

T H E

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

ARRANGEMENTS were made to commence the excavation of Askalon in the latter part of August, and by the time this issue of the *Quarterly Statement* is in the hands of subscribers it is expected that operations will be well advanced. In the *Illustrated London News* for August 21st, Dr. Hogarth writes on the proposed excavation, pointing out the many questions which the work should settle one way or the other. Dr. Garstang "is out to lay bare all he can of the Philistine civilization, of whatever origin it was," and among the chief questions to be settled is "whether it was in virtue of a distinctly higher apparatus of civilization that the Philistines so long terrorized the Hebrews, and if so, whence that civilization came and whither it went."

Palestine, the organ of the British Palestine Committee, in its issue of June 26th, concludes a brief account of the Fifty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the Fund with the following paragraph:—

"We are always glad to support any appeal on behalf of the Palestine Exploration Fund, which has such a fine record of work, and without whose labours our knowledge of Palestine would be scant indeed. Some time ago we made references of a rather critical character to some plans in connection with the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. These seem to have been read in some quarters as a reflection upon the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund. We gladly correct that misapprehension. At the same time, we would like to repeat our appeal for international co-operation in archaeological work in Palestine. Much better than individual enterprises on a national basis will be a single comprehensive plan under international direction."

Bible Lands, the quarterly paper of the Jerusalem and the East Mission (July), gives an account of the "Palestine Oriental Society," formed at a meeting of the Jerusalem Representatives of Societies interested in Palestine. The moving spirit was Prof. A. T. Clay, the distinguished Assyriologist, Professor of Assyriology at Yale University, who has been visiting Palestine and Mesopotamia as the "Annual Professor of the American School in Jerusalem":—

"At the preliminary meeting convoked by Dr. Clay, on the 9th January, some thirty scholars were present, representative of the various Latin bodies, the Greek and the Anglican Churches, the official Inspectors of Antiquities attached to the British Army of Occupation, the British School of Archaeology, the Palestine Exploration Fund, the American School of Archaeological Research in Palestine, and three distinguished Jewish Scholars. All were keenly interested and at once ready to launch the venture. With no loss of time the Palestine Oriental Society was inaugurated, a form of constitution was drawn up, and officers of the Society were elected. The following were chosen as the Board of Directors:—President, the Very Rev. Père Lagrange, Directeur de l'École Biblique de St. Étienne, Jerusalem; Vice-Presidents, Prof. Clay and Prof. Garstang, the Director of the British School of Archaeology; Secretary, Dr. Nahum Slousch, Professor of New Hebrew, the Sorbonne, Paris, and a well-known authority on North Semitic Epigraphy; Treasurer, Rev. H. Danby, of St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem, together with Mr. Eliezer Ben Yehuda, the famous editor of the *Thesaurus Totius Hebraicitatis et Veteris et Recentioris*; Colonel Storrs, Military Governor of Jerusalem; and the Rev. Père Leopold Dressaire, Supérieur des Pères Assomptionistes, Notre Dame de France, Jerusalem.

"The Society intends to arrange Meetings from time to time, and, in addition, in order to meet the needs and interests of a wider public in Europe and America, it proposes the publication of periodical reports containing a choice of the papers read at the various meetings. For the latter object, the following were asked to undertake the duties of the Editorial Board:—The Rev. Père Dhorme, Prior of the Dominican Convent; Mr. David Yellin, President of the Society of Jerusalem Jews (one of the chief workers in the wonderful revival of Hebrew as a spoken language), and the Rev. H. Danby. It is hoped that matters

will progress sufficiently fast to make possible a first meeting towards the end of March, and, as soon as possible afterwards, the Society will publish the first set of its Proceedings."

By the middle of May over 120 members were gained, and at the first meeting, held on May 25th, nearly twenty papers were read on subjects that ranged from linguistic and text-critical matters to numismatics, archaeology and anthropology, and comparative religion.

