

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE first number of the *Quarterly Statement* for the New Year contains several features of interest to which the attention of readers is drawn. The illustrated report of the Fund's Excavation of Askalon presents a very satisfactory account of what Dr. Garstang has been able to accomplish in a relatively short time. A great deal of initial labour is always necessary before the surface accumulation can be cleared away, and he was able to uncover, at an early stage, two architectural statues already known to exist in Turkish times—namely, a Tyché (or Fortune) and an imposing figure of Victory. Byzantine and Crusaders' churches represent the later buildings of religious importance; and specimens unearthed of local pottery of every period, from Post-Neolithic to Roman times, will be a clue for the dating of otherwise undateable finds. Of special interest is a tank which apparently represents the "Well of Peace," known to Antoninus Martyr in the sixth century A.D., and the discovery of a potsherd representing a man fishing raises the question whether the Peace Pool is not really the site of a far older fish-pond and sanctuary of Derceto, or Atargatis. In view of the inveterate conservatism and continuity of tradition in the East, this possibility cannot be ignored. Dr. Garstang also reports the discovery of remains of a giant statue in marble; the foot itself, from heel to toe, measured a little over a yard. Since this report was received further discoveries have been made, and, although operations have been hindered for a short time by the advent of the rainy season, they will be resumed at the earliest opportunity, and, now that so much has been opened out, will be more extensive. Meanwhile the excavation of Askalon has revealed remains of almost all periods, a general preliminary idea has been gained of the potentialities of the site, trial trenches have unearthed strata of first historical importance, and we shall look forward with confidence to the fruits of further excavation. Needless to say, the

work is a heavy drain upon the Fund's resources, especially owing to the increased cost of labour and material in Palestine; and special subscriptions are invited. A list of those who have already responded is given on p. 8.

This number also contains an illustrated account of a seal of the late or neo-Babylonian period (by Mr. Pilcher), and a discussion of a very interesting inscription found at Jerusalem, and referring to a synagogue of the Herodian age. To this discussion (by Dr. Marmorstein) is prefixed a brief summary of the account of the inscription by the eminent French archaeologist, Prof. Clermont-Ganneau. Dr. Masterman supplements the article by the Rev. Prof. Gray in the October *Quarterly Statement* on the crocodile in Palestine, and adduces important new evidence for its presence. In addition to Reviews and a note by the American Professor, the Rev. John P. Peters, on the sites of Gaza and Ashdod, the special feature of this issue is a long and illustrated discussion by Mr. F. W. Read of what is known as the Phaestos Disk. This is a circular clay tablet found on the south coast of Crete in 1908, and in surroundings that may be dated roughly about 1600 B.C. It is covered on both sides with signs which have hitherto eluded decipherment. They were investigated by Prof. R. A. S. Macalister in his book on *The Philistines*, and have been the subject of many a conflicting interpretation. Mr. Read submits these to a thorough criticism, and then tentatively proposes his own solution—is this disk the oldest piece of music in the world? Whatever may be thought of his solution, many readers will be glad to have what is virtually an edition of the disk, in handy form, with tables of the signs, and with a careful discussion of what other scholars have thought of its contents. For this alone, quite apart from the interesting conjecture of Mr. Read, the attention of readers may be drawn to the many indications that the archaeology of the "Bible Lands" is active, and provides a field for students and subscribers alike.

The Committee of the P.E.F. are hoping to organise lectures on the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund. For this purpose it is proposed to form a panel of lecturers. All those who are willing to make arrangements for lectures, or who would like to join the panel of lecturers, are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary.

Owing to the special demands upon our space, we are obliged to hold over several Reviews, among them the first "Annual of the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem," edited by Prof. C. C. Torrey. It contains a selection of papers which have for some time been awaiting publication. These are: (1) "A Phoenician Necropolis at Sidon," by Prof. Torrey (with 4 plates); (2) "The Walls of Jerusalem," by the late Prof. Mitchell (71 plates); (3) "Survivals of Primitive Religion in Modern Palestine," by Prof. Paton; and (4) "Gleanings in Archaeology and Epigraphy," by Prof. W. J. Moulton (2 plates). Mr. Massey's *The Desert Campaign*, and *Allenby's Final Triumph* (Constable, London), are also held over for review.

