

S U M M A R Y

Notes on the Geological History of the Yarkon Valley

by M. AVNIMELECH

The author discusses the geological formation of Tell Qasile, the changes in the Yarkon river-bed, and the traces of a shore movement in this area. He derives his conclusions from the results of a geological exploration carried out this year.

Excavations at Tell Qasile (1948-1949)

by B. MAISLER

In a preliminary report on these excavations, carried out under the auspices of the Society and the Tel Aviv Museum, the author describes the site to the north of Tel Aviv beyond the Yarkon and the work done in two excavation campaigns, autumn 1948 and summer 1949. An area of 1000 sq. m. was excavated in the southern part of the tell, and the fortifications of the western side were discovered. Twelve strata of occupation were found, the topmost being Mameluke, the next four (II-V) belonging to the Byzantine and Roman (including Herodian) periods, the VI being Persian, VII-IX — three Israelite strata (10th—8th centuries B.C.), X — Pre-Israelite (end of the 11th century B.C.), and the lowest two (XI-XII) Philistine (12th—11th cent.). Each period is represented by remains of buildings and other finds, including seals, ivories, metal implements, etc., and quantities of pottery. Of special interest are the Israelite strata, which include a public building (stratum VIII) and a casemate wall. The two inscribed ostraca in Hebrew script, which were found on the surface of the tell before the excavation, should be assigned to the stratum VII. The campaigns have made possible the establishment of a corrected relative stratigraphy of the Iron Age in Palestine (Plates I-V).

Excavations at Sheikh Bader, Jerusalem (1949)

by M. AVI-YONAH

An area of 1750 sq. m. was cleared on this hill, lying west of Jerusalem. The remains furnished evidence of a Jewish settlement from the last days of the Second Temple, including a quarry. This was followed by two phases of occupation by a detachment of the Legio X Fretensis, the Roman garrison of Jerusalem. In the first the site served apparently as a brick-factory (over 260 legionary stamps were collected); in the second as a dwelling place. Finally the place was occupied by a 6th century basilica and monastery, dedicated to St. George, and paved with mosaics (including a Greek inscription). This was destroyed by fire, and rebuilt towards the end of the Byzantine Period (Pls. VI-VII).

A Sounding at En-gedi

by B. MAISLER

A trial excavation on Tell el-Jurn, the supposed site of ancient En-gedi, has shown that this is a natural hill, with very few remains of building. Only on the top were the remains of a small Roman fort; it stood on the foundations of an earlier fortification. The Israelite (Middle Iron Age) potsherds collected on this site were but few. The Roman pools and aqueducts on the site were studied; a series of Herodian tombs were also found. A further exploration is planned for next winter (Plate VIII).

Discoveries at Karatepe

by S. YEIVIN

A short summary of discoveries at Karatepe and contents of the various versions of the Phoenician inscription.

The New Aramaic Saqqârah Papyrus from the Time of Jeremiah

by A. MALAMAT

After a short analysis of the several campaigns of Nebuchadnezzar in Palestine and the history of the Philist-

ine region an attempt is made to trace the historical circumstances in which the papyrus was compiled. The year 599/8 is regarded as offering the most suitable setting for the composition of the letter, whereas the campaigns of 605 and 603/2 are ruled out. Probably only the advance guard arriving at Aphek, and not the main body of Nebuchadnezzar's army, is referred to (cf. II *Kings*, xxiv, 2, 10-11). The author accepts Albright's suggestion that Ashkelon must have been the abode of the writer, in view of his active anti-Babylonian policy to which this town adhered, like Judah.

The Cave Scrolls from the Judaeian Desert

by S. E. LOEWENSTAMM

Summary of the various reports on the scrolls found in the cave near Râs Feshkha.

Chronicle

Detailed report of the Fifth Archaeological Conference held by the Society at Jerusalem in December, 1948.