

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

THE Sixty-First Annual General Meeting of the subscribers to the Palestine Exploration Fund was held in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London, W.1, on Wednesday, 9th June, 1926. Sir CHARLES MARSTON presided and an address was delivered by Dr. E. W. G. Masterman on the Archaeological Sites visited by the recent International Archaeological Congress to Syria and Palestine. Apologies for absence were received from Sir George Adam Smith, Colonel Emery, the Rev. H. R. L. Shepherd and the Rev. Father Waggett.

THE HON. SECRETARY, having read the Minutes of the meeting of 17th June, 1925, which were confirmed and signed, reported that 29 subscribers had qualified for full membership since the last meeting; at the same time he had to report, with regret, losses by death from the General Committee as follows: Herbert Birch, Esq., brother of the late Rev. F. W. Birch, and Williamson Lamplough, Esq., both members since the early days of the Fund.

Dr. H. R. Hall (Chairman of the Executive Committee): I have very great pleasure in proposing three new members to the General Committee, namely, Rev. Prof. Adam C. Welch, of New College, Edinburgh; Rev. Prof. W. B. Stevenson, D.D., Prof. of Oriental Languages, Glasgow University, and Rev. A. T. P. Williams, Headmaster of Winchester College. They are three very distinguished men; in fact, I do not think we have added three more distinguished members to the General Committee for some time past. They all three represent, as you see, the teachers of Britain, both at Universities and at public schools, a large number of whom have always shown very great and natural interest in the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund. But we are anxious, if we can, to develop this interest on the part of the teaching profession in our work. I think it a good omen that the Headmaster of Winchester should have consented to join our General Committee, and I hope other headmasters may be induced to follow him. In return for the headmaster's or school subscription I have no doubt we should be able to arrange lectures at the school subscribing, and I do not know whether—the Honorary Secretary will be able to tell me—it is in

accordance with our constitution or not, but if so it might be possible to lend objects from our Museum, from time to time, with the consent of the Committee. I think that is the beginning of a programme which we may elaborate later on.

With regard to the work of last season, the Chairman will say more than I, and the Treasurer will, I have no doubt, tell us something with regard to the map of the site of Ophel which he has been instrumental in preparing and which will appear in the new Annual volume, describing the excavations in recent years at Jerusalem. I want to say this, that the scientific importance of an excavation such as Ophel is not altogether to be gauged by the actual objects that are found. A large number of the objects from Ophel may seem rather dull and uninteresting; but it must be remembered that the importance of the work there has not depended upon them. It has depended upon the fact that excavation there has now given us some idea of the little that still remains of the oldest Jerusalem, which, you will remember, was situated upon the now bare hill of Ophel. It was on Ophel that the Jerusalem stood which was taken by David from the Jebusites and saw the attack of the Assyrians in the time of Hezekiah. Whether we proceed with the work at Ophel, or whether we transfer our operations to another site, has not yet been decided. Certain reasons might urge us to go on with the work at Ophel, but at the same time there are other sites in Southern Palestine which cry aloud for continued excavation and which promise to yield, I will not say topographical results of such interest and importance as Ophel, but archaeological finds of far greater importance than Ophel is ever likely to yield. Nevertheless, I must again remind you that what the topographical part of the work has told us about the oldest site of Jerusalem is of very great importance—of greater importance than much in the way of antiquities. I have nothing further to add except to repeat what a pleasure it is that two professors from Scotland and the Headmaster of Winchester have consented to become members of the General Committee.

Brig.-General PAUL: Ladies and Gentlemen—I have pleasure in seconding the resolution. I agree that we are to be congratulated on the fact that those gentlemen who have been named are joining the Committee. The wider-spread our interests, the better. If we can only get schools and colleges into touch with us and in

sympathy, there is no doubt that the younger generation will come forward, for the spirit of adventure is just as strong and good to-day. Just as in the old days there were new worlds to discover, so we may now find that in Palestine there are new things to search out, and the germs of enquiry fructify in our schools and colleges to such an extent in all these things that we may expect to reap a very fine harvest in the future in researches in Palestine. The resolution was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN (Sir Charles Marston): It is now my pleasant duty to move the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year 1925, which are already in the hands of members, and I presume, therefore, we may take them as read. (Agreed.) I do not feel that, as Chairman, I ought to stand very long between you and the treat you are about to have in the address to be given by our Honorary Secretary who has just returned from Palestine; but I should like to take this opportunity of saying that in this world there are a great many things which are of the very first importance, yet which do not seem to be so regarded by the general public. I think the excavation of Palestine is one of those things which is absolutely of the very first importance. We all know that the great religion of the world, which we profess, is based upon Palestine, and the greatest book in the world, the Bible, is also based, very largely, upon Palestine. So that it does seem we cannot know too much about Palestine. The great mistake that is being made at the present time by a number of scholars is that they over-emphasize the extent of our knowledge and do not realize the extent of our ignorance. I feel that one of the duties of this generation, as of the coming generation, is that as far as possible we shall attain a more complete knowledge of matters connected with our religion and our Bible than we have at the present time. It is for that reason that I have taken, for some years, a very great interest in this work; and I hope, as time goes on, not merely that other people will also take a widespread interest in the work, but that in the future they will give very substantial sums towards the excavation of this Holy Land. But I take this opportunity of pointing out—I believe Dr. Masterman will correct me if I am wrong—that Dr. Masterman has just returned from Palestine and from Syria, and there he finds that, despite the British Protectorate over Palestine, despite the fact that we are now, so to speak, caretakers for the world of Palestine, yet we are by no means

doing our share of the excavations there ; that we are allowing other nations and countries to take the lead. That ought not to be so. Our country, in my opinion, ought to take the lead in these matters. We are faced with a great deal of difficulty ; we are no longer the wealthy country that we used to be ; but at the same time we see large sums of money being spent and given away at the present time for objects which are surely of a far less deserving and interesting character, and for information regarding the earlier history of the world of a far less important character. I say, then, let us try and clear our minds of everything ; and I think, as we do so, we shall see that in matters archaeological there is nothing more important, nothing more necessary to the future welfare and peace of the world, than excavations such as are undertaken by the Palestine Exploration Fund. I have nothing more to say, except to formally propose the adoption of the Report and Accounts.