M. R. Weill (*Revue des Études Juives*, 1919) has written an account of his excavations in search of the Royal Tombs in Jerusalem. It is summarised in the *Revue Archéologique*, 1920, p. 367.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* (December 4), writing on November 24, states that "An interesting discovery was made in the Garden of Gethsemane, at the foot of the Mount of Olives. The garden is in the hands of the Franciscans, who in the course of digging the foundations for a new chapel came across the remains of a medieval church, and, later on, of a fourth-century church, of which it has been possible to make out the whole of the original design, while added interest has been afforded by the discovery of some of the original mosaic pavements. As the foundations of this fourth-century church extended beyond the garden, interests of other communities came into question, but the Department of Antiquities has been able satisfactorily to settle whatever difficulties might have arisen, and the remains will be properly conserved."

Later, a Liverpool correspondent of *The Times* (Dec. 20) gives further details of this church. It is "one of the oldest monuments of Christianity in Palestine," and is built on a rather different axis from the later church. "The whole of the outside wall can be traced, together with the two rows of columns which supported the aisles, and three apses, the central one being the largest. Here and there are well-preserved though small remains of the original

mosaic floor. The Franciscans have undertaken to preserve these remains in such a way that they will be permanently visible: even though a new church be built, it will be designed to enclose the old church, and steps will be taken to distinguish the outline of the ancient structure and to preserve the pavement and the bases of columns in a way that is quite satisfactory. The central apse of this building reaches out just beyond the modern limits of the garden towards the rocks which are usually associated with the Agony of Christ. It has been arranged that the work shall be completed by the Board of Antiquities on behalf of the Government. Some architectural fragments, including columns with capitals in Corinthian style, came to light in the course of the excavation."

The same source states that "one of the first acts of the new Government under Sir Herbert Samuel was to organise a Department of Antiquities, the principal function of which is the protection of all the historical sites and monuments in Palestine, and at the same time to encourage learned societies to make scientific excavations. The historical monuments of Palestine are not merely interesting from the antiquarian point of view, but have a human and religious interest for the great bulk of humanity. Accordingly, an international board has been established to advise the Director of Antiquities on matters of common interest to the different local societies and schools of foreign Powers engaged in archaeological research."

The Liverpool correspondent quoted above also states that a young and vigorous Jewish Archaeological Society is making a preliminary examination of various sites of interest in Jewish history, notably Artuf, Caesarea, and Tiberias. "The latter is proving to be of particular interest, and attention was directed to it early after the British occupation, numerous traces of ancient buildings of the period of Talmud, just south of the town, being brought to light by roadmakers and engineers in the course of their duties. Overlooking the northern shore of the Sea of Gallilee are the very remarkable and interesting remains of an early Jewish synagogue. It is to be hoped that on the completion of the excavation steps will be taken and the means forthcoming to restore this ancient building, of which a great portion of the masonry is lying about, apparently as the result of some earthquake. Should it be possible scientifically to reconstruct the building it will prove a unique addition to the wonders of Palestine."

Meanwhile, two American Universities are reported to be proposing to make a complete examination of Megiddo (already partly excavated by Dr. Schumacher) and Beisan or Beth-shean; and the Dominicans are completing the excavation of the remains of the old Jewish synagogue at 'Ain Dük, near Jericho.

We learn that the fine ruins of the great fortress at Athlit between Haifa and Jaffa, one of the most imposing of the Crusaders' structures, have attracted the attention of the Government of Palestine, which it is hoped may undertake to preserve it and open it up.

We learn that "an Archaeological museum is to be built in Jerusalem, according to plans announced by the Hebrew Palestine Exploration and Archaeological Society of Jerusalem, organised before the war to preserve the historical places of Palestine and explore the country. . . . The increased activities in archaeological research in the Holy Land are a part of the stimulus given to the revival of all Hebrew culture through the establishment of the University of Jerusalem, which Zionist leaders plan as the world-centre for Hebrew learning."

