

T H E

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Rooms of the Society of Antiquaries in the latter part of June, at a date which will be announced later.

NOTES AND NEWS.

A GOOD deal of progress has been made in the opening out of Askalon, and in the arduous labour of clearing away the accumulation of earth and débris. Owing to the rainy season excavations had to cease, and Prof. Garstang returned to England for a short time. He is now back again and the work is being energetically resumed. Prof. Garstang lectured in Cambridge, Oxford, Liverpool and Leeds on the excavations, and everywhere his illustrated account of the success already achieved was received with the keenest interest. After giving some account of the Philistines as known from the monuments, he showed slides of the various ruins of ancient Askalon, the indications of great buildings, and the many possibilities which the site offered of throwing much needed light upon questions of significance for the early history of Palestine, for the archaeology of the ancient Levant, and for the deeper study of the Bible. To continue this work as the importance of the place demands, a further and steady increase of funds is very urgently needed, and it is hoped that every subscriber will do his or her best to increase the income of the Society, especially by enlisting new subscribers. This country has in many ways a very special interest in Palestine, and the excavation of the ancient and famous city of the Philistines by the parent society of Palestinian exploration and excavation is an undertaking in which that interest can show itself most immediately.

It may be useful to note here the new frontier between Syria and Palestine according to the Anglo-French Agreement of Dec. 23. According to *The Times* (Dec. 28, whose authority is the *Temps*), it begins at the Ras Nakura (the "Ladder of Tyre") and follows the watershed, leaving Kalat Kurain (the Crusaders' Montfort) in Palestine. Turning north it follows the watershed to Metullah, the most northern Jewish colony, and passes east to include Baniyas (Caesarea Philippi). It goes down the Wadi Jerabiyeh to the Sea of Galilee, incorporating in Palestine both sides of the Upper Jordan. From Semakh at the south end of the Lake it runs west and south along the east bank of the Jordan to the mouth of the Yarmuk, and then along the southern border of that river, so that Deraa (Edrei) and Bosra (Bostra) are included in Syria. The Syrian frontier runs from Deraa to Nasib, "thence to Intar and north-east to the nearest point of the Euphrates at Abu Kemal, 50 miles west of Anah; then it runs to Rumeilan Keui so as to leave all the western Khabur to Syria and Sinjar to Mesopotamia, and thence to the nearest point of the Tigris, about 70 miles north-west of Mosul. The eastern frontier of Syria runs up the Tigris as far as Jeziret-Ibn-Omar, when it joins the Turkish frontier laid down in the Treaty of Sèvres."

The *British Journal of Photography* (Jan. 14) in an article on Air Photography notes its value for mapping large Eastern towns with their tortuous and narrow streets. It refers to the survey of Palestine by the Palestine Exploration Fund (by Kitchener, Conder, and others), and to the way in which this served as a framework for the new aerial maps. The writer, Mr. H. S. L. Winterbotham, considers that air-photo surveys cannot give us cadastral plans, and, except within small areas, cannot take the place of triangulation; on the other hand, he thinks air-photography has many openings, among them the plans of archaeological sites. The writer does not give any illustration of this last statement, but anyone who has seen a reproduction of the ruins of Baalbek as viewed from above will at once see how extremely helpful and stimulating such a view can be for a better understanding of the disposition of the old temple.

The Jerusalem correspondent of *The Times* (Dec. 29) states that it has been resolved to found a college for Arab language and science in Jerusalem. Later, it is reported from Jerusalem (Feb. 22) that a Rabbinical Congress was opened for the reconstitution

of the old Superior Court. It "is considered to be the greatest event, since the destruction of the Sanhedrin, and the speech of Sir Herbert Samuel, the High Commissioner, is regarded by the Jewish press as equalling in importance the first appeal of Nehemiah after the return from the Babylonian Captivity."

The following meteorological notes are taken from *Palestine* (Feb. 5) and the *Palestine Weekly* (Feb. 18):—

"The meteorological observatory of the Hebrew Teachers' College gives the following brief review of atmospheric conditions in Jerusalem during the months of November and December. The first rains fell in Jerusalem on November 10 and on the 12th, yielding 71.5 mm., which exceeded the average quantity of first rains in Jerusalem. In general the month of November had an ample rainfall. During the eight days of rain a total of 122.3 mm. was obtained. The second rainfall came somewhat late, and December was comparatively poor in rains—the total coming up to 64.4 mm. There were twelve rainy days with but slight rainfall. December 19 witnessed the heaviest rainfall, with 13.4 mm. of rain. Because of their comparative weakness, the rains did not fall in streams over the surface, but penetrated deep into the soil to the satisfaction of the agriculturists. During the first days of January there were 16.6 mm. of rain, the total approximating to one-third of the average yearly fall of rain in Jerusalem, which is 600 mm."

