

spur, and concerning the two royal cemeteries mentioned in the Bible. He may, perhaps, even do me the honour of reading the account which I have endeavoured to give in the "Handbook to the Bible" concerning our present knowledge of ancient Jerusalem, and I know that if, on reading these remarks, he should become convinced that the generally accepted theories are really the simplest (and they have been very carefully thought out by many experienced and able writers), we can rely upon his expressing his adhesion to the views of the majority, including such names as Robinson, Fergusson, Williams, Lewin, and Warren.¹

C. R. CONDER, *Captain, R.E.*

DISC STONES.

I MUST thank Dr. Selah Merrill for correcting our measurement of the Mensef Abu Zeid by 10 inches. I have no doubt he is right. The stone in question weighs, probably, some twenty tons, and for this reason I do not agree with Mr. Merrill in regarding it as a millstone.

There are two kinds of millstones commonly used in Syria. Those for grinding corn, which are large and made of basalt, and those belonging to olive-presses, which are small and made of limestone. A limestone block would not, I think, be hard enough to grind corn, and for this reason the basalt stones imported from the Hauran are much prized. There is no doubt a danger of mistaking a modern utensil for an ancient emblem. Even Dr. Schliemann did not escape this danger. On the other hand, the surveyors had seen very many millstones which they could compare with the Mensef, but never, I think, did they find a horse or donkey who could have turned this great disc stone in a mill. I have lately found an instance of disc stones which are clearly solar emblems, namely, the twin disc stones of Killiney, co. Dublin. The 'Amrit disc stone is just about the size of the Mensef, and the disc stone with a central obelisk is a well-known emblem to Oriental archæologists. Such antiquities are not, however, I believe, found in America.

C. R. C.

¹ Sir C. Wilson's name will no doubt in time be added to that of other authorities when he has time to publish his views. At present, however, we can only appeal to his Survey and Memoir, as he has not expressed an opinion on the questions now under consideration.