

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

THE Fifty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Fund was held at the Central Hall, Westminster, S.W. 1, on Friday, 13th June, 1924, when the VISCOUNT BURNHAM presided and Prof. R. A. S. Macalister gave an account of the Excavations at the Site of the "City of David," Jerusalem. The Meeting was attended by several hundred Members, Subscribers and others. The necessary business part was got over expeditiously to allow as much time as possible for Professor Macalister's address.

DR. E. W. G. MASTERMAN (Hon. Secretary) announced that letters regretting inability to be present had been received from Dr. D. G. Hogarth, Sir Charles Close, The Earl of Crawford, Prof. Sayce, Dean of Durham, Rev. Dr. Ewing and Mr. James Melrose. He then read the Minutes of the 58th Annual Meeting, held on 20th June, 1923, which were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

After explaining that those who subscribe five guineas as an entrance fee, either in a single sum or in a sum spread over a series of years, become members of this Fund with the rights of membership for as long as they continue to pay a subscription of at least a guinea a year, the Hon. Secretary stated that during the year, 37 subscribers have thus qualified. A subscription of 25 guineas qualifies for life membership, and the following have become life members:—

Life Members.

LORD BURNHAM.
RICHARD CADBURY, ESQ.
W. T. GRANT, ESQ.
CHARLES MARSTON, ESQ., and
MRS. STEPHENSON.

The membership now totals about 400, which is far too little; a Society of this character ought to have a membership of at least

1,000. The whole subscription list does not exceed 850 names, and it is only by special donations generously given, especially by Lord Burnham and Mr. Marston, that the Fund has been able to carry on the excavations at all.

The Hon. Secretary then read the list of the more prominent members of the Society who had passed away since the last meeting:— Rev. Canon Bonney, Mr. J. R. Barlow and Lady Gray Hill.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts, said: I much appreciate the honour that has been done me in asking me to take the Chair at the 59th Annual General Meeting of this great and famous Fund. You must not imagine that because I accepted the invitation I conceived myself to be a professor of archaeology or even a biblical student. I accepted because of the great interest I take, in common with so many of our fellow-countrymen, in the great work of investigation and excavation which the Fund is carrying out, and which it has now done for more than fifty years. The present excavations on Mount Ophel are the crowning effort of its achievements, now covering a period of more than half a century, and we all rejoice that they have been carried out with so large a measure of success. I think it was Dr. Johnson who said that curiosity was the thirst of the soul. The curiosity which develops itself in the endeavour to explore and realize the conditions of life in the great periods of history, remote though they may be, out of which our civilization has gradually emerged, is, of course, the curiosity which is really a thirst of the soul.

I was a little amused, I confess, last year when in the United States of America to find that no sensation of the moment created so wide and intense an interest in America as the discoveries of Tut-ankh-amen's tomb, and all that was associated with the enterprise carried out to so large an extent by the munificence of the late Lord Carnarvon. The remarkable thing was that you would have imagined that Egyptology was entirely an unknown science before that moment. It was treated as a revelation more or less unconnected with any other preceding and, after all, no less momentous works. However, I do not want in the least to under-rate its attraction and interest. At the same time, I sometimes wish that the labours of veneration done at the cost of so much effort and with so much perseverance over so long a period of time as

the Palestine Exploration Fund has done them, had brought as much public sympathy and had made it possible to raise as much money to be expended in the further exploration of all that we want to see cleared up. When the effort about which we are to hear from its chief mind and directing hand this afternoon was planned, it was clear that we were undertaking what was of transcendent interest, not only to those who devote themselves to the technical parts of archaeology, but to all those who are deeply moved by the religious bearings of all that is achieved. Prof. Macalister was placed at the head of the expedition by the Fund because his archaeological work, and especially his excavation of the ancient city of the Philistines at Gezer, marked him out as a man of first-rate knowledge and authority, and we knew him to be also a writer who, in the description of what was being effected, would do justice to the greatness of the theme. The work of the joint expedition of the Fund and of the paper with which I am connected has been eminently successful, although as yet only a modest beginning has been made. Results, however, have already been considerable, and Prof. Macalister will tell the meeting in detail all that he himself has carried out. I think we may say that we entirely owe it to his skill and experience that the excavation has been developed so far, and we rejoice to think that in the prosecution of the work he has had the good fortune to acquire definite knowledge of those places with which all readers of the Bible and all who interest themselves in the great religions, not only of our own country, but of the world, are so familiar. The excavations that have been made have, undoubtedly, brought back to life for our inspection and our information the City of David, which his soldiers took by a daring raid from the Jebusites, which Solomon fortified and which the kings embellished. I congratulate the Fund on the achievement of which it can boast in this historic and moving enterprise. It must be remembered, however, that this is only a beginning, and that it is necessary to prosecute the work so well begun in the same spirit and, as we hope, with the same equipment. Until now we have been able to rely on several generous subscribers and the Fund has not considered it necessary to issue a public appeal. The results, however, attained are so encouraging and satisfactory that the public, I think, generally will realize that it is only by supporting the Fund in carrying on the work that it can secure even more valuable results than we have yet been able to accomplish, and

