

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.

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#### 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

mattocks . . . and of the axes were blunt. The Hebrew text is obscure." We could not accept either rendering, and found no help in the commentaries or lexicons—even the Oxford Lexicon. However, just at that time I received my copy of the *Expository Times*, and found in an article describing the excavations at Gezer the mention of certain shaped stones, evidently used as weights, and inscribed in old characters. To our delight, one of these was stated to bear an inscription equivalent to the פִּיַם of the Massætic Text. The riddle was plainly solved. Permission was obtained to act upon this, and in the "Si Ronga version of the Bible, which is now on the eve of publication, the passage reads: v. 20, as in R.V., v. 21, "and the sharpening (*i.e.*, price of sharpening) was a 'pim' for the mattocks, etc." And the marginal note reads: "pim: that is, two-thirds of a shekel."

Mr. Loze informed me that the other day he had received a copy of the newly published translation of the Old Testament made by a board of American Jewish Rabbis, and they had rendered the passage in the same way.

It is no small satisfaction to us that Prof. Macalister's discovery has enabled us to secure the correct rendering of a passage which had by all been given up as corrupt.

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[We gladly print the above excerpts from Mr. Bishop's letter. The explanation is not new. In the *Q.S.*, April, 1914, p. 99, Mr. Pilcher drew attention to a weight inscribed as above, and in the possession of the late Mr. Raffaeli of Jerusalem. Mr. Raffaeli, he reported, desired to draw attention to the fact that the title cleared up the obscure word in 1 Sam. xiii, 21, and his suggestion was accepted not only by the American Jewish translators of the Old Testament, but also by Prof. Barton in his valuable *Archæology of the Bible*, p. 161, note. Mr. Bishop's statement that the new explanation has now found its way into the "Si Ronga version is another stage in the history of a discovery which is a fresh "Bible side-light from Gezer."]