

April 28.

2.

I find it necessar, after reaching a certain stage in a room, to leave it alone for a while, and then come back to it. Sometimes, after a few days, the newly opened area has so dried out, that it is possible to distinguish fallen brick from standing brick walls, and so forth. A number of problems of that nature, which we could not solve last year, were easily answered this year when we returned, and could see walls and bricks that we could not make out previously, and had simply left, rather than take the risk of cutting through them unwittingly.

April 29.

Good news from Jerusalem, that Iliffe is continuing to recover, although, poor chap, he is undergoing a severe cure. It seems that his body has to be held tightly in position with sandbags, so that the lung wound can heal more rapidly. There has been a four day curfew imposed on the Arab section of the Old City in Jerusalem, with permission for the inhabitants to emerge only two hours a day to purchase food supplies. This curfew was imposed as the result of the shooting of a British constable on duty in the Old City by an Arab youth. All the English families living behind the American School, near the Iliffes, have been moved out by the Government, I am informed. The process of the evacuation of our section of Jerusalem by Europeans, which I described in one of my recent News-Letters is now complete. For the present, I still think that we can keep the School open. We are situated on a main road that is now well patrolled by English constables. When I return to Jerusalem, I shall study the question as to the future safety of the residents of the School. At the present time, I have no fears on that score.

April 30.

The weather remains surprisingly pleasant for this late in the spring, but the natives of the place have told me that it would remain nice for over another month. I hope they are right. The season has commenced much later this year than last. In both instances we arrived after the end of the spring rains, which last year were over in March, while this year, as my last news-letter indicates, it poured on April 8. It also rained here last Thursday. My architect is leaving us on May 10, in accordance with prearranged plan, because he has other commitments, and we shall, weather and the general political situation permitting, remain several weeks longer.

I really looked at the most legible of the ostraca for the first time the other day with more than a passing glance, and what I have written above about having seen the name of the God of Sinai, namely Turiel on the ostrakon is unadulterated balderdash. Actually it seems to be some sort of a wine receipt, as far as I can make out of it now. It is still an important ostrakon, but nothing like what I had perhaps hoped it would be. The room in which the ostraca were found has been a very difficult one to excavate. Except for some fragments of Period IV wall, the entire room is filled with a mass of debris, which the most careful scaling down failed to disentangle, till we got to the level of the large gir with the Minaean letter, and the other pottery with it, - which seems to be a level of III A. Below it is a very heavy burning of II, the roof beams and covering palm branches and leaves of which have left a thick, and clearly mark roof burning. Owing to the large size of the room, its central location, the presence of an unusual amount of pottery, and what appears to be a sacred stele, I still think, ~~beside~~ aside from the fact that the ostraca do not seem to have any sacred significance, that this large room of Number 50 may well have been a sanctuary. We have thus far elsewhere in the tell

April 30, 1939. (cont.)

found no figurines of the types discovered so frequently in other excavations, and some of which I have found on the surface during the course of the TJ survey, but we have found enough fragments of such figurines, all of them with old breaks, to indicate ~~that~~ that they were once used. There were apparently both figurines of deities and of animals. Last year, we found a small camel figurine ~~xxxx~~.

The job of disentangling the walls in the deepest rooms continues, made all the more difficult that we have neither the funds, the time, nor sufficient staff to supervise pulling down the upper walls and getting to the proper exposing of the lower levels. We are finding, however, that in the middle of the highest part of the tell, going from east to west, there is the deep thick wall, which will probably turn out to belong to period I. It must not be considered as the south wall of the city of period I, because first of all there is no reason to believe that the builders of City I would have contented themselves with so little space for their in comparison to their successors, ~~xxxxxxx~~ compared to when they built much better and with much more forethought and planning; and secondly, because we have traced a wall east of the east street, and near the bottom of the gradual slope of the tell, and another wall near the bottom of the south slope of the tell, - both of which seem to indicate that related walls go all around the city, - and we believe also that these walls may turn out to belong to Period I. They too will not give us the outermost circumference of the city, because quite evidently there was occupation beyond these walls, both on the east and south and north sides. It is to be doubted, however, whether we shall be able to trace any walls beyond them, because already along the outer sides of these walls, the depths of the walls have petered out to one brick thickness, and in some places even the one brick thickness is gone.

In room 42 today, at a depth of about 1.20 m., measuring from the top of the east wall down, we found a small lance head of copper, which will belong to one of the two phases of III. It is important, because it is one of the few copper pieces in this level found more or less completely intact.

One of the most interesting finds made yesterday, was that of a large pottery funnel in the north half of Room 49 A, along with some fine pottery, and several horn handle pots, in addition to numerous fragments of zirs and other pottery. This is the only well preserved funnel that I know of, and in fact is the only one that I know of at the present time. Others must have been found in other excavations. That such a funnel should be found in Tell el-Kheleifeh, at a level which is either IIIA or II (we have not yet leveled in this room), is not surprising, because there seems to have been quite an extensive production of some type of liquid, which required settling cups and bowls and basins of all kinds. We have found considerable numbers of such cups and bowls, pierced with once or more rows of holes, for evidently the obvious purpose of allowing some liquid to settle and then to pour out through the holes. One can imagine that such a liquid was when produced in large enough quantities poured out through such a funnel as we discovered yesterday into jars large and small, and then sealed with the clay stoppers we have found, of sizes indicating just such large and small jars, which when filled with some valuable liquid, were then tightly sealed. What this liquid was is rather difficult to imagine at the present time, unless it was some major or by-product of the date palm.