

T H E

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Treasurer, Colonel Sir Charles Close, and the Honorary Secretary, Dr. E. W. G. Masterman, have both left for Egypt and Palestine. They will spend some days together in Jerusalem, when they will confer with the Rev. Garrow Duncan regarding the excavations at "Ophel." Sir Charles Close proposes to make a survey of the Ophel Hill so as to show the exact position of the various walls that have been found. He will also look into the financial position, so that he may report to the Executive Committee with regard to the Summer Campaign of excavation. Only a few hundred pounds remain over for this season's work.

Sir Charles Close and the Honorary Secretary are commissioned by the Executive Committee to arrange, if possible, with the Rev. Garrow Duncan, that the new excavations should have as their special objective the location of the western wall of Ophel, bordering upon the Tyropoeon Valley. The line of the north wall and of the eastern wall in pre-Hebrew times has been now demonstrated, but no sure remains of the western wall are known, although there are some surface indications. It is a matter of considerable importance to clear up this point, and if this summer's excavation reveals a powerful Jebusite wall to the west of Ophel, it will be a satisfactory result. It is hoped the new season's work may be such as to encourage subscribers to come forward in greater numbers and with more liberal support for further work at this extraordinarily interesting and historic site.

Sir Charles Warren, whose important statement we publish in this number of the *Quarterly Statement*, realizing how great are our present opportunities, makes a conditional offer, which is printed below, of £100 for a further period of work on the Ophel Hill.

3, Trinity Mansions,
Weston-super-Mare.
14 March, 1925.

Dear Dr. Masterman,

In continuation of my appeal, dated 22 Feb., 1925, in your hands, I make the following offer to the Palestine Exploration Fund.

I will make a donation of (£100) one hundred pounds towards excavations on the ancient site—Hill of Ophel (Jerusalem), south of the Haram esh-Sherif—provided that forty-nine other persons will subscribe £100 each, making in all £5,000. The money to be collected before 1 April, 1926.

If by 1 September, 1925, the sum of £2,500 is collected, I give £50 of the £100 I propose.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Warren.

We sincerely hope that this challenge, made by one who himself did so much excavation on Ophel nearly sixty years ago, will be taken up without delay. For any adequate renewed excavation on Ophel *at least* £5,000 is necessary.

The Annual is now well in hand and should be in the hands of the Members of the Society at the end of this summer.

At the time of writing reports from Jerusalem refer to a great shortage of rain threatening a severe drought and a scanty harvest. It is to be hoped that the "latter rains" in April may be heavier than usual this year.

We have little to print this quarter of the Jerusalem work. During the winter the actual excavation work has been suspended, but there has been an enormous amount of pottery which our Acting Director has had to deal with. His reports on this are not yet complete, and much that has come in is probably more suitable for the Annual than to the *Quarterly Statement*. In the July number we shall doubtless have reports of new excavations, which, it is hoped, will be begun in May.

In the *Daily Telegraph* of Jan. 17, Prof. Macalister gave a survey of the later stages in the excavations at Jerusalem. He comments upon the fine city wall, 20 feet in thickness, and even yet rising to a height of 20 feet above its foundations. The destruction of the Akra or Citadel by Simon Maccabaeus is described as a disaster for archaeology, as the strata and debris were hopelessly confused: "Simon's proceedings may have been necessitated by immediate military exigencies, but for the archaeological history of Jerusalem they were the greatest of the many disasters that have overtaken that unfortunate city." The absence of inscriptions is still a most disappointing feature, and Prof. Macalister raises a very remarkable but far from improbable question: is it possible that the old Hebrew inscriptions were couched in terms that, from the later standpoint of a Maccabee, would be far from orthodox? We know from the Book of Kings and Josiah's reforms that the Temple religion from Solomon's time onwards was calculated to cause the resentment of strict Israelites. We know from the documents of the Jews of Elephantine that other gods were recognized besides the national one. There is, therefore, nothing improbable in the suggestion that the later destruction of compromising monuments may explain "the extraordinary absence of inscriptions," other factors, of course—the climate, for example—not being excluded. The numerous "potsherd documents" come in for notice, and Prof. Macalister concludes that "the revelation of the great city walls would alone have amply justified the expedition to Jerusalem." "The work is still in progress. Even yet at any moment a stroke of a pick may reveal a record which will take its place among the greatest of the world's treasures."

