

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

THE Forty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the above Fund was held at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London, W., on Monday, June 13th, 1910, when the Very Rev. George Adam Smith, D.D., LL.D., Litt.D., Principal of the University of Aberdeen, occupied the Chair.

The HON. SECRETARY (Mr. J. D. Grace) read letters expressing regret, owing to inability to attend the Meeting, from the following:—The Rev. Canon Bonney, Sir Henry Trotter, Rev. Prof. Cheyne, Rev. W. F. Clarkson, Rev. W. Ewing.

Continuing, the HON. SECRETARY said:—I thought it was interesting to have Prof. Cheyne's letter with me to read, because he is so distinguished a man, that everybody would feel interested in knowing he continues to take great interest in the work of the Fund. He says:—

Dear Sir,

“It is with much regret I find myself unable to attend the Annual Meeting of the Committee on June 13th. More especially do I regret that I shall miss the pleasure of hearing the address of the accomplished Principal of Aberdeen University, who, I am sure, will communicate his own ardent enthusiasm to his audience. I wish I could do much more for the Fund which has such great prospects of exploring work before it.”

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

The CHAIRMAN.—Sir Charles Watson, Ladies and Gentlemen: During the past year the Palestine Exploration Fund has lost, by death, an unusually large number of distinguished agents and supporters, of whose services due mention will be made in the

course of our business this afternoon; but I am sure we all feel it right and fitting that, before we enter upon that business, we should separately and solemnly express our sorrow at the lamented death of our late Patron, His Majesty King Edward VII.

From the beginning of its career this Society has enjoyed the patronage and assistance of the Crown. Through the offices of Dean Stanley, Her Majesty Queen Victoria took a personal interest in the inauguration of our work, and liberally contributed to its support. As Prince of Wales His late Majesty visited the Holy Land, and to his visit we may attribute much of that readiness of the Turkish Imperial authorities to further our labours, without which they would never have achieved their very considerable results. In particular we may date from his memorable visit to the Mosque at Hebron, as Dean Stanley anticipated we might do, an increase in the tolerance exhibited by the religious officials of Islam and the Mohammedan people at large towards western explorers and travellers. Whether as Prince of Wales or as King, His late Majesty never lessened that personal interest in our enterprise which he thus so practically achieved. In 1882 he sent his sons on a prolonged tour through the Holy Land, the archaeological results of which were of no mean value. Col. Conder's report of that tour, and especially of the visit of the Princes to the Mosque of Hebron, where, with their own hands they assisted in certain new measurements, forms one of the most interesting documents which our Society has ever published. It is further enriched by notes from Sir Charles Wilson and Canon Dalton. The patronage of the Crown has, therefore, been to us not merely nominal or distant, but personal, direct and practical. Besides, as I have said, influencing in our favour the authorities and the people of Syria, it has proved of incalculable benefit in our appeals for support to the public of this country. We, therefore, have the strongest reasons for making, as we now do, our very grateful and respectful acknowledgment of it. I need say no more. An address of condolence and of loyalty has already been signed by our President and dispatched to His Majesty King George.

The above address was listened to in silence, the entire audience up-standing.

The CHAIRMAN.—I have now, Ladies and Gentlemen, the honour to move:—

“That the Report and Accounts for the year 1909, already printed and in the hands of subscribers, be received and adopted.”

Lt.-Col. C. F. FELLOWS seconded the Resolution and it was unanimously adopted.

The HON. SECRETARY.—The Chairman has already told the Meeting that we have suffered an unusual amount of loss in the course of the year amongst those interested in the Society. It is my duty to read the names of the principal Members whom we have lost since we last met here. First of all, His Majesty the King, who was Patron from 1891 to the time of his death. Then I may mention the great loss we have sustained in the death of our Acting Secretary, Mr. George Armstrong. He was 38 years in the service of the Fund, and, out of that time, 20 years its Acting Secretary. His duties were always performed not only with intelligence, but with enthusiasm from the first, and there is no doubt that it was the great enthusiasm of his life. Then within a month or a few weeks of Mr. George Armstrong's death, we lost Col. Conder, whose name is definitely associated with the great survey of Palestine. His work, not only in connection with that survey, but with a great number of publications, all of interest and many requiring great learning and research, will continue to form a monument to his name. We then have the Rev. W. H. Rogers, who has often spoken at these Meetings. And then another great loss, the Rev. George Post, who was so well known through his botanical researches in Palestine. Then the Rev. Canon Hutchinson, one of our oldest Members, and Mr. Joseph Pollard, a Member of the Executive Committee for many years, and the Marquis of Ripon, who was for a great many years a staunch friend of the Society. In addition to those actually belonging to the Society, another most valuable supporter was the Director of the Imperial Museum at Constantinople, Osman Hamdy Bey. He was an enthusiastic archaeologist himself, and he learned to have very great confidence in this Society and in its ways of dealing not only with matters of antiquity, but honestly with the Imperial Government. Altogether the Society may be said to have to deplore an unusual amount of loss in the personality connected with its transactions.

