

THE CLIMATE OF JERUSALEM.

To the Editor of the "Quarterly Statement" of the Palestine Exploration Fund.

SIR,—Will you permit me to correct, in your next issue, two mistakes in the remarks upon the climate of Jerusalem, which were reprinted in your January number from the Journal of the Scottish Meteorological Society?

1. The rainfall for the season 1863-4 is given as 8·84 inches: it should be 19·175 inches. The error arose from the earliest returns to the Scottish Society having been from observations made with a pluviometer sent out by them, and which proved so ill-adapted for this country that its use was soon discontinued.

2. It is stated that "the sirocco occurred twice," implying that it occurred *only* twice. Some of us, whose lot it is to live in this country, would be only too happy if the sirocco were experienced not more than twice in three years and a half. The fact is, that at certain periods of the year it is one of our most frequent winds, being especially prevalent in the beginning of summer (May), and again in September, October, and November, just before the setting in of the rains. The trying weather, described in Mr. Buchan's paper as having prevailed during the epidemic of cholera in 1865, was due to sirocco.

A remarkable fact in connection with this wind, and one which goes far to account for its peculiarly depressing effect, is that it is *utterly destitute of ozone*. For many years I have been in the habit of experimenting upon it, and have always failed to obtain the slightest discoloration of the ozone paper when the sirocco was at all severe. At one time it occurred to me that the excessive dryness of the atmosphere might possibly prevent chemical action, but the result was the same when the paper was kept moist by allowing one end to remain in a cup of water.

Your obedient servant,

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