Popular Science Siftings (Feb. 10) contains a brief account of the opening of the so-called Tomb of Absalom by Dr. Nahum Slousch, of

the Jewish Palestine Exploration Fund. "In unearthing the tomb they uncovered, wholly by accident, another royal sepulchre, which they believe to be that of king Jehoshaphat, one of the greatest rulers of Judah." In the latter there were "seven passages and halls branching back into the depths of the rock." It is said that they managed to carry away a mass of ancient MSS. found in the tomb of Absalom. There was also a large chest, apparently of the time of the First Crusaders. Unfortunately no other account of these discoveries has as yet come under our notice, and it would be premature to do more than merely chronicle, with reserve, the news as it appears in the journal in question.

The Fifth Annual Report of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, now published, is able to record a satisfactory year. Subscriptions, still far from representative, have enabled all the working expenses and excavation charges to be met. The Annual General Meeting of Subscribers was held on Tuesday, March 3, Prof. Burney in the Chair. Dr. Gärstang gave a survey of the work of excavation, specifying, place by place, the most characteristic feature of the new discoveries. His lecture was illustrated by numerous lantern slides, and was highly appreciated by a large audience. He pointed out that a new field in Transjordan is probably about to open, offering still further scope for excavation, *given sufficient funds and time, and a properly equipped staff*. Never had he seen such a splendid area of ruins given over to waste as at Jerash, and he drew a vivid picture of the wonderful architectural remains which were crying out for expert investigation.

We much regret to have to record the death of Mr. Francis G. Newton, who was Architectural Assistant to Dr. Mackenzie at Ain Shems during 1910-1912. Besides the work which he did there, he made a notable journey to Petra, the results of which were recorded in the *Quarterly Statement*.

After leaving the service of the Palestine Exploration Fund, Mr. Newton assisted Sir Arthur Evans at Knossos in Crete and for two seasons was Architect on the staff of the joint expedition of the British Museum and the University of Philadelphia at Ur in Irak.

After previous service as assistant for the Egyptian Exploration Society at Tell el-Amarna, he was in 1924 appointed Director of this work, but sad to say he died at Assiut on December 29th, 1924.

His loss is a serious one. The number of trained Archaeologists with experience in Egypt, Palestine and Mesopotamia was already very small, and Mr. Newton was just coming into his own in this direction. Those who met him at the exhibition of Antiquities from Tell el-Amarna in the Society of Antiquaries will realize what an enthusiasm he had developed since the first beginnings of experience in excavations under the Palestine Exploration Fund fifteen years ago.

Subscribers will recollect that the map of the Negeb or Wilderness of Zin, which should have accompanied the 1914-15 Annual, had then to be withheld from publication owing to the War. The Committee are glad to announce that the map has now been prepared for the Fund by the War Office, and a copy will be supplied gratis to those Members desirous of procuring it to complete their record of the 1914 Survey. Applications should be addressed to the Assistant Secretary.

Photo-relief map of Palestine: This popular little map, which is reproduced by collotype process from the well-known raised maps, has been reprinted and is now on sale. It measures (with margin) 29 x 19 inches and contains some hundreds of Biblical names. The price to subscribers is 2s. 6d., and to non-subscribers 3s.; postage 6d. extra.

The Library of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains many duplicate volumes. They may be had separately, and a list, with the price of each volume, has been prepared, and can be obtained on application.

The list of books received will be found below, p. 58 *sq.*

The Committee will be glad to communicate with ladies and gentlemen willing to help the Fund as Honorary Local Secretaries.

It may be well to mention that plans and photographs alluded to in the reports from Jerusalem and elsewhere cannot all be published, but they are preserved in the office of the Fund, where they may be seen by subscribers.

The Committee gratefully acknowledge the following special contributions :—

	£	s.	d.
W. G. Gardiner, Esq.	10	0	0
James Melrose, Esq.	10	0	0
James Reid, Esq.	10	0	0
General Sir Charles Warren	10	0	0
Thomas Prentice, Esq.	5	5	0
Rev. Prof. W. B. Stevenson	5	5	0
W. Herbert Phillips, Esq.	5	0	0
J. S. K. Moss, Esq.	4	4	0
Miss E. M. Courthope	1	0	0

A complete set of the *Quarterly Statements*, 1869–1910, containing some of the early letters (now scarce), with an Index, 1869–1910, bound in the Palestine Exploration Fund cases, can be had. Price on application to the Secretary, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W. 1.

The price of a complete set of the translations published by the Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society, in 13 volumes, with general index, bound in cloth, is £10 10s. A catalogue describing the contents of each volume can be had on application to the Secretary, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W. 1.

The Museum at the office of the Fund, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W. 1, is open to visitors every week-day from 10 o'clock till 5, except Saturdays, when it is closed at 1 p.m.

