

PLAN OF THE EAST WALL OPHEL.  
SCALE 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 FEET

FOURTH QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION  
OF THE EASTERN HILL OF JERUSALEM.

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§ 1. *Progress of the Work.*

SINCE our last quarterly report was despatched on the 10th of May work has proceeded almost without interruption.

The excavation of Field 7 has been completed and the field has now been filled in and levelled, with the exception of the portion on the eastern side, which the Government has appropriated for the preservation of the eastern wall as a national monument. The field has now been handed back to its owners.

The work has also been continued on the Tower Face. The accumulated débris has been cleared off layer by layer, in sections, to allow us to note carefully, and to record, the stratification with the contents of the various layers. At the present moment the Tower front has been cleared for 20 feet down, or 30 feet from the present level of occupation. The Bastion and wall north of the Tower are now being cleared in the same manner up to the northern limit of our first field (No. 5 of the Government plan). There we have cleared within a few feet of the same level as the clearance before the Tower.

It has proved very hard work as the débris is very hard packed and well mixed with stones.

We have started operations on Field 9, our new field, and worked there while we were waiting for permission to throw the earth from the Tower Face down the slope of the Kedron Valley.

The great Cave found by Capt. Parker and explored and recorded by Père Vincent in his book, *Jérusalem sous Terre*, has been cleared of the dump with which Parker filled it to the uttermost corner as he cut his tunnel towards the Temple enclosure. South of it also two minor caves have been cleared. The smaller is really an adjunct of the large cave, and the third is a few yards south from both. This southern cave is quite a small room but very high, and seems to have had a hole or chimney entrance from the surface of the rock.

Though these have yielded interesting and valuable materials, none of them has come up to expectation.

The inner wall, or Jebusite Wall, continues in Field 9 to run along the edge of the rock, the face of which has been scarped to serve as the under part of the eastern wall.

The outer wall found in Field 7, which it was surmised might prove to be the "House of the Mighty" or the wall of a great outlying tower, continues also through Field 9. It has proved so far to be just a second and outer wall built at a later date; the manner in which it is built and made to run parallel to the bend of the rock scarp and inner wall shows that it is simply a second and outer fortification.

In the space between these two walls a great quantity of pottery has been found. In the cave itself over forty basketsful of potsherds have been collected and examined from the filling, put there by Parker. The pottery found in front of the Tower and north end of the east wall has yielded just as interesting and valuable results. An outline of the more important of these will be given in this report.

I wish to record my thanks to Prof. Garstang for helpful suggestions; and to Prof. Albright and Prof. Margolis of the American School, to Pères Dhorme and Savignac and many other friends who have lent me unsparing help in many ways.

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## § 2. *The Jebusite Period.*

### *Field 7. Inside the wall—Remains of a Crematorium of the Neolithic Period.*

As has been stated before, very few remains of the Jebusite Period are found, as a rule, in the city proper. In the process of clearing the Roman House, however, just at the extreme east corner of the Colonnaded Entrance Hall, when we were getting down to the rock we suddenly struck a large heap of material which obviously needed explanation. It measured 8 to 10 feet through and stood about 4 or 5 feet high. It was composed entirely of reddish brown earth which crumbled away into dust as we handled it.

The earth in this heap seems to have been subjected to much heat. I found reddish brown earth in the bottom layer of a large pocket in the rock floor of the great Cave I, but it was clay and full of small chips of quartz and limestone grit.

The whole of this heap was carefully passed through a riddle and everything it contained collected and examined.

The outstanding feature of the heap is the great quantity of neolithic potsherds found in it. We picked up at least thirteen basketsful of it, mostly small pieces. It is a very rough ware, hand-made, badly baked and full of quartz chips, sometimes of quartz crystals which glitter in the sunlight. A few fragments of early brown painted pottery, and a few also of red and black burnished belonging to the same early period were found in it. The rest of

