

## REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS.

*The Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research*, Vol. IV, for 1922-1923. Yale University Press, 1924.

MORE than half of this volume is occupied by a detailed and well-illustrated account of the excavation of *Tell el-fâl* (Gibeah of Saul).

The lofty hill of *Tell el-fâl*, to the right of the Jerusalem-Nablûs road some three miles north of Jerusalem, is a familiar sight to all travellers in Palestine. The original identification of this site by Gross (1843), Robinson (1844), Valintiner (1858) and Guérin (1874), as the site of Gibeah of Benjamin or of Saul was queried on archaeological grounds by Conder (1877), who considered the visible masonry and that which had been uncovered by Warren in 1868 to be "Crusading." This opinion seriously led astray the late Rev. W. F. Birch (*see Q.S.* 1911, p. 106). Since Conder's time opinion has been steadily hardening as to the earlier view and in a succession of papers in the *Quarterly Statement* (1911, pp. 97-100, 1914, pp. 132-137, 1915, pp. 35-37) the antiquity of the remains and especially of the abundant pottery on the site has been maintained. The present excavations, made in 1922, may be said to have settled the question. Dr. A. P. Albright, the Director, has now shown that a succession of four powerful fortifications occupied the summit from pre-Hebrew down to Maccabean times. The masonry of the first fortress, which belongs to the 13th and 12th centuries B.C., consists of irregular massive stones fitted together in polygonal fashion with the interstices filled with smaller stones. In places the walls were found still standing to a height of two metres and there were indications that the building consisted of two storeys and that it was destroyed by fire.

The second fort (11th century B.C.) is "by far the most elaborate and carefully constructed of all." "We have every reason to suppose that this fortress belonged to a clan or person of importance." The Director believes that it was the work of King Saul himself. The masonry is superior to the earlier work. The stones have been hammered into a rough oblong shape and are laid

in regular courses. The quality of the associated pottery also shows an advance and belongs to the beginning of Macalister's "Fourth Semitic" period. Eventually the fortress fell into disuse and probably the site was unoccupied during the 10th to the 8th centuries B.C. Then in the 7th century B.C. a quadrilateral tower with an enveloping glacis was constructed on the ancient foundations. This "migdol" was similar, in the opinion of Dr. Albright, to the Kasr el-Ruheibeh, described by Messrs. Woolley and Lawrence in the Negeb (*P.E.F. Annual, III*, p. 41, Fig. 3). This third fortification was in its turn destroyed by fire, after which the summit was for two or three centuries occupied by the Village. And lastly, in the Maccabean period, a watch tower again occupied the hill top.

The whole report is exhaustive and the illustrations make it easy to follow. It is a most useful piece of work along lines where there is much room for small excavations. Every supposed site should be investigated in this way archaeologically as well as topographically and geographically. In this way only shall we have accurate views on ancient sites.

The Appendix, some 60 pages, consists of eight short monographs on topography. The most important is the Site of Mizpah at Nebi Samwil and the possibility of Beeroth being at the well-known and hitherto unidentified *Tell en-Nasbeh*, has been already referred to in the *Quarterly Statement*, 1924, p. 92. The general get up of the Annual is excellent but it badly needs an index.

E. W. G. M.

*Annual Report of the Department of Health for 1923.* Government of Palestine.

THE Health report for Palestine for 1923 states that "malaria, enteritic disease, typhus and smallpox have been kept well under control and are no longer to be regarded as the scourges they were in former years." The incidence of malaria throughout Palestine was lower in 1923 than in any previous year since the Occupation. "In some districts, as for example in the Valley of Jezreel, the whole way from Marchavia to Beisan, where in previous years there have been severe epidemics of malignant malaria among the newly-settled colonists, the extensive works undertaken have had the effect of reducing the amount of primary malaria in 1923 to a few sporadic cases. Results such as these are of significance since they

show that much well-watered and fertile land, at present lying waste on account of malaria, can with one or two years' well-planned work, be rendered healthy and suitable for settlement."

