

## REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS.

*Hebron le Haram el Khalil, Sepulture des Patriarches.* Par L. H. Vincent, D.P., et le Capitaine E. V. H. Mackay, R.R.S.C., avec la collaboration de F. M. Abel, O.P. Pp. 253 in the text, with 86 illustrations and a separate volume of 27 plans and photographs. Paris: Ernest Leroux. 1923.

THIS handsome work gives an exhaustive account of all it had been possible under existing conditions to learn of the inviolable sanctuary at Hebron. Until—and at present the prospect is hopeless—the fanaticism of the guardians of the shrine allows a scientific examination of the long-closed substructions of the Mosque at Hebron the world can never know what claims these have to be the “Cave of Macpelah.” Had the presumed cave been inviolable through the centuries there might be even stronger reasons for a wish that the ban should be removed, but it is to be feared, from evidence given in this volume, that whatever interments were ever made here there is but little left to-day which could really establish the claim that the bodies of the Patriarchs ever rested here.

But all that it is possible to know is presented in the sumptuous volume before us. Every architectural form, every inscription, and every historic record bearing on the Mosque is fully dealt with here. The first part deals with Archaeology and Architecture—the Haram, the familiar enclosing walls, and, as far as our scanty material allows, the Cave of Sepulture.

With regard to the Mosque itself we are upon sure ground. By means of the numerous photographs and plans the reader can at leisure study every corner of the building. Originally a Byzantine church stood here, but during the time of the Later Kingdom of Jerusalem this was entirely reconstructed, and a larger building, very similar to the great church—now Mosque at Gaza—took its place. This in its time was remodelled—somewhat incompletely—to the type of the older mosques at Cairo. This alteration was carried out in 1331–32 A.D., as is shown by an existing inscription, by Tarkiz, Emir of Damascus,

on the order of the Mameluke-Sultan el Malik en Nasir Mahammed ibn Kalun. Two of the Cenotaphs, however, those of Abraham and Sarah, are of older date, probably the work of one of the Ommeyad Caliphs. While much of the internal work belongs to the XIVth century and is artistic—notably the pulpit—the inner walls have been disfigured by incongruous colouring of modern times. The well-known enclosing walls are probably—as Colonel Conde suggests in the *Memoirs* (Vol. III, p. 345)—the work of Herod the Great.

In respect to the cave, when we leave speculation, the one fact that emerges is that we have to deal not with one cavern, but with a series of grottoes consisting of more or less artificial rock tombs.

The second part of the book deals exhaustively with the historical side. There is a discussion on the Biblical evidence, and from these early times the historical references are here traced through the centuries. There are at various periods many accounts of visits to the Mosque itself, but few to the substructions. Of these last the most complete is one given here of a visit made by monks of the Priory in 1119, which is here reproduced in the original Latin, from *Recueil des Historiens des Croisades Accroissant*, pp. 302–314. It is narrated that the monks, making entrance through the Cenotaph of Isaac, entered a grotto, from which, after four days' hard work, they forced their way into a second grotto containing a sarcophagus. From this they entered the main chamber, and in an adjoining grotto found the remains of two bodies, which they surmised were those of Abraham and Isaac. Other bones they ascribed to Jacob, besides which they discovered some fifteen vessels filled with bones. These human remains were washed with wine and water, and after being venerated by the pious, they were presumably re-interred. They are apparently the bones seen here half a century later by Rabbi Benjamin of Tudea, who mentions “tubs filled with the bones of Israelites.” But there was no positive evidence by which any of the bodies could be identified, and we fear none such will ever be found.

The last visit to this mysterious “cave” was one which is sadly—and provokingly—incomplete. During General Allenby's advance (1917) Colonel Meinertzhagen, a well-known intelligence officer, finding the Mosque deserted, actually penetrated through

the Cenotaph of Abraham into some of the subterranean passages and found a grotto, in which was a tomb or cenotaph of the Crusading period, similar to the tomb of Baldwin I in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Unfortunately the time was not one at which it was possible for an officer on duty to take advantage of this unique opportunity, and a second one did not occur. So we may wait many years before we know more.

The supplementary volume contains beautiful reproductions of photographs of the Mosque, and plans drawn with all the skill we are accustomed to from the distinguished Dominican archaeologist.

E. W. G. M.

*Index of Hittite Names. Section A. Geographical. Part I.* By L. A. Mayer, Ph.D., with notes by John Garstang, D.Sc. British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. Supplementary Papers, I. Published at the Office, 2, Hinde Street, W. 1.