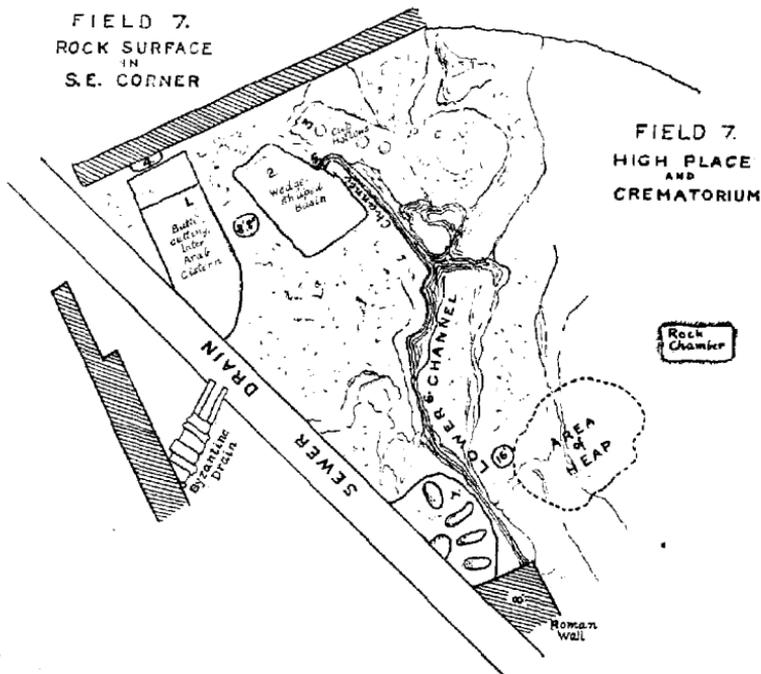


FIG. 1.

the pottery found in the heap is so manifestly fortuitous and amounts to so little as to justify our disregarding it as evidence bearing on the explanation of the heap. Pieces of bones burned black and toasted brown; handfuls of flint chips and lumps of bitumen were also found in it. The bitumen probably came from the Dead Sea.

This mass of material is, I think, to be connected with the High Place under which it was situated. This High Place is the

continuation and completion of the one found by Prof. Macalister last winter, which was not completed because the dump stood over it. I think also there is a connection between this heap with the High Place and the great Cave I. The funnel of the cave comes to the surface of the rock in the next field (No. 9) just a few yards south of the High Place and the "Crematorium."

This part of the High Place which we uncovered joined on to the portion exposed by Dr. Macalister by a long rock-cutting of the shape of a bath, about 10 feet long,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet broad and 4 feet deep (No. 1). At the south end of the cutting there was a hollow shelf left standing some 3 feet in breadth and about 18 inches higher than the bottom of the cutting. (See Fig. 1.)

The Arabs in making a cistern for a house close by found this cutting and completed their cistern by adding walls to deepen it.

Outside of this cutting and at the south end of it was another small oblong basin resembling a foot-bath (No. 4). This measures 3 feet long,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet broad and 2 feet deep. A narrow wedge-shaped piece of rock surface intervenes between this large "bath" and a large shallow basin to the west (No. 2). This basin is wedge shaped. It measures about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, is 14 inches deep, and about 6 feet wide at the north end and 4 feet wide at the south end.

Right in the centre of its west side is a very roughly cut exit 6 inches deep. This exit leads into a rough cut channel which widens as it proceeds (No. 5). Running in a straight line from the south-west corner of this basin are three cup hollows (No. 3). The centre one of these is 9 inches deep and 12 inches across. The eastern one is 6 inches deep and 10 inches across. The western one is three inches deep and 9 inches across. (See Plate I.)

This whole series of cutting occupies the surface of the rock where it is only 8 feet 8 inches beneath the present surface level. The channel, which we distinguish as the "upper" channel, leads straight to the north edge of this rock surface where it drops almost perpendicularly and leads into another channel (No. 6) at a level 8 feet lower. This lower channel runs along under the edge of this higher ledge of rock in a direction almost due north. It disappears under the east wall of the Roman House (No. 8) and under the sewer, so that we could not trace it for its full length. Just where this lower channel disappears it passes a series of peculiar oval-shaped cuttings in the ledge to the east of it (No. 7). There are altogether four of these oval cup hollows. They measure roughly

12 inches long, 8 inches wide and 5 inches deep. They are all complete, *i.e.*, they have not an open side to allow liquid to flow away. They are obviously intended to *collect* some material or other.

