

Corrections and Notes.

The proof of the "Hittite Language" having been submitted to various scholars for criticism, I have been favoured with their remarks on details, and add the results as far as they have reached me.

Bulug, "division," is regarded by M. Bertin and Prof. Sayce as a Semitic word. The root, however, is common in Turanian speech. *Zab*, "soldier," is also considered Semitic by M. Bertin.

Nautab is more correctly *Natub*, according to Rev. H. G. Tomkins, who also objects to *Kharab* (*Khalebu*), and to *Ganiab* (better *Kainab*). *Buresu* is otherwise read *Suresu*, but the inscription is here injured. *Tamakua* is perhaps more correctly *Tzemauka*.

Li, given by Lenormant as an adjective termination, is not accepted by M. Bertin; *U* or *Ua*, "and," is read *Sa* by Prof. Sayce, but this is still apparently doubtful.

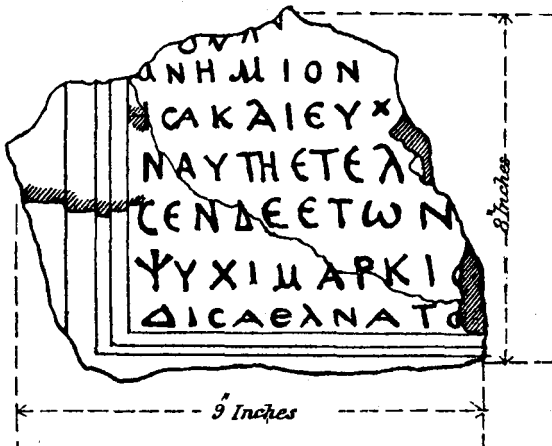
As regards the termination *meti*, in Hittite, I may add that *meta* occurs, meaning "being" in Akkadian (Bertin on "Assy. Pronouns," p. 19), which strengthens my case.

There is of course a good deal of doubt about some of the words given as Akkadian on the authority of Lenormant, Delitzsch, and others. M. G. Bertin has kindly looked through these words, and doubts especially—*Pakh*, "king;" *Pis*, "hero;" *Zana*, "superior;" *alu*, "city" (probably Semitic); *us*, "King;" *Tu*, "down." He also reads *lu* for *le*, "bull," and queries other words; but by the system used in this paper the uncertainties of Akkadian are often overcome.

C. R. C.

RECENT DISCOVERIES.

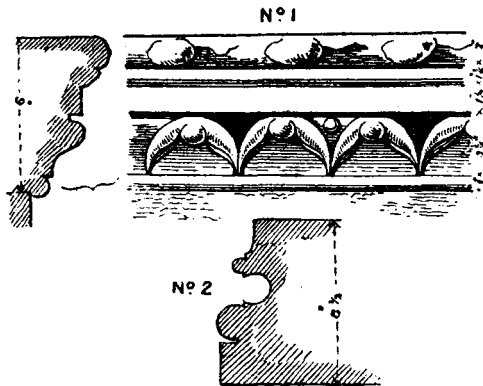
Lejjân.—At Lejjân, this ancient Roman place of the Merj ibn 'Amir (Plain of Esdraelon), the following Greek inscription was found, unfortunately not complete:—



The inscription is engraved on a soft white limestone, surrounded by a cornice.

Haifa.—At the west of the German colony at Haifa, near the modern Jewish cemetery, in an abandoned garden, covered with quicksand, several large sarcophagi covers of sandstone were discovered after the upper layers of the sand were transported on wagons to the gardens of the colony. The sarcophagi covers, herewith sketched, had an average length of 7 feet 1 inch, an exterior width of 2 feet 11 inches, and a height of 1 foot 11½ inches. The sarcophagi themselves, or rather the graves, were formed by nicely hewn sandstones of large size, up to 6 feet by 3 feet, and masoned together so as to form a grave of rectangular form, sufficient in size to be covered by the top slabs sketched. Each of the three top slabs had on each corner of its sloping top a horn, 11 inches high, 8 inches in diameter, which gave the whole a suitable ornamentation. The interior of the graves were somehow plastered with a good covering of white mortar. The workmen, who were busy in destroying these ancient remains and cutting them into building stones of such size as to be transportable on camel's back, pretended that they had also dug out human bones, which I saw no more. This place and vicinity (see "Memoirs of Palestine Exploration Fund, Haifa," Vol. vi, p. 303) must have been an ancient Jewish burial place, as seen from the data mentioned by Benjamin of Tudela, &c.

Kefr Kenna.—The annexed sketch, No. 1, represents an ornamentation found at Kefr Kenna by the Superior of the Latin Convent there; it is carved in the so-called Nâri (a soft crumbling lime) stone, and as so very



few ancient remains are found at this place, may be of some interest; No. 2 was also found here, and seems to be the attic base of a column, while No. 1 is the top of a crowning cornice.

Mâ-mâs.—At the Roman Theatre of Mâ-mâs, I found these **HRK** mason marks. The greatest part of this ruin is carried off and overbuilt.

