weill tells a curious story of the recovery of squeezes presented to the British Museum by Holland, Macdonald, and others. The documents had been used by the late Dr. Birch when preparing his contribution to the "Notes to the Ordnance Survey of Sinai," and as the result of a search made at Captain Weill's request they were found amongst a collection of private papers. They supply numerous

verifications and corrections of inscriptions already known, and several new texts. Amongst the latter are unedited stelæ of Thothmes IV at Sarâbit el-Khadim ; important inscriptions of the Vth Dynasty at Maghârah ; and some inscriptions of the XIIIth Dynasty at both places, and *bas-reliefs* of the first three Dynasties at Maghârah.

La Vase de Phaestos, by R. Weill, in *Rev. Arch.*, 1904.—It is argued that the vase belongs to the Knossos period of Cretan civilisation ; that the persons represented on the vase are related to the "People of the Sea" whose features are known to us from the monuments of the XXth Dynasty, and that, consequently, the Cretans of the Knossos period and the "People of the Sea," amongst whom are the *Pulusati*, or Philistines, are closely related to each other.

Researches of the American School in Palestine, by Professor G. A. Barton, Director 1902-3, in *Journal of Biblical Literature*. A series of papers describing : (1) *The Tombs of the Judges*, which was cleared out for the first time, and another rock-hewn tomb near it. In front of the Tombs of the Judges there proved to have been a court, or outer porch, measuring 10 by 9 mètres. (2) An *excavation* outside the north wall of Jerusalem, immediately west of the Damascus Gate. The ruins are supposed to be those of a Servian monastery known to have been in this locality. Some of the stones of the masonry have the characteristic diagonal tooling of the Crusading period, as to which Professor Barton remarks that "evidence is altogether wanting, so far as I know, to prove that this style of stone cutting first came into vogue in the time of the Crusaders." The diagonal tooling is found on the stones of no building of undoubtedly earlier date than the Crusades. On the other hand it is to be seen on all or nearly all buildings of that period, and it is found on Norman buildings in England accompanied by similar mason's marks. The natural inference is that the western masons took their tools with them when they went to Palestine. Professor Barton apparently considers that there is something peculiarly Jewish in the marginal drafts so commonly seen on stones at Jerusalem. But the marginal draft is really a natural development in mural masonry at a time when builders began to lay large stones in regular courses with close beds and joints. Large stones with marginal drafts and rough projecting faces are found in the Hittite (?) ruins at Boghaz Keui ; stones with drafts and finely chiselled faces, equal to the best in the Wailing Place, were used in the construction of that temple of Diana at Ephesus which was burned on the night when Alexander was born ; they may be seen in some of the early buildings at Athens, and are reproduced in stucco at Pompeii. The smaller stones with drafts are common to many of the mediæval castles in Europe. (3) Some tentative excavations on a spot assumed by Mr. Hanauer to be the site of *Solomon's harbour* at Jaffa showed a water deposit reaching much lower than the sea bed near the shore, but disclosed no trace of a harbour. The two first papers are well illustrated.

Two new Hebrew weights, by Professor G. A. Barton, in *Journal of American Oriental Society*. (1) A unique weight "made of a brassy kind of bronze" which bears the inscription in old Hebrew characters, "Belonging to Zochariah [son of] Yaer (Jaer)." It was purchased at Jerusalem, and is probably a ten gerah weight. (2) A new weight of the type found by Dr. Bliss in the Shephelah. It, also, was purchased at Jerusalem, and weighs $153\frac{1}{2}$ grains.

Revue Biblique, 1904.—No. 3 contains a well illustrated article by Macridy Bey on the Turkish excavations at Sidon. Two tombs with sarcophagi and funerary inscriptions, the site of a temple near *Helalieh*, and some very interesting painted stelae (found in 1897) are described. There is also a valuable report by Fathers Jaussen, Savignac, and Vincent on the exploration of *Abdeh*, Eboda, carried out by the *École Biblique de St. Étienne* of Jerusalem for the French Academy. In 1871 Palmer and Drake paid a hurried visit to the place, but their report (*Quarterly Statement*, 1871) was far from complete. The Dominican Fathers have now supplied a good plan, accompanied by a full report, and numerous photographs and plans of details. The most interesting features are the impregnable position of the city, the "high place," the supposed tomb of the deified king Obodas, a Roman camp, a Byzantine fortress with two churches, and a bath. Traces of Nabatean inscriptions were also found.

