ENGLISH SUMMARY

ISAIAH PRESS — IN MEMORIAM

by M. Avi-Yonah

THE EXCAVATIONS AT RAMATH-RACHEL (PRELIMINARY REPORT)

by Y. Aharoni

The excavations were carried on from August to November 1954 on behalf of the Department of Antiquities and the Israel Exploration Society. The tell, measuring approx. 10 dunams is situated midway between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Five periods of settlement were established: I — Early Arabic (7th—8th cent. A. D.); II — Late Byzantine (5th—6th cent. A. D.); III — Early Byzantine (4th cent. A. D.); IV — Persian-Hellenistic-Roman (5th cent. B. C.—A. D. 70); V — Iron Age II (9th—7th cent. B. C.).

In the North-East corner was discovered a Byzantine church and part of a monastery, paved with coloured mosaics in geometric patterns. This is tentatively identified with the 6th cent. church called Kathisma in our sources. Below the church were receptacles belonging to a 4th cent. oil press, paved with white mosaics. — In the south-west part of the tell the excavators found a casemate wall from the period of the Judaean monarchy; the section uncovered measures 35 m. The inside of the wall is laid with well-cut ashlar in one stretcher and two headers; it resembles the inner wall of Samaria. Between the two walls are seven plastered rooms, two of which had their sills in situ. North of the wall was a big court paved with crushed lime; on it were two proto-Ionic (proto-Aeolic) capitals and the fragment of a third; all resembling the capitals found at Samaria and Megiddo. The pottery found on the floor of the fortress belongs to the 9th—7th cent. B.C. and a burnt level attests to its destruction shortly before that of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. The other finds include 69 stamped jar-handles, mostly Persian and some Iron Age II. They include: two *lamelekh* stamps with the winged figure, one inscribed *lamelekh Zif;* thirteen stamps with personal names, difficult to read (the author suggests some readings *l'hy,...nr/nh, ldh'yw* or *ldšs*); seven representations of animals, mostly lions; 14 rosettes (mostly Iron Age II) and circles; 18 *yhd* stamps of various types; 11 stamps *yršlm* (The Author suggests a chronological arrangement of these stamps); 4 Hellenistic gems, one with an owl and the head of Athena. In conclusion the author considers the identification of the site with Biblical Netophah (2 Sam xxxiii, 29 etc.), Byzantine Ναтоῦφα but hesitates to accept it in the absence of Iron Age remains.

SCALES OF RATIONING IN PAP. ANASTASI I AND THE BIBLE

by A. Malamat

The writer first analyses the passage of Papyrus Anastasi I xvii, 2ff., which deals with the logistical problem of provisioning an Egyptian force in Palestine. A list of victuals is quoted giving the total quantity of each; but what was the composition of the single "field-ration"?

A similar problem arises in the Bible, in connection with the supplying of David's troops by Abigail, in which an itemised list of rations is also furnished (1 Sam xxv, 18). The two ration scales, which have some points in similar, are analysed and compared, thereby providing a general conception of military catering in ancient Palestine.

An English version of the article is to be published in *Mélanges bibliques à la mémoire d'A. Robert.*

AN ARAMAIC INSCRIPTION FROM THE ANCIENT SYNAGOGUE OF UMM EL-'AMED

by N. Avigad

The following inscription of the third century A. D., was found incised on a stone in the ruins of this Galilean Synagogue:

"Yo'ezer the *hazan* (synagogue superintendent) and Shim'eon his brother made (viz. donated) this gate of the Lord of Heaven."

The spelling of two words is noteworthy: תרא stands for the usual תרעא meaning gate, the omission of the ע being a common feature in Galilean Aramaic. The form שומיא instead of שמיא (heaven) has hitherto been found only in the non-Jewish Aramaic texts.

The formula "gate of the Lord of Heaven" is new among the inscriptions commemorating the donation of a part of a synagogue.

A POSSIBLE JEWISH MILITARY SETTLEMENT IN CYRENAICA

by S. Applebaum

Josephus evidences that the first Jewish settlers in Cyrenaica, as in Egypt, were military settlers; Gasr or Ain Targunia West of Cyrene has evidence of Jewish settlement in the classical period and its geographical position strongly suggests that of a military settlement; it was on public land previously probable Ptolemaic royal property. Its name is the same as that of Trachonitis in Syria, where Herod settled Jewish mounted archers. Such troops can be shown to have been at home in Cyrenaica from the earliest times to the 4th century A. D., when some were stationed a few miles east of Targunia. One or two hints suggest that Herod had a military connection with Cyrenaica, and epigraphy shows that Syrian troops were sent to Cyrenaica in the early 1st century A. D. A Jewish deputation to A. Terentius Murena in the later 1st

century B. C. from occupants of the Cyrenean *ager publicus* is perhaps to be connected with his brother M. Terentius Varro, governor of Syria in 23 B. C., when Trachonitis was transferred to Herod. Possibly the later transfer of mounted Jewish archers from Trachonitis to Targunia was the result of consultations between the brothers and the current situation in Cyrenaica in the late 1st century B. C. The calling villages of foreigners after the settlers' places of origin is common in Egypt.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL HISTORY OF THE MESOPOTAMIAN PLAINS
by J. M. Lees and N. L. Falcon
Translated from *The Geographical Journal*, 118, 1952, pp. 24—39.