Their arrangement also is peculiar. There is a fifth hollow which is round in shape and measures about 18 inches in diameter and 6 inches in depth. This round hollow, half of which was under the floor of the sewer, occupies the centre. The other four are cut so as to radiate from it as centre, as if the whole group of hollows were intended to represent the sun and its rays. Had we been able to remove the sewer we should probably have found at least another three, if not four, of these oval cup hollows completing the design.

Just to the west of these curious cuttings, across the lower channel and partly filling it, stood the heap of reddish earth so full of neolithic pottery. This heap had been thrown aside by the makers of the sewer, and we find part of it on the east side of the sewer as well as the west.

It is obvious that the heap is connected with these oval hollows, and the only explanation which I can suggest is that the rock surface with these hollows was a "Crematorium." On it, I suggest, the bodies were burned. When the body was consumed the ashes remaining could so easily be scooped up in the hand from any or all of these oval cup hollows. Such at least is the explanation which seems to me the most likely.

And here comes in another very interesting discovery which is probably connected with what I propose to call the "Crematorium." A few feet to the west of the heap and on the lower rock surface we found a roofless chamber cut in the rock measuring 15 feet long by 4 wide and 6 feet deep.

The tool marks on this chamber and on the deep "bath" and wedge-shaped basin of the High Place on the Rock Surface 8 feet higher are all alike; and they are the same as we found in early rock cuttings in Section A of Field 5, our first field.

In this rock chamber we found five complete small vases of the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.<sup>1</sup> One of these is what has generally been described as a pointed ointment vase. In this case the pointed vase was nearly full of fine red dust mixed with chips of bone. Another two had similar contents. The remaining two were partially filled with small lumps of mud and tiny chips of bone mixed in it, water having evidently got into them. All of these

<sup>1</sup> [Prof. Macalister considers them to be late Hebrew.]

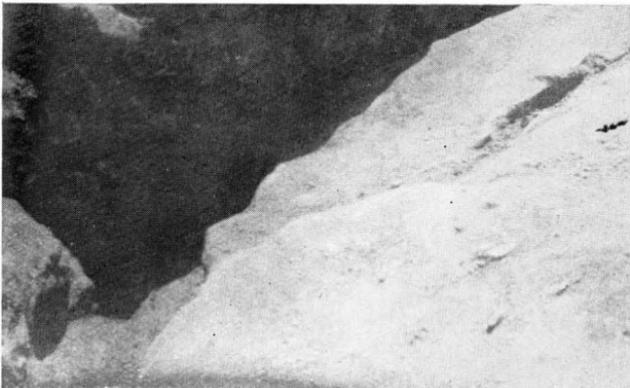
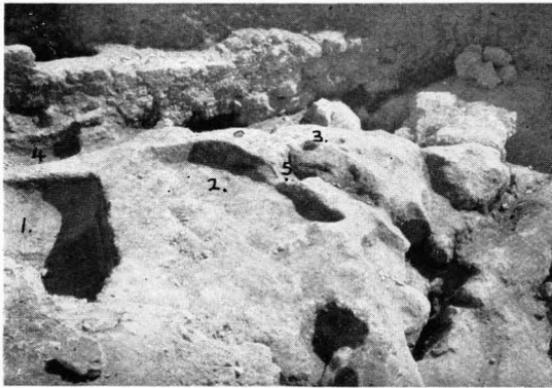
fine vases show traces of having been sealed over the mouth and down over the neck and shoulder with powerful lime mud plaster. The soil contained in the first three undoubtedly came from the "Crematorium" heap.

If the arrangement of these oval hollows round a large circular hollow is intended to represent the sun and its rays, it is possible that we have here a clear trace of Sun-worship among the inhabitants of the Neolithic Period.

### § 3. *The Jebusite Wall.*

We have followed the line of the Jebusite Wall which we saw resting on the top of a rock scarp at the south boundary of Field 7, and find that both wall and scarp continue in Field 9. As, however, the surface of the rock scarp is not more than 14 feet below the present level of occupation, only a few of the lower courses of the Jebusite Wall remain *in situ*. Arab houses are built above it and much of the material of these has been taken from the wall. The outer wall, which we suggested might be the outer wall built by Hezekiah, continues also as far as we have proceeded—sufficiently far to show that it is neither the "House of the Mighty" nor a great projecting tower, but simply a wall which has been made to run parallel with the rock scarp with great care and minuteness. It humours every eccentricity of the rock scarp, as if the builder was determined to keep exactly the same space between the two walls throughout its length. The rock scarp makes a sudden bend outwards to the east. Had the outer wall continued in its line, the outer wall and the scarp would have met in a few yards. The builder of the outer wall, however, apparently could not build a rounded wall. He therefore made a false, or apparent break; left a projection of 18 inches standing out from the face of the wall and so changed its direction. This he repeated till the outer wall was again running parallel to the rock scarp. There are two of these "false" breaks visible so far. (See Plate II (2).)