Sir CHARLES WATSON.—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Crace has read out a list of those gentlemen whose deaths we have had to deplore during the past year. Each year, of course, some Members drop off from our General Committee, but I am glad to be able to say that each year we get new recruits who are of the greatest possible assistance, and I will read you a list of those we propose to add on the present occasion to the Membership of the General Committee. First there is Col. Hope-Edwards of Shrewsbury, who has been for a long time a great supporter of the Fund and has given us most excellent subscriptions and helped us much in carrying out the excavations. Then I come to Prof. Stewart Macalister, of whom I need say very little as all here are acquainted with his work. He has ceased to be our executive officer in Palestine, but, of course, he will still help us with the work of the Fund. At present, Prof. Stewart Macalister is hard at work preparing the Memoirs on the magnificent excavations he conducted at Gezer. The first volume of these Memoirs is completed and is shortly about to go for printing, and the second volume is in course of preparation. The next name is Dr. Arthur Evans, whom I expect everyone here knows in connection with the excavations of Crete. He has kindly consented to join us, and I am sure he will be of great assistance to us in our future work. Then comes Prof. Edward Anwyl of Aberystwyth College, Professor of Comparative Philology and a well-known archaeologist, who also takes a great interest in what we do. Prebendary Ingram, Rector of St. Margaret's, Lothbury, has also agreed to become a member of the General Committee. And, lastly, there is Mr. Satow, the newly-appointed British Consul of Jerusalem, who, though he has been in Jerusalem for only a short time, has already been able to give us very material assistance in getting the new permit for our future exploration. I propose these names be added to the Committee.

Prof. BUCHANAN GRAY.—I have great pleasure in seconding the names proposed by Sir Charles Watson. I think the Society can congratulate itself that it is able to obtain the services of men on the various Committees who are distinguished in different ways, which is so necessary to the due carrying out of the objects of the Fund.

The Resolution was then adopted.

Dr. D'ERF WHEELER.—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in moving the following Resolution:—

“That the Executive Committee be re-elected.”

I am sure I need not say any word on the ability and the able way in which the Executive Committee have carried on their splendid work during all these years.

The Rev. HERBERT HUGHES seconded the Resolution and it was unanimously agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN.—I have now very great pleasure in calling upon Col. Sir Charles Watson to give us an address upon the completion of the excavations at Gezer, and to make some intimations with regard to the future work of the Society.

Sir CHARLES WATSON.—I ought not to take up many minutes of the time of this Meeting, as I know the Members are all anxious to hear you, sir; but there are just a few remarks I would like to make. Last year, as you will all remember, we announced the completion of the excavations at Gezer and the wonderful results we had got there. As I have already told you, the memoirs respecting those excavations are now in preparation, and, I hope, will soon be in the hands of the subscribers. As soon as the excavations at Gezer were over we asked Mr. Macalister, when he was in Palestine last year, to go through the country, and to investigate a number of sites which, from historical or other reasons, appeared likely to lead to good results. He started practically from Dan to Beersheba; he worked from north to south, and visited a number of sites which, undoubtedly, were interesting, and of those sites, after he had presented his report, the Committee came to the conclusion that the place now called 'Ain-es-Shems was the one that offered the most probable results from the exploration point of view. I am sure all of you who are well acquainted with the Bible will remember the Beth-Shemesh of the Bible. 'Ain-es-Shems is, with little doubt, the site of the old Beth-Shemesh. Beth-Shemesh was a city that stood on the borders of the Tribe of Judah; and during the times when the wars were going on, which are recorded in the Books of Joshua and Judges between the Israelites and the Philistines, Beth-Shemesh, as being a commanding point on one of the principal roads that lead from the Philistine country into the hill country, naturally was the place where a good deal of this fighting took place.