Col. Sir CHARLES CLOSE, in seconding the proposition, said : I should like, first of all, to say that the Accounts of the Fund are in a perfectly healthy condition. We have enough to go on with, though we are not over rich. The cost of the excavations during the two years they lasted on the Hill of Ophel was £5,500, and that sum could not have been provided but for the generosity of our Chairman to-day. (Applause.) We are looking forward to publishing the new Annual volume, which will cost us a fair sum, and I need not say, speaking as Treasurer of the Fund, that the more subscribers we get the better, and the greater the number of people interested in the work in Palestine the more likely are we to get subscriptions. Therefore I hope everybody will spread the news of what we have been doing in Palestine.

The Secretary suggested that I should say a few words with regard to Ophel. The city of the Jebusites is taking shape. We are beginning to see the outline of the city, thanks not only to the excavations carried out by the Palestine Exploration Fund, but to those of Mons. Weill in the south. We know a great deal about the southern and the eastern side ; we know very little about the western and nothing about the north. So that if we are to draw, as we have done, a map of the ancient Jebusite city, we shall, roughly, be able to reconstruct about half of it. It is a hill-top fortress of very interesting character, particularly narrow and long. Perhaps

I might add that the Fund sent out a copy of the map which will be published in the Annual Report to the eminent authority, Père Vincent, and he wrote a few weeks ago that he had studied it with great interest. He had very few comments to make, but suggested slight alteration to the plan of the southern end of the fortress. The correspondence will appear in the *Quarterly Statement*, but, broadly speaking, his attitude can be summed-up by his last letter, in which he says: "I have now had plenty of time to study the splendid map for which we are the debtors to you"—that is to the Fund—"and I can only say how valuable and how admirably drawn it is."<sup>1</sup> The topography of ancient Jerusalem is taking shape, and I suppose that we all hope that, whether we undertake it as our next job or not, we shall be able, one of these days, to carry to a conclusion that remarkably interesting piece of work—the excavation of the City of David.

The CHAIRMAN: Before putting the resolution I ought to supplement what Sir Charles Close has said, because he is a very modest individual. He has not told us about his share of the work, but of the Fund's share, but we should like him to know that we very much appreciate his fine work in preparing the map which is to be very important for future history in Jerusalem. (The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.)

Dr. ROCKSTRO: I shall be pleased to propose the re-election of the Executive Committee as at present constituted. I am sure that those who have rendered such excellent service in the past are all thoroughly in touch with the business of the Fund, and we cannot do better than re-elect them *en bloc*.

Mr. F. T. ELLIS formally seconded the proposition, which was put, and carried unanimously.

Dr. E. W. G. MASTERMAN then delivered the following address (illustrated by lantern views) on—

*The Archaeological Sites visited by the recent International Archaeological Congress in Syria and Palestine.*

The International Archaeological Congress, which I was privileged to attend as your delegate, must, I think, be considered to have proved

<sup>1</sup> See below, p. 160.

an unqualified success. It was attended by 97 official delegates and a great many attached visitors. Amongst the delegates, 23 were from Great Britain, 28 from France, and 21 from America. Eleven other countries were represented. The British Universities were well represented: Professor Sayce representing Oxford; Professor Burkitt, Cambridge; Professors Baldwin-Brown, Kennedy, and Sarolea, Edinburgh; Professor Reid, Aberdeen; Professor Ormerod, Leeds; and Professor Forster, Sheffield and Manchester. Amongst the distinguished Frenchmen present were Professors Dussaud, Guignebert, Lodes and Michon.

The organization of such a Congress necessarily needed an immense amount of work, and on the whole the elaborate arrangements made for the safety and comfort of the delegates worked admirably. Before I left, many friends at home expressed their opinion that the programme in its entirety could not possibly be carried out on account of the political difficulties, and more particularly the visits to Palmyra and Petra. But both these events were successfully carried through. The former necessitated somewhat elaborate arrangements—airplane, armoured car, and an armed escort—the latter visit was at the last pressed forward by H.H. Emir Abdulla himself, whose courtesy in camping at Petra, and thus securing our safety, cannot be too highly appreciated. It was my great privilege to take part in both these expeditions. The Palmyra visit was on an extensive scale—some hundred delegates and visitors, in two parties, went. Petra, however, was known to us beforehand to have been a more exacting expedition, and only about 30 people, in two parties, took advantage of the offer. The number was, I believe, considerably reduced because only a week previously a wire had come to us in Syria that the trip had been given up, and it was only the action of the Emir, in assuring our safety by camping himself in Petra, which enabled this part of our programme to be carried out.

The only omission from the original itinerary was Damascus, which was considered to be in a state of too great political unrest to admit of the visit of so great a party. Three members of the Congress went independently, and their reports fully bore out the wisdom of the French Government's decision.

It is a privilege to fully and sincerely acknowledge the extreme courtesy, hospitality and assistance, extended by all the political authorities in Syria and Palestine. Nothing was left undone that

could make the visit a success. There were receptions and dinners in both Beirüt and Jerusalem, and in both places the opening proceedings were inaugurated by the High Commissioner—by M. de Jouvenel in Beirüt and by Field-Marshal Lord Plumer in Jerusalem. Did time permit I should have liked to have described these ceremonies and social gatherings.

The Directors of the Departments of Antiquities—M. Virolleaud in Beirüt and Professor Garstang in Jerusalem—were, with their assistants, untiring in their efforts to make the whole Congress a success.

Of the assemblies of the Congress in Beirüt I have the most abiding recollection, firstly, of a magic-lantern exhibition given in the house of M. de Jouvenel of some most wonderful views of Syria, taken by photography, in their natural colours, and secondly of a very detailed account given by M. Dussaud of the history of the excavations at Byblos, illustrated by magic-lantern views and by a visit to the new local museum.