Prince Michel Sontzo points out in the *Comptes Rendus* of the Paris Academy of Inscriptions, 1919 (pp. 150-157), that kernels of grain are being used in modern Persia in place of metal weights. In ancient times the kernel of wheat of the Romans was the same in weight as that of the Babylonians, and the Antiochian heavy talent was identical in weight with that of the talent of Susa. The Hebrew talent weighed 864,000 kernels, which is the same as the talent of double silver darics. Prince Sontzo argues that sixty times the weight of a kernel of barley is the weight of the Median siglos; 3,600 kernels is the weight of the Median and Neo-Attic mina, and 216,000 kernels equal the weight of the Median and Neo-Attic talent. (From the *American Journal of Archaeology*, April-June, 1920, p. 174.)

According to the Jerusalem letter (July 25th) in *The Near East* (Aug. 19th), provision has been made for a cadastral survey to commence in the district of Gaza and Beersheba. The necessary powers are given to authorized officials to carry out their work, and occupiers of land are called upon to demarcate and erect and maintain boundary marks, clear boundaries, provide labour, and otherwise assist. As regards boundary pillars or marks, in village or public lands, the *Mukhtar* (Headman) is responsible. Contraventions under the Ordinance are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both. The correspondent adds that the status of *Mukhtars* is being recognised, and this will contribute much towards the reign of order and honesty in rural districts. "The haphazard Turkish methods are being replaced by rules which will do much to bring their office, with all its miscellaneous but important and responsible work, into good repute. A revised scale of fees on a very fair basis is published. The *Mukhtar* is responsible for issuing certificates which are the basis of many transactions, such

as land registry transfers, sales of animals, matters of inheritance, guardianships, marriages, records of births and deaths; all of which duties have been very casually performed in the past. An important duty relates to the collection and payment into the Treasury of tithes on cereals and certain other produce within three months of publication of tithe redemption prices by district governors. The *Mukhtars* are paid 2 per cent. on such collections, settlement being half-yearly."

An interesting article on "The Dog River," by Mr. Edward J. Thompson, M.C., appears in the *Spectator*, July 31st. Writing on the "glory of Lebanon," he remarks that the cedars are now a group of some 400, about 6,400 feet above the sea; also on Jebel Baruk, about 8,400 feet up, some hundreds of cedars still climb the rocky slopes. Apart from, a dozen or so scattered through the hills, these are all: the rest have been taken and pillaged. Near the mouth of the Dog River the conquerors of old—Rameses, Tiglath-Pileser, etc.—made the rocks their visitors' book; and, latest of all, a "glaring white—terribly, overwhelmingly white—tablet" tells that the First Indian Army Corps, together with a French detachment, occupied Beirut and Tripoli in October, 1918. At the Beirut waterworks, "the genial Swede who has taken a Scot's name," has on show an amazing collection of flints, arrowheads by the hundred, stone scythes, adzes and spearheads.

In *The Christian* the Rev. Harrington C. Lees, M.A., has been publishing a series of instructive articles on "The Walls of Jericho and the Archaeologists," based upon the *Quarterly Statement*, Father Vincent in the *Revue Biblique*, and other sources. Mr. G. K. Chesterton's articles in *The Daily Telegraph* on "The New Jerusalem," will not fail to have attracted many readers. In them he has succeeded in communicating the spell of the East, and the pictures he paints of Eastern psychology are both charming and illuminating.

Interesting illustrated descriptions of Jewish progress in Palestine and of the Samaritan Passover are given by Mr. Harold Shepstone in *The Graphic* (August 21st) and *The Illustrated London News* (September 4th) respectively.

A broad-gauge railway line between Ludd and Jaffa is in prospect of immediate construction.

It is stated that Jewish workmen building a public road near Tiberias, have discovered what are believed to be the ruins of the ancient city. According to *The Times* (August 18th) permission has been granted to the Jewish Exploration Society to undertake immediate digging in the locality.