Unfortunately the general death rate was markedly raised on account of a great epidemic of measles which began in the last two months of 1922 and lasted throughout 1923. Nearly 7,000 cases were notified and 1232—mostly quite young children—deaths occurred. Notifications were incomplete but there is "no doubt that the disease must be regarded as more serious in its effect on the life of the community than in European countries."

Smallpox is kept in check by wholesale vaccination and re-vaccination. "Fortunately in Palestine this valuable prophylactic measure is not as yet hindered either by the profession of conscientious scruples or by the ill-advised propaganda of anti-vaccinationists."

Rabies among dogs and jackals has been on the increase and in addition to the destruction of 1,829 dogs "an organized campaign against jackals has been undertaken by the Department of Agriculture."

A great work is being done in the instruction of school teachers and of various officials of departments of the Health Service; also in the examination and certification of nurses, fourteen having passed their final examination this year.

The health of the British and Palestine Gendarmerie (numbering about 700 and 450 respectively) has been satisfactory, though "the barrack and camp accommodation of both sections is unsatisfactory."

The abnormally low—and late—rainfall last winter caused the severest drought since the Occupation. "In Jerusalem by December the rain-water cistern supply had given out and the municipal piped supply from Ain Arrub and Solomon's Pools fell to less than 50,000 gallons a day. Drinking water was being sold in the city for 2*d.* or more a gallon, and was being brought by motor lorry from Nablus and other places." The purity of the water also suffered much in consequence. No section of the report is more interesting than that dealing with quarantine and the sanitary control of the Mecca pilgrims. The anti-rabic and anti-malarial measures here described also make fascinating reading, and all those interested in such questions should study this complete report.

E. W. G. M.

*Orte und Wege Jesu.* By Dr. D. Gustaf Dalman. Pp. 407, with 52 illustrations and plans. Gütersloh, 1924.

THIS, the first volume of a forthcoming series of *Schriften des Deutscher Palästina-Instituts*, contains a series of important articles upon the Palestine sites in the Gospels. It necessarily covers much the same ground as Sunday's *Sacred Sites of the Gospel*, but is more exhaustive, and is written with a far more intimate first-hand knowledge of the country. Indeed, in this respect, Prof. Dalman has few, if any, rivals, while his profound knowledge of Biblical and Talmudic writings gives all he writes a claim to the serious consideration of all students. In XXI chapters the author follows the topography of the life of Our Lord from Bethlehem to Golgotha. On the whole he is on the side of the traditional sites, though he, one is glad to see, supports the claim of *Khurbet Kana* over that of *Kefer Kenna* as the true site of Cana in Galilee, and has an excellent little photograph of the former site. The photographs are mostly excellent, though it is impossible to make much of No. 37 (View of the Temple Wall from the Kidron Valley), but the most remarkable features are the views of Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, and the Road to Jericho, taken from the air. Those who know the land will find these well worth minute study.

E. W. G. M.

*Applied Entomology of Palestine*, being a report to the Palestine Government, by P. R. Buxton, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., late Medical Entomologist, Government of Palestine. (Reprinted from the Bulletin of Entomological Research, Vol. XIV, part 3, 1924.)

THIS valuable monograph of 50 closely-printed pages is well illustrated and has a map of Palestine. It is essential for all those who are interested in either the fauna or the diseases of Palestine, but is too technical to call for any but a passing notice here. Sufficient to say that it is a piece of work worthy of the high reputation of the writer.

The common malarial-carrying species of mosquitoes are *Anopheles Bifurcatus*, *A. Superpictus*, *A. Hyrcanus*, *A. elutus*, *A. Sergenti*, and *A. Algeriensis*. Of these, the first is the "domestic species," and breeds in wells and cisterns. It is the chief carrier

of malaria in Jerusalem, Haifa, etc. The other species are common in marshes, pools and streams all over the land, each species having its own peculiar habitat, and each its own season of emergence. These are fully described. Nablus "is unique because it is quite free from malaria, in spite of the abundance of water in it and in the gardens around it." It appears the Anopheles cannot breed in its waters.

In the marshy areas, and most of all in the Jordan valley, the efforts to keep malaria in check will clearly need unrelaxed efforts for an unlimited period.

E. W. G. M.

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