

ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

THE Forty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund was held at the Botanical Theatre, University of London, University College, Gower Street, W.C., on Friday, June 16th, 1911. In the unavoidable absence of the Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chichester, who had promised to preside, the Chair was taken by Sir Edwin Pears, LL.B., of Constantinople.

THE CHAIRMAN, having expressed his opinion that he would be a bad substitute for the Bishop, called upon the Hon. Secretary to read certain letters.

Mr. J. D. CRACE (Hon. Secretary) acknowledged the receipt of letters regretting inability to attend from Principal George Adam Smith, the Master of Trinity, Professor Cheyne, Prebendary Ingram, the Rev. W. F. Birch, of Birmingham, Mr. James Melrose, the Rev. W. Ewing, the Rev. W. F. Clarkson, and the Treasurer.

Sir CHARLES WATSON read the following letter from the Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chichester.

"I very much regret I must fail to keep my appointment on Friday. I have not been well, and the doctor orders me to do no work for the present. I write to express my sincere regret, and I hope you will find a Chairman to take my place. Would you kindly make my apologies to the Meeting."

THE CHAIRMAN, after stating that the Report and Accounts had been duly sent to all the Members, moved that the Report and Accounts for the year 1910, already printed and in the hands of subscribers, be received and adopted.

Dr. GINSBURG seconded the Resolution, which was carried unanimously.

THE HON. SECRETARY.—It is always my duty to refer to losses from the General Committee during the year. This year I only have to report one, and that is a name very important both in archaeology

and in art. I refer to the death of Mr. William Holman Hunt, who has represented for some fifty years one of the phases of English art, and during all that time has been deeply interested in Palestine and the discoveries in Palestine. There is one other matter which I think subscribers will be interested to hear, and that is that at the end of the current year the lease of our present premises in Conduit Street expires, and we therefore had to look for a fresh home. But by the generosity of a very old subscriber to this Society, a freehold house has been acquired for the Society, and by the end of the year we shall have moved to No. 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, very good premises in a convenient neighbourhood.

COL. VAN SOMERAN.—Mr. Chairman, my duty is to propose that the gentlemen whose names follow be added to the General Committee:

D. G. Hogarth, Esq.
 Frank H. Cook, Esq., C.I.E.
 W. Holdsworth Lunn, Esq.
 His Excellency Halil Bey.

The Resolution, having been seconded, was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the next Resolution:

“That the Executive Committee be re-elected with the addition of Dr. Percy D'Erf Wheeler, Dr. Arthur Evans,¹ and Mr. D. G. Hogarth.”

Most of you, said the Chairman, are acquainted with the services rendered by Dr. Percy D'Erf Wheeler, and nobody who knows anything about Crete is ignorant of the name of Dr. Arthur Evans, and of the fact that he has carried back Greek archaeology a clear 1500 years, perhaps more. As for the labours of Mr. Hogarth, what he has done in the past is an earnest, I believe, of the valuable work he has begun to do at that great crossing of the Euphrates which marked for many centuries the line between the west and the east of Northern Syria, where no doubt he will succeed in making valuable additions to archaeology.

The Resolution having been seconded was unanimously agreed to.

¹ Now Sir Arthur Evans.

The CHAIRMAN had great pleasure in calling upon Sir Charles Watson to speak on the subject of his recent visit to Palestine and of the excavations that are now going on at Beth-Shemesh.

Sir CHARLES WATSON.—Ladies and Gentlemen, having recently spent a month at Jerusalem, during which I paid several visits to the excavations now being carried on by Dr. Mackenzie and Mr. Newton for our Society at Beth-Shemesh, it has occurred to me that the members might like to hear a short account of my impressions, and to see some pictures to illustrate them.

As some years had passed since my last visit to the Holy Land, it is natural that there have been considerable changes, some perhaps not altogether advantageous, and, of these the first that strikes the eye, on approaching Jerusalem from the railway station, is the great German church of St. Mary on Sion, which dominates the hill and almost completely hides from view the ancient building known as the Coenaculum, the traditional site of the Last Supper, and of the Tomb of King David.

Then, on reaching the Jaffa gate, one no longer enters the town under the old archway, but by a cut made through the city wall, by the side of which a tall, but certainly not a beautiful clock tower has been erected. The clock has four faces, of which two show European, and two Turkish time, rather puzzling to the traveller, as the Turkish time varies from day to day, and differs from European time by six hours more or less according to the season.