An enlarged edition of Mr. Reynolds Ball's *Guide to Jerusalem* (A. and C. Black) is in course of preparation. The second edition has been considerably revised, re-written and enlarged, and will be published towards the close of the year. It is not confined to Jerusalem, but describes excursions as far afield as Damascus and Baalbek.

The series of articles by Dr. E. W. G. Masterman, entitled "Hygiene and Disease in Palestine in Modern and in Biblical Times," has been reprinted, with a Preface by the late Prof. Alexander Macalister, and is now on sale. These valuable and important articles deserve the careful attention both of students of the Bible and of all who are interested in modern Palestine. The future of Palestine, which we all hope will be happier and brighter than before the War, will so eminently depend upon the good health of its inhabitants, and in particular of the settlers who have not had time to become acclimatised, that Dr. Masterman's publication is sure to find a warm welcome and supply a want. Price 2s. 6d., postage 3d. extra; in cloth 4s.

The Committee would be very glad if subscribers would be disposed to present to the Fund sets or volumes of the *Memoirs of the Survey of Western Palestine* and also of the *Quarterly Statement*.

In 1876 the Society published a volume of Photographs of Biblical Sites, by Lieut. H. H. Kitchener, R.E., F.R.G.S., containing twelve photographs taken by Lord Kitchener during the time he was at work on the Survey of Western Palestine, together with a short description of each written by himself. Some of the views taken are no longer obtainable, as new buildings have sprung up everywhere, altering or marring old sites. The descriptions, though so short, are charmingly written, and show what a strong feeling Lord Kitchener had for the Holy Land. He took the keenest

interest and pleasure in the preparation of this, his only book, as his letters show, though the actual publication of it was left in Sir Walter Besant's hands, as Lord Kitchener returned to Palestine before it was in proof. There are a few copies of this book still unsold, and these can be had on application to the office of the Society, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W., at the original price of one guinea, postage extra.

Fifty Years' Work in the Holy Land: A Record and a Summary, 1865-1915.—Under this title the late Colonel Sir C. M. Watson, K.C.M.G., etc., gave an entirely new revision of that *résumé* of the work of the Fund which has been issued from time to time in order to furnish readers, and—especially—new subscribers with a synoptical account of the more important aims and achievements. Such accounts have been published in 1870, 1872, 1886, and 1895, so that twenty years have passed since the last revision—years during which most valuable excavations have been undertaken, notably at Gezer. The year 1915 being the Jubilee of the Palestine Exploration Fund a new edition was especially appropriate, and old subscribers as well as new will find that the book by the late Chairman of the Executive Committee gives an admirable bird's-eye view of the work of the Fund. Although space allows the book to provide only the bare outlines of what has been done, the material is so arranged as to include all information necessary to explain the different expeditions and excavations. A map is also appended containing all the important names and sites. Chapters are written on the reason why the P.E.F. was established; the foundation of the Society in 1865; the preliminary reconnaissance of Palestine, 1865-6; the explorations at Jerusalem, 1867-70; the expedition to the Desert of the Exodus, 1869-70; the survey of Western Palestine in 1871-7; the survey of Eastern Palestine in 1881-2; the geological expedition and survey of the Arabah in 1883-4; the excavations at Lachish, Jerusalem, etc. (five chapters), the survey of Southern Palestine in 1913-14; the Palestine Pilgrims' Texts, and a concluding chapter on the administration of the Society. There are two appendices: the chronology of the P.E.F., and the chronology of the publications. The book is published by the Committee of the Fund, and can be had on application to the Assistant Secretary. Price 3s. 6d.; postage 6d. extra.