so carry on the tradition of the Fund in doing what is of *vita* interest to the whole of those who are religiously minded throughout the world.

I have great pleasure in moving that the Report and Balance Sheet for the year 1923 be and is hereby adopted and approved. The Report, I understand, is already in the hands of members, and I will therefore, with your permission, take it as read. (Agreed.) I now ask Mr. Marston, to whose generosity, as you know, we have not appealed in vain and on whom we have greatly relied, to second the resolution that I have moved.

MR. C. MARSTON : My Lord Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the Report.

The CHAIRMAN : Does anyone wish to comment on the Report ?

There being no remarks, the Chairman put the motion to the meeting, and declared the Report and Balance Sheet unanimously adopted.

DR. P. D'ERF WHEELER moved the re-election of the Executive Committee as constituted last year.

DR. S. DAICHES seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN : I now have much pleasure in calling upon Prof. Macalister to deliver his address on recent Excavations at the Site of the "City of David," Jerusalem.

PROF. R. A. S. MACALISTER, Litt.D., F.S.A., then delivered the following address, illustrated by lantern views :

When the British Mandatory began its duties in Palestine the organisation of a properly equipped archaeological department was one of its first duties. Early in the course of the work of this new department attention was directed to the long-outstanding problem of Ophel and the City of David, which for years had afforded material for a not very profitable controversy. At last the opportunity seemed to have presented itself to settle the question once for all by means of excavation.

Before I proceed to speak about the scheme which was drawn up for the investigation of this problem, let me say a word or two

about the nature of the problem itself. It is well known that the modern boundary of Jerusalem is not older than the time of the Crusades. Before that period it extended further to the south, over the two ridges into which the Tyropoeon valley divides the plateau on which the city stands. Ancient city walls have been found enclosing an area which extends to the Valley of Hinnom ; while, on the other hand, the present northern half of the city is of a comparatively speaking recent occupation. The city has, in fact, moved northward. The problem to be solved was, where it began. On which of the two spurs, east or west of the Tyropoeon valley, was placed the citadel of the Jebusites, captured by David? Tradition had answered the question unhesitatingly in favour of the western hill, and had entrenched itself behind a bulwark of quasi-traditional nomenclature. Mount Zion, Zion's Gate, the Tomb of David, were all localised. Moreover, at first sight tradition seemed to be, for once, entirely reasonable. The western hill is higher than the eastern hill, and from a strategic point of view commands it completely. No military leader in his senses would choose the eastern in preference to the western hill as a site for a fortification. Again, the area of the western hill is broader, and so more convenient for holding a large city, than that of the eastern hill.

On the other hand, the western hill has one serious disadvantage. It is not within easy reach of any known source of water supply. The Virgin's Fountain and Job's Well are both on the eastern side of the eastern hill, and, before the installation of cisterns, dwellers on the western hill would have been obliged to go a journey for every drop of water which they used, toilsome at all times, and impossible in time of siege. The ancient and elaborate waterworks which radiate from the Virgin's Fountain demonstrate that this source, notwithstanding the inferiority of its brackish water, was of great importance from early times. It has therefore been argued in recent years that the eastern hill, despite its apparent disadvantages, is a more probable site than the western for the Jebusite citadel. Even the strategic inferiority is apparent rather than real. We have to consider not the conditions of modern warfare, with its instruments of precision and long-distance range, but an ancient stage of development, when the Tyropoeon valley would be a sufficient protection against a hostile camp on the opposite side.