Entering the town and proceeding down the crowded bazaar towards the Holy Sepulchre one finds that the site of the Muristan, the abode of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John, has completely changed its appearance, as the interesting old ruins have almost all been removed, and been replaced by some up-to-date shop streets. The remains of the church of St. Mary the Greater have vanished, while the foundation of the church of St. Mary the Less has disappeared, and a large German Lutheran church has been built on the site.

Fortunately the ancient church of the Knights still exists, as it is underground and forms the crypt of a modern Greek church. With the exception of the Muristan, however, there are few changes in old Jerusalem, and the interesting bazaars, with their vaulted roofs, remain unaltered. The greatest change is outside the town,

north of the walls, where a new Jerusalem has sprung up within the last few years, and has taken the place of the open country, with its groves of olive trees, which one remembers in the past. Here are many of the large new religious establishments, such as the Hospice of Notre Dame de France, the Convent of the Dominican Fathers of St. Stephen, and, just outside the Damascus Gate, the German Hospice of St. Paul, where my wife and I were hospitably taken in and courteously entertained by Father Schmitz and the brethren during our stay in Jerusalem. The architectural design of the building is somewhat curious, but it is admirably constructed, and one cannot imagine a more peaceful abode for anyone engaged on the study of the Holy City, and very different to the bustling and noisy hotels in the tourist quarter of the town near the Jaffa Gate.

Just below the Hospice one sees the real native life of Jerusalem, and every evening the shepherds come in from the country bringing their flocks to the sheep market, still held as it was in the time of our Lord, outside the North Gate of the city. The Hospice is very high (76 steps to our room) and from our window there were beautiful views over the city and the Mount of Olives; on the one side there lay below the whole of the north wall, stretching east and west from the Damascus Gate, and beyond, the Dome of the Rock, the Holy Sepulchre and every important building in Jerusalem, while, on the other side, one could see the whole range of the Mount of Olives.

A little farther along the road leading north from the Damascus Gate is the Dominican convent of St. Stephen, where an admirable school of Biblical archaeology has been established. Readers of the *Quarterly Statement* will remember how some years ago a number of mosaics and other remains were discovered on the spot, and how further excavations made by Father M. Lecomte proved that without doubt the position of the great basilica of St. Stephen, erected by the Empress Eudocia in the fifth century, had been discovered, and it was possible to trace out the exact size of the original building. A new basilica of St. Stephen has now been constructed on the lines of the old foundations, and made as far as possible identical with the original church. As a rule such restorations are rather to be deprecated, but it must be allowed that in this case it has been admirably and reverently carried out. Every piece of the ancient mosaics has been retained in the floor of

the new church and all the details have been copied from fragments of the old building. An atrium on the lines of the original has been built to the west of the church, and, to the north of the latter, is the convent of the Fathers, two of whom, Father Lagrange and Father Vincent, are members of our General Committee, and well known as two of the greatest authorities on the history and archaeology of Palestine.

Still farther north, on the right-hand side of the road to Scopus, and close to the Tombs of the Kings, is the British ecclesiastical establishment of St. George, which has been provided by the great energy, extending over many years, of Bishop Blyth, the Anglican bishop in Jerusalem. In front of the church is an atrium or cloister with the Bishop's residence on the south and the College of St. George on the north. In the south-west corner of the cloister is the room in which the Bishop has been so good as to allow the local branch of the Palestine Exploration Fund to keep a complete collection of its publications, a copy of the raised map, and some wall cases with antiquities. The room is in charge of our excellent local honorary secretary, Doctor E. W. G. Masterman, to whom the Society owes so much for his exertions on its behalf in Jerusalem.

Before passing on to Doctor Mackenzie's work I must allude to a recent discovery in the vicinity of Jerusalem, certainly one of the most interesting that has been made for many years. I refer, of course, to the remains of the ancient basilica, near the church of the Ascension on the Mount of Olives, lately excavated by the White Fathers of St. Anne. You will remember that in the life of the Emperor Constantine, by Eusebius, the author, after describing the buildings erected at the Holy Sepulchre and at Golgotha by the Emperor, mentions two other churches built by the Empress Helena, of which one was at Bethlehem and one on the Mount of Olives. There were thus three basilicas erected over sacred caves, besides the church of the Holy Sepulchre. Of these caves the one at Bethlehem was the place where, according to tradition, the child Jesus was born; that at Golgotha was the cave in which the three crosses were hidden after the crucifixion, while the cave on the Mount of Olives was the place where the Lord used to sit and teach His disciples.