The Committee have brought out a new edition of the ($\frac{3}{8}$ in. to the mile) Map of Western Palestine, of which the original edition has been for some time out of print. It is in two large sheets, and is, primarily, a traveller's map. The roads and railways constructed since the original survey have been added. For the sake of clearness, only the modern names are given. The hill shading is in a lighter tint for the same reason. All the country beyond that actually surveyed is shown in outline only. In a few years it may be possible to add much of this in a further edition. In the meantime, this is the clearest map and the easiest to consult of any yet issued by the Society. The price of the complete map is 7s. 6*d.* If desired, the map can be mounted on linen to fold, 15s. 6*d.* Subscriber's price, 6s. unmounted and 13s. mounted; postage 6*d.* extra.

The Library of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains many duplicate volumes, including standard works by Robinson, Ritter, Stanley and others. They may be had separately, and a list, with the price of each volume, has been prepared, and can be obtained on application.

The list of books received will be found below, pp. 152-154.

The Committee will be glad to communicate with ladies and gentlemen willing to help the Fund as Honorary Local Secretaries.

It may be well to mention that plans and photographs alluded to in the reports from Jerusalem and elsewhere cannot all be published, but they are preserved in the office of the Fund, where they may be seen by subscribers.

Members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year will oblige the Committee by doing so without delay, and thus save the expense of sending out reminders.

Subscribers to the Fund are reminded that, whilst the receipt of every subscription and contribution is promptly acknowledged by the Assistant Secretary, they are now published annually. A complete List of Subscribers and Subscriptions for 1919 was published in the Annual Report, issued with the April number.

Golgotha and the Holy Sepulchre, the last work of the late Major-General Sir Charles Wilson, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., F.R.S., D.C.L., LL.D., etc. In this work our former Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund has brought together for the first time all the evidence which the most exhaustive research enabled him to collect bearing on the subject of these Holy Sites; and probably no man living had at once so intimate a knowledge of all investigations in the modern Jerusalem and so complete an acquaintance with what has been written about the Sites from the time of Constantine onwards. The price of the work (demy 8vo) is 7s. 6d., by post 8s.

A complete set of the *Quarterly Statements*, 1869-1910, containing some of the early letters (now scarce), with an Index, 1869-1910, bound in the Palestine Exploration Fund cases, can be had. Price on application to the Secretary, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W.

The price of a complete set of the translations published by the Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society, in 13 volumes, with general index, bound in cloth, is £10 10s. A catalogue describing the contents of each volume can be had on application to the Secretary, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W.

The Museum at the office of the Fund, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W., is open to visitors every week-day from 10 o'clock till 4, except Saturdays, when it is closed at 1 p.m.

Subscribers in U.S.A. to the work of the Fund will please note that they can procure copies of any of the publications from the Rev. Prof. Elihu Grant, Honorary General Secretary to the Fund, Haverford College, Pa.

The Committee have to acknowledge with thanks, among other journals and books, the following :—

The Near East: a Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of Palestine, Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, etc. Letters from Jerusalem, etc.; articles by Miss Blyth; reviews of books on the Near East, etc., etc.

The Subject Index to Periodicals, 1917-1919. Issued by the Library Association. A. Theology and Philosophy (including Folk-lore). Caxton Hall, Westminster. [A classified survey with a brief reference to the drift or purpose of the articles mentioned.]

The Irish Theological Quarterly, July, 1920.

The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology, 1920, Jan.: The Sumerian treasure of Astrabad, by Prof. Rostovtzeff; April: Menes and Naram-Sin, by Dr. Albright; The ancient military road between Egypt and Palestine, by Dr. Alan H. Gardiner; July: The treaty of alliance between Hattusili, king of the Hittites, and Ramses II of Egypt, by Prof. Langdon and Dr. Gardiner.

Palestine: The Organ of the British Palestine Committee: June 26, Phosphates in Palestine; July 3, 10, Aug. 7, The water resources of Palestine; Aug. 14, 21, Greater Lebanon.

Bible Lands, July, 1920: The Armenians and the Armenian Church, by Rev. A. Ward; The Palestine Oriental Society, by H. D.