For the purposes of our Syrian tour we were divided into two parties; Group A included most of the English and Americans, and Group B, a considerably larger section, of French-speaking visitors. Our group left Beirüt on the afternoon of 9th April in ten motor-cars, and had a most beautiful drive along the coast of Syria, past the Bay of Juneh and the towns of Jubail (Byblos), and Batrun, and arriving at Tarablus (Tripoli) about an hour after sunset. Tripoli is little visited by English tourists, but the impression I have is that of a most attractive town, and my chief memories are firstly of the almost overpowering smell of orange blossom from the great orange gardens between the city and the sea, and secondly of the beautiful view from the great mediaeval castle to the west of the town. From Tripoli we went next day by train, first along the seashore and then along open valleys full of flowers to Homs. The most noteworthy view we had was a distant one of the famous lake of Homs with Tell Nebi Mindu, the site of Kadesh, where Rameses II had his great fight with the Hittites, where his personal bravery did much to redeem his egregious errors in strategy. The site of Homs lies in a great open plain, a northern extension of el-Buka'a, but here the two Lebanons flatten down to almost level ground. The snowy peaks of Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon dominate the view to the south. The so-called citadel of Homs is clearly the site of an ancient city of

importance. It is an immense tell, much of it built-up with sun-dried bricks. The surviving buildings on the summit are the remains of the citadel which was destroyed by Ibrahim Pasha, and the whole enclosed area is pitted with holes made in the search for stones, but no doubt underneath are the remains of the great Emesa, the native city of Heliogabalus, and also the traces of a far more ancient city of unknown name. Such an outstanding hill as this must have been fortified during the great centuries of ancient history. (Fig. 1.)

From Homs we went 87 miles south-east to Palmyra, the surface of the desert providing a fairly good, if dusty, route. For quite three-quarters of the way we saw neither inhabitants nor sign of building or tent. The sun set some miles before we reached Palmyra, and the last half-hour or so we drove in the dark. The combined headlights of the procession of cars provided a curious illusion. The lights on the sandy road gave the appearance of deep snow, while our advance appeared to be through a dense, dark forest; several members of the party received the same impression independently. As we descended from the plateau some of the ruined tower sepulchres could be discerned on either side, and at length we drew up at a half-finished so-called "hotel." This was begun some two years ago, but subsequently was abandoned. The accommodation provided was largely obtained through the kind co-operation of the garrison, and despite inconveniences we felt that to be too critical of the accommodation in a place like Palmyra was uncalled for.

The following day spent on the site will always be remembered by us all. We could, of course, only examine things superficially, but we obtained an impression which is abiding. The realization of the desert which we had crossed, and the far more arid deserts which lay around us on all sides, sub-consciously heightened the impression of a ruined city. To the west lie the hills—the edges of the plateau from which we had descended. Upon the nearest height the Turkish fortress, with deep moat and steep battlements, dominated the scene, and from it, especially at sunset, a remarkable view of the whole site is seen. At the eastern extremity of the city are the mighty ruined walls of the great enclosure of the Temple of the Sun. Within these walls lie, closely packed, the remains of modern Palmyra.

I have been interested, since my return, to see that Dr. Wm. Halifax<sup>1</sup> in 1691 writes of the 30 mud houses which even in his

<sup>1</sup> See his "Relation of a Voyage to Tadmor" in *Q.S.*, 1890.

time were situated inside the temple walls. The ancient temple, though vast in size, with many splendid fragments still remaining, is immeasurably spoilt by these squalid buildings. It is probable that it will never be possible to clear the site as has been done at Baalbec, nor do I suppose it was ever so fine as that unique site; what, however, the temple has lost the city ruins have gained, as the city site itself is almost clear of modern buildings. The outline of the walls of the old city, probably those of Justinian, and more restricted than those of Palmyra's glory, are still visible. The great Triumphal Arch (Figs. 3 and 5) and the remains of the splendid Street of Columns, of which 150 columns are still standing, is very impressive. The columns of the main row have pedestals, upon which stood statues of city worthies. Though the statues have gone, their names and civic positions are still legible in bilingual inscriptions (Greek and Palmyrene), cut in the columns. At the western end of the Street of Columns is a sadly ruined temple, which is, as recorded in an inscription still existing, the work of Diocletian. Some of the detailed carving is very beautiful and has survived remarkably well. North of the Street of Columns is a little temple in fair preservation, and to the west of this is a double row of 6 columns belonging to a large church, the central and southern semicircular apses of which have been recently excavated. From the complete absence of masonry over the site, except in the neighbourhood of the civic buildings and the big houses, one cannot but suppose that the houses of the common people were built, even in the days of Palmyra's glory, of mud, as is much of Damascus to-day.

The most unique features are the sepulchral towers in the so-called "Valley of the Tombs," which even to-day, although despoiled of many of their abundant sculptured ornaments, are very impressive. The one shown on the screen has five stories, and the roofs of the two lower stories are beautifully designed. Each story provides accommodation for many scores of bodies in recesses, like the *kokim* of Jewish tombs. It is calculated that such a tower had accommodation for 450 bodies.

In the afternoon we went beyond the southern walls of the city to the famous sulphur spring, which rises in a natural cave. The smell of sulphuretted hydrogen is strong in the air. The supply of water is plentiful and the sulphur smell dissipates itself gradually, but I believe this water is chiefly used to irrigate the gardens and

finally loses itself in a shallow salt lake to the east of the city. This sheet of water like a great lake was, I may say, taken for a desert mirage when first seen by members of the party. The people of Palmyra obtain drinking-water of a much better quality through the ancient system of wells connected by underground channels which they have reopened.

South of the sulphur spring is a great sand-buried necropolis. Here the entrances and internal decorations of many of the tombs are of great interest. They have not the uniqueness of the sepulchral towers, but as many of them have bilingual inscriptions they give us more historical data. All the evidence from such sources and from the architecture point to the 2nd to the 4th centuries of the Christian Era as being those of Palmyra's greatness. She rose to greatness as Petra declined, as a consequence of a change in the caravan routes from the east. Last year a certain amount of excavation was carried out, under the leadership of Prof. A. Gabriel, but very much, both in the direction of excavation and still more of conservation, remains to be done. It seems a tragedy that this splendid and unique site is not better protected. We had plenty of evidence that valuable antiquities from here are being privately disposed of.