Of these three churches only that at Bethlehem still exists, very much as it was when built in the fourth century, while the second, the Martyrium of Golgotha, has entirely disappeared, and all that

remains is the underground chapel of St. Helena and the cave where the crosses were found. The third church, called the Eleona, on the Mount of Olives, built in the fourth century, was completely destroyed by the Persians in the sixth, and both it and the cave were quite lost sight of. All that remained was the tradition that there was a cave where Jesus had taught His disciples, and it is only within the last year that both church and cave have been recovered.

About thirty years ago, the Princess de la Tour d'Auvergne, a pious Italian lady who had married a Frenchman, wished to die and be buried in Jerusalem. She purchased a plot of land not far from the church of the Ascension, and built a small Carmelite convent to which was attached a church, known as the church of the Paternoster, with a cloister in front of it. Beyond this was an open space, on the east of which is a crypt called the crypt of the Credo. In process of time the Princess died and left the property to the French Government, who gave it in charge to the White Fathers, a community which was formed by the late Cardinal Lavigerie for religious work in Africa, and which has also the charge of the church of St. Anne in Jerusalem.

There appears to have been no idea that the church of St. Helena was on the property of the Princess, although bits of mosaic had been found, and various capitals of Byzantine form had been dug up from time to time. During the last year, however, in doing some work on the ground, fragments of masonry walls were found by the White Fathers, who proceeded to examine them, aided by the Dominican Fathers of St. Stephen. Working with the greatest care, they carefully examined the site, and at length have been able to trace out the foundations of a large basilica of Byzantine form, which there can be little doubt was the Eleona built by the Empress Helena. Not only were they able to plan the foundation of the basilica, but in the garden of the cloister of the Paternoster they found the sacred cave itself, which had evidently been under the apse of the church, and had had stairs leading down to it, somewhat similarly placed to the cave and stairways under the basilica of Bethlehem. It is very remarkable that the architect who built the modern cloister seems not to have noticed the cave, although it was only a few feet underground and the foundations of the inner wall of the cloister ran close to it.

I had the advantage of being taken over the ground by Father Cré, who carried out much of the exploration, and his

account of the way in which the shape of the basilica was recovered little by little was most interesting. The photographs were kindly given me by him and Father Vincent, who has published an admirable paper on the subject in the April number of the *Revue Biblique* for the present year. A visit to this important discovery should not be omitted by any visitor to Jerusalem.

Now to turn to the work of our own explorers in Palestine. You will remember that it was stated at the last Annual Meeting that Dr. Duncan Mackenzie, who is so well known for his work under Dr. Arthur Evans at Knossos in Crete, had been appointed to succeed Professor Macalister, and that a permit had been applied for to excavate the Tell of 'Ain Shems, usually believed to be the site of the Beth-Shemesh of the Bible. Owing to various causes it took longer to obtain the permit than was anticipated, one of these being that a building in Stamboul, containing many of the papers of the Sublime Porte, was burnt down, and among them the documents respecting the permit, so that it was necessary to begin *de novo*, but His Excellency Halil Bey, Director of the Imperial Museum at Constantinople, brother and successor of the late Hamdy Bey, has been very helpful, and thanks to his assistance, and to that of Sir Edwin Pears and of Mr. Satow, authority was obtained to commence work before all the formalities had been completed. But the time has not been lost, as Dr. Mackenzie with Mr. Newton, his assistant, took the opportunity to make a tour east of the Jordan through Moab and Edom, when they made a number of plans, and took an interesting collection of photographs at Arak el-Emir, Amman, Diban, Rabbah of Moab, Kerak, and other places. Dr. Mackenzie paid special attention to the megalithic stone monuments of the country, a matter which he has already studied in Sardinia, where he and Mr. Newton have planned and described many of the nuraghi and tombs of the giants for which the island is celebrated. I will show you a few of the photographs taken east of Jordan and the Dead Sea.