Then, Beth-Shemesh was the place to which the Philistines, who had taken the ark of God in their fighting with Israel, and having found that it brought them no good luck, but only pestilence and disease, decided to send it back, and put it on a cart drawn by two oxen, and those oxen brought it as far as Beth-Shemesh; in fact, the place where we are going to excavate is very probably close to the site where the Ark stopped. It is rather a curious thing that that old road from the Philistine country up to Jerusalem ceased to be used for a long time—for hundreds and hundreds of years—but when they found it necessary to make a railway from Joppa to Jerusalem, they selected that old road, and now the line of rails passes close under this Beth-Shemesh. I think, when you study the question, you will agree that the Committee have not done unwisely in selecting this site. Well, as soon as the site was selected, the next thing was to apply for an *irade*, or permit, from the Sultan to allow us to excavate there. We wrote, through the Foreign Office to Constantinople at the beginning of the present year, and I am happy to tell you that we have already got the *irade*. There is a good deal of discussion going on about the movement in Turkey, but, at all events, I can say it has been an excellent thing for the Palestine Exploration Fund, because the Young Turks seem to push things on a good deal quicker than the old Turks used to do. Unfortunately we had lost, as Mr. Crace has said, Osman Hamdy Bey, the Director of the Museum at Constantinople, but I am thankful to say he has been succeeded by his brother, Khalil Bey, who seems to be a man of the same mind, and he has been of the greatest possible assistance to us in obtaining this permit. I must also express to this Meeting the thanks which we owe to Sir Edwin Pears, of Constantinople, who, with Mr. Bullard, of the British Embassy, were of the greatest assistance to us in obtaining the permit. Our Chairman suggests that I should also mention the name of the gentleman whom we have as our new explorer, viz., Dr. Duncan Mackenzie, who has been employed under Dr. Arthur Evans of Crete for a number of years, and who is thoroughly competent to conduct the work. He has a perfect knowledge of historical pottery, which, as you all know, is a very important consideration, and he has also studied a good deal the question of the Philistines, in whose country we are going to excavate. I dare say some here know the theory that the

Philistines were a people who came from Crete, and while in Crete Dr. Mackenzie has already been studying this question, and now that he is going to the Philistine country he will be in a very good position to carry on his investigations.

The CHAIRMAN.—Sir Charles Watson, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have been asked to say a few words chiefly upon the new work of the Society, the beginning of which has been announced to you so well by Sir Charles Watson. But before I go on to say anything on that head, I should like your permission to add a few words of tribute, of admiration and of regret in connection with some of the names which our Hon. Secretary has already read over to us, and which are contained in the death-roll of the Society's supporters and agents during the past year. Of course I must begin with Col. Conder. None of us who have done work, much or small, in connection with the geography or the exploration of Palestine, can fail to know that to Col. Conder, along with Sir Charles Warren and the late Sir Charles Wilson, we owe more than we do to any of the agents who have been employed by the Society, and who have contributed to its magnificent achievements. The names of Warren, and of Wilson, and of Conder, will go down to posterity as those of our greatest pioneers, and I hardly think it possible that any of their successors, even though the opportunities now are wider than were opened to them, can exceed the tale of their labours and of their magnificent results. Col. Conder was a remarkable gift to a Society like ours. He was not only a very capable and expert officer of Engineers, who did the great work of surveying the Holy Land with a thoroughness which we expect from that great and famous corps, but he had interests of a still wider kind which still more admirably fitted him for the work to which we called him. He was no mean linguist; he mastered Arabic; he applied himself to the nomenclature of Palestine with an assiduity excelled by none, I think, since Robinson himself; he collected an extraordinary wealth of place-names, and for the rest of his life he continued to supply to scholars a number of arguments upon these and upon a comparison of them with the place-names of Crusade times, and of the New Testament and Old Testament periods—a number of arguments which, whether you agree with them or not, always interest you, and very distinctly forward the identification of the place-names of the Holy Land. Besides that, Col. Conder had no mean literary style, and he did perhaps as much as any of us to interest the public of Great Britain

in the work of our Fund. From the time he retired from active participation upon the field itself, Col. Conder continued up to the time of his death to contribute to the discussions in our *Quarterly Statement*; which showed that to the very last he remained interested in and vigilant of every new discovery, and of the progress that the science of archaeology in Palestine has so happily been enabled to make within the last couple of decades. I do feel that a very special tribute of gratitude is due, not only from the members of our Society, but from all scholars whose subject may be the history or geography of Palestine, and from all historians, whether of the Semitic period or of the Crusading period of the history of that country.