The following day we returned to Tripoli by car and rail, and on 13th April we paid a memorable visit to what the French call the "Country of the Alaouites" or, as it is otherwise called, of the Jebal Nusairayeh. Here we visited the remarkable mediaeval castle of Kala't el-Husn, or Kala't el-Akrad, the "Castle of the Kurds" (Fig. 2). This is the finest mediaeval castle in Syria or Palestine, and was, in the 12th century, in the possession of the Knights Hospitallers, but in 1271 surrendered to Beibars. The main structure of the castle is complete—the outer wall, with its towers and moat, and much of the inner fortress, including the chapel, now a mosque, and the banqueting-hall, till recently a stable. Considerable damage has been done through the fact that a whole village—men, women, children and cattle—have long been established within the walls. At the entrance we were most courteously received by the popular and efficient French Governor of the province, who did the honours of the place. After an inspection of the main features we ascended to the highest point and had a marvellous outlook over the surrounding country. To the south-east we had a distant view

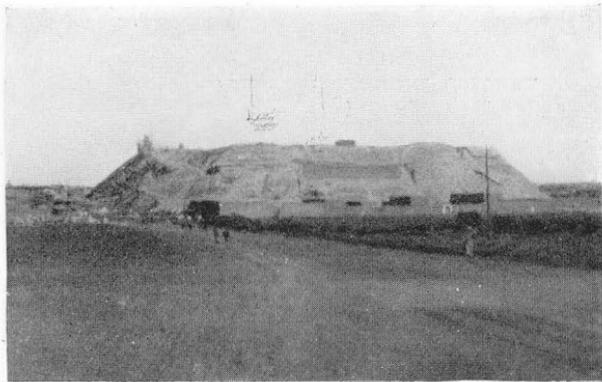


FIG. 1. VIEW OF HOMS.

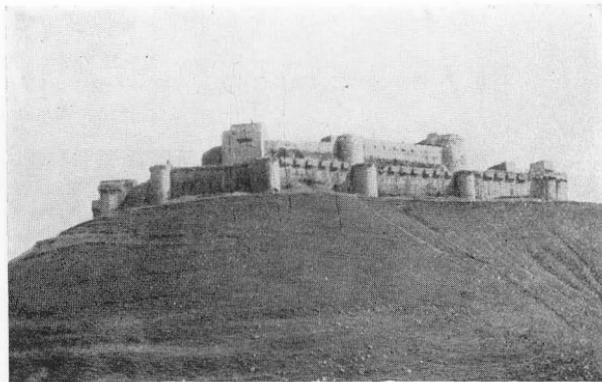


FIG. 2. KALA'T EL-KRRAD.

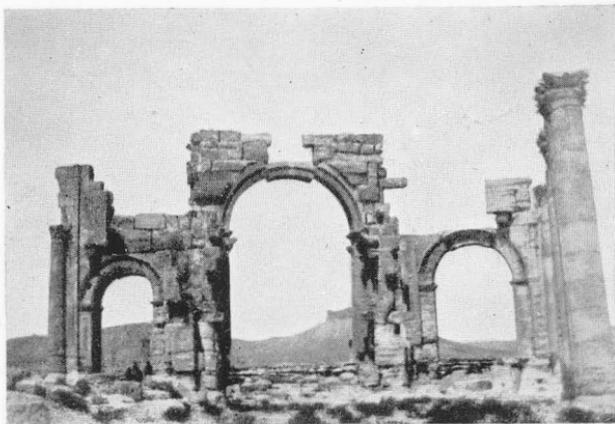


FIG. 3. PALMYRA TRIPLE GATE.



FIG. 4. TELL HUM SYNAGOGUE.



FIG. 5.  
PALMYRA: ARCH AND COLUMNS,

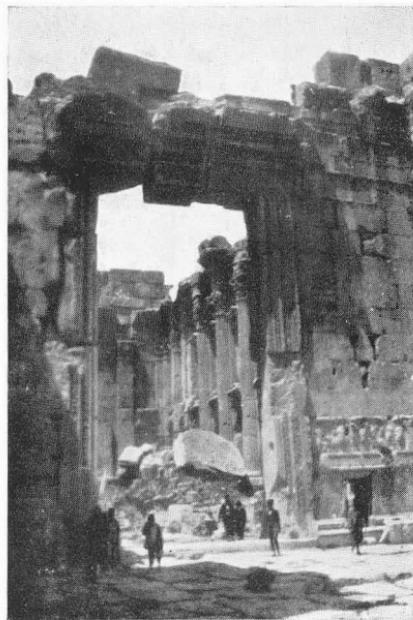


FIG. 6.  
BAALBEC: TEMPLE OF BACCHUS,



FIG. 7. BYBLOS : SARCOPHAGUS OF AḤIRAM.

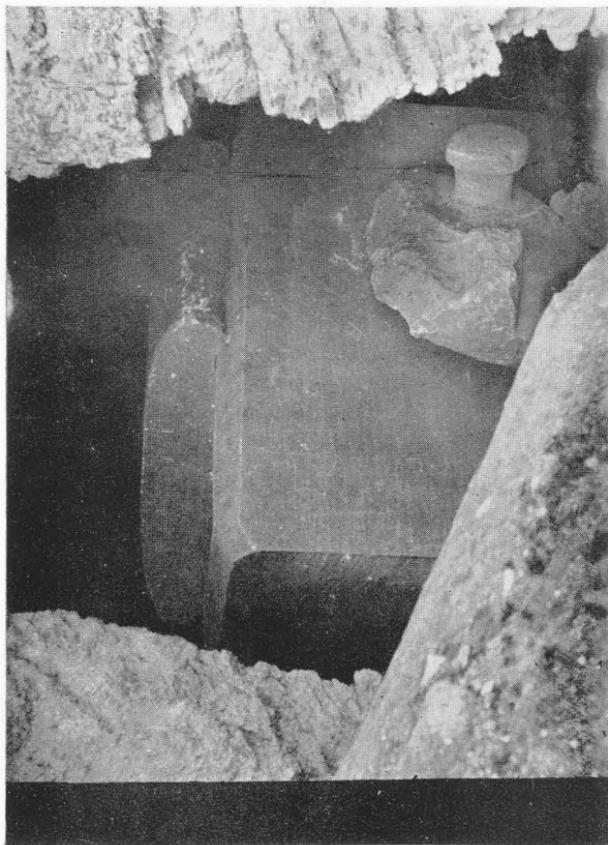


FIG. 8. BYBLOS: TOMB AND SARCOPHAGUS.

of the plain of Homs, with its lake, and east, north and west, of a wide, open valley of rich fertility spreading below us.

The view before you gives no idea of the beautiful approach through extensive orchards and gardens from the north-east. As the motor-cars wound upwards on the zigzag path we were received by the whole population in holiday attire, as it was the feast of Beiram, and the children in particular, in their bright, many-coloured clothes, gave us a warm welcome. A little before noon we were invited to the inner keep, expecting to be shown the dungeon, but there found, like an incident in the "Elf-Laileh-wa-Laileh," a banquet spread before us. The Commandant and his charming wife, who had ridden over from their home at Latikiyeh (the capital of the province), did the honours of the table and entertained us in a way we shall never forget, and finally the Commandant actually escorted us part of the way home himself.