But these are matters of theoretical dispute. The spade alone can decide definitely, and the advent of the British Mandate seemed

to offer the opportunity desired for submitting the theory to this final test.

A scheme for an international expedition was drawn up, in which the Palestine Exploration Fund was invited to participate. A condition was laid down that no work would be allowed to begin until £5,000 was guaranteed by the joint contributions of the institutions taking part, and land was to be allotted in proportion to the amount of the contribution of each. For one reason or another, the scheme as originally planned did not materialise. The Palestine Exploration Fund was left alone in the field, and, through the generous aid of Mr. Charles Marston and the welcome co-operation of the *Daily Telegraph*, it was enabled to contribute the whole amount that had been expected to come from four or five different bodies, representing as many different nations.

I do not propose to waste the time of this meeting in an unprofitable description of the preliminary negotiations. Mr. Duncan and I arrived in Jerusalem on 5th September last, and we found at once a number of very serious difficulties put in our way by certain speculators, who, having heard of the proposed excavation, had bought up land with the intention of holding up the work unless the excavators bought it back from them at an exorbitant price. I had endless unpleasantness with these people, whose greed was quite insatiable, both before the beginning of the excavation and during its progress. At one time it looked as though the difficulties were going to be insuperable; but at last, after a weary and dishcartening five weeks, we were able to begin the work.

The slide now on the screen will show you the area attacked. The various fields are there shown, numbered as they are in the official map of the region. We chose field No. 5 because it was a reasonable distance from the Haram wall—so that no scare should be aroused about the possibility of our tunnelling into the sanctuary, as had happened in a notorious case some fourteen years before. There were not, as in the case of other mounds of accumulation in Palestine, any surface indications that would enable us to fix a promising spot. Subsequently field No. 7 was taken and work begun there, and I have secured that some other fields in the neighbourhood shall be reserved for the use of the Fund, if it is able to continue the work. Probably the complete investigation of the eastern hill would consume some six or eight years; after that, for reasons which will presently appear, the much more serious task

of digging the Tyropoeon valley would have to be undertaken and probably at least ten years consumed in that work. We might then perhaps consider that we were beginning to know something definite about the history of Jerusalem.

However, we must for the present confine ourselves to the work accomplished and not to dreams of the future. In this discourse I shall keep to the result of the digging in fields 5 and 7, and hope to show that, although in some directions they have been discouraging, in others they hold out high hopes for future triumphs. Roughly speaking, field No. 5 is about half an acre, field No. 7 about a quarter of an acre in extent. Between them runs a footpath, a thoroughfare from the city to the Kidron valley; and I may say at once that a suspicion which I had that this footpath would prove to be a survival of an ancient tradition, and that a city-gate would be found here, has apparently been justified. Old rights-of-way are extraordinarily unchangeable. Men may come and men may go—we may even say, nations may come and go—but they run on for ever.

In describing to you what we have found I shall follow a chronological order, rather than the confused order in which the objects actually came to light. I shall begin with the bare rock, before human occupation began; and shall follow out the course of the history from that onward to the latest time of which we found any remains. In order to help you to visualise the relative positions of the remains which I shall describe in turn, I have added this rough diagram to the series of slides. It shows the sites of the chief finds in the two fields. We begin with the Zedek valley, rising in a cave near the middle of field No. 5—a tributary of the Tyropoeon, of considerable topographical importance, as the results showed. This was made into a northern fortification of the city at a very early date; but still older, perhaps, is the great group of cup marks on a rock surface in field 7.

Probably about 1200 B.C. the great eastern wall was built with its bastions, to which at some later date a huge square tower was added in field 7.

The remains which we have identified with Millo are in the north of field 5. South of it is a cave of some importance, and over this cave is the mansion which we have called the Eusebius house. Above Millo is a Byzantine house, and under the surface of field 5 are numerous remains of early Arab houses. Asking you

kindly to fix in your memories this map of the principal discoveries, I shall now proceed to describe them in detail.

First, then, the Zedek valley. We have suggested this term in reference to the ancient city-god, whose name forms an element in the old royal names Melchizedek, Adonizedek. It is a tributary of the Tyropoeon, which was excavated in Tertiary times by a stream flowing from a cave, or rather a fissure in the rock, near the middle of field 5. The general disposition of the remains indicated that the Zedek valley dictated the emplacement of the earliest settlement on the site, forming its northern boundary. The cave in which the stream had risen was too small to penetrate more than a short distance, but it seemed to extend some 30 or 40 feet inwards. On the floor was a channel and a deposit of silt, clearly the result of water action. This slide shows the mouth of the cave and the beginning of the valley. The next slide is a closer view of the cave mouth and of the water-fissure proceeding from it.