Studies, Sept., 1920: Palestinian Customs as illustrating the Bible, by Dr. Edmond Power, S.J.

The Zionist Review: Aug., Damascus, by Eugen Hoeflich; Sept., The industrial development of Palestine, by P. Horowitz; Palestine letter.

The Palestine Weekly.

American Journal of Archaeology, April-June: The mediaeval history of the double-axe motif, by R. B. O'Connor, with note by C. R. Morey.

The Jewish Quarterly Review.

Art and Archaeology.

Journal of the American Oriental Society.

American Journal of Philology.

Homiletic Review.

The Hebrew Christian Alliance Quarterly, April, 1920.

Revue Bleue, Aug. 21, 1920: A synagogue of the Herodian Age at Jerusalem, by Prof. Clermont-Ganneau.

Journal Asiatique, Jan.-March: Review by Huart of report of the "Chambre de Commerce de Marseille Congrès français de la Syrie: III enseignement; IV médecine et hygiène publique."

Revue Biblique, July: Epigraphical Mission to Palmyra, by Father M. R. Savignac.

Al-Mashrik, Revue Catholique Orientale Mensuelle, July: Arab publications since the War; Mecca and the Sherifs, and other articles, by P. L. Cheikho, S.J.; Insect Parasites, by P. Al. Torrend, S.J., etc., etc. Aug.: The History of the Monastery of Sharfé, by the

Abbé Isaac Armalé ; Arabia : Hadramaut, Oman and Koweit, by P. L. Cheikho, S.J. Sept. : The Cult of Spirits across the Jordan, by the Abbé Paul Salman.

Hatikwah : Organe bi-mensuelle de la Fédération des Sionistes de Belgique.

See also pp. 180 *sqq.*

The Committee will be glad to receive donations of Books to the Library of the Fund, which already contains many works of great value relating to Palestine and other Bible lands.

The Committee desire to acknowledge with thanks the following contributions to the Library :—

From Mrs. Offord :—

A valuable collection of lantern slides.

From Mrs. Ross Scott :—

New Light on the Bible and the Holy Land. By Basil T. H. Evetts.

The Committee will be grateful to any subscribers who may be disposed to present to the Library any of the following books :—

The Memoirs of the Survey of Western Palestine.

The Quarterly Statement, from 1869 up to date.

Duc de Luynes, *Voyage à la Mer Morte* (1864) ; published about 1874.

K. von Raumer, *Der Zug der Israeliten.* (Leipzig, 1837.)

Lagarde, *Onomastica Sacra* (1887).

The Antonine Itinerary—an edition by Parthey and Pindar was published in 1847 at Berlin. An edition in Russian is also extant, but is therefore not available save to the few who know that language.

Prof. Flinders Petrie's *Tell el-Hesi (Lachish).*

New Edition of the Babylonian Talmud English Translation. Original text edited, formulated and punctuated by Michael L. Rodkinson. Revised and corrected by the Rev. Dr. Isaac M. Wise. Published by the New Amsterdam Book Company, New York. Vol. I, *Sabbath*, already in the Library, subsequent volumes wanted.

For list of authorised lectures and their subjects, kindly write to the Secretary.

Whilst desiring to give publicity to proposed identifications and other theories advanced by officers of the Fund and contributors to the pages of the *Quarterly Statement*, the Committee wish it to be distinctly understood that by publishing them in the *Quarterly Statement* they do not necessarily sanction or adopt them.

FORM OF BEQUEST TO THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

I give to the Palestine Exploration Fund, London, the sum of _____ to be applied towards the General Work of the Fund; and I direct that the said sum be paid, free of Legacy Duty, and that the Receipt of the Treasurer of the Palestine Exploration Fund shall be a sufficient discharge for the same.

NOTE.—*Three Witnesses are necessary to a Will by the Law of the United States of America, and Two by the Law of the United Kingdom.*