From Kerak the party went on to Ma'an and Petra, where very important work was accomplished. Some little time ago, Dr. Dalman, the Director of the German school of archæology in Jerusalem, had written a paper for our *Quarterly Statement*, respecting that remarkable rock-cut monument, the Khazneh, so often represented in drawings and photographs. Owing, however, to the difficulty of getting at the upper parts of this monument, it has not hitherto

been fully measured, nor have the details been drawn architecturally; so Dr. Mackenzie arranged to meet Dr. Dalman at Petra, and to bring a ladder from Jerusalem of sufficient length to enable Mr. Newton to mount and measure the parts hitherto regarded as inaccessible. Bringing this ladder, which had to be made in sections, from Jerusalem, and getting it into place was no easy task, but was at last satisfactorily carried out, when Mr. Newton was able to take all the required measurements, from which he has made a set of large scale drawings which are really admirable. These drawings will, I hope, be reproduced in connection with Dr. Dalman's paper in the first issue of our new Annual Publication. The measurements were taken under conditions involving considerable risk to life and limb.

From Petra the party returned to Ma'an and then took the railway to Damascus, just in time to get away before a serious rising of the Bedouin took place in the vicinity of Kerak, when many Turkish soldiers and others were killed and the railway was broken up. The rising is said to have been due to trouble caused among the inhabitants by an attempt to enforce the new recruiting laws, of which the Arabs do not seem to approve. A large force had to be sent into the country, when order was restored, and some kind of arrangement was made between the government and the people. After a short time in Damascus, Dr. Mackenzie and Mr. Newton returned to Jerusalem and made preparations for the spring campaign at Beth-Shemesh.

The last winter in Palestine has been exceptionally severe; indeed, some people said that it was the worst within the memory of man. But whether that was so or not, there can be no doubt that the heavy snow, the rain and storms made excavating work impossible until later than usual. By the end of March, however, the weather had moderated, the Turkish Commissioner, Mohamed Effendi Ibrahim, had been appointed, and telegraphic instructions were received from Constantinople that the excavations might commence. At the beginning of April Dr. Mackenzie set up his camp, collected the workmen, and opened the trenches for the capture of the ancient city.

The Tell of 'Ain Shems consists of two hills, with a depression between them, over which an ancient road passes, and, in this depression, is a Wely or old Mohammedan shrine, dedicated to a certain holy man, Sheikh Abu Meizar. You are no doubt aware

that as a general rule such Welys are rather a trial for explorers, as they frequently occupy an important position, and make exploration impossible just where it would be desirable. But in the case of Beth-Shemesh, the Wely, instead of being a disadvantage, has proved very useful. The story is rather a curious one. In former times the Wely was forbidden to Christians, but, some years ago, a Jewish colony was established near Artuf, a few miles distant, and the holy man seems to have had a tendency towards Judaism, as he became involved in Jewish traditions, and got the name of Sheikh Shamsun. Now Sheikh Shamsun, the Samson of the Bible, lived at Zorah, on the opposite side of the valley, and in process of time the Sheikh of 'Ain Shems also moved across. The villagers say that he comes back occasionally to the old Wely, but they have ceased to care about him, and, for us, the practical result is that Dr. Mackenzie has been allowed to take possession of the Wely, and to use it as his museum, drawing office, and store. He has had it fitted up with shelves on which to classify and arrange the pottery and other finds from the excavations. In the courtyard in the front of the Wely are some old arches, over one part of which is a shady fig tree, while over the other he has arranged a roof of boughs of the carob tree, which makes quite a delightful retreat in hot weather.

West of the Wely is that part of the Tell, called Rumeileh, which is now in course of excavation, and here a large number of workpeople, men, women and children, are employed under the indefatigable Yusuf, who has served the Fund so well for many years, in unearthing the remains of the ancient city. Some of them are old hands, who, as soon as they heard that work was again to commence, came over from Gezer, Tell es-Safi and Tell Zakariyeh, and these are useful in showing the new recruits how to work.

Thanks to Dr. Mackenzie's good organisation the amount that he has already done is very considerable; the old wall of the town has been traced all round the hill, and parts have been laid bare to the foundation and show that there has been several periods of construction, the earliest dating very far back. A very interesting discovery has been the south gate of the town, well defended with towers and guard chambers. Possibly this was the only gate, but it is too soon to say with certainty as the whole of the north wall has not yet been excavated. There are signs at the gate, and in other places, that at some time there was an extensive conflagration which seems to have destroyed the town. Even the ground shows

signs of the fire. At the south-east corner of the wall are some ruins of Byzantine date, and as these occupy the highest part of the hill it is probable there are important older constructions below them, but it will take some time to get down to these. Outside the wall of the city on the east side of the Tell, Dr. Mackenzie has come across a very interesting cave used for burial and containing objects of an early date. The roof has partially fallen in, perhaps from the result of an earthquake, and some blasting will be required before it can be fully investigated.