The stream flowing from this cave had certainly been dried up before human occupation of the site began, for there was evidence, in the shape of neolithic and very early Bronze Age pottery, that it had been used as a place of interment, at a time to be assigned to the very earliest date of human occupation. I am inclined to believe that the flow of water had ceased before the beginning of the Quaternary period.

It is probable that on the other side of the watershed there was a similar valley, or rather fold, corresponding to the Zedek valley, and running into the Kidron. This, however, could not be tested, as that would have involved the partial demolition of the great Jebusite wall.

South of the Zedek valley there is a curious platform of rock. It offers a smooth horizontal surface, but is pitted with deep fissures, one of which is spanned by a natural arch. Such fissures may well have attracted the attention, and aroused the awe, of the simple-minded neolithic folk who first took up their abode on the hill-top. Perhaps as receptacles for the libations that they poured out to the powers that haunted these hollows in the rock, they cut on the surface a remarkable series of cup-hollows, such as are to be found in thousands in Palestine. I do not hesitate to claim this as the oldest of the long succession of sanctuaries which have consecrated Jerusalem to many nations and to many deities. One of these cups has a ring surrounding it. This is common enough in

Bronze Age cup markings in European countries, but is very rare, if not unique, in Palestine.

Coming back over to field No. 5 and to the Zedek valley, we find that the first attempt at fortification was the deepening of the head of this valley into a trench, cutting across the watershed. This trench was well fashioned, about 8 ft. deep and about 10 ft. across. The inhabitants had realized that their best defences were the steep precipitous sides of the two valleys, the Kidron and the Tyropoeon, running on their western and eastern sides, and meeting in a point at the south. Only on the north side were they unprotected by a valley, for between the head of the Zedek valley and that of the presumed corresponding fold on the Kidron side was an unbroken way into their stronghold. This they cut through by means of the trench in question. Such a trench would interfere with legitimate traffic as well as with the passage of enemies; to evade this difficulty two causeways were left uncut, with staircases at each end. These staircases were broken; I have no doubt on account of some military stress. As I have said elsewhere, these broken staircases are a clear evidence of a siege of Jerusalem, antedating any of the twenty sieges of which we have historical record, as a cuneiform tablet would be.

At the head of the southern end of the eastern causeway there was a block of rock which had every appearance of being an altar. On the rock surface behind it was another group of cup-hollows, similar to that which I have already described to you, and on the vertical face beneath the altar there were three pigeon-holes, well adapted for receiving small votive offerings. He who would enter the city must first propitiate the deity of the city. It is not at all impossible that this may have some bearing on that curious passage in the enigmatical fourteenth chapter of Genesis, the chapter describing the battle of four kings with five. Abraham is suddenly introduced to Melchizedek, king of Salem, and pays him tithes; we are not told why. These may quite possibly have been a toll levied on wayfarers.

A little to the north of the Zedek valley there was another cave, or rather rift in the ground, in two sections divided by a floor with two holes in it. The total height from the surface of the rock to the bottom was about 25 feet, and hand-and-foot holes were cut in the upper compartment to facilitate entrance. A tunnel, choked with silt, opened into the lower compartment, and I have no doubt

that this was an ancient watercourse. Water was still obtainable in this cave when the first people settled on the hill-top, for the earth in the upper section was full of very ancient potsherds. But the spring ran dry before the next stage in the city's history, and it was not included within the extension of the city that we have now to describe.

Somewhere about 1600 B.C. the trench, as a fortification, went out of use. This is shown by the fact that the earth filling it contained many potsherds of about that date. So many potsherds were found in it, indeed, that we must suppose it to have been used as a dumping hollow for rubbish. Crossing it was built a rather flimsy wall of poor polygonal masonry, and some 3 feet thick. This wall ran to the west of the watershed, by no means where it would be expected, terminated northwards in a corner tower, now ruined almost to annihilation, and then turned at right angles in a westerly direction to form the new northern boundary of the city. This wall, of which I have not got a slide here, but which will naturally be fully illustrated in the forthcoming memoir on the first season's work, is in all probability the earliest wall of Jerusalem. I say, in all probability; for it is advisable to qualify one's statements while the work is still in progress. In excavating, beyond all things, one knows not what a day may bring forth.