I do not know how far we realize the value of the appearance at public meetings in our country of the leading agents of our Society, but, if you will pardon a bit of personal experience, I would like to tell you how much a single lecture, by a man who has taken part personally in the work of the Society, may effect in the minds of our young people and bring up supporters and perhaps students of our subject in later years. I was only a boy of ten when either Sir Charles Warren or Sir Charles Wilson—I forget which it was now; I do not suppose I was very keen about the name at that time—appeared in the great Hall of the Royal High School in Edinburgh and delivered a lecture upon the excavations which had then just begun in Jerusalem; and, Ladies and Gentlemen, it was from that day and that hour that my interest in Jerusalem began, and that I formed the wish to be able to study the subject, and as I grew older perhaps to contribute to it a little. Now Col. Conder's work was of that kind also. The many visits he paid to different parts of the country and the many lectures he gave were, I am sure, very valuable in furthering the interest of the general public in our work, and I would like to urge upon our Executive the value, in the light of such experience, of sending labourers like Prof. Stewart Macalister, and Mr. Duncan Mackenzie we hope in the future, to great centres and to small centres in the country, with a view of scattering information and exciting enthusiasm upon one of the most interesting and fascinating subjects which can be presented to the scholars, the school-boys and school-girls, of our country at the present time. One cannot dissociate, as the Hon. Secretary has said, the name of George Armstrong from that of Col. Conder. Working in a humbler rank, he has after his measure distinctly

contributed to the labours of our Society as much as the greater names which we have mentioned. Personally, I want to express my gratitude to his memory, if for nothing else, for that marvelously useful, clear, and interesting raised map of Palestine of which he was the maker. I have thought over it and lectured over it in my classroom for seventeen years, and I could not think of doing without either it or the smaller map. I have often wondered that more advantage has not been taken by teachers and lecturers throughout the land, especially teachers of Bible Classes and theological lecturers, of the admirable advantages which this great map so easily affords to them. I trust its sale in the future will be very much larger than it has been in the past.

The only other name on which I wish to say a word, because our Hon. Secretary has already spoken so fittingly with regard to them all, is that of Prof. Post of Beyrout. None of us who have travelled in the land have been able to do without his botanical Manual, one of the most charming books, whether to those who, like myself, are not botanists, or to those who are, it is possible to imagine. His interest in the work of our Society from first to last was great, and he cheerfully contributed to the *Quarterly Statement* of his rich stores of experience, of travel and research throughout the borders of Syria.¹

Now, passing from these names, I come to the work which has been intimated to you by our Chairman, Sir Charles Watson. We have reached a very critical point in the history of our Society at which we are concluding one great piece of work, great I mean whether you measure it by the time it has occupied or by the immense quantity of the results which have issued from it, and great also in the new lines of investigation and of research which Mr. Macalister has opened up for us through it. And we are advancing to another piece of work as full of promise, I firmly believe, to-day as the work of Gezer was when we received the permission from Constantinople to commence that. We are parting

¹ Some mention should also be made of the great loss which the sciences of the history and geography of the Holy Land have suffered by the death of Prof. Schürer of Göttingen. His erudition in all subjects connected with Palestine was excelled by no living scholar. The impartiality and sanity of his judgment on disputed questions were conspicuous and constant. To all students of the subject the geographical and historical descriptions and arguments in his *History of the Jewish people in the time of Christ*, and its very full lists of references, are indispensable.