Great quantities of pottery of all ages have been found, but these are not yet classified. Some pieces are apparently from Cyprus or the Greek Islands. Flint implements, bronze and iron objects have been found, while other articles belong to an Egyptian occupation of the city—possibly of the XVIIIth dynasty. But it is too early yet to speculate as to the history of the city.

At the time of my last visit the fields were whitening with harvest, and the supply of labour will diminish until the crops have been carried in. But Dr. Mackenzie hopes during the recess to investigate some of the many tombs in the cemetery that lies outside the city wall to the north-west. Some of these tombs have been already opened by the fellahin, and interesting objects found, so that much may be expected from a careful examination of them.

The camp of the explorer has been pitched under a group of old olives trees between the Tell and the line of railway from Jerusalem to Jaffa.

I think the Society is to be congratulated on the selection of the site and on the great amount of work which has been done in the first two months of the campaign. Many circumstances have combined in our favour. Beth-Shemesh is very conveniently situated, as it is only twenty minutes' walk from Deir Aban railway station. It is situated in the district of Beit Netif, of which the present governor is Surayeh Effendi, who was the government representative with Dr. Macalister at Gezer, and who takes a great interest in the present work. To have a man like him as governor is a matter of considerable importance. Then the present official representative, Mohamed Effendi Ibrahim, is an intelligent man who has charge of the government museum of antiquities in Jerusalem, and is anxious to increase his knowledge of archaeology. It was thought that the question of water supply would be a difficulty, as the local water is not good, but this has been solved

by Dr. Mackenzie, who has arranged to get a supply of water in tins from Bittir, the next station on the railway, which is renowned for its good water. Then about a mile and a half distant is the convent of Beit Jamal, whence can be obtained bread, wine and other necessaries.

Since I have returned I have received a letter from Dr. Mackenzie which, I think, will interest you.

BETH-SHEMESH, *June 1st, 1911.*

"The purpose of this letter is to describe briefly the general results of the excavations at Beth-Shemesh since the commencement of work in April.

"Of these one of the most important and interesting was the fact, that in the whole west and north regions of the site, outside the Byzantine area and its Arabic environments, there was no occupation in post-Semitic times. This fact has a very important bearing on the prospects of excavation, for it means that, all over the region in question, the deposits and remains will be in a much less disturbed condition than in the area of Byzantine and Arabic occupation at the east end of the Tell. For this reason I am sanguine that our best finds, from the point of view of the sequence of periods and of the history of the site, will be made in these more western regions of the city.

"You were specially interested in our discovery of the South Gate of Beth-Shemesh, and with the strategic questions suggested by its orientation and outlook southwards along the Wady Bulus, and towards the country of the Philistines, having regard to the constant menace from the might of Gath and Lachish. The massive *débris* of sundried bricks with charred wood and ashes, which encumbered the gateway had been thrown out from within the walls at a time of extensive rebuilding and repairs. The burning of sundried bricks suggested much more serious matters than might appear at first sight, for it meant the burning of houses, a conflagration in the city, a successful siege, and the victory of the enemy.

"Who was this enemy? That is what we may be able to say when we come to investigate the quarter of the city immediately within the South Gate. Everything will depend upon the kind of objects, including the pottery, which will be found to occur in the stratum which represents the burnt city, and in the layer immediately above that again.

"About the reality of this siege, however, there can be no doubt. A conflagration which accounts for the burning of constructions of sundried bricks was of too general a character all over the city to have had any other explanation than that presented by a successful siege. What a poignant story was there! A whole city thrown out of gear and captured, household hearths desecrated, brothers killed in war, sisters led

away to bondage, and then the pitiful pulling down of houses and throwing out of the rubbish.

"To the skill of Mr. F. S. Newton, architect to the Palestine Exploration Fund, is owing a careful section showing the red stratum representing the thrown-out *débris* from the burnt city, in its relation to the earlier Bronze Age deposits beneath it, and the later remains above. A similar section will be attempted of the stratified *débris* encumbering the South Gate.

"Before the South Gate itself was discovered, a test pit was sunk on the higher ground within the city, and here, in the middle strata of the pit, was the same *débris* of burnt sundried bricks, charred wood and ashes, which, later on, we found on the rubbish heaps. It was the rubbish heaps that explained the phenomena of the test pit, but, in the latter, we could see in position the *débris* of houses levelled away and never rebuilt. The whole region in the vicinity of the South Gate is entirely free of Byzantine and Arabic remains, and ought to yield evidence of the highest importance bearing upon the vicissitudes of the site.