Such a wall could never have been a sufficient protection. It was soon superseded by the magnificent structure now to be described. I am inclined to suspect that this refortification of the city was undertaken on account of the immigration of the Philistines into the coastlands of Palestine. When that warlike nation had established itself in the lowlands, the people of the hills must have considered it advisable to see to it that their defences were strengthened.

Let us take the eastern side first, for here the wall is in its best state of preservation. It is a drystone rampart, of fairly large stones, no less than 20 ft. thick. Exactly what height may remain above the rock I cannot say; when I left Jerusalem we had exposed it to a depth of over 20 ft., and had not yet found the bottom.

In field No. 5 there was a great bastion, rounded on plan, projecting from the outer face of the wall, and built to a slope. This imposing tower, when it was perfect and free from the accumulation of rubbish that now covers it, must have seemed well-nigh impregnable to an attacker who looked up at it from

his lowly post in the Kidron Valley. Well might the Jebusites taunt David as they looked down at him over this colossal rampart, saying that blind men and cripples would suffice to keep him from entering the city. And there is every reason to believe that it was from this bastion the taunt was hurled. David's most likely camping ground was close by the Virgin's Fountain: if the identification of the *sinnor* or gutter with Warren's Shaft be sound—and in spite of recent attempts to discredit this I still hold that it is the most likely theory—it is almost inevitable that he should have been somewhere in that neighbourhood. This bastion is almost vertically above the cave mouth where the Virgin's Fountain rises, so that it is by far the most probable stage for the scene described in II Samuel v, where we read of the strategy of David and of Joab at the capture of the city.

South of the bastion, since I left Jerusalem, excavation has revealed a large square tower. This combination of towers is curious, and clearly points to reconstruction at some time. The full details of the structure have still to be studied, and it would be premature to attempt to restore the history. For the present the two slides which are shown will suffice to illustrate this new addition to the history of the defences of Jerusalem. These slides we owe to the ever-ready helpfulness of the Dominican Fathers.

South of the gate, in field No. 7, there appears at one time to have been a similar bastion. But this has been removed, all but the upper stages, to make room for an enormous rectangular tower, with walls 12 ft. thick, which occupies the whole of the east end of field 7, and runs into the next field to the south. It is certainly the largest fortification that has yet been found in Palestine. The two plates that I now show will give an idea of its age and appearance. In places the walls are standing to a height of 26 ft., and this has probably already been exceeded, as the foundations had nowhere been exposed when I left.

I made a tentative suggestion that this mighty tower may possibly prove to be the Beth ha-Gibbōrim, the house of the mighty men, of which we read in Nehemiah. There are topographical difficulties in the way of the identification, and on the whole it is better for us to wait till the complete evidence is before us, rather than to plunge into the debatable land of theory incautiously. Still, so great a tower as this could not but have

had a name, and there is no other name recorded in the topography of this part of Jerusalem that is available for it.

We now leave this part of the wall—where I am sure other and perhaps yet more important discoveries are awaiting us—and proceed to examine the northern section, running along the north side of field 5.

I have already told you of the flimsy inner wall which was the oldest built fortification as yet traced. Its relation to the outer wall may be seen in the rough sketch plan on the next slide. The inner wall was not found in field 7, because unfortunately an Arab house or houses with deep cisterns had been erected just over its line, and the excavation of these cisterns had completely destroyed it. A gate in its northern side preserved the traditions of the causeways that had crossed the trench of the Zedek valley. Some 15 feet to the north of this wall there was a rock scarp in the western half of the field, in which there had evidently been a strong fortification. But this fortification was not, I take it, the original purpose of the rock scarp. The scarp contained a number of rock-cut chambers, which we at first took for cisterns, but which I now think were very ancient tomb-chambers. These had been broken, and the scarp partially quarried away, before the fortification was built. The coursing of the masonry was accommodated to the outline of the broken chambers. There is no escape, so far as I can see, from the conclusion that this rock scarp and the chambers which it contains represent a very early phase indeed in the history of the city, and that its connexion with the fortification wall is secondary only. Near the summit of the watershed the rock scarp bends at right angles and dies away into the rock surface. A second rock scarp parallel with it, a little distance to the east, makes a causeway. On this causeway there were a number of cup-marks, which had been carefully covered over with a layer of plaster. I take it that the causeway was adapted as the approach to a gate, and that the cup marks, which would have made the rock surface inconvenient for walking upon, were smoothed over in this way.