A writer in *The Zionist Review* (October number) discusses the scheme for replanning Jerusalem. Prof. Geddes in an interview stated that the city was being surveyed and its contours determined. "A remeasurement of the position of the [Hebrew] University site brings out a discrepancy of no less than 100 metres from that given on the present general rough plan of the city and environs." As regards the "modern Oriental Jewish style," the writer comments on the mistakes that have been made through lack of plan. "One of these is the imitation in Palestine of Europe and America. The modern houses built in Jerusalem are a failure, the sloped roofs with their red tiles a mistake. That is where the new Jewish quarters are so disappointing. In Palestine you want flat roofs or small domes. It is more suitable to local conditions. The sloped roof robs you of the best room in the house—the roof. It drives you back to the cave from which civilisation is only now struggling to emerge. The Arab villages approach more the requirements of climatic conditions. They are more in line with local tradition. They are reminiscent of the style which

inspired the Christians to promote the Gothic art. The cloisters are derived from what has been rediscovered during the Crusades in the East. The Spaniards stuck to that style. You have some of the finest houses in Spain. The plan for the Hebrew University, Geddes has been told, suggests an Arab village. Well, it should suggest such architecture, but with the beauty of old Jerusalem with which it seeks to be in keeping. Of course that does not prevent you from adopting modern conditions too. And then, the great central dome based on the hexagon, the Magen David, gives a form of construction distinctly Jewish, all previous domes being an octagon or a square. The problem is, in short, to evolve a style distinctly Jewish and thus no longer Arab, but still Oriental and not Western."

While it is impossible to widen the streets in the old city, much can be done by clearing up the dirt. "Take the rubbish and dirt, and fertilise the terraces on the slopes of the Mount of Olives. To burn good manure among starving olive trees is like burning bread in the presence of the hungry. Remove the enormous masses of rubbish and ruin. Lay bare the old city of David like Pompey. It is a project for all archaeologists. Use the rubbish to fertilise the new vegetable gardens further down the valley. Use the twenty, thirty, sometimes forty or fifty feet of rubbish all round. The water will then run down, and the women won't have to carry the water from Silwan; the present Arab gardeners will be better off than before."

"The ancient magnificence of the Jaffa Gate should be kept, but the modern squalor removed. The clock tower is the most dreadful piece of architecture in existence, and the Russian tower on the Mount of Olives and that of the German Hospice (Government House) lacerate the landscape and sky line. Prof. Geddes 'wants the hill east of the railway station, now occupied by a cistern and manure heap, planted as a little park, where you might have a little Hail and Farewell (*Ave et Vale*) Cloister for travellers of all religions arriving in a devotional mood. He wants to preserve the pools—the Birket al Sultan and other birkets, but not for ornamental purposes only. He wants them useful as well—he wants to stock them with fish, to keep them fresh and mosquito-free.'"

An official announcement states that English, Arabic and Hebrew are the official languages in which all Government ordinances, etc., will be published, all railway and road notices printed, and all legal proceedings conducted. Telegrams if in Hebrew must be written in Latin characters. "It is not at present practicable for the Post Office to transmit telegrams in Hebrew characters." It is interesting to notice that the great rival of Hebrew is not Arabic, nor is it even English, it is Yiddish. "New York and London are evidence of the fact that Yiddish dies hard, if it dies at all," and many of the new immigrants will be recruited from Eastern Europe where Yiddish is all powerful.

The Committee would be very glad if subscribers would be disposed to present to the Fund sets or volumes of the *Memoirs of the Survey of Western Palestine* and also of the *Quarterly Statement*.

Fifty Years' Work in the Holy Land: A Record and a Summary, 1865-1915.—Under this title the late Colonel Sir C. M. Watson, K.C.M.G., etc., gave an entirely new revision of that *résumé* of the work of the Fund which has been issued from time to time in order to furnish readers, and—especially—new subscribers with a synoptical account of the more important aims and achievements. Although space allows the book to provide only the bare outlines of what has been done, the material is so arranged as to include all information necessary to explain the different expeditions and excavations. A map is also appended containing all the important names and sites. There are two appendices: the chronology of the P.E.F., and the chronology of the publications. The book is published by the Committee of the Fund, and can be had on application to the Assistant Secretary. Price 3s. 6d.; postage 6d. extra.