An interesting feature of this wall is a slot or window opening about 2 feet high and 12 inches wide in the inside face of it and about 14 feet down from the present level. This has puzzled me so far; and until I can examine the interior of the wall from above I am unable to say whether it has served as a window to admit light and air to a tunnel inside this outer wall, or is merely a somewhat large rain escape to prevent the wall giving way under pressure of water accumulated inside.



1. ROCK-CUTTINGS SEEN FROM THE NORTH.
2. RADIATING CUP-HOLLOWS.
3. "UPPER" CHANNEL DESCENDING THE ROCK.



(Photo. by C. Raad.)

1. STREET AND ARCH, AND REMAINS OF ARAB CISTERN BUILT INTO OUTER FACE OF THE JEBUSITE INNER WALL.
2. OUTER "HEZEKIAH" WALL, SHOWING FALSE BREAK AND WINDOWS.

Another interesting feature of this wall is the curious narrow wall built on the top of it and half its width, with its outside face seeming to run flush with the outside face of this "Hezekiah" outer wall. This also we have yet to uncover.

This narrow wall looks like a tunnel built at a later date on the top of the remains of the large outer wall. We have cleared out 10-15 yards from beneath it, and find ourselves in a tunnel whose sides are a mixture of earth and stones and whose roof is composed of great heavy flat boulders of stone 3-4 feet wide, 12-18 inches thick and of varying lengths. It is not a built tunnel. Rather it appears that the builders of the narrow wall first laid a thick layer of very strong lime plaster upon the earth and rubbish accumulated above the large outer wall, and then laid these great flat blocks to serve as a secure foundation. They thus saved themselves the trouble of going down some few feet for a sure foundation upon the Old Wall.

What purpose this narrow wall served I cannot yet fathom. On the same level, just under the face of the Jebusite Inner Wall, there lie what seem to be the remains of an arch. It is possible that at some period (some think about the Greek period) a bridge here crossed the passage between the two walls so that people could walk across from the top of what remained of the Jebusite wall to the top of the outer wall. It may be that the masonry of this narrow wall built on the top of the outer wall is Greek, as the enormous boulders might suggest. It certainly belongs to a period considerably later than the outer wall itself; and yet to a time when the gap between the walls was still kept clear, if these arch stones belonged to a bridge. Some of the stones in this fallen arch have Solomonic dressing.

A remarkable peculiarity of the masonry of this narrow "Greek" wall is the fact that it has been built largely of great flat boulders and of smaller stones mixed with a lime plaster, or cement, so powerful that it may justly be described now as a conglomerate. This plaster holds it so well together, that though we undermined it completely in investigating whether it concealed a tunnel, not a stone of it has fallen in; and we find it very difficult to break off a fraction of it.

As to the date, it is possible that it may be Maccabean. It certainly cannot have been built there until the outer wall was reduced to its present level, nor for some time after, since there is

an accumulation of several feet of débris between it and the surface of the outer wall. It is not at all likely, however, that the Maccabeans would have razed the surface of the City and then proceeded to build the walls again. It must therefore belong to a later date and its purpose cannot so far be fathomed.

*Face of the N. Bastion and the Wall North of it.*

We are now engaged in clearing the face of the North Stair Bastion, and of the wall to the north of it. On this section a few yards north of the N. "Stair" Bastion we have found another small turret 18 feet long, 8 feet wide at the south end and 4 feet wide at the north end. We have cut a narrow section vertically down the face of the wall and turret, and the results are of surprising interest. In the uppermost 2 feet layer we found only Maccabean pottery. Below that I have found Neolithic, First Bronze and Early Hebrew remains practically all in that order. This represents a cutting of 4-6 feet deep from the top level of the wall, or 10 feet from the present surface of the field. In the next 4 feet I continued to find Hebrew lamps of 700 B.C. and jar handles inscribed in the old Hebrew characters. Beneath the Hebrew I have struck Seleucid remains with Rhodian jar handles.

