

selves, as well as universities and colleges as such, be represented, as "the surest way of . . . retaining unimpaired the confidence of American teachers in the good faith, the wisdom, and the beneficence" of the Foundation.

Committee resolutions strongly adverse to the Fess bill to create a national university at Washington, or to the establishment of any such Federal institution, whether granting degrees or not, provoked considerable discussion, and were finally replaced by a resolution calling for delay until the whole question shall have received fuller public consideration. A committee on the compilation of a handbook of American colleges and universities reported that, for financial reasons, this much-needed undertaking was not at present practicable. Among new committees authorized were one on summer schools, another on the place and function of faculties in university government and administration, and a third on the encouragement of research. A proposal to consider the case of Mr. Bertrand Russell, reported upon adversely by the committee on resolutions, was referred to the Council for action.

Six numbers of the *Bulletin* of the Association, containing reports of committees, the presidential report, and other matter of interest to members, have been issued during the year, in addition to printed reports of the committee on academic freedom and tenure. The election of 580 new members brings the total membership to about two thousand. The new president is Prof. Frank Thilly, of Cornell.

W. M.

THE SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE AND EXEGESIS

THE annual meeting of the Society was held at Haverford College on December 27-28, and despite two days of distressing weather, the meeting enrolled probably the largest attendance in the Society's history.

An exceptionally interesting number of papers were presented. With the very full programme there was felt the usual drawback of all such gatherings that not enough time is given to discussion from the floor, and the question is raised whether there might not be a selection made of more important topics and discussion provided for. The Presidential Address was given by Dr. Jastrow (Pennsylvania), on "Constructive Elements in the Critical Study of the Old Testament." Dr. Jastrow reviewed the history of that criticism, indicated its triumph as proved by its general acceptance by scholars, but allowed the truth in the contention that criticism is too often merely destructive, and that it comes to be regarded as an end in itself. But a new trend is now visible, that of the utilization of all the analyzed factors and their reconstruction for illuminating the various ages and phases of thought through the whole period. The writer emphasized in the main two factors, the utilization of tradition by criticism and the study of the social evolution of the Hebrews in connection with the political and religious development. Criticism has not finished when it has analyzed the strata of a document. The tradition underlying every stratum and the theory which compiled these strata are equally sources of history. He illustrated his thesis from the results of the study of the Mosaic tradition, whether Moses is to be regarded as a religious founder or a legislator. Constructive scholarship now feels forced to recognize that that tradition is true in postulating a Moses, and instead of scorning is eagerly utilizing every strand of tradition. Even the social and religious legislation, which in its present compilation is post-exilic, contains large elements which lead back to the Mosaic period and corroborate the Mosaic tradition as an historic fact. Similarly, the study of the laws and religious practices, after a sifting of these among their relative ages, reveals the development of Israel's society law, and ethics from the earliest to the latest times.

On the afternoon of the first day several interesting subjects of general archaeological interest were presented. Dr. Haupt (Johns Hopkins) read a characteristically interesting and widely informed paper on "Alcohol in the Bible." He gave a revised text and translation of the satire on drunkenness in Proverbs 23, which showed indubitably that genuine *Katzenjammer* is a very ancient affliction. Dr. Peters (New York) gave some valuable suggestions on "The Worship of Tammuz" drawn from his experiences of the Babylonian seasons. He held that this worship was originally connected with the plant-

ing and so with the death of the seeds of the crops. Dr. Barton (Bryn Mawr) in a paper on "The Evolution of the Ashera," maintained that this symbol was developed from the palm tree, basing his contention on the designs of Babylonian seals and Phoeni-Punic *cippi*: he held that the *hammam* or sun pillar had an identical origin.