The Committee have brought out a new edition of the ($\frac{3}{8}$ in. to the mile) Map of Western Palestine, of which the original edition has been for some time out of print. It is in two large sheets, and is, primarily, a traveller's map. The roads and railways constructed since the original survey have been added. For the sake of clearness, only the modern names are given. The hill shading is in a lighter tint for the same reason. All the country beyond that actually surveyed is shown in outline only. In a few years it may be possible

to add much of this in a further edition. In the meantime, this is the clearest map and the easiest to consult of any yet issued by the Society. The price of the complete map is 7s. 6*d.* If desired, the map can be mounted on linen to fold, 15s. 6*d.* Subscriber's price, 6s. unmounted and 13s. mounted; postage 6*d.* extra.

The Library of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains many duplicate volumes, including standard works by Robinson, Ritter, Stanley and others. They may be had separately, and a list, with the price of each volume, has been prepared, and can be obtained on application.

The list of books received will be found below, pp. 9-10.

The Committee will be glad to communicate with ladies and gentlemen willing to help the Fund as Honorary Local Secretaries.

It may be well to mention that plans and photographs alluded to in the reports from Jerusalem and elsewhere cannot all be published, but they are preserved in the office of the Fund, where they may be seen by subscribers.

Members are reminded that subscriptions are payable in advance and are now due for 1921.

The Committee gratefully acknowledge the following special donations towards the Askalon excavations:—

	£	s.	d.
The Schweich Fund	200	0	0
Dr. A. Cowley	20	0	0
James Melrose, Esq.	20	0	0
Williamson Lamplough, Esq.	10	0	0
Walter Morrison, Esq.	10	0	0
F. W. Percival, Esq.	10	0	0
J. R. Barlow, Esq.	5	0	0
Frank H. Cook, Esq.	5	0	0
Hon. Everard Feilding	5	0	0
W. Holdsworth Lunn, Esq.	3	3	0
Rev. Dr. Ewing	2	2	0
Sir Frederick Kenyon	2	2	0

Subscribers to the Fund are reminded that, whilst the receipt of every subscription and contribution is promptly acknowledged by the Assistant Secretary, they are now published annually.

A complete List of Subscribers and Subscriptions for 1920 will be published in the Annual Report, to be issued with the April number.

Golgotha and the Holy Sepulchre, the last work of the late Major-General Sir Charles Wilson, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., F.R.S., D.C.L., LL.D., etc. In this work our former Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund has brought together for the first time all the evidence which the most exhaustive research enabled him to collect bearing on the subject of these Holy Sites; and probably no man living had at once so intimate a knowledge of all investigations in the modern Jerusalem and so complete an acquaintance with what has been written about the Sites from the time of Constantine onwards. The price of the work (demy 8vo) is 7s. 6d., by post 8s.

A complete set of the *Quarterly Statements*, 1869-1910, containing some of the early letters (now scarce), with an Index, 1869-1910, bound in the Palestine Exploration Fund cases, can be had. Price on application to the Secretary, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W.

The price of a complete set of the translations published by the Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society, in 13 volumes, with general index, bound in cloth, is £10 10s. A catalogue describing the contents of each volume can be had on application to the Secretary, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W.

The Museum at the office of the Fund, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W., is open to visitors every week-day from 10 o'clock till 4, except Saturdays, when it is closed at 1 p.m.

Subscribers in U.S.A. to the work of the Fund will please note that they can procure copies of any of the publications from the Rev. Prof. Elihu Grant, Honorary General Secretary to the Fund, Haverford College, Pa.

The Committee have to acknowledge with thanks, among other journals and books, the following :—

The Desert Campaign and Allenby's Final Triumph, by T. W. Massey.
From the publishers, Constable, London.

The Near East: a Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of Palestine, Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, Egypt, etc.

The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology, Oct. : The Historical Value of Greek Papyri, by H. I. Bell; What is the Ka? by N. W. Thomas; Menes and Naram-Sin, by Dr. Albright, Prof. Langdon, and Prof. Sayce.