It seems that there has been a clearance of the City here. Nothing else can explain why we find the pottery in inverted order of date. It seems also clear that this sweep-out was made in Maccabean times. The surface Maccabean layer on the slope outside the wall represents the Maccabean occupation during and after the effecting of the clearance. This appears to hold good also in front of the North Bastion, so that the Maccabean clearance of the City extended as far south as the great Solomonian Tower. But the evidence from the front of the tower itself does not go to prove such a clearance at that point. There the pottery is not found topsy-turvy but comes in regular sequence of date, the latest on the surface and the oldest Canaanite and Hebrew at the bottom.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ADDITIONAL NOTE.—The explanation of the inverted order in which we find the pottery here may be due to the fact that in digging a trench for the small tower they threw the material over the edge to the east. Thus the oldest pottery would be left on the surface and that belonging to the period at which it was built would be in the bottom of the out-thrown rubbish. This implies a later date for the small tower than we assign to the East Wall itself, which seems quite probable.

From this I gather that Josephus' statement of the levelling of the Akra by Simon Maccabaeus is proving itself true; that the clearance affected only the part of the city north of Field 7 and down to this Tower of "Solomon"; and that the Akra or Citadel was the only part levelled by Simon Maccabaeus and the Akra extended down to the south edge of the North Stair Bastion. It seems also that Simon Maccabaeus may have reduced this eastern wall to its present level, or near to it.

*Pottery from the N. and S. Glacis.*

The pottery from the face of the North Glacis down to 20 feet has already been described. Fragments of Neolithic, First Bronze painted and burnished and Cypriote were found, showing that the glacis stood there as early as 1200 B.C. at least.

A selected basketful of potsherds from the face of the South Glacis gives practically the same result. The tabulated list of its contents is as follows:—

*Seleucid and Maccabean :*

1. Seleucid lamps	...	3	fragments.				
2. Maccabean lamps	...	12	(8 complete and 4 fragments).				
3. Pottery	...	13	fragments.				
		<u>28</u>		...	...	...	28

<i>Cypriote</i>	...	Painted	...	1	...	...	...	1
<i>Hebrew</i>	...	Saucer and 2						
		lamps	...	3	...	...	...	3
<i>II. and III.</i>	...	Pottery	...	7	fragments	...	...	7

*Bronze.*

<i>I. Bronze</i>	...	Red burnished		4				
		Yellow „		1				
		Painted red on						
		white	...	3				
		Ribbed	...	1				
		Plain red	...	1				
				<u>10</u>	...	...	...	10

<i>Neolithic</i>	...	Wavy handle		1				
		Rough rope						
		pattern	...	5				
				<u>6</u>	...	...	...	6

*The Tower Face.*

The pottery from the face of the Tower contains representative sherds from the Maccabean period back to the Transition period, when the Hebrews took the city and retained the Jebusites in their midst. The vast bulk of this pottery from about 12 feet down to 18 feet is Hebrew mixed with this Transition period pottery, which still retains the features of baking and mixture of fine grit characteristic of the Third Bronze Age.

Beneath this level, however, we are beginning to find indications of an earlier date, and when we get down to the original Jebusite level from which the Tower springs we expect to get pottery of the Neolithic and First Bronze Ages.

A quantity of bronze has been found at this level.

§ 4. *The Three Caves.**The Great Cave.*

The entrance to the great cave lies just under the wall that separates Field 7 from Field 9. The roof of the entrance is about 26 feet and the floor 36 feet from the present level of occupation. The cave itself measures 75 feet long with an average breadth of about 20 feet. The breadth varies considerably at different points. The floor rises on a slight slope towards the chamber in the furthest interior. This chamber is almost circular and measures about 30 feet in diameter. At the inmost point a funnel leads to the surface. The top of the funnel is 16 feet from the floor. The height of the roof varies as much as the breadth, but the innermost chamber is of considerable height. There one can stand and move about with freedom.

A short distance back from this chamber there is a cavity in the roof which forms a sort of upper chamber of no great dimensions. This was filled up by Parker so that the contents had no bearing on its original use, but the floor of it has yet to be examined.