also, as Sir Charles Watson has told us, from a worker whom we can ill afford to do without. I need not say anything about his work, which has been alluded to already with such fitness by our Chairman, and the reports upon which have been laid before you from time to time in the *Quarterly Statement* during the last few years. But I would like to emphasize, with all the force of which I am capable, that this work cannot fulfil its final end until we receive the Memoir of it, which Prof. Stewart Macalister happily is now engaged in preparing. He himself has pointed out that temporary and occasional statements and reports, made from time to time, of the work as it is in progress can never be a substitute for the more careful and deliberate Memoir which always ought to be published as quickly as possible on the completion of such a work. Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, the expenses of preparing such a Memoir, especially in view of the enormous number of illustrations without which its value would be greatly diminished—the expenses of preparing so great a work are very severe, and unless our Executive Committee receive even greater support than they have done for this end, I am afraid that we shall not have done our duty either by Gezer itself or by the splendid self-denying labours which Prof. Macalister has, during these last years, devoted to it. I trust that the financial support which the Executive receives will enable them to issue the Memoir in a condition and with a fullness of illustration and in a form which will do justice to the work and to the author of the work itself. Before I pass from that I should like to repeat a testimony which I gave two years ago from personal experience with regard to the thoroughness of Prof. Macalister's work. He has been working ever since then and has gradually increased our debt and the debt of all scholars to him, and the evidence that has come up since I spoke upon this point two years ago only confirms what I said concerning the thoroughness, the quality, the high, deep quality, of Mr. Macalister's researches and excavations. I have been able to compare his work, and in fact the work of all our British agents, with the work of not a few investigators and excavators belonging to other countries, and I think it only due, in the prevailing temper of the British mind to depreciate its own work in contrast with the work of other nations, to say—and I give this not merely as my own testimony but as the testimony of others as well—that there is no work in Palestine done, I care not by whom, whether by Germans or by French, that

is to be compared for thoroughness and quality with what has been done by the agents of this Society, and especially by Prof. Macalister. Again and again our British agents have covered ground already touched upon, whether in Egypt or in Palestine, by the explorers of other nations, and they have shown by their researches that the charge of superficiality, sometimes brought against British scholarship and British work in various departments, certainly does not hold with regard to the work of excavation and exploration.

And now, if you will allow me, I should like to remind you of what we owe to Prof. Macalister in the opening up of new material and new lines of research. The day has long passed when our minds can entertain the idea that the labours of such a Society as this are exhausted within the limits of the topography, of surveying the country, or of the identification of Bible sites, or of the confirmation of Bible history. We are on the eve of a new day of study in the comparative history of Semitic religions. There is no field for the study of such a subject like Palestine itself, with its countless buried sanctuaries, and with all those physical and economic conditions which so largely moulded Semitic religion. That is a sphere of work, now that so much has been done for topography, which our Society is bound to enter. Mr. Macalister has proved by his work at Gezer a splendid pioneer into that sphere. He has opened up not only very ancient Semitic sanctuaries, discovered and illustrated many practices of the Canaanite religion which were obscure to us in the pages of the Old Testament, but he has also gone back, to his own surprise and to the gratification of all scholars, to the neolithic age, and discovered a sanctuary of neolithic man. In this respect his labours have been simply invaluable, and scholarship has to congratulate itself to-day upon the existence of a mass of material illuminating this hitherto very obscure subject, such as we never dreamt we should possess a very few years ago. I should like to repeat what I said two years ago, that with all these discoveries, Prof. Macalister has only made it more clear and firm, how definite, how forceful, how unique was the ethical power which the religion of Israel—whatever we may judge its forces to have been—brought into the land of Palestine those many centuries ago, and so began that force of blessing to all mankind which has issued from Israel through Christianity. As one went with Mr. Macalister round these ancient sanctuaries which he discovered in and about Gezer, and saw their symbols and their

signs, one understood as one had never done before the zeal with which the prophets and the law-givers of old enforced the pure religion of Israel, and overturned among God's people all practices derived from the Canaanites or other heathen neighbours. I believe that for the apologist for the religion of Israel, or for the apologist of Christianity, the discoveries of Mr. Macalister at Gezer, and the great line of research which he and Prof. Sellin have opened up, offer some of the most powerful arguments and material that they can possibly enjoy.