This can only be a matter of theory, because the wall here is almost entirely destroyed. It has been violently breached and almost levelled with the ground, and some buildings have been erected over the breach which are very suggestive indeed.

I shall now show slides of part of the scarp, of two of the

rock-cut chambers in the scarp, and of a nearer view of the great breach showing the massive stones lying where they fell.

The next slide shows how the breach was filled up. Part of it is conjectural, but the conjectures, I think, are reasonable. A long wall, starting from the corner tower, went diagonally across in front of the breach. At present it ends in a square tower. I suspect there was another tower, forming a gate, but unfortunately a later house was built over its site and destroyed it. Against this wall, but butted against it and not bonded to it—and therefore presumably later—there was a structure that apparently had consisted of two towers enclosed within a larger building. Later building, here again, had destroyed the western tower of all but one small fragment; the eastern tower remained in good condition though somewhat modified by the erection of a Byzantine house over its foundations. A staircase in one corner gave access, presumably, to an upper storey.

This complex of buildings is very suggestive, in view of certain important problems in the early fortification of Jerusalem.

We read that after the capture of Jerusalem David built round about from Millo and inward—that is to say, in toward the city. Further, we read that Solomon built Millo and repaired the breach which David his father had made. Therefore Millo was not standing in David's time, and the historian simply uses it as a topographical indication. He built inward from where Millo now stands.

If the complicated looking tower standing in the middle of the wall is Millo, as we suggest, then all the conditions presented by the Biblical data are satisfied.

Joab had diverted the defences of the city by ascending the water-shaft and by making an unexpected appearance in the middle of the city with his followers. David, hammering at the north gate, the most easily captured part of the city, was thus enabled to batter down the wall. For some reason, after he became king, he did not repair the damage he had done, but contented himself with building a covering wall. This wall has a peculiarity not found elsewhere in the excavation. It consists of large and small stone courses alternately. On the hypothesis that this was the work of David, the peculiarity in question is explained at once. The materials for this new wall were naturally drawn from the ruins. Now the Jebusite wall is built of very large stones—

some are so big that four strong men could hardly move them. David's less expert masons reduced them to a more manageable size before they dealt with them. But they thereby had a large number of small chips on their hands, and to get rid of those chips they coursed them in the wall.

And then came Solomon, who built Millo, which means "the filling." This fills the gap and repairs the breach; and if only the Herodians and Byzantines had left it alone, we might have known much more about it.

On one of the stones of this Solomonic wall was found faint traces of a painting—certainly the oldest painting in Palestine. It was a figure of the mother-goddess Ashtoreth, and could not but suggest remembrances of the backsliding of the king in the later days of his kingship.

In days to come some other explorer may find a rival Millo; but no remains hitherto found so completely fulfil all the necessary conditions.

I now show you slides of the Davidic wall, of the steps leading to the upper storey and of the painted figure. I also show slides of the general appearance of the ruins, showing the breach, the west wall of the tower, the wall of the Byzantine house erected over it, and the Herodian portico. This portico I at first thought and described as being part of the Solomonic structure, but its date had to be brought down. It seems to have been erected at the entrance to a monumental staircase, leading up, perhaps, to the temple. One step of the staircase still remains in position, and this proved to be nothing less than the lintel of the old Jebusite city gate. The step just below had been wrenched out, but we found it built into the wall of the Byzantine house; and this was found to be the threshold stone, or a part thereof, of the same gate. It was deeply furrowed with the footmarks of the folk who passed and repassed while Samuel was consolidating the disunited tribes who were destined to become lords of their city.

Some years ago there was a prominent man in Palestine, now deceased. Though technically a Muslim, he had, as I have every reason to believe, cast away all the tenets of his creed, and might, not unfairly, have been described as a man wholly without religion. Yet that man always looked for a misfortune to happen to him if ever he should allow his left foot to touch the ground first when he rose from sleep in the morning. This stone tells us that the

Jebusites had a similar but a contrary superstition. Notice how one groove stops short, while the other furrows into the rebate that stopped the door. As you go out, you must keep your right foot on the threshold longest; the left foot must be the first to step across. As you enter, the left foot must first step on the threshold.