"The same evidence of sieges and the changing fortunes of war was visible all along the strong wall, north and south of the gate, when it was brought into view. Breaches in bastions, repeatedly repaired, bulging walls propped up again in evident haste, all told a story in which the burning of the city was the final *dénouement*.

"An interesting fact that came out in the course of our investigations by means of the test pit was, that there seemed to be an interval between the latest Semitic occupation and the building of the Byzantine convent and church, and that long before the founding of the latter Beth-Shemesh was already a heap of ruins. It is quite possible that it was an early interest in the Biblical history of the place that led to the foundation of this religious house. The country to which Beth-Shemesh belongs is rich in such foundations, which form an interesting chapter in the religious history of Christian Palestine, but it is to be regretted that the presence of this ancient convent of Beth-Shemesh presents a serious drawback to investigation, as it stands on the site of what may have been the royal residence of the city. Massive walls in which megalithic construction and ashlar masonry alternate, tell a story which is all too plain. The ashlar blocks have evidently been taken from some important earlier building, while the megalithic masonry has been drawn copiously from the adjacent fortification walls, which in part form the foundations of the convent.

"On the other hand the test pits show that in the wide intervals between the Byzantine foundations there are considerable deposits of Semitic date, and to vouch for the importance of these deposits it seemed a happy augury that the finest vase yet found at Beth-Shemesh was in these Semitic deposits. This is a polychrome painted vase with geometric

decoration and bird panel on the shoulder in matt red and black, very similar to a 'Philistine' vase, discovered by Bliss and Macalister at Tell es-Safi.

"A discovery that opens up a long vista into the remoter history of Beth-Shemesh was made without the walls on the east towards the Wely. Rock bluffs of limestone, that tend to hollow out below and ledge forward above, are a characteristic feature of the site. All along the edge these bluffs presented a curious appearance of confusion, and in parts they were visibly sunk and detached from the main mass of the rock in such a way as to show sharp angles with yawning fissures between. On penetrating down into these fissures we came unexpectedly upon cave burials of the later Bronze Age, and, still more unexpectedly, on penetrating beneath a kind of mortar flooring, we found that we were in the troglodyte dwellings of the earliest inhabitants of Beth-Shemesh, and we then understood that the sharp angles and fissures we had seen from above represented the collapse of the roof of what had been a great cave, possibly from the result of an earthquake.

"In the south part of the grotto area we came upon a rounded outer recess where access was easy. Here were masses of native pottery, mingled with characteristic imported wares from Cyprus and Crete, representing different periods in the later Bronze Age. Among the Aegean wares was a type of painted amphora with three handles on the shoulder, the origin of which has to be sought in Crete and in the palace style of Knossos. This type of vase was much in vogue in Knossos about the period of the destruction of the palace of Minos ascribed by Dr. Arthur Evans to the era of about 1450 B.C.

"Behind the recess referred to was an aperture into an inner grotto which had been walled up, but which had evidently been broken into in ancient times. In the confusion of the deposits we could verify the fact of two main strata in the cave; above were disturbed burials with pottery that was largely native, but that included an alabaster pyxis of a type characteristic of the XVIIIth dynasty in Egypt. Underlying this stratum were traces of a well-marked pale mortar floor, evidently laid by the people who were responsible for the burials. Underneath this floor again were accumulations of deposit which pointed to troglodyte habitations going back possibly to the borders of the Neolithic Age, and the third millennium B.C.

"In our preliminary investigations in this interesting region we only penetrated where others had been before us, and it now remains for us to penetrate where others have never been since that earthquake happened, which withdrew from easy access the inner secrets of the cave."

Really all that appears to be wanting is a sufficient amount of money to carry on the work to an effective conclusion. Sincerely I

hope that those present may assist by trying to interest others in this important undertaking.

Before concluding there is a matter I would like to allude to. Although England was the pioneer in the field of scientific exploration in Palestine, and has set an example since followed by other nations, there is one point in which she has been left behind.