- The Annual of the British School at Athens*, XXIII, 1918-1919: Pre-historic mounds in the Caucasus and Turkestan, by S. Casson.
- Bible Lands: Quarterly Paper of the Jerusalem and the East Mission*, Oct., 1920: The Noble Sanctuary, Jerusalem, by Ernest Richmond; Report of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund.
- The Irish Theological Quarterly*, Oct.
- Guild Text-Books: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel*, by Prof. W. B. Stevenson (A. & C. Black, 1s.).
- Palestine*, Sept. 25: Great Britain and Transjordan. Oct. 9; Secret Sects; the Religion of the Druzes; Cultivation of Cereals. Nov. 13; Rivers and ponds in Palestine.
- The Zionist Review*.
- The Annual of the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem*, I, 1919-20; ed. by C. C. Torrey. See p. 3.
- Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Oct., 1920: Cinnamon, cassia and Somaliland, by W. H. Schoff; the Tower of Babel, by E. G. H. Kraeling.
- The Jewish Quarterly Review*, Oct., 1920.
- Art and Archaeology*, Oct.: An early English traveller in Greece, by W. H. Appleton.
- The Homiletic Review*.
- American Journal of Archaeology*.
- Biblical World*.
- The Hebrew Christian Quarterly*.
- Journal Asiatique*, April-June: Découverte à Jérusalem d'une synagogue de l'époque Hérodiennne (reprint from "Syria," 1920), by Prof. Clermont-Ganneau.
- Revue Biblique*, Oct.: The sepulchre of the Patriarchs according to the Bible, by R. P. L.-H. Vincent; Barcocheba *ὁ μονογενής*, by M. Clermont-Ganneau; the church of Gethsemane, a Nabatean fragment in the Monastery of the Dormition; inauguration of the English Archaeological Institute at Jerusalem, by R. P. L.-H. Vincent; the metaphorical use of the names of parts of the body in Hebrew and Akkadian, by R. P. Dhorme.
- Al-Mashrik, Revue Catholique Orientale Mensuelle*, Nov.: The first voyage of the Emir Beshir in Egypt, by Sheikh Salim Dahdah; Christianity in Egypt before Islam, by P.-L. Cheikho, S.J.
- NEA ΣΙΩΝ, 1920, May-July: The Greeks in the Holy Places, etc.
- See also pp. 55-59.

The Committee will be glad to receive donations of Books to the Library of the Fund, which already contains many works of great value relating to Palestine and other Bible lands.

The Committee desire to acknowledge with thanks the following contribution to the Library :—

From the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge :—

The Pilgrim in Jerusalem, By the Rev. O. H. Parry, M.A.

The Committee will be grateful to any subscribers who may be disposed to present to the Fund any of the following books :—

The Memoirs of the Survey of Western Palestine.

The Quarterly Statement, from 1869 up to date.

Duc de Luynes, *Voyage à la Mer Morte* (1864); published about 1874.

K. von Raumer, *Der Zug der Israeliten.* (Leipzig, 1837.)

Lagarde, *Onomastica Sacra* (1887).

The Antonine Itinerary—an edition by Parthey and Pindar was published in 1847 at Berlin. An edition in Russian is also extant, but is therefore not available save to the few who know that language.

Prof. Flinders Petrie's *Tell el-Hesi* (*Lachish*).

New Edition of the Babylonian Talmud English Translation. Original text edited, formulated and punctuated by Michael L. Rodkinson. Revised and corrected by the Rev. Dr. Isaac M. Wise. Published by the New Amsterdam Book Company, New York. Vol. I. *Sabbath*, already in the Library, subsequent volumes wanted.

Whilst desiring to give publicity to proposed identifications and other theories advanced by officers of the Fund and contributors to the pages of the *Quarterly Statement*, the Committee wish it to be distinctly understood that by publishing them in the *Quarterly Statement* they do not necessarily sanction or adopt them.

FORM OF BEQUEST TO THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

I give to the Palestine Exploration Fund, London, the sum of _____ to be applied towards the General Work of the Fund; and I direct that the said sum be paid, free of Legacy Duty, and that the Receipt of the Treasurer of the Palestine Exploration Fund shall be a sufficient discharge for the same.

NOTE.—Three Witnesses are necessary to a Will by the Law of the United States of America, and Two by the Law of the United Kingdom.