It is disappointing to have to report that the Jerusalem of the kings has wholly disappeared. What Mr. Duncan may find further to the south I cannot say, but in fields 5 and 7 this layer is missing. We step right from Jebusite into Herodian times—inside the fortifications that I have described. I fear the relics of Hebrew Jerusalem are to be sought in an inextricable mass filling the Tyropocon valley.

I shall now show slides of three remarkable objects (selected from a large number), probably belonging to the Ptolemaic period. The first is a plaque of limestone bearing upon it a singular head-dress, resembling that of the Egyptian deities Hathor or Chnum, yet not quite like them. There are Semitic and Classical elements in the ensemble which contaminate the true Egyptian elements in the composition. The next is the end of a stone slab bearing an identical design, though in very different technique. The third is similar, but has a different design. It is a panel, surrounded by a bead and reel bordering; it contains a tree, flanked by two serpents, and outside them some meandering bands. If I make the suggestion that this may be an attempt to realise the scenery of the Garden of Eden, with the tree guarded by cherubim and the rivers, I must not be taken as committing myself to it. On the other hand, I confess that I can think of no more probable interpretation. Nothing quite like these objects have been found elsewhere, and I am in hopes that more perfect specimens will come to light and that they will be found of very considerable importance.

Coming now to Roman times, I show the marble hand of a small statue, probably of Ceres, which was one of the first of our discoveries; one of numerous tiles found with the seal of the Tenth Legion upon them; and two views of a small limestone sundial. About three or four weeks before this last object was discovered I received a letter from a gentleman in America who told me that he was writing a book on sundials and asked me if anything of the kind had come to light. I answered, what was then the fact, that we had found nothing of the sort. When this object turned up I found, to my regret, that I had not preserved my correspondent's

letter and had no note of his name or address. I mention this on the chance that some report of this meeting may come his way.

The chief Roman building found was the Eusebius house. Who the owner of the house may have been we cannot say; the name Eusebius was that of a potter stamped on one of its drain pipes. It was a house of considerable pretensions, with a courtyard entered by a double arch, and with mosaic pavements of pleasing patterns on all its floors.

The next slide shows the side of the first pit that was dug, as it very clearly shows the stratification of the debris.

In conclusion, I would call your attention once more to this diagram.

In the year 1909 a gentleman came to Jerusalem for the purpose, as I understand, of discovering certain treasures alleged to have been concealed somewhere or other by King Solomon. To this end he drove a number of tunnels ramifying in various directions. Fortunately the Dominican Fathers of Saint-Étienne obtained access to the works, and whatever of scientific value was acquired by this undertaking is wholly due to them.

I have added to the diagram part of a sketch-plan which Père Vincent gave me of one of these tunnels. Descending through a manhole, in a place which he indicated to me, it first passes a most archaic-looking gate, consisting of two monoliths supporting a lintel. It then breaks through a second wall, and finally butts up against the scarp that underlies the city wall. A cross-tunnel follows this scarp in both directions.

The excavator of these tunnels was not specially interested in the problems that were thus set before him; they had nothing to do with his particular objective. But they are problems, and in my opinion it is our duty to see them settled. What is the wall with the very ancient and primitive doorway in it? Something older, perhaps, than anything I have shown you to-day. The second wall may conceivably be part of the large square tower. Père Vincent warned me that measurements in the tunnels could not be very accurately taken.

In the scarp underlying the city wall there is the mouth of a great cave. Very early interments, with pottery of a most remote period—not later than 2000 or 2500 B.C.—were found in recesses on each side of the cave mouth. What may be in the cave itself no one can say, for the gentleman who dug the tunnels merely used it

as a dumping ground for earth taken out of the tunnels, and did not make any attempt to clear it. A few days before I was obliged to leave Jerusalem we broke into the tunnel, just where it enters field 7. I got into it—its floor was at least 10 ft. below the level which we had reached in the excavation—and followed it as far as I could venture to do so. In the interval since it was excavated the wooden casing, which had been inserted at great expense, had rotted away, and it was not prudent to go too far along the passage. I did not, therefore, reach the ancient megalithic doorway. I did, however, penetrate as far as the cave mouth, and it certainly seems to me to promise very important results. Where excavation is concerned I always abstain from prophecy, and to the question, "What do you expect to find?" which was put to me *ad nauseam* by tourists in Jerusalem, I never answer anything but, "I expect to find whatever happens to be in the ground." But to supporters of the P.E.F. I say, here is something definite. Here is a great cave, with in front of it a very primitive doorway. Make it possible for Mr. Duncan to open down on to the cave, and to expose the wall containing the doorway, and we shall see—what we *shall* see!

