

## DEAD SEA OBSERVATIONS.

By DR. E. W. G. MASTERMAN.

*The Spring Visit in 1912 (made May 30th).*

THIS visit was unfortunately made a month later than is usual, and from this cause the levels, though high, are probably below the *maxima* reached. There must have been a great deal of evaporation, and consequent fall in level, during the dry, hot month of May. To my great disappointment I was detained through a professional engagement, and my friend Mr. Hornstein again—as so many times before—most kindly took my place.

He left Jerusalem May 29th at 4.30 p.m. (Bar. 27.35) and reached the lower Khan on the Jericho road at 8.15 p.m. After a rest there he started at 2 a.m. (May 30th) and descended to the Jericho plain by the *Akbat esh-Sherif*. On the hill overlooking *Wadyel-Ghamik* he found a guard of soldiers stationed, on account of the many robberies which have occurred there recently.

*Ain Feshkhah* was reached at 7 a.m. (Bar. 31.15), Temp. of air 73.4° F., water 75.2. There was a slight breeze from the S.E. and the "white line" was distinct running from S.W. to N.E.

The oasis looked fresh, the abundant reeds being beautifully green and the springs plentiful.

*The Level.* The measurement at the P.E.F. rock was 11 ft. 5 ins., a rise of 2 feet since the autumn. At the pool the rise was only 14 ins., the rock in the pool was over a foot below the surface.

Animal life observed comprised two gazelles, a hare, sand partridges, storks, and wood pigeons.