To the ordinary reader nothing would seem to be less inspiriting than these fifty-four pages of place-names and annotations. Yet it is one of many other signs of what, without any exaggeration, may be regarded as a new stage in our knowledge of the Near East. A new chapter was opened in the history of the Bible Lands some years ago by the fortunate discovery, by the Berlin scholar, the late Hugo Winckler, of the archives of the old Hittite Empire. The cuneiform tablets found at Boghaz Keui in Asia Minor make a contribution equal, if not, indeed, superior, to the "Amarna" tablets discovered at Tell el-Amarna; and the Hittite Empire is fast becoming one of the romances of the past, and, it may be, holds the key to many historical, linguistic, and other problems of the interrelations between Europe, Asia, and Africa.

To put it briefly, we are obtaining a new perspective of the history of the XVIth-XIth centuries B.C. The age of Moses and of another law-giver, the Cretan Minos, the age of Agamemnon and the siege of Troy, the age of Philistines—this now comes before us with a fulness which scarce a generation or so ago would have seemed incredible. What had long been recognized to be an age of supreme interest has gained a new significance when excavation and archaeology illuminate, as they so brilliantly have done, the inner life and conditions, and, equally, the high

politics of the lands involved. Everywhere separating walls are being broken down, and we recover pictures of a certain internationalism, of intercourse and of mutual influences, such that what to the Bible student is essentially the "Mosaic Age" is now one where the particular events which led to the establishment of the Israelite kingdom must be reconsidered in the light of the ebb and flow of life and thought over the whole area of which Palestine was only a small part.

New light is being thrown, for example, upon an Assyrian code of laws which brings up anew the problems raised by the famous code of the Babylonian king Hammurabi and its influence on Israel. Miscellaneous information becomes accessible upon the psychology of the different peoples, their leading ideas, and even their political philosophy (if we may use the term). Sometimes it is that the evidence is of direct bearing upon questions of biblical research—for example, the Habiru (? Hebrews) and their gods, or the use of a plural *ilāni* in reference to a single god, corresponding to the use of the Hebrew Elohim. At other times one can only say that we are building up a new background upon which to place our knowledge of Palestinian history. So, for example, we come to perceive how the Persian age of the Achaemenids was not the first occasion when Iranian influence was exerted over Palestine; or we learn that interrelation between Palestine and the Greeks, such as we know it in the Hellenistic age, had to some extent a forerunner before the days of David.

All this by way of an introduction to the "Index of Hittite Names." It is the first of the Supplementary Papers issued by the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. It is an indication of the fine broad view which the School intends to take of Palestinian research. It is in itself an admirable piece of work. In the nature of the case it cannot be final, but it gives in handy form as complete a statement of the geographical contents of the Hittite archives as can be expected at this stage. One may not be prepared to accept all the identifications; for example, it is difficult to place the important country of Kissuwadna in the area of the later Pontus. But it is an immense advantage to have all the material for this and other names summarized and set forth in scholarly fashion as a starting-point for further enquiry, and the School is to be congratulated upon the admirable start that it has made.

The other work of the School, as published in its Bulletins, has already come up for notice in these pages, and this new publication is proof, if proof were needed, that the School is fully alive to its opportunities, and deserves the most sympathetic consideration of all who have at heart the deeper knowledge of the Bible Lands. The School is not an excavating body—like the Palestine Exploration Fund—it is in effect a School, a training ground for scientific and scholarly field-work; and, when we consider the energy of the French and the American Schools of Archaeology in Jerusalem, we may hope that a new chapter has been opened in the history of Palestinian research as also in the history of the past.

*Awakening Palestine.* Edited by Leon Simon and Leonard Stein. Murray, 7s. 6d. 1923.

This volume contains a number of essays by different writers, and is intended to assist readers to understand the significance of Zionist work in Palestine, its progress, and its prospects. The writers included Sir Alfred Mond, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, Mr. Herbert Sidebotham, the Hon. Ormsby Gore, and others, and the editors may be congratulated upon the informing volume which they have succeeded in producing. Of special interest for our readers are three articles: by Mr. Tolkowsky, on the physical features of Palestine; by Mr. Ormsby Gore, on the Holy Places; and by Canon Danby, on the future of archaeological research in Palestine. The last-mentioned remarks that almost everything possible in the way of perfecting the machinery and making Palestine "safe for archaeology" has been attempted, though how smoothly and successfully the machinery will run time alone will prove. After commenting on the presence in Jerusalem of such fine organizations as the Ecole Biblique de S. Etienne (now the official French School of Archaeology) and the American School of Archaeology, Canon Danby goes on to refer to the onerous duties of the British School, which "finds itself for the moment assuming most of the cares of the Government Department of Antiquities."