Tiberias.—The surface of the Lake of Tiberias is 5 feet 1 inch *lower* than it was in February, when I marked its height on the city wall, at the time of heaviest rainfall. The inhabitants of the city are surprised of this low stand of the lake, it being the lowest since many years, and was caused by the dry season and the relative poor rainfall of last winter. The Jordan, near Bâb et Tumm, at its outflow out of the lake is only knee-deep, while in March last I crossed the river in a boat, measuring a maximum depth there of nearly 6½ feet. The springs also, throughout Galilee, but especially in the district of Tiberias, became unusually poor, and many dried up totally; so for instance, the large town of Lâbieh and of Nimrîn are obliged to get their entire water supply, since September last, from the powerful but distant spring of Hattîn, at a distance of 4 and 2 miles respectively. At Nazareth the want of drinking water becomes most urgent, as even the good supplying spring at Kerm el Emîr could no more answer the wants of thousands, not a drop being left any more to irrigate the gardens below. Foreigners, who were not happy enough to have friends, found nobody, not even for money, to water their animals. In Northern 'Ajlûn, where the cisterns became empty during September, and no spring was near, the want of water became a burning question. A Mukâri (muleteer), loaded with dry goods from Damascus, told me that he wandered about in Northern 'Ajlûn for three days without finding a place to water his animals, he himself suffering most terribly from thirst, as no villager allowed him to have a drink until he finally forcibly seized a "kirby" (leather bag) of water from an old woman to answer his wants. Considering that declining to hand a drink of water over to a stranger is about the last thing that is expected by an Arab, and is throughout considered as an action of the basest kind, the state of water wants in 'Ajlûn must have been very very high indeed. Several rainfalls during the last weeks have raised this question to a supportable degree.

Shefa 'Anir.—In the south of the town, just below the small castle, el Burj, and near where the officers of the "Fund" had found and described tombs, other tombs along the road were discovered. They were so well shut by stone doors that their existence had hitherto escaped the eye. They generally contain three to four koka, and show here and there on the walls Christian emblems and crosses. Human bones and copper bracelets, and some lachrymatories, are said to have been found, but carried off by a monk, who happened to be near at the time of discovery.

Athlît.—This crusading castle has been bought privately by H. E. the Governor-General of Syria, who intends to pull down the dirty fellahin houses, and part of the ancient remains, and to rebuild a proper village, to drain the marshy land, and to cultivate gardens. While surveying this part I was surprised by the abundance of old cisterns along the low hills of Athlît, the large sandstone quarries (el Makattiyeh), and the remains of irrigation canals and basins within the jungles of "Tarfa" or Tamarisks. The total area of the property belonging to Athlît measures 54 feddans (among which 33 of cultivated soil), or each government feddan, measuring 200 dunnums, about 10,800 dunnums = 2,340 English acres. Many

ancient remains may be brought to daylight by this desirable act of civilisation.

Sürafand.—Last week fishermen from this village caught a young sea-calf in their nets while fishing in the sea and brought it ashore; the cries of the young animal soon attracted its mother, which also appeared and was killed by gunshots; this animal very seldom appears in this part of the Mediterranean, and I immediately sent for its remains, but, unfortunately, the young calf had since died, and the meat of the other was entirely eaten up by the villagers, who pretended it to be of the taste of the best salt-water fish. All I could obtain was part of the skin, a very smooth hair-skin, much finer than that of a cow, and speckled white and dark brown. The calf is called Kelb-bahr (sea-dog) by the natives.

Haurân.—I have just been informed that near es-Sunaneim, in Northern Haurân, near the Lejjâh, a great fight has taken place between the 'Arab-el Lejjâh Bedawîn and the Druses of Jebel Haurân. Government soldiers, well armed, numbering several hundreds, attacked the Druses, who had unfairly commenced the fight, and were naturally supported by the Bedawîn. Up to now about 150 Druses were killed, and about 300 wounded, the loss on the other side was not severe. As the Druses had also lately killed the young son of a Kurdian Emîr of Damascus, while the innocent boy took a ride on the Merj, an action which nearly gave way to a general rise among the Kurds of Damascus, the Government is severely considering the question of a large expedition to pacificate the revolting Druses of Haurân.

G. SCHUMACHER.

Haifa, November, 1887.

NOTE.

A FEW days ago a friend, who is staying with me here, in the course of an excursion to the "place of burning" and the Tell el Kassîs, found, about 200 yards from the base of the mountain, on his way to the latter place, a chipped flint arrow-head. It was especially interesting to me, as the spot at which it was picked up is only about a mile from the "fort" which I discovered about four years ago, called El Kul'at, and which I observed at the time in my article on "The Khurbets of Carmel," bore all the appearance of a pre-historic period. As on the occasion of my previous visit, the day was closing in too rapidly to enable me to give it the attention it deserved, I re-visited the spot a few days ago, thinking that I might possibly come across some more flint implements; but these are curiosities which one never finds when one is looking for them. I took the opportunity of making a rough sketch of the fort, and of part of the ancient wall, which is composed of large unhewn stones laid upon one another. The circular area inside is 82 feet by 75. The position must have been a very strong one, as it presents a precipitous face to the plain, above which it is situated about 300 feet, while in