

THE CROCODILES IN THE NAHR EZ ZERKA.

THE only place in Palestine where—according to natives—crocodiles are found is the Zerka river, near Cæsarea. They are mentioned as corcodrils by Sir John Maundeville. The following passage from a tract of the 13th century is interesting, as perhaps founded on some fact which may account for the presence of crocodiles in this river. The salt pans mentioned are those at El Melât and elsewhere along this coast, as mentioned in the “Palestine Survey Memoirs”:

“From Chastel Pelerin (Athlit) one goes to Cæsarea. The city stands by the sea, where one finds on the right hand (*i.e.*, of the road) the salt pans of the Hospital of St. John, and then by the sea one finds Panperdu, a tower of St. Lazarus (*i.e.*, of the order so called). On the other side, to the left hand inland, is a church of Our Lady of the Marshes (*i.e.*, of the Zerka), and there come many folk in pilgrimage from Cæsarea and from Chastel Pelerin. In this marsh are many cocatrices—fierce beasts which were put there by a rich man of Cæsarea, and he had them fed, for he would have them devour his brother, because of a quarrel he had with him, and for this he had them brought from Egypt. And one day he brought his brother to bathe, secretly to slay him. And his brother was wiser than he, and made him go down first, and the beasts which he had fed so soon dragged him down that he might never be found, and the treason was known through those who had agreed to it, and thus was the traitor lost and his brother saved.”—(See “Publications de la Société de l’Orient Latin, Série Géographique III,” p. 191).

C. R. C.

NEBI DHAHY.

In the “Memoirs” (vol. ii, p. 132) I have given the legend of the dog who buried Neby Dhahy or Duheyeh. This may be connected with Dahya el Kelbi (the dog-like Dahya), who was one of the early converts to Islam before the Battle of the Ditch.—(See Rodwell’s “Koran,” p. 409.)

C. R. C.

THE “VIA MARIS.”

I HAVE read with much interest Herr Schumacher’s survey of “The Jaulan,” and shall be much obliged to any reader of the *Quarterly Statement* who will explain the ground for his identification of the *Via Maris* of antiquity with the caravan road which bisects Upper Jaulan in the direction of Akka and Haifa, as described on page 65 of the English translation of his work.

The question is of some importance in connexion with the right interpretation of Isaiah ix, 1, and S. Matthew iv, 13 to 16. Commentators are