"the midst of the city" (so he amends 2 Chron. xxxii, 4, and he has the "LXX" on his side); the Lower Pool is Hezekiah's to which he brought the "water straight down to the west side of the city of David" (pp. 261–289). He takes the Valley Gate as at or near the Jaffa Gate and there also the Dragon Fountain, and (separately) the Serpent's Pool, both called perhaps from their forms, and he accounts for Nehemiah's placing of the House of David and City of David on the Ophel ridge by the migration of names (pp. 338–366).

But no summary can do justice to the wealth of detail in the letterpress, the vividness of the many plans of this volume, or the arduous labour that lies behind it all.

G. A. Smith.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

(1) *Garlic.*—In Numbers xi, 5, the Israelites lament that they cannot, on their way to the "Promised Land," enjoy the leeks and the garlic which were so plentiful in Egypt. The word used for garlic, *shûm*, which re-appears in the Arabic *thûm*, and is connected with Assyrian *shumu*, is quite distinct from the Egyptian plant name which was "khidjana." Our knowledge of the ancient Egyptian flora has so much increased recently, as the hieroglyphics are more correctly translated, that it was to be anticipated that some proof of the common use of garlic in Egypt in Mosaic times would be furnished by the ancient Egyptian records. M. Victor Loret, the chief student of old Egyptian botany, has now published his researches regarding garlic, and proves that it was not merely mentioned in the Egyptian papyri, but that specimens of the plant itself have been preserved in a tomb at Thebes. The garlic found there was tied in a bundle, and has been examined by several botanists and declared to be the true *allium sativum*, being almost identical with garlic now grown in the Western Oasis of Egypt, but differing slightly from the modern cultivated garlic of the Nile Valley. A specimen of the Theban garlic may be seen in the Berlin Museum. M. Loret discovered the ancient Egyptian name of garlic by tracing the word in the old Coptic version of the book of Numbers. By this means he found that a plant named

Khidjana, which is twice mentioned in the great Harris papyrus, containing a list of gifts by Rameses III to the Theban temples, is the garlic. He has also found the same plant forming part of the ingredients of a medical recipe, in a late demotic papyrus in the Leyden Museum. It is curious to note that the melons (*'abaṭṭîḫîm*), and onions (*beṣâlîm*), appear connected with the Coptic, and so to the ancient Egyptian, the Coptic words being *bedduga* or *betiché*, and *bazal* or *badjar*. The large quantity of garlic presented by Rameses III to the priests proves it was quite common in Egypt shortly before the Exodus; and the specimens from the Theban Necropolis, which are of the XXIst dynasty, or later than the time of Moses, show it was still grown in the country at that period, as we know from the classics it was in later times. The Egyptian name may have been derived from Libya, but this is uncertain. The interesting fact is the papyrus and antiquarian confirmation of the statement in the Pentateuch.

JOSEPH OFFORD.

(2.) *A Greek Inscription from Galilee.*—In the *Quarterly Statement* for July, p. 260, which arrived during my absence in Asia Minor, I see an interesting inscription from Abil in Galilee, quoted from Professor B. W. Bacon's publication. The reading of the concluding words is clearly false: φροντίδι (ἐπι)σατατοῦ τούτου διὰ κημ(σίτορος) is for many reasons an impossibility, as impossible as the reading σεβ(αστοὶ) κ(αίσαρες) in l. 3. A reviewer in the *Revue Biblique* is quoted as making the obvious correction σεββ, *i.e.*, σεβ(αστοὶ δύο), the customary abbreviation to indicate a pair of conjoint emperors; but his suggestion at the end φροντίδι Ἐλιου σατατοῦ τούτου διὰ κημσίτορος is equally impossible with Professor Bacon's text.

K in the last line (which is marked uncertain) is misread for **C**, a common error where the letter is (as here), very faint, and the last words are τοῦ δια[σ]ημ[οτάτου ἡγεμόνος]. The name of this provincial governor remains uncertain, as the copy is incorrect. The letters **CTATOYTOY** perhaps contain a Latin name ending in *-uvius* (reading **OYIOY** for **OYTOY**), or *-orius* (reading **OPIOY**); both changes are epigraphically easy. The second would give the name Aelius Statorius, where the conjunction of two gentile *nomina* is quite allowable and justified by many examples. But until a better copy is made, the exact name of this governor must remain uncertain. The epithet διασημότατος as a

translation of *perfectissimus praeses* is customary, and was not used after the fourth century (Hirschfeld in *Berlin Sitzungsber.*, 1901, p. 588). An example of this common title occurs in Phrygia (see Anderson, in *Jour. Hell. Stud.* 1897, p. 424). The last words then are φροντίδι Ἑλίου Στατο[ρί]ου? τοῦ δία[σ]ημ[οτάτου ἡγεμόνος]. It was usual that milestones and boundaries should bear the name of the provincial governor and should be dedicated to the emperors.