It has probably been used as a dry-store or as a retreat in danger. One can pass in and out of the cave without ever observing it, even with a light in one's hand. There is also a similar ledge off the funnel, which does not by any means offer such seclusion, but would serve well as a landing place for entrants from above. It is not likely that this upper room was used for burial. We have found no trace of bones or early pottery in it so far. A Seleucid lamp was found in the filling.

The whole cave shows signs of attrition by water. It is properly described, I think, as a natural cave, probably enlarged by the hand of man. Yet there are no tool-marks of any description on its walls. The only place where we can see at a glance that the hand of man has been at work is the entrance. It is squared and cut at the south end as the photograph shows. It is possible therefore, and likely, that originally the only entrance to this cave was by the funnel from the surface, and that the front was closed up. (See Plate III.)

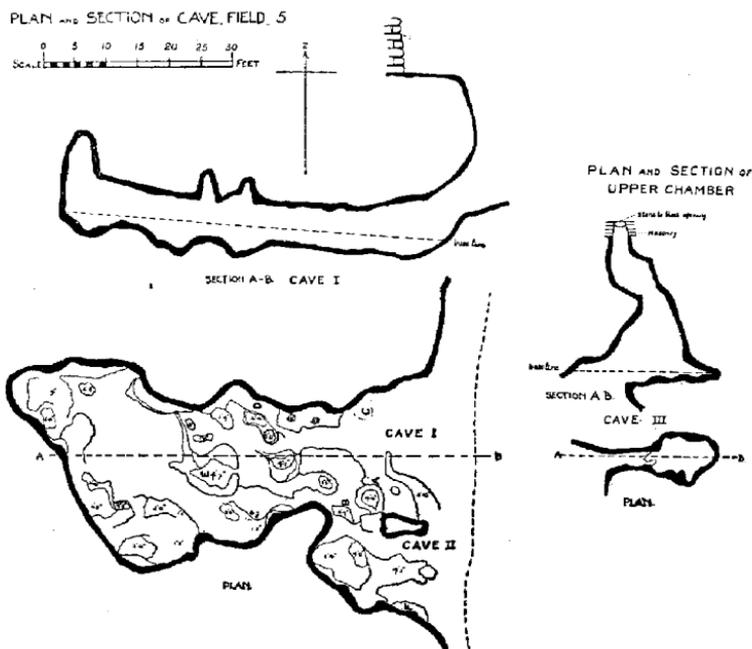


FIG. 2.

I have searched its walls from end to end for graffiti but so far have found not the slightest trace.

When occupied the floor doubtless had a smooth surface. We have, however, excavated every hollow in it. These are all hollows cut in the solid rock. Three of them (A, B and C on plan) had been graves. Two on the left side about 3 or 4 yards from the entrance and another opposite to these on the right side. No bones, however, were found in these. Broken pieces of bone were found strewed over the floor in the lowest layer, along with the

Neolithic pottery. Further in from these on the right side is the ledge "D," on which Père Vincent says a skeleton was found embedded in hard mud. (See *Jérusalem sous Terre*, where Père Vincent has given some description of this Cave.)

Much further in and just on the verge of the circular inner chamber is a very much deeper cutting (E on plan).

It measures over 4 feet 7 inches deep, and is 8 to 10 feet across. When we cleared this cutting we found a mass of reddish clay, much of it being full of the quartz grit which we find in Neolithic pottery. In fact, I picked up fragments of this pottery in the cutting itself and was able to compare the pottery with the clay on the spot. This is certainly the kind of clay of which the Neolithic pottery is made, and it is possible either that this was a grave which had been filled up with this clay brought in from somewhere outside; or that they dug down into this cutting for the clay to make some of their pottery.

#### *The Contents of the Cave.*

I examined 15 basketsful of pottery taken from the *last 12 inches layer on the floor surface*. These numbered 1,032 fragments in all.

Of these 87 were *Neolithic*; 25 *Early Bronze* and 207 of the *III. Bronze period*; while the *Hebrew* fragments numbered 462 and the *Maccabean* 251. Nothing later than Maccabean was found at this depth.

