

THE

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

ISOLATED facts of interest continue to come to hand touching conditions in Palestine and Syria, and in *The Near East* and elsewhere, occasional letters draw the veil. The Grand New Hotel in Jerusalem has been converted into a hospital of 250 beds, and the Russian Hospital is being used for the British wounded captured by the Turks. Various reports of the evacuation of Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth and other cities have been current, especially after the British attack upon Gaza in the spring; but apart from Jaffa, where few civilians now remain, the cities, it is said through German pressure, are not to be evacuated by the Turks under any consideration. "In order to facilitate the carriage of provisions for the Palestine army, a fleet of lighters and boats, with steam-tugs, are working on the Dead Sea, transporting goods—especially corn—from Kevale to the north-western shores, whence some 200 autocars carry them to the fighting front."

From an escaped native, a correspondent in *The Near East* (7th September) learns, that "official statistics confirm the appalling loss of life in the Lebanon, and put down the total at 150,000, of whom ten per cent. died from disease and the remainder from starvation. Typhus fever appears to be still raging in Syria and the Lebanese littoral, and what is hardly credible, is not so much the almost utter lack of sanitary precautions as the absence of all control on the part of the Germans. On the top of this there is a serious shortage of medicines and doctors."

The Daily Telegraph of the 23rd August contained a lengthy description by Mr. W. T. Massey of the discovery by the British forces of a richly-paved Christian church. The discovery was made by the Australians at Shellal, between Beersheba and Khan Yunus, and therefore on the main road from Jerusalem to Egypt. The keenest interest was aroused among the men themselves, and the utmost care was taken to safeguard it. The work was done under the direction of the Rev. W. Maitland Woods, senior chaplain (Church of England) of the Anzac and Mounted Division, and the party were often subject to the unwelcome attentions of the enemy's guns and suspicious aeroplanes. A fragmentary inscription relates that "this temple with spacious—(? foundations) was built by our most holy—(? bishop) and most pious George—in the year 622 according to—(? the era of) Gaza." Under the inscription were found the bones of the saint; his identity is uncertain, and the original suggestion that the founder was St. George himself does not bear investigation. The whole mosaic consisted of some 8,000 pieces of mosaic, of which not one stone was lost; and one of the features of Mr. Massey's account is the description of the careful and ingenious methods by which, in the midst of all the military preparations, this piece of archaeological labour was effectively completed. Some further account of the discovery may be anticipated later. It may be added that a letter in the following issue of *The Daily Telegraph* recalled the fact that George is among the commonest and most beloved of names in Eastern Christendom, thus adding to the other objections against the identity of the buried saint; but "when our troops have advanced another forty miles northwards towards Lydda they may come, perhaps, within the very patrimony of the soldier patron of England and of many other countries."

Palestine: The Organ of the British Palestine Committee, recognising the importance of the geography of Palestine for all questions of its future—and also incidentally hinting at the neglect of this subject by those who discuss its political prospects—devotes one of its numbers (21st July) to the reproduction of a map of Palestine with contours, Jewish colonies, communications, and an inset map showing the relation of the land to the great routes in the surrounding countries. Other numbers have contained a survey of

what is popularly though erroneously called *the Hauran*. The issue of 15th September contains a brief account of the Negeb from the geographical and economic points of view.

An interesting article on "Britain, Palestine and the Jews," appeared in the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle* of 26th June. It is an account of sea and land routes to the East, and although it is mainly concerned with political and topical problems, it is one of the many indications of the increasing interest in the "Holy Land." Where so many controversial questions arise and opinions so frequently differ, it is much to be hoped that this deeper interest will take a practical form in assisting those societies and undertakings which have for their aim the accurate and systematic investigation, without favour or prejudice, of all that relates to the Holy Land. Even some of the old Arabian historians themselves were able to realise that various ascertained constant psychological and other factors were responsible for a certain uniformity in historical and other conditions; and these are of a sort to be taken into consideration in all plans for the future, however attractive and inspiring from a religious or idealistic point of view.

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 about forty 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, post free 3s. 6d.

The Committee are bringing 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 will be, primarily, a travellers' 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 will be 7s. 6d. If desired, the map can be mounted on linen to fold.

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 Index to the *Quarterly Statements* previously published included the years from 1869 to 1892, and the need for its continuation to a more recent date has been greatly felt. During the year 1911, the Committee decided to supplement the old Index by one which should include the completion of the work at Gezer, that is to say, from 1893 to 1910. The laborious task was undertaken by Mr. (now Prof.) Dickie, whose familiarity with the matter dealt with, and conscientious exactitude, have now enabled the Committee to publish it with confidence. Price in cloth, 5s.; unbound, 3s. 6d.