On 14th April we left Tripoli and drove to Beirüt. Our first stop was at the village of Amshit on the mountain slopes inland of Jebail. Here we made a pious pilgrimage to the tomb of Henriette Renan, who died there of malaria in 1861, and then visited Ernest Renan's residence, from which the great writer was carried unconscious to a French ship six months after his sister's death.

From here we descended to Jebail, the scene of Renan's early labours, and a site which is still to-day giving promise of yielding up new archaeological information. That Byblos, the ancient Gebal, had a long and intimate connection with Egypt has been long known, but it is only recent excavation which has shown how early that is. In the museum at Beirüt is the fragment of a vase from Byblos, inscribed with the name of Mycerinus of the IVth Egyptian Dynasty. The Egyptian temple which is now being excavated is supposed to belong to the Old and Middle Empires. We have letters from Rib-addi, the governor of Gebal—called Gubla—in the Tell el-Amarna correspondence, and it was to Byblos in the reign of Rameses XI that Wenamon came to buy timber and received scant treatment from Zakar-Baal, its king. At much the same time Gebal saw the armies of Tiglath-pileser I.

It is evident that Byblos was, as it remained through the ages, a very sacred Egyptian shrine—Rib-addi, in his letter, reminded Akhenaten that the Baalah of Gebal had put him on his throne—and this sacredness clung to this spot through all the pre-Christian

centuries. It is difficult to believe that this is unconnected with the proximity of the venerated locality of Afka, the sacred Adonis source, the Baalah or Astarte of Gebal being the Venus of the Greek legend. On the other hand, the importance of the town was connected with the cedar forests; to-day the last great surviving group of which trees, those of Bsherrah, are almost as near Jebail as to Tripoli. The importance of these forests down to Roman times is shown by the discovery in the mountains to the west of Jebail of no less than 100 boundary stones, of the time of Hadrian, defining the limits of the Imperial forests.<sup>1</sup> One of these is in the American University Museum in Beirut.

The site of the ancient Gebal is best seen from the roof of the Crusading castle. Here, bordering on the sea to the north, where the modern buildings are, can be traced the outline of the mediaeval walls, while south, covering a considerable area outside the old walls, is the site of the more ancient city. Unfortunately it has been recently encroached upon by a few rather good houses, and it is necessary to buy out the owners if the complete area of the early Egyptian temple, now being excavated, is to be recovered. Here, too, we heard from the excavators the oft-repeated cry that there was no money to be had for the work! Between the temple and the sea are the tombs of the Phoenician kings, in one of which was found the wonderful sculptured sarcophagus of Aḥiram. Beyond the quaintness of its general design and its sculptured reliefs, this sarcophagus has inscribed upon it what seems to be the earliest North Semitic inscription known. The dating of the tomb is partially dependent upon the finding in it of a fragment of a vase of Rameses II (now in the Beirut Museum), but as the tomb robbers left part of the same vase in a neighbouring tomb one cannot but wonder how far such a find is absolute evidence of date. (Fig. 7.)

We had the privilege of descending into the tomb itself. There is a wide quadrilateral shaft some 20 feet wide descending some 40 feet, and at the bottom on the north side is an irregular damp excavated cavern in which the sarcophagus had lain. There were several of these wide pit-like shafts and, descending another and traversing a winding passage, we came across an extraordinarily massive sarcophagus with an immense lid with handles for lowering it into position. The lid was broken in lifting it recently. There

<sup>1</sup> See *Q.S.*, 1922, pp. 68-71.

is no inscription of any sort, but it probably belongs to the same period as the sarcophagus of Ahiram. The tomb is so near the sea that it was an aperture made by the waves which first directed attention to the presence of the tomb. (Fig. 8.) A little inland of these tombs and north-west of the ancient Egyptian temple site are columns belonging to a Greek temple. There is probably no site in Syria more worthy of a visit. We had to drag ourselves away.

Arriving at the Nahr el-Kelb we found lunch provided for us in a large shady café beside the cool, rushing waters of the river. Afterwards we visited some of the famous inscribed tablets which stand here above the ancient high road. There are altogether, counting small and great, ancient and modern, some thirty of them. The most prominent are the tablets of Rameses II, of which there were originally four dedicated, like the four divisions of his army, to the four gods Amon, Re, Ptah and Sutekh. The tablets to Amon and Re survive, though much weather-worn, and on each the cartouche of Rameses II is still visible. Here an Egyptologist in our party pointed out the interesting fact that these tablets were once shrines and, like similar shrines in Egypt, were protected by wooden folding doors. The sockets for the doors are clearly visible. Perhaps this fact was brought the more noticeably to our minds because the British authorities during the war endeavoured to protect the best of the ancient inscriptions by placing glass in front of them; not unnaturally, considering the ways of the native Syrian, these were impishly smashed in a very short time. As regards the other two tablets of Rameses, that dedicated to Ptah was deliberately destroyed and replaced by one of Napoleon III many years ago, while of the fourth scarcely a trace remains. These two are close to the modern roadside and therefore more exposed to damage. Of the Assyrian tablets the only one with legible characters is one of Esarhaddon. The other Assyrian inscriptions—too weather-worn for certainty—may belong to Shalmaneser III and Tiglath-pileser I respectively. There are many others—notably three Greek ones,<sup>1</sup> one large one in Latin and another in Turkish, and at least three (one French and two English) connected with the recent Great War.

The following day we motored over the Lebanon to Baalbec—a place so well known that I shall content myself with showing one

<sup>1</sup> See *Q.S.*, 1873, p. 111.

or two pictures to illustrate how much may be done to improve such ancient sites by clearing away the accumulated rubbish of centuries. Many will remember the temple of Bacchus as it was when half-filled with earth and stones and the Temple of the Sun when its floor was a mass of heaped-up stones. Here are three photographs of these sites now—one of the Temple of Bacchus with the full grandeur of its portal showing (Fig. 6), one of the Temple of the Sun which shows the ancient altar which had been largely covered up and hidden away when this part of the temple was converted into a Christian Church, and the third a picture of one of the two beautiful lavers, with exquisite carving, which have been uncovered at the sides of the altar enclosure.

Although quite outside the central area of hostilities, there were many evidences of the nearness of the field of operations on our way to and from Baalbec. Armed guards were everywhere and we passed convoys of guns and munitions going towards the front.