The presence of III. Bronze, Hebrew and Maccabean potsherds shows that these fragments belonged most probably to Parker's dump, and had been put there by him from the excavation of his tunnel; but the I. Bronze and Neolithic fragments belong to the troglodyte occupation. The Neolithic certainly does. The Neolithic fragments were found in the deeper cuttings of the floor. They are the same ware as found in the "Crematorium" heap in Field 7. Some fragments of bitumen were also found. These are perhaps another link of connection with the "Crematorium."

The rest of the contents of these baskets consisted of one basketful of bones, which are certainly not all human bones. Many chips of wrought flint, one flat bone stylus, one piece of bronze, six pieces of iron and some fragments of stone ware which had sunk down through Parker's filling and were obviously of the Roman period. There were also five pieces of a hard scaly substance which look like petrified bone.



*(Photo. by C. Read.)*

CAVE I.—1. ENTRANCE TO THE CAVE.

2. FIRST VIEW FROM WITHIN THE CAVE.



HEBREW LAMPS AND PLATTERS.

It is very likely that flints and other small objects embedded in mud may have been emptied on the dump. It must be remembered that we worked under very hard conditions in this cave. The soil was very wet with sewage and therefore lumpy; and though we had as good light as we could procure, the light was not good at every point. The dump, however, will be carefully dealt with afterwards when we have to spread it.

Some of our men worked as boys with Parker and helped to fill the cave for him and now to empty it for me. One of them told me that when they began to fill it the floor was littered with the evidences of the presence of sheep. The cave had therefore been open probably and used as a sheep-fold in Hebrew times.

In view of this fact it is almost a miracle that any complete pottery was found in it at all. An account with drawings of this pottery is given by Père Vincent in his book *Jérusalem sous Terre*. We have not had the good fortune to find any such beautiful painted Jebusite pottery as he found when Parker was filling it. I am afraid he exhausted its contents then, and only the scraps were left for us.

It was, however, in this cave that our most valuable find, the Hebrew Ostrakon, was secured. It must have been thrown in by Parker's men. We have only therefore a faint guess as to how far up his tunnel it came from. It is described below, p. 183 *sq.*

#### *Cave II.*

What we describe as Cave II is really a small adjunct of Cave I. (See Plan, Fig. 2.)

This had been used, I think, entirely for burial purposes. In fact, it looked as if the whole floor of it had at one time been full of burials. In one small cutting on a ledge to the left of the entrance (F on Plan) I found the remains of a Troglodyte burial. These consisted only of a few fragments of bones and a small one-handed Neolithic jug (Fig. 3). The jug lay in the north-west corner of the grave. The grave itself measures only about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet long by 2 feet wide and not more than 18 inches deep. The inner portion of the floor of this cave had evidently been used as a general burial place. Scraps of bones and fragments of Neolithic pottery were picked up all over the floor level of the cave. In the small rock grave above described the soil was the same red clay with grit in it as we found in the largest rock-cutting of Cave I. (E on Plan).

Many worked flint chips were found on the floor level.

*Cave III.*

Cave III is a very small room or natural cavity a few yards to the south of Cave II. Though it is some yards south of where Parker's tunnel struck the rock, for some reason or other he turned south and apparently explored it. I have no doubt he was merely searching for dump-space. In any case, he filled it almost to the very roof with stones and earth, which must have been a difficult task, seeing it is a very small room and has a narrow funnel roof which goes right to the surface of the rock, and was probably a



FIG. 3.—Neolithic Jug from Cave III.



FIG. 4.—Flint Fabricator from Cave III.

surface entrance at one time. The contents were the same as in the other two. All the pottery down to the floor level came from Parker's tunnel. It had also been used as a burial place.

The only find of importance here is a very fine small flint "fabricator," with a beautifully finished edge (see Fig. 4). A bone of some animal which I cannot identify was also found in this cave. Altogether three of these bones were picked up.

§ 5. *Hebrew Period.*

The most interesting discoveries of the last three months, however, belong to the Hebrew period. Until we began work seriously on the outside of the eastern wall both Maccabean and early Hebrew pottery were remarkable for their absence. Now, outside of the Jebusite Wall and the tower, we are picking up potsherds of both periods in basketsful every day. The analysis of the contents of



FIG. 5.—Basin of Yellow Ware.

