

## NOTICES OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS.

*Histoire de Nazareth et de ses Sanctuaires*, by Gaston Le Hardy, Paris, 1905.—In this volume M. Le Hardy has collected all the references to Nazareth and its "holy places" in records of pilgrimages from the first century to modern times. He has devoted special attention to the several traditions, and, as a rule, leaves his evidence to speak for itself. The celebrated legend of the Santa Casa of Loretto is treated from the point of view of a Nazarene. The general history of Palestine is given in so far as it is necessary to explain the references to Nazareth. During the second and third centuries Nazareth was occupied only by Jews; but between 326 and 336 A.D. two churches appear to have been built—one at the traditional scene of the Annunciation, the other at the supposed house of Joseph. The collection of extracts is useful, and the traditions are fairly discussed, but the history of Nazareth during last century is written more from a Latin than from a general point of view. Little is said of the Greek and Protestant establishments in the town and its outskirts during the last 50 years.

*Questions Mycéniennes*, by René Dussaud, from the "Rev. de l'Histoire des Religions," 1905.—This paper contains a chapter on the Ægean origin of the Philistines, and Mykænean influence in Syria. The author considers that the origin of the Philistines is undetermined; at present they can only be called Ægean. The religions of Phœnicia and Syria were not, so far as is known, influenced by Mykænean cults. The Ægean tribes settled down amongst the tribes of Southern Palestine, and were absorbed by them.

*Revue Biblique*, 1905, No. 2.—The publication of the report on 'Abdeh by Fathers Jausseu, Savignac, and Vincent is continued. Section 5 contains an interesting description of the "high place" which was perhaps connected with the worship of the morning star. On the top of the hill the rocky crest has been cut away to a point to which a circular esplanade some 32 mètres in diameter is attached. In the centre is a circular hollow, 9 mètres diameter and about 2 mètres deep, the sides of which are partly rock-hewn and partly constructed of stones and débris. From this hollow radiate ramps, about 12 mètres long, of similar construction, and of these four on the west side are perfect. At the south-west corner, beneath the esplanade, there is a rock-hewn chamber, and traces of another were found at the north-west corner. Everything is symmetrical, and the intention appears to have been to represent a large star with nine rays. The principal approach was from the east by a large trench which opens into the central cavity. In connection with the "high place," there were Nabatæan *graffiti* containing the names of

'Obodas, Dushara, and 'Amru, and several foot-prints cut on the rock. The hill, commanding as it does one of the great trade routes from Arabia to the west, must have become the seat of a strong castle and important town at a very early date. It was possibly a rallying point for the desert tribes, and a treasure city of the Nabatæans. After the death of 'Obodas II, about 9 A.D., the deified monarch was buried in the mountain, possibly because it was already a sacred place. The town lost its importance when the trade route took another direction. Under the heading "Epigraphic Notes," 36 Christian epitaphs from Beersheba, Khalasah, Şebaita, &c., are given. One is that of a Dr. Abraham, who died May 8th, 564.

There are also papers on the text of 1 Kings vii, 6, by Father Vincent, and on the inscriptions on two Palmyrene busts by Father Lagrange.

*Echos d'Orient*, March, 1905, contains papers on "The Palace of Caiaphas according to Tradition," by G. Jacquemier, and on "The Monasteries and Churches of St. Stephen at Jerusalem," by S. Vailhé.

*Homiletic Review*, vol. xlviii, pp. 420-426.—In an article on "A Visit to the English Excavations at ancient Gezer," Professor Paton, Ph.D., late director of the American School of Oriental Research in Palestine, gives a very appreciative account of Mr. Macalister's work for the Fund at Gezer. After describing the results that have been obtained, and pointing out the manner in which they illustrate the Bible, he writes that "no other exploration in Palestine has been so successful as this, and it is greatly to be hoped that the Fund will not stop until the mound is completely investigated."

*Zeitschrift des Deutschen Pal.-Vereins*, vol. xxviii, parts 2 and 3.—Herr Oehler concludes his useful study of the boundaries and places of Galilee according to Josephus, and gives notes on the roads of that district, and a table of distances from Josephus. Dr. Blanckenhorn contributes a paper on the geology of the immediate vicinity of Jerusalem, illustrated by a plan and sections, which supersedes anything that has hitherto been written on the subject. The whole paper deserves careful study, and supplies a want that has hitherto been much felt. The authority for placing the bed of *Meleke* so far beneath the level of the Haram esh-Sherif is not quite clear. It has hitherto been supposed that the large cisterns in the Haram were excavated in this soft bed and not in the hard *Mizzi*. Professor Dr. Guthe describes Jerusalem as represented on the Madaba Mosaic, and illustrates his paper with a copy of the Mosaic plan of Jerusalem made by Mr. Palmer in 1901. The plan of the city is a portion of the copy of the whole map made by Mr. Palmer for the German Palestine Society, and about to be published. It is greatly to be regretted that the plan of Jerusalem at least was not copied in facsimile, or photographed in sections on a large scale. Dr. Sandler contributes a valuable medical bibliography for Syria, Palestine, and Cyprus.

A summary of the reports of Dr. Schumacher on his excavations at Tell el-Mutesellim, published in the *M. and N.* of the D.P.V., will appear in the October *Quarterly Statement*.

*Altneuland*, 1905, No. 3.—*Die Stadtschule in Palästina*, by Dr. Löwe; *Die Lepra in Palästina*, by Dr. Sandler; *Jüdische Privatwirtschaftliche Ackerbaukolonien*, by Dr. Pasmanik, No. 4; *Die Cöthener Kurse für Koloniale Technik*, by Dr. Sandler; *Die Verwertung des Getreides in Palästina*, by N. Wilbuschewitch, No. 5; *Abriss der Geologie Syriens II*, by Dr. Blanckenhorn; *Die Jüdischen Wohltätigkeitsanstalten Jerusalems*, by Dr. Grünhut; *Zur Frage der Mühlenindustrie in Palästina*, by N. Wilbuschewitch.

C. W. W.

### NOTES AND QUERIES.

1. TO-DAY (April 19th, 1905) the funeral of a woman of the village of Abû Shûsheh took place. As a general rule, the funeral processions have no special interest, the corpse being borne in a rough bier on the shoulders of the relatives, and followed by the villagers. This particular woman, however, was a female *darwish*, and on account of her holiness the procession was somewhat different. First came two men bearing large red flags embroidered with religious mottoes; then followed two drummers (one of them a *sharif* or descendant of the Prophet, as indicated by his green turban) beating with the following rhythm—



—then came two cymbal-players striking their instruments with less regularity. The body followed, borne by eight men, four on each side; after which came a crowd of women singing to the following tune (one of the comparatively rare tunes in triple time)—



—interrupted, of course, at intervals by the inevitable *zaghari* or trilled scream, which expresses a wide range of emotions.