*Révue Biblique*, October, 1923. Father Abel begins a learned and interesting discussion of the topography of the Maccabean campaigns. The geography of Palestine from the military point

of view has, of course, received a new impetus since the War, and it will be recalled that the Schweich Lecture (Dec., 1922), by Dr. I. Abrahams, was on Campaigns in Palestine from Alexander the Great (*Q.S.*, 1923, p. 3). Father Abel deals with the achievements of Judas Maccabaeus under the headings : Modin ; the first engagements ; the fight at Beth-horon ; the battle of Emmaus ; the defeat of Lysias at Beth-Sur ; and expeditions outside Judea. There are seven plans and sketches. Important also is the acute comparative study by Father Vincent of the new hypogaeum of Byblos and the royal hypogaeum of Gezer, with full illustrations. Father Paul Cheneau writes on the Bells of Bethlehem (three plates).

The chief article of interest to us in the Annual Report of the *Smithsonian Institution*, 1921, is that by Elihu Grant on "A New Era in Palestine Exploration." It is a summary of the work which has been or is to be undertaken in Palestine, with special reference to the Fund's work at Askalon, which is illustrated by seven plates. We read that Harvard University will continue to investigate Samaria, Chicago will undertake Megiddo, and that opportunities for excavation at Dan and Dothan are or will be available to American archaeologists.

The *Bulletin* of the American Schools of Oriental Research (October, 1923) refers to the prospective opening of the School at Bagdad, and contains a noteworthy account of some archaeological and topographical results of a trip through Palestine, by the School's Director, Prof. Albright.

The *Journal* of the new Palestine Oriental Society continues to increase in interest. The chief feature of Vol. II, No. 4, is a study of modern Palestinian parallels to the Song of Songs, by St. H. Stephan, an important contribution which has been issued separately (five piastres, or one shilling). E. N. Haddad writes on the guest-house, and Prof. Albright in this and other numbers contributes learned notes on a variety of biblical subjects. On p. 286 sq. he combats the now favourite view of the *Sinnōr* or conduit in the story of David's capture of Jerusalem. In Vol. III, No. 1, Mr. Phythian-Adams discusses the site of Mizpah, which he identifies with Tell el-Nasbeh. Palestinian folk-lore is re-

presented by Mr. T. Canaan's essay on the "folk-lore of the seasons," and Mr. Haddad has a short account of methods of education and correction. In No. 2 Mr. Voigt, after discussing the identification of Nob, reaches the conclusion that it was probably located in the hill where the Government House now stands. Father Vincent, in addition to an appreciation of the late Prof. Clermont-Ganneau, has a careful study of the date of the inscriptions of Arak el-Emir. Incidentally we note that the jar-handles stamped with the Divine Name (*Yah[u]*) from Gezer, Jericho, and Jerusalem, are ascribed broadly to the IVth–IIIrd century B.C. He concludes that the monuments were the work of the Tobiah who lived in the reign of Ptolemy II Philadelphus.

We have received a prospectus of the first volume of an elaborate Encyclopaedia of the Geography of Palestine, Syria, and the Sinaitic Peninsula, by the late Rabbi I. S. Horowitz (Vienna, 1923). It is written in Hebrew, and deserves mention on this account. It should be welcome to all Jews who are interested in the land and are *au courant* with modern Hebrew. The first volume contains 372 + xii pages quarto with about two thousand entries, and is to be had for £1. It has been favourably reviewed in *The Jewish Guardian* and elsewhere.

S. A. C.

#### NOTES AND QUERIES.

*The interpretation of 1 Sam. xiii, 21.*—In co-operation with the Rev. P. Loze, of the Mission Suisse Romande, I have been engaged for the last nine years in translating the Old Testament, and revising the New, for the British and Foreign Bible Society, into the "Si Ronga language of Portuguese East Africa (district of Lourenço Marques).

In the course of our work we came to the familiar "crux" in 1 Sam. xiii, 21 : "yet they have a file for the mattocks," etc. (R.V. text). R.V. margin says: "Or, when the edges of the