W. M. RAMSAY.

11*th July*, 1908.

(3.) *A Bronze Object from Nâblus.*—Through the kindness of Dr. Gaskoin Wright of the C. M. S. Hospital at Nâblus, I am permitted to forward a drawing of a remarkable bronze object found some time ago in the course of digging a well for the hospital. It was discovered twelve feet below the present surface of the ground.

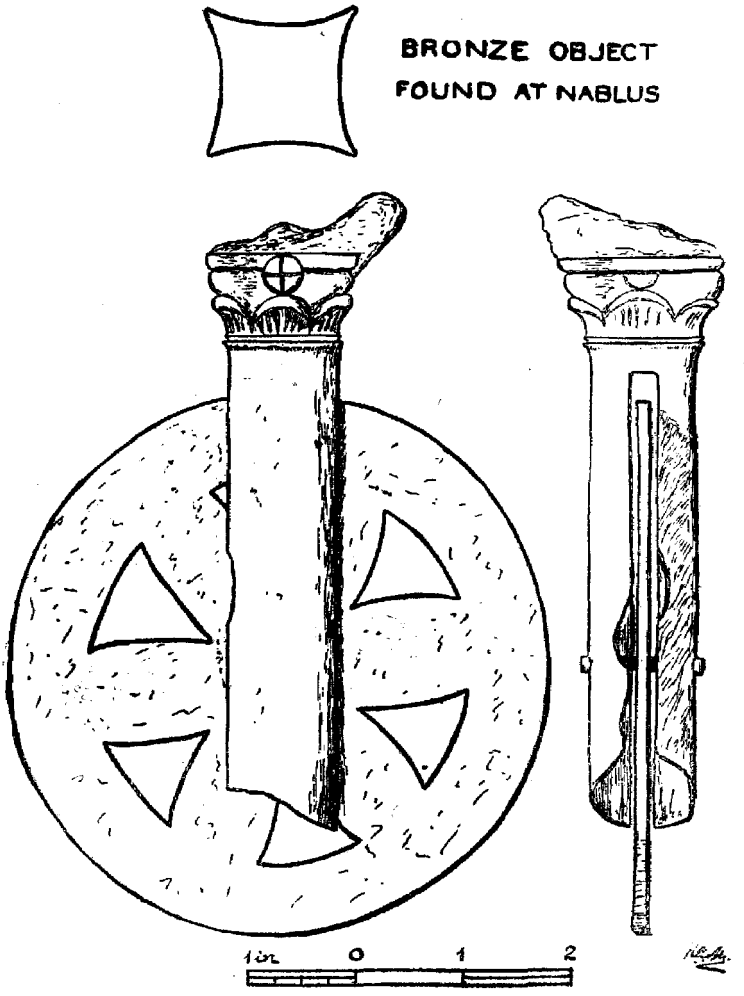
It consists of a hollow cylinder of bronze, broken at the lower end and capped at the upper with a simplified Corinthian capital. The present length of the tube, including the capital, is $5\frac{3}{8}$ inches. In a slot cut through the tube a circular disc of bronze, 5 inches in diameter, is fitted: six triangular holes are cut out so as to make it imitate a spoked wheel, and a pivot is run through the middle on which (when not fixed by corrosion) the wheel rotated. The wheel is now broken away from the tube, owing (as Dr. Wright informed me) to an incautious attempt having been made to rotate it, when the object was dug up.

On the top and sides of the capital is encrusted an irregular lump of lead.