"January was rich in rains. During the fifteen days of rain there was a total of 200.5 mm. Heavy rain commenced on January 23 and continued on January 24, yielding 74 mm. Between the rainy days the skies were clear, the fields thus enjoying alternate rainfall and sunshine. The crops are successful. Especially promising are the almond plantations. Only once during the month—on January 27—did the temperature come down to 0. The total rainfall for November, December, and January is 377 mm."

Mr. Read's discussion of the interpretation of the Phaestos disk in the last *Quarterly Statement* has aroused some interest, and several letters have reached us with questions and in some cases with new suggestions. It will be remembered that Mr. Read minutely examined the character of the writing, analysed the arrangement

of the signs, and subjected the current interpretations to a close criticism. Finally, he drew attention to the suggestion of Sir Arthur Evans that "it follows the laws of a primitive music," and, passing from his conjecture that "it may well represent some kind of chaunt or incantation," Mr. Read tentatively asked whether it might not be a veritable piece of music, and so the oldest piece of music in the world. It is for the expert in primitive and ancient music to pronounce upon the *a priori* reasonableness of the suggestion. Meanwhile, one correspondent suggests that it would be helpful if every character upon the disk were called by some brief and intelligible name. The merely conventional letters employed in Fig. 3 (after Prof. Macalister) are certainly confusing for some readers, one or two of whom mistook them for identifications, and expressed surprise that *w* was known in the age to which the Disk is ascribed. These letters are merely conventional in order to facilitate reference, and accordingly Mr. James Simpson (Edinburgh) writes to suggest names more or less in harmony with what each sign apparently represents. Thus for the top line of Fig. 3, reading from left to right, he proposes the following names: helm (for helmet), haste, hands, boy, dame, head, foot, jug and cat. There is much to be said for this, and it remains to be seen whether it is taken up. Mr. Simpson also urges that the symbols are to be read from left to right, contrary to Dr. Della Seta's conclusion, but a closer examination of the data makes this view a very difficult one. He points out further, that the symbol σ , which he would call a "square," is never over 90° , and oncé (B 6) many degrees less, which "shows the use of more than one stamp for that symbol, unless perchance it was pressed slopingly." He comments upon the sharp facial angle and lines of the female figure *d*, and lays emphasis upon the relative number of times that each symbol occurs, pointing out that if we add the missing symbol in A 8 the total number of signs amounts to 242, or $11 \times 11 \times 2$. In A 28 and 31 the faces show a larger facial angle than any of the other human forms (130° – 135°)—"do they perhaps show the features of prisoners taken from another nation?" The marks upon their cheeks, too, deserve explanation. Are they original? Finally, Mr. Simpson comments upon the civilisation implied by the symbols, and notably the boat (η). To this it may be added that the form of the bow (κ) is also well worthy of attention from the archaeological point of view.

The Rev. John Griffith has also sent suggestions which, however,

are too complicated to be more than briefly mentioned. He urges that the solution of the Disk may be mathematical. He draws attention to the measurements of early temples and the recurrence of numbers and multiples of numbers which correspond to the number of signs in the faces of the Disk. With the 123 signs in Face A (*i.e.*, counting the blank in A 8) he compares the lengths of the enclosure of the temple of Aphrodite at Aphrodisias (370 ft. or 123×3). He notes the tradition (Clodd, *Pioneers of Evolution*, p. 50) that Adam and Eve were respectively $123\frac{3}{4}$ feet and $118\frac{3}{4}$ feet in height, while Faces A and B have respectively 123 and 119 signs. The numbers indicate ancient astronomical measures, the idea being that celestial spaces could be marked off in terms of the human body, just as in old-fashioned almanacs the zodiac is described as a human body. Mr. Griffith also comments upon the part played by 11—the total number of signs is 242, a multiple of 11, and the mean of 123 and 119 is 121, the square of 11. “The alleged copy of the Cretan Labyrinth at Lucca Cathedral describes 11 walks.” Space does not permit us to refer at greater length to the useful remarks and ingenious suggestions with which he and others of our correspondents have kindly favoured us. Even if they do not reveal the mystery of the Disk they indicate possibilities which will be carefully considered, and they testify to the interest which the famous object continues to arouse.

A contribution on the subject from Prof. Macalister reaches us too late for the present issue.

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. 6*d.*; postage 6*d.* 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. 70-71.