THE EARTHQUAKE OF 13TH SEPTEMBER 1954
by N. Shalem

The author describes the earthquake on the basis of a special macroseismological research made by him, in addition to seismographical data from Jerusalem, Safed and Strassburg, and reaches the conclusion that earthquakes in this country follow the active faults running from NW to SE, which are identical with the volcanic cracks on both sides of the Jordan. The Jordan Valley is neither subject to nor the focus of earthquake agressivity, which is connected with Alpo-Himalayan orogenic movements.

ARCHAEOLOGIGAL SURVEYS
THE CITY MOUNDS OF THE SHEPHELAH
by Y. Aharoni and Ruth Amiran

The authors report on the fourth Survey undertaken by the Historical Geography Study Circle on June 16th, 1955. The sites visited were: *Tell es-Safi* (EBA combed ware, folded ledge handles; MB: disc bases, burnished sherds; LB: Cypriote milk-bowl; IA, especially IA 2: wheel burnished pottery. The tell overlooks an important road, and has a wide view. The identification with Libnah is rejected, that with Makkedah supported). — *'Iraq ed-Deir* (caves with Greek and Arab inscriptions and crosses — a comparison with the Marissah caves suggests a Hellenistic origin). — *Khirbat Tuneifisa* (small Byzantine-Arab ruin connected with the caves). — Unnamed tell (1399—1173) above *Kidna* (10 dunams, pottery IA 1: thickened rims of bowls with irregular burnishing on inside, fragments with dark red bands on pink wash; IA 2 more numerous: bowl rims, wheel-burnished slip, jar rims; Persian bowls. Ruins of an unidentified Judaean Shephelah settlement).— *Tell Burnat* (150 m² of accumulation only few metres thick, surrounded by high and wide stone wall, with 3—4 layers visible on N. IA 2 sherds: thumb-marked handles, wheel-burnished bowls, amphora bases. The stone wall possibly covers evidence of earlier settlement, especially

LB sherds required for identification with Libnah; the other data agree). — *Kh. Zeita el Harab* (1339—1153) (another Judaean settlement on the Philistine border: IA 1-black slip with irregular burnishing; IA 2 more prominent, especially with wheel burnished bowls; Persian bowls; Hellenistic lamp and jug base; Arab geometric). — *Tell el Hesi* (evidence of EBA settlement, e. g. fragment of bone knife handle).

THE JUDAEAN SHEFELAH
by S. Kallai-Kleinmann

The writer reviews the material related to this area and examines the main source, Jos. XV. Of the three Shefelah units mentioned there the first is undoubtedly the northern, the second including Lachish is a western group and the third with Libnah and Keilah is an eastern unit. Thus Tell es-Safi is ruled out as Libnah and the most plausible identification for Libnah is Tell Burnat or even better Tell Judeideh.

He also points out that apart from Ayalon and Hebron there are no parallels between the list of Levitic cities (assigned to the time of David and Solomon) and Rehoboam's fortifications. Therefore Rehoboam's list should be viewed as listing additional fortifications and no conclusions should be drawn from the omission of certain towns.

MISCELLANEOUS

J. Braslavy (Braslavski) and N. Shalem point out that the Spanish account of the earthquake of 1546, as published by H. Beinart on pp. 29—34, is translated from an Italian account preserved in German translation and published by Braslavski in *L'Heqer Arsenu,* pp. 228—239; various parallels and localisations are discussed at the same time. — S. Goldschmidt suggests that the *Kefar Qarnayim* mentioned in the Jer. Talmud (Demai II—22 b) as being in the territory of Beth Shean, and probably identical with the "Village of Job" 6 miles south of Beth Shean, which is mentioned by the Bordeaux pilgrim, might be located at the ruins of Tell Abu Faraj, near which was found the sixth milestone from Scyhopolis, as well as a mosaic pavement decorated with a seven-branched candlestick and a shofar. — R. Giveon describes the find of a Roman tomb near Abu Shusha in the vicinity of Mishmar ha-Emeq, which contained among other funerary equipment a jar full of bones of *frogs and toads;* he discusses the significance of this find from the point of view of magic and anthropology.

REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

These include an account of the General Meeting on June 26, 1955; of the Meeting of the Council on July 24, 1955; reports on the Seventh Excavation Campaign at Beth-She'arim, and on the excavations at Tuleilat Batashi in the Soreq Valley and at Hazor. For these cf. the *Israel Exploration Journal,* Vol. V, No. 4 and subsequent numbers.