Cave I is an excellent illustration of this. Of 1,032 fragments examined no fewer than 713 were early Hebrew and Maccabean, or 70 per cent. 450 of these represent pottery thrown over the Jebusite East Wall at a time when the rock scarp beneath it was still visible and the cave open. It was all put in the cave by Parker from his tunnel.

Of this Hebrew pottery found in such abundance one of the most striking and frequently occurring types is the red ring-burnished ware.

Though we found so little Hebrew pottery inside the city yet it was in Field 7 that we secured six complete specimens. Five of these are small jugs. Four had one handle and the fifth two. In these four the ware is red and mottled over with white specks of limestone. The fifth is the same ware as we found in Field 5, and dates about 900-1000 B.C. All five are pre-exilic Hebrew pottery (Plate IV, upper half). The platter (*ibid.*), which has probably been used to place under a porous drinking water-jug, is shown on the same photograph and is one of the best specimens of this kind extant. Fortunately it is complete. It shows the white specks of limestone and the ring-burnishing very clearly. It belongs to the earliest period of Hebrew pottery and dates about 1000 B.C.

Another piece of pottery belonging to the same period of Transition is a large basin of yellow ware half-an-inch thick (Fig. 5). The basin is on a stand  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches high. Both basin and stand had been finished outside and inside, and the vessel was used either side up. When the stand was uppermost it served as a bowl 6 inches deep and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter at the rim (outside measurement). The stand therefore has a finished rim. Though it is not complete, it is the best specimen of the kind extant. It is ring-burnished yellow ware and shows a mixture of very fine grit with occasional specks of lime in its composition. This fine piece came from the south-east corner of the large tower at a depth of about 15 feet. On Plate IV (lower half) are shown some Hebrew lamps and two rough platters. Three of these lamps have the usual heavy solid base. We have picked up hundreds of these, usually only the base being left intact. The fourth lamp has the nipped spout of the earlier style of Hebrew lamp and a flat base. Of these also we have found many fine specimens outside of the east wall. All of them date from 700 B.C. to 900 B.C. The platters are of the same ware and of the same date.

The pottery, however, that is of most frequent occurrence is the ring-burnished red.

Of this type of ware many basketsful of sherds representing rims, bases, handles and slabs of basins and large pots have been preserved.

The specimens procured indicate two classes of this ring-burnished ware. One type is distinctly Hebrew ware. It contains no finely ground and uniformly distinguished grit, but is full of specks of white limestone shining out through its surface and spoiling its appearance, as seen in the fine red burnished flat platter shown on Plate IV, which dates about 1000 B.C. This type also is of different paste and usually badly baked.



FIG. 6.—Terra-cotta Figurines.

(a) Sheep (?)

(b) Mother-goddess.

The other type is a totally different ware and irresistibly suggests the III. Bronze Canaanite ware. It is crisply baked all through. It is full of small quartz grit uniformly distributed and there is never a speck of limestone or grit shining through its burnished surface.

The first type is unmistakably Hebrew. The second is as unmistakably Canaanite. For this reason I speak of this pottery as the pottery of the Transition period. Either this second type represents the pottery of the Jebusites who remained in the city with the Hebrews, or we may regard it as Hebrew imitation of Canaanite III. Bronze Age pottery. It dates therefore from about 1200 B.C. down to 900 B.C.

Many fragments of terra-cotta figures have been found, chiefly outside the east wall. Some of these are representations of animals, as, for example, Fig. 6, which is obviously intended to represent a sheep. Others represent other animals. The majority, however, represent the Mother-goddess. These date from the late monarchy down to the exile. All these figures, of which we have a considerable number of fragments, were found chiefly in front of the Tower and north Bastion.

For the Hebrew inscribed objects see the following article.

JERUSALEM.

3rd September, 1924.

### INSCRIBED HEBREW OBJECTS FROM OPHEL,<sup>1</sup>

MR. DUNCAN reports that up to the present about 30 inscribed jar-handles have been found outside the Jebusite East Wall, and they continue to come. Some of them are badly stamped or weathered and are in consequence very difficult to read. Those which are reproduced here are a selection of the best and most legible specimens; but even where the letters can be easily deciphered it is not easy to say what they mean. Such stamps are now very well-known, but their *raison d'être* has been repeatedly discussed

<sup>1</sup> Based on material sent by Mr. Duncan, and comments by Dr. Hall, Prof. Macalister and the Editor.