The Committee will be glad to communicate with ladies and gentlemen willing to help the Fund as Honorary Local Secretaries. The Rev. J. W. Hunkin, O.B.E., M.C., M.A., Dean of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, has consented to act for Cambridge and W. B. Gillespie, Esq., of 37, Parkfield Road, for Liverpool.

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.
Robert L. Mond, Esq.	20	0	0
Right Hon. Sir Herbert Samuel... ..	10	0	0
Miss Johnstone	3	0	0
H. Pirie-Gordon, Esq., D.S.O., M.A.	2	2	0
Rev. Dr. W. Emery Barnes	2	2	0
F. Coop, Esq.	1	1	0
Cecil White, Esq.... ..	1	1	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 is published in the Annual Report, issued with this 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.

Mr. E. J. Pilcher has presented to the Museum electrotypes of three "large brass" coins of APAMEIA CIBOTUS (*i.e.*, "Apameia of the Ark"), commemorating the Sybilline legend that Mount Ararat was situated in Phrygia, and that the ark rested near the town of Apameia.

Septimius Severus,	Macrinus,	Philip the Elder,
A.D. 193-211.	A.D. 217.	A.D. 244-249.

The gift is accompanied by copies of his brochure on these coins—"The Jews of the Dispersion in Roman Galatia." (Reprint from the *Proceedings of the S.B.A.*, May, 1903.)

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 Prof. Elihu Grant, Honorary General Secretary to the Fund, Haverford College, Pa.

The Committee have to acknowledge with thanks the following:—

From E. J. Pilcher, Esq.:—

Mesopotamia: Historical Section of the Foreign Office, Handbook No. 36.

Review of the Civil Administration of Mesopotamia, 1920, by Miss Gertrude L. Bell, C.B.E.

From Miss Estelle Blyth:—

The Temple of Mut in Asher, by Margaret Benson and Janet Gourlay, 1899.

From the Zionist Organisation:—

Zionism: Problems and Views, by Paul Goodman and A. D. Lewis. *England and Palestine*, by Herbert Sidebotham.

Palestine: The Organ of the British Palestine Committee, Vol. VI, August, 1919, to February, 1920.

From the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge:—

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

From Mrs. Harcourt Wood:—

The Holy Land and the Bible. Vol. I. By Cunningham Geikie, D.D.

From the University of Glasgow:—

Studia Semitica et Orientalia, by Seven Members of the Glasgow University Oriental Society. 1920. See p. 102.

The Near East: a Weekly Review of current Politics and Commerce. Feb. 17: Moslem Women of Jerusalem, by Estelle Blyth; Feb. 24: Village Water-supply in Palestine.

Nile and Jordan, an Archaeological History of the Interrelations between Egypt and Palestine from the Earliest Times to the Fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, with 5 maps, appendices, and three indexes. 572 pages. By G. A. Frank Knight, M.A., F.R.S.E. Clarke & Co. 36s.

Studies: Irish Quarterly Review of Letters, Philosophy and Science, Dec. 1920: Palestinian Customs as Illustrating the Bible, by Dr. E. Power, S.J.

The Irish Theological Quarterly, Jan. 1921.

The Palestine Weekly.

Palestine: The Organ of the British Palestine Committee.

Zionist Review, March: On the Palestine Mandate.

Hebrew Christian Alliance Quarterly.

Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique, 1920.

Journal Asiatique, July-Sept.: Seconde Session de la Fédération des Sociétés Orientales, Paris, 6-8 July.

Die Palästina-Literatur: eine internationale bibliographie, Vol. III, 1910-1914 (Leipzig, 1916).

NEA ΣΙΩΝ, 1920, Aug.-Oct.

Al-Mashrik: Dec., The New Names of Streets in Beirut, by P. L. Cheikho, etc.

Jan. 1921: Eras and Calendars of the World, by P. L. Cheikho, S.J.; Sacrifices among the Bedouins of the Trans-Jordan, the Abbé Paul Salman; The First Relations between France and Syria, P. H. Lammens, S.J.

Journal of the American Oriental Society, Dec., 1920: Gilgamesh and Engidu, by W. F. Albright.

American Journal of Archaeology, Oct.-Dec. 1920: Primitive Aegean Roofs, by Leicester B. Holland.

American Journal of Philology, XLI, 4.

Art and Archaeology, Feb. 1921.

The Homiletic Review, 1921.

Journal of Religion, Vol. I, No. 1.

The Jewish Quarterly Review, Jan., 1921: The Religion of Josephus, by Prof. Montgomery; The Book of Esther in the light of history, by Dr. J. Hoschander.

See also pp. 101-107.

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 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.*