Now, coming definitely to the new field, I should like to say with regard to that, I only heard of it a few days ago, when I was absent from all my books, and therefore found it impossible to prepare any paper for you worthy either of the field or of the distinguished excavator who has been called to work upon it. But it is many, many years ago since I first became acquainted with the extremely interesting district in which 'Ain-es-Shems lies, and I shall crave permission for a few moments to give you my personal impression of it. I think you will find in it evidence of the wisdom of the Committee in choosing this site. I have been, I think, three or four times at the head of the Vale of Sorek in which 'Ain-es-Shems lies, and upon one occasion I spent two whole days thoroughly exploring the immediate neighbourhood of the mound in the year 1891. It is one of the most attractive sites in all Palestine, from the point of view of scenery, and although this is only one point in its merits, I think it is a point that ought to be mentioned. I cannot conceive of a healthier site, Sir Charles Watson, for our labourers, our investigators and excavators to work in than 'Ain-es-Shems, one of the sunniest, breeziest basins in the whole of Palestine. Our labourers also will be close to the main line of railway, and will derive every convenience that that is capable of affording. They will be in easy communication for supplies, both with Joppa and Jerusalem, and I understand, though it is many years since I was on the site, that there are quite sufficient sources of personal labour in the neighbourhood. The work may go on, for enough workmen will be found from the population of the neighbouring villages. In all these respects then, I think the site is ideal. I agree with what Sir Charles Watson has said about the extreme probability of 'Ain-es-Shems being Beth-Shemesh; but even if—and this is always possible—even if in the course of our excavations it should turn out that it was not Beth-Shemesh, there is no doubt it must have been

some other equally important site—equally important in the life and history of Israel and their neighbours the Philistines. The mound lies at the head of the Vale of Sorek, just under the eaves of the main Judæan range where the Vale of Sorek narrows to that defile which now carries the railway up to Jerusalem. That is to say, the site lies on what was the main high road between northern Philistia and Jerusalem. Not only so, but it is crossed by the great trench which so distinctly divides the area of the Low Hills, the debatable country between Philistia and Judæa, from the main Judæan range. The Wadi-en-Najil reaches the basin from the south, the Wadi-Ghurab, I think, comes in from the north-west or the north. Thus you have converging upon the basin formed at the head of the Vale of Sorek, by all these valleys—an exceedingly wide well-watered, fertile, and sunny basin—several of the main high roads of that part of the country. I have counted five main roads coming in upon Beth-Shemesh. From Beth-Jibrin, or Eleutheropolis, in the south, from the coast upon the west and the northernmost cities of the Philistine lakes, like Ekron and Ashdod, possibly also from Ashkalon, although perhaps a better road would be found up the Vale of Elah. Then you have also coming in by the Wadi-Ghurab a road over a very low and easy pass from the Vale of Ajalon, and, finally, you have two, and perhaps three, roads coming down from the main Judæan range, and ultimately from Jerusalem itself. I cannot think of any similar site, certainly in the south of Palestine, upon which more roads have converged in ancient times and down to the present day, and that is why I say, whether we find this to be Beth-Shemesh or not—and I think we shall find it to be Beth-Shemesh—we are attacking a site commercially and historically of the greatest importance. Then it was up this vale, as Sir Charles Watson has told us, that a good deal of the history of Israel was transacted, and that many episodes in the Old Testament happened. We have, first of all, the mention of Beth-Shemesh on the boundary of the tribe of Judah, we have it mentioned in the Book of Joshua as a Levitical city, and then we have the picturesque and interesting story of the arrival of the Ark, and the discovery by the inhabitants of how it had brought the plague with it from the plague-stricken cities of Philistia; and moreover we have the campaign of Joash of Israel against Amaziah, and the latter's defeat in this one of the main approaches from Philistia to Jerusalem. But, besides all that,