This is with regard to the formation of a British School of Oriental Archaeology in Jerusalem provided with a good museum and library for the use of British students. The Palestine Exploration Fund has, as I have already explained, a room at St. George's, very kindly placed at our disposal by Bishop Blyth, but this may be regarded as only a small thing, compared with what has been done by other nations. There is the splendid French school of archaeology in the Dominican convent of St. Stephen, the excellent museum and library in the convent of Notre Dame de France, the Franciscan museum and library, and the very interesting Biblical museum of the White Fathers of St. Anne. Then the Germans have the school of archaeology of which Dr. Dalman is director, and the museum and library of the Benedictine Fathers in Sion, while, in the Hospice of St. Paul, Father Schmitz has formed a museum of the fauna of Palestine. There is also the American school of archaeology maintained by some of the universities in the United States. Other institutions might be mentioned, but the above is enough to give an idea of what is being done by other nations. I do not think that it is for the Palestine Exploration Fund to found such a school as one would like to see, perhaps it is rather a work for our universities as in the case of the American School. But at the same time there can be no doubt that a good archaeological library in Jerusalem is an absolute necessity for our explorers, if their knowledge is to be kept up to date, and it would be unreasonable to expect them to provide libraries of their own.

Let us hope that it may not be long before a good British school of archaeology, managed by a competent director, is provided in Jerusalem.

DR. FLINDERS PETRIE.—Ladies and Gentlemen: I shall only be your spokesman in proposing a most hearty vote of thanks to Sir Charles Watson for the very interesting account which he has given us. The ruins of Jerusalem are very interesting, and it is deeply to be regretted that changes are necessary, and especially in

a place where changes are so fatal to many old associations. Athens is similar in many respects to Jerusalem, but there would have been one great service to history and archaeology if the Greek kingdom had established its capital five miles away and left Athens alone. But I am afraid the new development of things in Jerusalem is obliterating the past; that is only an additional reason for much more energetic research in Jerusalem, and getting a complete record of everything as quickly as it can be done, and keeping a watch on everything that is done there, and for that reason I think the establishment of a British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem is desirable, and I very much hope that Sir Charles Watson's last remarks will bear fruit. I think we are to be congratulated on the fact that the excavations are being carried out so thoroughly, particularly in the preservation of every fragment of material. That is the best method of reaching any certain results. It is not by looking for some great and striking discovery that you will get your results, but it is by the careful putting together of every little fragment of information you can get, and the building up in that way a faithful record of the past. And it is in that way, I hope, Dr. Mackenzie will be successful. I am sure, therefore, we are deeply indebted to Sir Charles Watson for the most interesting account he has given, both of the movement at Jerusalem and of the work of this Society.

The CHAIRMAN.—I rise to second the Resolution which has been proposed by Dr. Flinders Petrie. The first time I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Flinders Petrie was under the shadow of the Acropolis. I sympathize with Dr. Petrie in his regret that modern progress often obliterates many of the ancient landmarks. But remembering what Athens was a century ago, one has to find compensation for such obliteration in genuinely modern improvements. A British Consul at Athens wrote, about 1822, a sentence something like this: "There are people who choose to call this collection of mud-huts Athens, and to believe that the barbarians who inhabit them are incapable of civilization; to such men I do not address my remarks." I should like the ghost of that man to come with me on one of my visits to Athens. I should like to say to him from the Acropolis: "Look at your village of mud-huts: there is a prosperous, well-built city of 120,000 people where wealthy Greeks have given their money to found schools, a university,

colleges, orphanages—so generously that there is a danger of pauperizing the place. That is what the barbarians have done, and glory to them." Still, I sympathize with the remarks of Dr. Petrie. We do not like these old things to disappear. I am not at all sure myself that it was not a mistake to destroy even the old Mosque on the Parthenon. I heartily agree with the resolution proposed by Dr. Flinders Petrie, and in doing so I must say a word in reference to the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund. What strikes me about such work is the thoroughness with which it is being done now, and with which it has been done for many years past. It is my good fortune to live in Constantinople. I have been there upwards of thirty years, and during that time I have had the pleasure of meeting a steady stream of archaeologists year after year. I have gladly and pleasurably taken a great interest in the many movements for archaeology; because you will remember that all the places where archaeologists are exploring are in the Ottoman Empire as it exists, or as it existed, within the lifetime of men now living. I have seen the work of a series of Societies which are working at specific subjects; they are specializing; we are specializing, particularly in Palestine; others upon a variety of subjects. I suppose if we looked at them chronologically, we should have to give precedence to the University of Pennsylvania which has made those marvellous discoveries at Nippur. The work was begun by Dr. John Peters of New York, a keen, observant, thoughtful man, and was continued by Prof. Hilprecht, who claims that he has carried back history a clear 7,000 years before Christ. One instance of the discoveries made in reference to Nippur is this. You will remember the "mighty hunter before the Lord, Nimrod," mentioned in the 10th Chapter of Genesis, who founded three cities, one of which was Calneh. The commentators during the past centuries have made all sorts of guesses as to where Calneh was. When the excavators got down through a great mass of *débris* at Nippur, they found that at one time the city was called Nippur, and when they got lower it was Calneh. I have been so interested in the work of my American friends there that I have already been trespassing on your time to mention it. But you know whilst you have Calneh mentioned in the Bible, you have also Nineveh and Babylon and all the Assyrian places mentioned over and over again. Dr. Petrie himself has largely contributed to our knowledge of ancient Egypt. Two years ago I heard