There were an unusual number of interesting illustrated topics, the evening being devoted to several of these. Dr. Benzinger (Meadville Seminary), known to a wide public as the editor of Baedeker's invaluable handbook on Palestine, gave a talk on "Life in Palestine, Past and Present," illustrating the unchangeableness of Oriental customs. Professor Moulton (Bangor Seminary) gave three illustrated talks on discoveries he had made in Palestine when Director of the American School. In treating a Greek inscription at the site of ancient Caesarea, which had been seen and only imperfectly interpreted by predecessors, he was able to date precisely, with great probability, its age as of the time of Justinian, and to show from a reference in the text that there existed still in that most Christian emperor's reign a building in Caesarea which was known as the Hadrianum, i. e., a pagan temple of Hadrian's foundation. This reference indicates the probable persistence of paganism in Syria down into the sixth century. Dr. Fullerton (Oberlin) presented a number of pictures which he had taken in the Lebanon and Jerusalem, during his connection with the Jerusalem School two years ago. He gave the first pictures that have appeared in this country of Captain Weil's excavations on the Ophel Hill, and also some illustrations of the bringing of the Holy Banner into Jerusalem when the Turks and Germans proclaimed the Jihad. Dr. Sartell Prentice gave a unique series of pictures, taken by himself, of the wonderful Sik, or narrow cañon which leads into Petra, a defile which has been the despair of photographers.

Of other Old Testament papers may be noted that of Dr. Cobb (Boston) on "Some General Considerations of the Text of Hosea—iv-xiv." He insisted on the criteria of several marked stylisms of the prophet's thought which must be observed in testing the genuineness of this difficult book. He was bold enough to maintain that the prophet could write in prose as well as in poetry, and that he could not be trimmed to suit modern ideas of Hebrew metrics. Dr. Fullerton gave a good example of critical method in his treatment of the criticism of Isaiah vii, 14-17.

In the field of the New Testament the following papers may be signalized: Dr. Stearns (Fargo College) gave the results of his collation and study of the papyrus and vellum fragments of the New Testament. He held that these supported the text preferred by Westcott and Hort. Dr. Bacon (Yale) gave a critical study of Matthew i, 18-25. Proceeding from the criticism started by the Sinaitic Syriac, he tried to present the accretions and jointings which have produced the present fuller text. He held that the story of the annunciation belonged to the original form of the Gospel, and that vv. 22ff were added to conform the story to the later theology of the birth. Dr. Heffern (Philadelphia Divinity School) discussed the moot passage, Acts v, 18, which Dr. Torrey has recently attempted to explain from a misunderstanding on the part of Luke of his Aramaic original. Dr. Heffern plausibly suggested a corruption in the Greek text, reading, "and none dared to *punish* them."

Much amusement was created by the editor of the Society's *Journal*, Dr. Margolis, who read a communication from the Third Assistant Postmaster-General of the United States, who was not able to discover that the *Journal* should be listed as "scientific," in order to obtain second-class rates. Is this a pious Administration's blow at Higher Criticism?

Officers were elected as follows: President, Dr. Moulton (Bangor); Vice-President, Dr. Montgomery (Philadelphia Divinity School); Recording Secretary, Dr. Cadbury (Haverford); Treasurer, Dr. Prince (Columbia); Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Margolis (Dropsie College), and his associates on the Editorial Committee, Dr. Porter (Yale) and Dr. Fowler (Brown).

In connection with these sessions was held the annual meeting of the Managers of the American School at Jerusalem. Much interest was shown in the prospects of the School's opportunities upon the end of the war, and steps were taken to inaugurate a campaign to enable the School to enter promptly and with proper equipment upon its field of work.

J. A. M.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK

FICTION

Bellamy, F. R. *The Balance*. Doubleday, Page. \$1.35 net.
 Nexø, M. A. *Pelle the Conqueror—Daybreak*. Holt. \$1.50 net.
 Waste, H. *Philosophy: An Autobiographical Fragment*. Longmans, Green. \$1.25 net.

BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Creevey, C. A. S. *A Daughter of the Puritans*. Putnam. \$1.50 net.
 Doyle, A. C. *A History of the Great War. Vol. I—The British Campaign in France and Flanders, 1914*. Doran. \$2 net.

SCIENCE

Gardner, M. S. *Public Health Nursing*. Macmillan. \$1.75 net.
 Lamson, A. T. *My Birth*. Macmillan. \$1.75 net.

DRAMA AND MUSIC

Representative American Plays. Edited by A. H. Quinn. Century. \$2.75 net.

TEXTBOOKS

Bassett, L. E. *A Handbook of Oral Reading*. Houghton Mifflin. \$1.60 net.
 Fite, E. D. *History of the United States*. Holt.
 Prokosch, E. *Deutscher Lehrgang*. Holt.

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