It would not be right for me to close without expressing my acknowledgments to His Excellency the High Commissioner, the various Members of the British Administration, and the Officers of the Department of Antiquities, for their ready helpfulness on all occasions, and for the interest which they took in the work. I should also like to express the great personal pleasure which it gave me to be able to renew once more the cordial friendship that I enjoyed in former years with the Dominican Fathers of Saint-Étienne. My six months in Jerusalem have only added to the heavy debt that I already owed to the wisdom and the learning which they so generously and freely put at my disposal.

The CHAIRMAN: I need hardly ask the permission of this audience to move, as I do, a very cordial vote of thanks to Prof. Macalister for the intensely interesting and informative lecture to which we have just listened. It seemed to me to show not only the courage and resolution he displayed—undeterred by difficulties and having only one purpose in view—in carrying out the work, but also how much preparation, or education to knowledge, is necessary in order that these things may be worth anything for the generality of mankind. It is, after all, only from the accumulations

of his learning that he was able to interpret the meaning and the real value of what he did, and I am quite sure that we recognize that to the full this afternoon. I should like therefore to thank him, and also if I may to convey to him the encouragement of all who are here that he may go on with this great undertaking, and, perhaps, your assurance that you will do your best to support him and to obtain, as many of you can, I think, not only the sympathy but the co-operation of your friends in enabling this enterprise to be carried still further for all our benefit, and, in fact, for the benefit of the whole of educated mankind. I ask you, therefore, to join with me in testifying your appreciation of and gratitude to Prof. Macalister. I will not put that formally. I know you will carry it by acclamation.

The vote of thanks having been carried by acclamation,

PROF. MACALISTER said : My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen, you have heard my voice quite enough, so I will just content myself with thanking you very sincerely for your cordiality.

DR. H. R. HALL : Ladies and Gentlemen, before you leave I wish to move a vote of thanks to Lord Burnham, who has so very kindly presided over our meeting this afternoon. It is kind indeed of him to come and to take such very great interest in our work. He and our other benefactor, Mr. Marston, whom we are glad to see with us as a member of the Executive Committee as well as a benefactor, have enabled us to take up the proposal of the Palestinian Department of Antiquities to excavate Ophel, and Prof. Macalister has shown you what he has been able to do there. I should say that although Prof. Macalister will not in all probability be able to be present in person at Jerusalem the rest of this season, and possibly next, he will be there in spirit. The work will be carried on by the Assistant-Director, Mr. Duncan, who will be responsible as Acting-Director for the actual field operations under the general auspices and supervision of Prof. Macalister. Lord Burnham has already asked you to interest as many of your friends as you can in the work of the Fund. We have heard from our Honorary Secretary, Dr. Masterman, that there are only 850 members and subscribers to the Palestine Exploration Fund, all told. There should be many thousands of people in these islands who could be sufficiently actively interested in the work of exploring ancient Palestine to enable us to have

a subscription list of a larger number. Therefore, we must appeal to all of you. You can surely interest others ; those of you who are members of Church organizations can interest friends and other members of Church organizations to help us. Every little helps. It need not necessarily be such a large subscription as was so generously given by the proprietors of *The Daily Telegraph* and Mr. Marston, but every little helps. Therefore, we appeal to you for further help if this very interesting work is to go on at Jerusalem of which we have seen the first-fruits, the discovery of the Tower of Millo and the breach which was made by David when he took the city from the Jebusites. In conclusion, I wish to repeat our gratitude to Lord Burnham for taking the Chair, and I am sure you will join in according him a hearty vote of thanks.

The vote of thanks having been heartily accorded,

The CHAIRMAN replied, congratulating Prof. Macalister and expressing his best wishes for the entire success of the future operations of the Fund.

The proceedings then terminated.