we may be sure that a great deal of commercial intercourse and many struggles and contests between the Philistines and the Israelites took place upon this debatable land, so that we shall not be surprised if Mr. Mackenzie should add to the knowledge that Prof. Macalister has already recovered from Gezer—the beginnings of our knowledge of at least the burial habits of the Philistines. Then another thing, if this should turn out to be Beth-Shemesh, we have the site, from the very name of it, of an ancient Canaanite cult, and probably the site of a Babylonian cult as well. So that here again there are possibilities of further knowledge upon other lines already opened by Mr. Macalister in Gezer. I do not know whether in their visit to this site Mr. Macalister and Mr. Mackenzie have discovered any pottery so late as the Hellenistic period; but I should think it extremely probable, if not at Beth-Shemesh, certainly in the neighbourhood we might come across some traces of big campaigns or other remnants of Greek and Hellenistic civilization in Assyria. However that may be, you see that there are enough possibilities in this great site, real practical possibilities, Ladies and Gentlemen, to have justified our Committee's choice of it for the next excavations of the Palestine Exploration Fund. I have always been one of those who desired that our Executive would take us across to the east of Jordan, and begin operations upon one of the great mounds of Moab or of Gilead, preferably of Moab, and for this very urgent reason, that within the last ten years, I should say, a number of the ancient mound sites on the Plateau of Moab are being reoccupied chiefly by Christians, semi-nomads, from Kerak, and the chances of such excavations as we could now have very freely upon these unoccupied sites will rapidly disappear for ever. I still entertain the hope, and make the prayer that the next site we excavate will be a site upon the east of the Jordan and in Moab. Dhibān lies there all ready for the spade of the excavator. When we remember what was once found there, we might look forward with very just expectancy of great results from excavations there. Beth-Shan is another mound that I have long wished to see excavated, and it could have been excavated with very great ease and great results many years ago; but alas, it is occupied. The moral of all this, Ladies and Gentlemen—and I hope my words upon the point will reach a still larger public—the moral of all this is that whether you look at the results in past times of the Palestine Exploration Fund, or the opportunities that lie

before it for the future, or the rapidity with which these opportunities are disappearing—in view of all these things, I say you cannot entrust the Palestine Exploration Fund with too large an amount of money for their great and their indispensable work. In conclusion, I should like to congratulate the Executive Committee upon the appointment of Dr. Duncan Mackenzie. I do not think in the whole range of our younger excavators they could have got a better man to carry on this work. He comes from Crete, where his experience under Mr. Evans has been long and thorough, and where he himself we know has displayed very great original ability. He has, I understand, a first-rate knowledge both of Turkish and Greek; he is able to deal justly and gently with a corps of labourers; he has experience of working with Orientals, and I think we may anticipate smoothness both in his relations with them and with the Turkish authorities just because he has had so much experience of the same kind, and may anticipate also that the results of the work at 'Ain-es-Shems will be as valuable, and certainly the work will be as thorough as that which has just concluded at Gezer.

Mr. WALTER MORRISON.—I have great pleasure in moving this Resolution :

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Managers of the Royal Institution of Great Britain for granting the use of their Lecture Theatre for this Meeting.

The Executive Committee are very grateful to the Royal Institution for showing such charity to us. And looking at it from a Treasurer's point of view, it saves us a little money, for otherwise we should have to hire a hall. At the same time, I think there is a certain congruity in the Royal Institution offering hospitality to the Palestine Exploration Fund, because this is a building which is famous in the history of British science, and has always been a building for the encouragement of British science. We claim that we are emphatically a scientific body. We set the example to other people of systematic and scientific exploration, not merely of digging, as so many people have done, and finding antiquities and then taking them away, but digging in such a way that we can find the historical solution which is shown by the exact position and quality and character of the discovery we make. So I hope

you will pass a vote of thanks to the Managers of the Royal Institution for being so good as to welcome us here as they have so often done in the past.

Dr. C. D. GINSBURG seconded the Resolution and it was carried by acclamation.

Sir CHARLES WATSON.—If you will allow me, I will put one more Resolution, and that is to ask this Meeting to return their best thanks to the Very Reverend the Principal of Aberdeen University for having been so good as to come here and take the Chair to-day, and for his admirable address which I am sure you will all carry home with you. If Dr. Smith will allow me, I would say one word with reference to the exploration east of Jordan. The Committee thought of it very seriously, and I can assure him many Members of the Committee would be only too glad to carry on exploration there, but at the present time affairs are in a very disturbed condition east of the Jordan, and we thought it would be wiser to stay west of the Jordan for the present. Perhaps when the next permit is asked for it may be on the east side of Jordan. May I express to our Chairman our deep gratitude to him for having kindly come here to-day ?

The CHAIRMAN.—Sir Charles Watson, Ladies and Gentlemen, I count it a very high honour to be invited to preside at this Annual Meeting of the Fund. But apart from the honour I feel, it would take me all my lifetime to express to the Society the deep debt of gratitude I owe it and its labourers in the past in connection with my own subject as a scholar of the Old Testament. With regard to Sir Charles Watson's explanation, we are all very glad to have it, but I should like to assure him and the Executive that these explanations are quite unnecessary, for the Executive Committee has the entire trust of the whole body of subscribers to the Fund on whatever site they may decide upon.

The proceedings then terminated.