From Beirüt, the following day, the whole party—Groups A and B now combined—started in a long procession of cars down the coast to Palestine. At Sidon we visited the remarkable museum of antiquities collected by the Rev. Dr. Ford from the Graeco-Phoenician tombs at the back of Sidon. An unforgettable sight was that of 17 stone sarcophagi with sculptured faces, gathered together in the basement of the house. I show you a photograph of one of this type now transferred from Sidon to the Beirüt Museum. Several hours instead of a few brief minutes were needed to do any justice to this remarkable collection. Later we were delightfully entertained by a native notable, Yusuf Bey Zein—a Druse, I understand—in a beautiful orange garden where lunch was laid among the trees. There were many speeches of welcome.

We crossed the famous ladder of Tyre, now surmounted by a good modern road, and a few minutes later passed successively the frontier posts of the French and British spheres. At the latter we were met by Mr. Abramson, O.B.E., the Governor of Northern Palestine, together with Prof. Garstang and his assistant, Mr. Guy.

For the Palestine trip we were here divided into three divisions—Group 1, those who wished especially to visit prehistoric sites; Group 2, those interested in ancient sites generally; and Group 3, those who especially wished to see mediaeval sites. The first group

moved at once to the Tiberias area to give as much time as possible to the prehistoric remains in the Tabgha caves and in the palaeolithic areas farther north. Group 3 went on to the Akka, and then, after a night at Haifa, motored down the coast to Athlit. Group 2, to which I attached myself, went through Haifa to Nazareth.

The following day we had a most interesting tour of ancient tells. We crossed the plain of Esdraelon to Jenin and then turned west along the edges of the foot-hills of Samaria to Tell Tanaach, the site of excavations of Prof. Sellin in 1902. It is a vast tell, and much more might be done, there as the site is quite unoccupied by village, cemetery or wely; it might well repay some years of further excavation. We went on to Tell el-Mutasellim, perhaps the finest tell in Palestine, which was very partially excavated in 1903-5, but it is now about to be more extensively excavated by Mr. Fisher on behalf of the University of Chicago, with a financial backing from, I understand, a millionaire, which will enable Mr. Fisher to devote many thousands of pounds annually to the work. Mr. Fisher was chiefly occupied in preliminary work, in the erection of suitable buildings on a scale which, I fear, the P.E.F. have never been able to do; he had installed electric light and had erected a comfortable dwelling with a museum filled with trays and shelves, besides an extensive shed for the regular pottery finds. The dramatic find of this first beginning was that of a stone—overlooked by the first explorers—which, when about to be used for the house construction, was found by one of Mr. Fisher's Egyptian workmen to have traces of hieroglyphics upon it. These have proved to be the cartouche of Sheshonk, the Shishak who is mentioned as raiding in Palestine in the time of Rehoboam (1 Kings xiv, 25-26). This is yet another illustration of how important discoveries are often due to chance. Mr. Fisher has just explored some very early burial caves, the bodies buried in huddled-up attitudes in pits in the floor of the cave; he also showed us a small bronze figurine of a Hittite warrior of considerable interest. We shall watch this great excavation with keen interest, not perhaps unmingled with envy, that America is able to do so much where Britain lags behind for lack of interest and financial support.

From Tell el-Mutasellim we made a quick run the whole length of the plain to Tell Beisan, a rival in greatness of Megiddo itself.

Here Mr. Rowe, assisted by Mr. FitzGerald, is working on behalf of the University of Pennsylvania. It is a marvellous site and is yielding up things of enormous interest. Two or three years ago two stelae were found, one belonging to Seti I, the other to Rameses II. These have now been removed, one to America and one, also a statue of Rameses III, along to the Jerusalem Museum. The most interesting new thing that was shown to us was the ruins of a temple to the Syrian Astarte. The work belonged to three periods—the highest and largest temple to Rameses II, below that one of Seti I, and a still lower one belonging to Amenhotep IV, better known as Akhenaten. The earlier temples had necessarily been cleared away, but the temple we saw shows features very similar to a temple excavated at Tell el-Amarna.<sup>1</sup>

As the direct road to Tiberias was not considered safe or suitable for cars we proceeded there via Nazareth.

The following day, while some of the party went to Tabgha, others, of whom I was one, made a very hot and exhausting walk to the recently excavated synagogue of Kerizeh. The ground-plan of this ancient synagogue is now fully revealed. It is the same in general features as that of Tell Hum, but it is of black basaltic rock; the most interesting discovery is that of a stone bearing a Hebrew inscription, giving the name of a benefactor who, apparently, enlarged and restored the synagogue. The visit was specially interesting to me, as on my previous visit the site was a chaos of ruin. There are also said to be indications here of a neighbouring Talmudic school. From here we descended to Tell Hum, the probable site of Capernaum, and were hospitably entertained by Father Orfali. It was the great tragedy of the Congress that this archaeologist, who has given so much of his time to the care of this site, was killed in a motor accident while proceeding two days later to Jerusalem to preside at our opening meeting. The new point of interest in Tell Hum is that permission was recently given to Father Orfali to start restoring the ancient synagogue, and we found the north wall and the first row of pillars practically complete. (Fig. 4.) It is much to be hoped that someone equally competent will be able to carry out the work. We spent the following night in Nazareth, and then proceeded south by the main road to Jerusalem. Our first stop was at Sebasteyeh (Samaria), where we visited the very extensive ruins

<sup>1</sup> See *Q.S.*, April, 1926, p. 92.

left uncovered by Dr. Reisner in his excavations 1908-9. The three outstanding things were—

- (1) The Basilica adjoining the ancient Forum, with its monolith columns and its rounded apse containing tiers of seats for the City Elders.<sup>1</sup>
- (2) The great temple built by Herod, of which the most imposing fragment is the great staircase. It is under the ruins of this temple that Dr. Reisner uncovered the remains of the palaces of Omri and Ahab, and
- (3) The great Western gateway, where the archaeological remains show that the city was occupied during all the history of the city, and successive Hebrew, Greek and Roman remains can be traced.