No. 4.—The principal feature is an article, with excellent illustrations, by Macridy Bey, on his excavations in the cemeteries of Sidon for the Imperial Ottoman Museum. The first section is devoted to the 12 new painted stelae, with figures of warriors and inscriptions of interest from an epigraphical point of view, which were found at the south end of Sidon, at the foot of a hill crowned by the ruins of an ancient fortress. The stelae are interesting archæologically, from their bearing on the history of ancient painting, and historically from the new information they contain relating to the composition of the Seleucid army. In a tomb south of Tyre Macridy Bey found funerary urns containing human remains cremated in haste, which, he suggests, may have been the bodies of soldiers who took part in the 13 years' siege (588-574 B.C.) of Tyre by Nebuchadnezzar. The number also contains papers on Nabatean inscriptions in the Haurân by R. P. Savignac, and on the excavations at Gezer, and *Tell el-Mutesellim* by R. P. Vincent.

Zeitschrift d. Deutschen Pal.-Vereins, xxvii, 4.—The German Evangelical Archæological Institute at Jerusalem has lost no time in commencing good and much-needed work. Its Director, Professor G. Dalman, contributes to the present number of the *Zeitschrift* a careful and almost exhaustive "study" of the Pass of Michmash, and of the ground between *Jeb'a* and *Mukhmâs*. He has come to the conclusion that the scene of Jonathan's exploit was at *Khirbet el-Miktara*, a little below the point at which the bed of *Wâdy es-Surweinit* commences to be walled in by rocks, and some distance higher up than *el-Huṣṣn*—the spot favoured by Colonel

Conder. Dr. Dalman's explanation of the presence of the Assyrians at Michmash (Isaiah x, 28) off the direct road to Jerusalem is well deserving of attention. He suggests that they intended to surprise the city, and shows that, under certain circumstances, they could have reached the ridge of Scopus without being seen. A "study" of the external features of the "Tombs of the Kings," by one of Dr. Dalman's students, is a record of a useful and thorough bit of work. The number also includes a valuable criticism of the map of Palestine by W. Wey, who visited the Holy Land in 1458 and in 1462, by Professor Dr. Böhrich, and a description of the Samaritan Passover by Dr. Moulton, U.S.A.

Mitt. und Nach des D.P.V. 1904. Nos. 3-5.—Reports on the excavations at *Tell el-Mutesellim* (see p. 78) by Dr. Schumacher and Dr. Benzinger, Meteorological reports from Palestine and Jerusalem by Dr. Blanckenhorn—the rainfall on the coast during the rainy season 1903-04 was only about one-half that during 1902-3, and at Jerusalem during the same period it was 103, 7 mm. less than the average. Snow fell on January 29th and 30th, 1904.

Altneuland, 1904. Nos. 6-11.—Dr. Soskin concludes his paper on colonisation. There are also papers by Dr. Sandler on "Trachoma"; by Dr. Blanckenhorn on the establishment of meteorological stations in Jewish colonies, and on the geology of Syria; Dr. Schönfeld on cultivation in the Sinaitic Peninsula; by Dr. Sander on locusts and the best means of destroying them; by Dr. Warburg on Jewish colonisation in Northern Syria; and by Dr. Blau on the administrative autonomy of Samos.

Das heilige Land, vol. 47, No. 4.—A record of a journey in Sinai made by students of the Biblical school at Jerusalem. Palestine in the 15th century B.C. from the Tell el-Amarna Tablets. How far back can the tradition that the Cenaculum was the scene of the Last Supper be traced back? The writer cites Peter of Sebaste (*circ.* 380). Daily life of the fellahin, illustrated by photographs.

Vol. 48, Nos. 1 to 4.—Illustrated articles on the building of the Mary Church on Sion by the Germans, with good views of the works in progress; on the building of the new German Hospice, on the Paulus platz, outside the Damascus Gate; and on the life of the fellahin in the "Land of the Gibeonites." Also an article on pilgrimages to Jerusalem in the first four centuries.¹

C. W. W.

¹ Shortly before we go to press the Committee received from the Vicomte F. de Salignac Fénélon (of Toulouse) a copy of the great work upon which he has been engaged for many years, *l'Arche, le Tabernacle, et le Temple de Jerusalem*. The subject is illustrated by many plans and diagrams engraved to a large scale. A notice will probably appear in a future number of the *Quarterly Statement*.