This interesting object is probably a fragment of a votive model of a chariot.[1] It may possibly be restored thus—a rectangular disc of lead, supported by four such bronze pillars, with a wheel playing in each. The pillars probably ended below in bases, that stood on a rectangular horizontal frame, with slots for all four wheels, raised just above the ground so as to allow the wheels to run, without

[1] It seems to me more probable that this is one of the supports of a movable bronze tray or similar piece of furniture; such are, I think, to be found in more than one museum. A votive model of a chariot would be likely to retain the general form of the original, rather than introduce a columnar feature, worked in detail, foreign to the chariot form.—J.D.C.

interference, on a smooth surface. What may have been supported on the leaden disc it is of course impossible to say.



R. A. S. MACALISTER.

(4.) *A Tomb with Aramaic Inscriptions near Silwân.*—On the slope of the hill below Deir es-Senneh a tomb has recently been opened by a fellah which is interesting for its complexity and for its containing two Hebrew inscriptions. I owe thanks to my friend

Mr. Hornstein for informing me of the discovery and for accompanying me to the tomb, which we measured together.

The inscriptions are cut in the soft rock, and blacked in. To squeeze them would remove the paint, to take rubbings would probably break the letters: I have therefore contented myself with facsimile drawings, which Mr. Hornstein checked.

a

(*a*) אבישלום
אבאידוחנן

"Abishalôm, father of Yehoḥanan." The ד and ח in the second line are not distinguished from one another. The word אבא—note the Aramaic form, instead of אבי—is faintly scratched. The inscription is interesting, as giving an example of the name Absalom—not very common, I believe, in inscriptions of this date—and for the formula "A. *father* of B." instead of "son of." The name Jehoḥanan occurs in 2 Chron. xvii, 15, and elsewhere; it is, of course, the name corrupted into Ἰωάννης and "John."

b

(*b*) שמר

"Shemer"—to which an א has been added in paint, but not cut. It does not seem to be needed, as Shemer is a name complete in itself. It is well-known as that of the original owner of the site of Samaria, 1 Kings xvi, 24.[1]

R. A. S. MACALISTER.

[1] [Plans and measurements of the tomb, forwarded by Mr. Macalister, may be consulted at the Office.—*Ed.*]

(5.) *Wild Wheat in Palestine.*—In the *Berichten der Deutschen Botanischen Gesellschaft* for 1908, vol. xxvi *a*, part 4, appears an interesting paper by Dr. G. Schweinfurth on the discovery of wild wheat (*Triticum dicoccoides*) in Palestine, by Herr A. Aaronsohn, of Haifa. A single plant, found some fifty years ago at Rashaya, on Mount Hermon, by Theodor Kotschy, and deposited in the Herbarium at Vienna, had been identified by Prof. Körnicke, the eminent authority on cereals, as a primitive form of the plant: but the identification has been disputed, and others had explained this one known specimen as a degenerate, escaped from cultivation. The re-discovery of the plant by Herr Aaronsohn in numerous parts of Palestine has, in the opinion of experts, completely established the hypothesis of Körnicke. The plant has been found in the neighbourhood of *Khan Jubb Yusif*, on the way to Ṣafed; on the east side of *Jebel Kina'an;* round *Ja'ûneh*[1]; between Mejdel and 'Arni, on Mount Hermon; and in considerable quantity and extent over the land of Gilead. An important observation is made that this plant grows *only* on rocky places, where there is little depth of earth. It has been found on Jurassic Limestone and Dolomite, Nubian Sandstone, Dolomitic Limestone, Lower Eocene, and Basalt, but not on soft chalk, gravel, or conglomerate.

The importance of this discovery is two-fold. If the newly-found plant be the original stock from which cultivated wheat was artificially developed, then the origin of wheat-culture must be looked for, *not* in a rich alluvial basin like Mesopotamia or Egypt, but in some stony country; for there, alone, the original plant seems to grow. On the rich soils of the plains and valleys of Palestine the plant appears to be absolutely unknown, though common enough in the more uninviting regions, where it is always found associated with wild barley (*Hordeum spontaneum*). This is, evidently, a fact of far-reaching archaeological importance. Secondly, there is, of course, a practical side to the discovery; for, given the original material from which primaeval agriculturists developed the wheat-plant, it may be expected that with modern scientific methods of culture yet greater results might be attained in developing the material than have been attained hitherto.

R. A. S. MACALISTER.

[1] Called in the paper referred to by the modern (Jewish colonists') name *Rosh-Pinah*. It seems a matter for regret that in so many instances the Jewish colonists should be complicating the study of topography by re-naming their colonies all over the country.