Some of us left the party here and went in advance through Nablūs to a tell called Tell Balāta—supposed to be the site of ancient Shechem—which was partially excavated before the war by Prof. Sellin: he has now, with several University colleagues, recommenced the work. We were able to see the great triple gateway at the west end, each successive gate being guarded by huge monoliths and the outermost gate being further strengthened by powerful brick towers. The day we arrived, the gate at the other end of the city, that is, the East gate, had just been discovered. A considerable amount of the city wall has also been uncovered. From Tell Balāta we proceeded south, and about a mile after passing Bereh we stopped to visit the excavations of Dr. Badé at Tell en-Nesbeh. The hill on which the excavations were being conducted has been a prominent object to all those travelling north from Jerusalem; it lies on the western side of the high-road between Er-Rām and Bereh, and many of us have long thought that this must be an important place as it guards the pass of the approach along the high-road from the north. Dr. Badé has already discovered a very powerful city wall some 16 feet thick, guarded also by still more massive towers, and he is inclined to think that this must be the site of Mizpah of Samuel. (This identification was first proposed by the late Colonel Conder in the *Q.S.*, 1898, p. 169.)

Our first day in Jerusalem the formal opening of the Congress by Lord Plumer took place, followed by the reading of certain

<sup>1</sup> For illustration see *Q.S.*, 1924, p. 30, also *Q.S.*, 1925, pp. 25-30.

archaeological papers. Later in the morning Dr. Mayer showed some of us the newly discovered remains of the north wall of the city. I may say that after seeing the wall and hearing his arguments it is difficult to doubt that these are really the foundations of the wall of Herod Agrippa II, referred to by Josephus. The following day we had a very delightful excursion, which has recently become possible to make by motor-car, through Bethlehem to Hebron (where we had the great privilege of being allowed into the sacred mosque above the cave of Machpelah) to Beit Jebrin. This site is one of extraordinary interest. It is in the close vicinity of Tell Sandahannah, which was partially excavated by Dr. Bliss in 1900 and which has been proved to be the site of Mareshah, a city fortified by Rehoboam (2 Chron. xi, 8) and the native place of the prophet Micah (i, 15), and also of the later Greek city of Marissa. Dr. Bliss only uncovered the Greek city, and of which he was able to make a complete plan, but the earlier remains are yet untouched. The special objects which we visited were, firstly, a magnificent mosaic which is close to the town and is very carefully protected, a building having been constructed around and over it; and secondly, the two famous painted tombs of Marissa discovered in 1904 by Dr. Peters and Dr. Thiersch.<sup>1</sup> The whole of the neighbourhood of Beit Jebrin teems with objects of archaeological interest.

The next day, 23rd April, we went to Jerash and there saw the very extensive ruins under very favourable circumstances. The work of conservation is being very carefully carried out by Mr. Horsfield, who has been here a year. He conducted us round the city and showed us the very great improvements made by the Government Archaeological Department. The paved street between the Street of Columns has been largely uncovered. The great flight of steps leading up to the main temple have been excavated, and the masses of ruins, which were almost shapeless when I visited the site some years ago, are now far easier to understand. Perhaps we were most interested in the fact that the traces of no less than eight churches had been found among the ruins, and one church in particular, constructed out of a columnated approach to the temple, was of very special interest. Many Greek inscriptions have been discovered, which are still unpublished. The impression one has is that Jerash is a site quite unique in Palestine or Syria, and it should be a great attraction to visitors.

<sup>1</sup> *Painted Tombs at Marissa*, published by the Palestine Exploration Fund.

We proceeded for the night to Amman, where we found a new hotel built in full view of the great Roman theatre. This also has been carefully conserved, and indeed it is well worthy of all efforts made, as, even though so many centuries have elapsed, its present condition is most impressive. Of the interesting ruins in Amman time does not permit of my speaking now. From Amman we paid a visit to Madeba, where we saw the famous mosaic map. We were the more interested because, though the half of the map which includes Jerusalem is very well known, the other half, which shows the Pelusium branch of the Nile, as well as the southern boundaries of Palestine between Gaza and Beersheba and portions of the desert of the wanderings, is not nearly so well known. There are other mosaics of considerable interest in Medeba, especially one forming the floor of a 5th century church. The Governor of the city was most attentive to our comfort, having received a "wire" from Amman that he was to look after us. Some of the party went to M'shetta to see the carved work of the unfinished Summer Palace of Chosroes, but inasmuch as we knew only too well how this site had been mutilated before the war by the carrying off of the finest carving to Berlin, Prof. Sayce and I rather discouraged our immediate companions from going. The following day we made our long and tedious motor ride to Maän. It is a dreary ride at best, but it is now all the more so, as most of it is alongside of the largely ruined Hedjaz railway. Hardly one station was anything but a sad and dreary ruin; many of the bridges had been broken down and were either replaced by another bridge or showed other signs of destruction, and in several places the scanty remnants of bombed incinerated trains were visible. In addition to that there was a strong sirocco blowing, and in some places the dust columns were whirling about over the plain in all directions. At one place I saw eight at once. With the exception of the first hour we passed the whole day without seeing any inhabitant, except a few Arabs at two of the railway stations. It was all the more surprising to us, therefore, to find a small and fairly comfortable railway hotel at Maän itself.

The next day we proceeded to Petra, going two hours by motor and then one and a-half hours, through wonderful scenery, on horseback, and those who have visited Petra even once will never forget the extraordinary impression produced by this great mass of red-brown

sandstone worn in all kinds of shapes and thrust up with jagged edges towards heaven as one approaches the site. Perhaps still more remarkable, because more unique, is the long winding Sik, which passage winds for nearly a mile between lofty precipitous rocks all the way from the commencement of the sandstone until at last it opens into the city's enclosure. Of Petra itself it is impossible to show more than a very few views. The strange beauty of the rocks in many shades of red and brown and purple is famous, and I will not dwell on it now. The archaeological remains, which are extensive, fall into some main groups. We have first of all the undatable "high places" of sacrifice, of which Zebb 'Atuf, the one I show you on the screen, is the most perfect. It is situated on the summit of one of the hills to the east of the city site, and from it there is a good view of Jebal Harun, a shrine which, it seems to me, may have been the oldest sacred site in the neighbourhood. Associated with this "high place" are the great obelisks cut out of the solid rock which occupied the ends of a platform at a little lower level than the "high place." These obelisks appear to have been special features of Petra and we see them reproduced in some of the tombs. The second outstanding feature is the curious ornamentation of the tombs, known as crow-steps, which is ascribed to Assyrian origin. They are certainly many of them very ancient, and are unlike anything else in Palestine or Syria. The design would seem to be in some way connected with altars of sacrifice. But when discussing the "high places" or the obelisks, or these architectural ornaments, it is as well not to speculate too much until we know more. Thirdly, the most outstanding and memorable of the great works in Petra are those belonging to the classic period, such as the great temple of Isis made by Hadrian, the structure known as Ed-Deir (the monastery), which occupies almost the summit of one of the high hills overlooking Jebel Harun, and some wonderful buildings, tombs or temples, on the east side of the rocks enclosing the city. Of these I would very especially mention the so-called temple of the Urn, which, whatever its first purpose, we know was used as a church, and although of very plain architecture, with just three circular apses on the east side, is most impressive from its vast and perfect excavation and the natural coloration of the twisted coloured strata of rocks in the roof.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Very good photographs of all these buildings occur in the *Q.S.*, 1898.