Dr. Macalister give an account of what his son had done. We all know how thoroughly his work was done, and amongst the matters which he brought forward was the fact that he found in these ruins at Gezer Hittite remains of apparently two thousand years before Christ. It was rather a startling discovery. Subsequent investigation has shown there was a large Hittite settlement to the extreme south of Palestine, or let us call it on the northern frontiers of Egypt. These Hittites have now risen from the dead. Prof. Garstang and Prof. Winckler, the German, have brought them to life again and, with the assistance of Prof. Sayce, who was laughed at twenty years ago as a mere dreamer, are rapidly reconstructing the life and even the language. It may be that Prof. Garstang, or possibly Mr. Hogarth on the Euphrates, will find the bilingual inscriptions they are all so keen after. But the point I wish to make is that all these different Associations and various workers, though apparently separated, may each be taken as ancillary to the others, and our Society is the centre of them all. There are more people interested in the archaeology of Palestine than in any other field of archaeology, because all Christians and Jews are interested in it, and even the Moslems themselves. And as the letter from Dr. Duncan Mackenzie, which has just been read, has shown, he has already brought his knowledge of the work that he did with Dr. Arthur Evans in Crete to bear upon his discoveries. No man can be a good archaeologist in connection with Palestine who does not know something of the archaeology of other places. We are specialising now, but the time is close upon us when the work of Egyptian, Assyrian and other archaeologists must be co-ordinated and put together as a whole, so that the work of each separate section may be fully understood. In that way we shall obtain a vivid impression of the civilization of the past.

The Resolution was then adopted.

Sir CHARLES WATSON.—Ladies and Gentlemen: I rise to propose a resolution which, I am sure, will be passed unanimously, and that is a Vote of Thanks to Sir Edwin Pears for so kindly coming here to take the Chair to-day. He came at very short notice, and no one is more interested in our Society than he is. I am sure you will all tender him a very hearty Vote of Thanks for his kindness in taking the Chair to-day.

The Vote of Thanks having been carried by acclamation,

Sir EDWIN PEARS said,—I can only say I am very glad to be of use. I was a little alarmed when I received a note from Mr. Crace asking me to take the Chair, because the last Chairman whom I saw here was the Archbishop of Canterbury. I regret my imperfections as Chairman, but sincerely thank you for listening to what I have very imperfectly said.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE FUND'S EXCAVATIONS AT 'AIN SHEMS.

I.—SUMMARY OF DR. MACKENZIE'S WORK, APRIL 6TH— MAY 17TH, 1911.¹

THE excavations of the Palestine Exploration Fund at 'Ain Shems were commenced on Tuesday, April 6th, at 6 a.m. A short recess at Easter was prolonged a few days by the stormy weather, and on May 12th a strong sirocco prevented operations. A start was made with 36 workmen, including a few women and boys, but as the work progressed the number was largely increased, and on May 17th the number of hands was 167. In view of the approach of harvesting operations, when labour will be more scarce, it was wisely decided to make the most of the available help while there was opportunity. Yusuf Kanaan, who for several years has been employed by the Fund as foreman of the works, again acts in the same capacity. The Imperial Commissioner, Ibrahim Bey, arrived from Jerusalem on the first morning.

As will be seen from the sketch plan (p. 142) a considerable amount of the area has already been attacked. As usual, trial pits were first sunk in order to get a preliminary idea of the possibilities. It was soon perceived, and afterwards fully proved, that the area between the Byzantine church and the wely did not contain pre-Roman

¹ [Based upon the daily record of the progress of the excavations kept by Dr. Duncan Mackenzie, who is not responsible for the form these paragraphs take.—Ed.]