Subscribers in U.S.A. to the work of the Fund will please note that they can procure copies of any of the publications from Prof. Elihu Grant, Honorary General Secretary to the Fund, Haverford College, Pa.

The Committee have also to acknowledge with thanks the following :—
Journal of Egyptian Archaeology. Annual of the British School at Athens, No. XXV. The School's excavations at Mycenae, 1921–23, by A. J. B. Wace and others.

Annals of Art and Archaeology (Liverpool University).

Expository Times, Jan., 1925: Recent Egyptian discoveries, by Prof. Sir Flinders Petrie.

Near East. Special letters from Palestine, etc. Feb. 5: Financial and economic problems in Palestine; March 19: Review of Mrs. Stewart Erskine, *The Vanished Cities of Arabia*.

New Judaea.

The Zionist Review.

Sumerian Reading Book. By C. J. Gadd (Oxford, 1924).

Early Hebrew History and other Studies. By Harold M. Wiener, M.A., LL.B. (Scott, London, 1924).

Journal of the American Oriental Society.

Jewish Quarterly Review.

American Journal of Philology, Oct.-Dec., 1924.

Art and Archaeology, Jan. : The late Howard Crosby Butler, by E. Baldwin Smith ; Pilgrimage to Petra, by J. A. Kelso ; Excavations of the sanctuary of Tanit at Carthage, by Byron Khun de Prorok.

Homiletic Review, Jan. : Jerusalem, by G. W. G.

Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. 1924. Part II, the Egyptian Expedition of 1923-24.

Revue Biblique, Jan., 1925 : Excavations of Ur in Chaldea, by G. M. FitzGerald ; excursion in Transjordan and to Kh. es-Samrā, by R. P. R. Savignac.

Journal Asiatique, July-Sept., 1924.

Orientalistische Literaturzeitung, March : A 13th century Phoenician inscription, by H. Bauer.

Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft, 1912, heft 3-4. Millo and the City of David, by Rev. F. Garrow Duncan ; the excavations in the City of David, other excavations, the Royal Graves in Byblos, etc., by the Editor (H. Gressmann).

Conscientia.

Biblica, Dec. : The fishing on Lake Genesareth and the N.T., by F. Dunkel ; account of a trip to the south-east of the Dead Sea, by A. Mallon.

Bible Lands, Jan. : The P.E.F. excavations.

NEA ΣΙΩΝ.

Al-Mashrik, Feb.-March : Beirut, its history and monuments, by P. L. Cheikho.

From the Author : *Sumerian Religious Texts.* By Prof. Edward Chiera, Crozer Theolog. Seminary, Babyl. Publications I.

From the Institut de France : *Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum.* Par Quarta : *Inscriptiones Himyariticas et Sabaeas continens.* Tomus II, fasc. ii-iv, nos. 413-595.

From Prof. L. N. Vincent, O.P. : Clermont-Ganneau, et l'Archéologie Palestinienne.

La date des épigraphes d'Araç el-Émir.

Classification des Céramiques Antiques : Céramique de la Palestine.

The Committee will be grateful to any subscribers who may be disposed to present to the Fund any of the following books :—

The Memoirs of the Survey of Western Palestine.

The Quarterly Statement, from 1869 up to date.

Duc de Luynes, *Voyage à la Mer Morte* (1864) ; published about 1874.

K. von Raumer, *Der Zug der Israeliten*. (Leipzig, 1837.)

Lagarde, *Onomastica Sacra* (1887).

New Edition of the Babylonian Talmud, English Translation. Original text edited, formulated and punctuated by Michael L. Rodkinson.

Revised and corrected by the Rev. Dr. Isaac M. Wise. Published by the New Amsterdam Book Company, New York. Vol. I. *Sabbath*, already in the Library, subsequent volumes wanted.

Sir George Arthur, *The Life of Lord Kitchener*.

Whilst desiring to give publicity to proposed identifications and other theories advanced by officers of the Fund and contributors to the pages of the *Quarterly Statement*, the Committee wish it to be distinctly understood that by publishing them in the *Quarterly Statement* they do not necessarily sanction or adopt them.

FORM OF BEQUEST TO THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

I give to the Palestine Exploration Fund, London, the sum of _____ to be applied towards the General Work of the Fund ; and I direct that the said sum be paid, free of Legacy Duty, and that the Receipt of the Treasurer of the Palestine Exploration Fund shall be a sufficient discharge for the same.

NOTE.—*Three Witnesses are necessary to a Will by the Law of the United States of America, and Two by the Law of the United Kingdom.*