Twenty-four hours is little time indeed to explore the wonders of Petra, but it does give a visitor an unfading picture of this extraordinary place. It would appear to have flourished under the Nabataeans—an Arab race—from somewhere about 600 B.C., until the rise of Palmyra at the end of the 1st century and the gradual transfer of the caravan routes towards the north began crippling its trade. I am not of those who think Petra is not worth an extensive excavation. I am sure we should know much more of the Nabataeans in this way and might also find evidences of prehistoric man. There are most interesting points of similarity and points of contrast in the two sites Palmyra and Petra.

I must now conclude what I have to say about the tour with a very few words on the main conclusions that I have arrived at from this visit.

Firstly, no one can help being impressed with the really splendid work of conservation which is being carried on by the Government Department of Antiquities in Palestine. The work is only in its beginning, but carried out on those lines it will soon make Palestine one of the finest fields of antiquity available for the tourist. Secondly, one cannot travel through such sights as these without being enormously impressed with the influence of Egypt all through the history of Palestine and Syria. We saw that at Byblos there were remains actually belonging to the IVth Egyptian Dynasty, but through the cities in Palestine the one civilization which always appears is Egypt, and especially we find evidences of the presence of the great kings of the XVIIIth Dynasty—Seti I and Rameses II. Besides the great monuments, like those of Seti at Homs, Damascus, Tell esh-Shihāb (east of the Jordan) and Beisan, there are those of Rameses II at Byblos, Nahr el-Kelb, Sheikh Saad (in the Hauran) and Beisan. No "tell" can be excavated in Palestine without our meeting evidences of Egyptian culture covering many centuries.

Thirdly, it is perfectly extraordinary how the excavations have increased under the British regime. The French authorities in Syria seem to be by no means eager to welcome non-French excavators, but Britain has been almost overlavish in the way she has offered the treasures in Palestine to the world. Besides the excavations which I have mentioned at Balāta, Beisan, Megiddo, Tabgha and Tell en-Nesbeh, there are concessions given to a German working in Hebron; an American on behalf of the Museum, New York,

at Kulat el-Kurein, and to a Danish representative of the National Museum at Copenhagen at Seilūn. And lastly, Dr. Albright, of the American School of Oriental Research, has commenced a most important and promising excavation at Tell el-Mirsim, a site close to Dahariyeh. But where, among all these, do we British stand? It is sad indeed to realize that almost all the excavating work is being done by other nations at the present time, and this at a time when we have the quite exceptional opportunities for doing work under the most favourable circumstances. There are still many tells in Palestine awaiting excavation and, among others, some that the P.E.F. have made some beginning at, such as Tell Sandahannah (Mareshah) and Tell el-Hesy (Lachish), but have in no degree exhausted. It cannot be sufficiently emphasized that in this work the day of opportunity is *now*, and never will such a favourable time return. The mere fact that so many excavators are present at one time all adds to the favourableness of the time, as there are now such opportunities for an excavator to compare his results with that of his colleagues.

The great outstanding difficulty is the question of getting suitable men to undertake this work on behalf of the various societies, and we have been strongly recommended by Prof. Garstang, Prof. Sayce and others, that it would be wise for the Committee to select and send out a young graduate, equipped educationally for the work, to have practical experience for, say, a year, at some of the sites in Palestine, with a view to his taking up whatever site it may be decided that we should excavate.

I very sincerely hope that in giving this address I have impressed upon you how great are the opportunities in Palestine. As regards the work which lies below the surface, as contrasted with what we see on the surface, there is a vast amount yet to be done, and the Palestine Exploration Fund, with its great traditions and established position, should be in the forefront in doing it. Such work will be very much more informing and very much more expeditiously done now that we have had laid for us, through the earlier workers, the sure foundations of our knowledge of the various periods through which the civilization has existed in Palestine.

The CHAIRMAN: As Chairman of this meeting I am sure I am expressing your opinion when I say it was a very serious omission on the part of Dr. Masterman when his natural modesty permitted him to omit from the agenda a vote of thanks to himself. It is my

duty to make good that omission. We have listened to an extraordinarily interesting address, and it is one which obviously the Honorary Secretary has taken a great deal of pains over, apart from the many pains he must have experienced in the jolting cars which took him over that very long route! Some parts that he has visited I have personally seen, such as Samaria, from the distance, and the Temple of Baalbec, at which I spent a great deal of time, and which is an extraordinary place. Much of what Dr. Masterman has said is, however, entirely new to me, as I feel it is to many others. It gives me the greatest pleasure to propose a hearty vote of thanks to our Honorary Secretary, and I will ask someone who is especially interested to second it.

Mr. E. WOOLLEY, in seconding the proposition, said: We have had a most instructive and interesting lecture from our Honorary Secretary. It has come, so to speak, straight out of the oven, and seems to be all quite fresh; certainly a great deal of what he has said is new to me. I am sure I speak for all present when I say we are very glad to have been present this afternoon. (Applause.)

The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation, and Dr. Masterman briefly returned thanks.

Mr. RICHMOND proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and in doing so said: It would be superfluous to say what a deep interest Sir Charles Marston takes in the work of the Fund and what powerful and general support he gives it. Amongst the other debts which we all owe to him is the address which we have heard to-day, because I believe it was largely owing to his generosity that Dr. Masterman was able to go on the tour which resulted in that extremely interesting lecture. (Applause.)

The vote of thanks was warmly accorded.

The CHAIRMAN: I am very much obliged to you for the vote of thanks. I can only assure you that to-day's proceedings have not decreased the interest I feel in the work of the Fund. I hope that in the future we are going to do a great deal more than we have recently been doing, and that we shall be able to show other nations that we, too, can find funds for excavation purposes. (Applause.)

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Society of Antiquaries for the use of their rooms.