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

Plaster casts of the raised contour maps (large and small) of Jerusalem have been prepared and can now be had on application. The horizontal scale of the large map is $\frac{1}{25000}$ and the total dimensions are 5 feet by 4 feet 3 inches. The remains of the city walls and streets discovered on the Eastern and Western Hills are indicated in red lines. This map will be a most valuable help to the study of Jerusalem topography. Price £3 3s. Case and packing extra. The scale of the smaller map is $\frac{1}{10000}$ and the size 20 inches square. Price without addition of early walls and streets £1 5s.

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.

Subscribers who have not yet paid will greatly facilitate the Committee's efforts by sending in their subscriptions without further 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 1916 is published in the Annual Report now issued.

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 6s., by post 6s. 4d.

A reprint of *Names and Places in the Old and New Testaments*, by the late Mr. George Armstrong, is now on sale, price 6s. The book was out of print for some years.

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. Lewis B. Paton, Ph.D., Honorary General Secretary to the Fund, 50, Forest Street, Hartford, Conn.

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

Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archaeology : Vol. XXXIX, 5 : Index of South Arabian Proper Names (*continued*), by Rev. W. T. Piltner ; etc.

The Geographical Journal, July, 1917 : Palestine, Its Resources and Suitability for Colonization, by E. W. G. Masterman, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

The Scottish Geographical Magazine.

Studies, an Irish Quarterly Review of Letters, Philosophy and Science, September, 1917 : Ancient Babylon, by P. Boylan ; etc.

The Annual of the British School at Athens, No. XXI, 1914-15, 1915-16.

Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Vol. XLVII, 1917 : The Physical Character of the Arabs, by Dr. C. G. Seligman ; etc.

The Athenaeum : Subject Index to Periodicals, 1916.

The Zionist Review : *The Organ of the English Zionist Federation*.

Palestine : *The Organ of the British Palestine Committee*, Description of the Hauran, the Negeb ; etc.

The Empire Review, September, 1917, Lord Kitchener's Work in Palestine, by Estelle Blyth.

The Expository Times.

Publications of the Princeton University Archaeological Expeditions to Syria in 1904-1905 and 1909: Division II, Ancient Architecture in Syria, by Howard Crosby Butler; Division III, Greek and Latin Inscriptions in Syria, by Enno Littmann and David Magie, Jr., Section A, Southern Syria, Part 6, St^c (Seeia). (E. J. Brill, Leyden, 1916.)

University of Pennsylvania, The University Museum Publications of the Babylonian Section: Vol. X, 2, Sumerian Liturgical Texts, Vol. XII, 1, Sumerian Grammatical Texts, by Stephen Langdon. Vol. XI, Lists of Personal Names from the Temple School of Nippur, No. 1, A Syllabary of Personal Names, No. 2, Lists of Akkadian Personal Names, by Edward Chiera.

Journal of the American Oriental Society, Vol. 37, Part I.

Art and Archaeology, August, 1917: The horns on Michael Angelo's Moses, by Margaret MacLean; etc.

The Biblical World.

The American Journal of Philology, Vol. XXXVIII, 2.

The Homiletic Review.

The Holy Scriptures: A New Translation, with the aid of previous versions and with constant consultation of Jewish authorities; and *The Story of Bible Translations*, by Max L. Margolis. (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America.)

The Jewish Quarterly Review, July, 1917: Two Ancient Israelite Agricultural Festivals, by Prof. Julian Margenstein; etc.

See further below, pp. 187-192.

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:—

Presented by Mrs. Ross Scott:—

Two Years in Palestine and Syria, by Margaret Thomas.

Out-of-Doors in the Holy Land, by Henry Van Dyke.

Walks about Jerusalem, by W. H. Bartlett.

A Relation of a Journey; containing a Description of the Turkish Empire of Egypt, of the Holy Land, of the remote Parts of Italy and Islands adjoining, by George Sandys. 1673.

The Holy City, by George Williams, B.D. The Second Edition, with additions, including an Architectural History of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, by the Rev. Robert Willis, M.A., F.R.S., 2 Vols., leather bound, gold crests, coat-of-arms, and lettering. Illustrated. 1849.

Sandy's Travels, containing an History of the Original and Present State of the Turkish Empire, etc. 1673.

The Waters of Egypt, by Norma Lorrimer.

Via Cornwall to Egypt, by C. F. Gordon-Cumming.

The Spell of Egypt, by Robert Hichens.

Giant Cities of Bashan, by Rev. J. J. Porter.

Narrative of the Operations and Recent Discoveries in Egypt and Nubia, by G. Belzoni. Second Edition. 1821.

Presented by Professor Hull :—

The City and the Land.

Heth and Moab, by Colonel Conder.

The Resources of Modern Countries, by A. J. Wilson. 1878.

Himalayan Journals, by Sir Joseph Hooker. 1855.

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

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

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

L. de Laborde, *Voyage de l'Arabie Pétrée* (1829).

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.

For list of authorized lecturers 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.*
