

the excavations at the end of this month seems ~~very~~ remote, I could not advise them to stay over on the chance that the excavations might begin after all. I am sorry to see them go, they are an exceedingly nice and alert couple; they have learned, I believe, much from their stay at the School and their general experiences in Palestine, and have contributed largely to the harmony and good spirits that have prevailed at the School during the past academic year despite the somewhat unusual times. Prof. Dahl, under whom Mr. West took some of his work at the Yale Divinity School, is, I believe, also impressed with what the Wests have gained from their stay here. It has always seemed to me to be one of the best investments from every point of view that a divinity student, or any one interested in the history of the ancient Near East could make, to spend at least a year as a student at the Jerusalem School after finishing his studies at home.

Another of our students, Mr. William B. Ward, who graduated from the Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, also left for home about a week ago. He too had benefited greatly from his stay here.

March 21st, 1939.

A whole line of military trucks and armoured cars is drawn up in the playing field back of our tennis-court. Troops are making searches in nearby houses for arms and bombs and so forth. Mr. Reynolds just rode by and told me that the soldiers were tearing down part of the wall around one of the houses in the vicinity, on the assumption that arms or bombs may have been hidden there. The morning newspaper again reports riots in Damascus, and the appearance of barricades in the streets there, and the assumption of all government authority by French troops. It certainly is peculiar that as if almost by signal, a wave of unrest should sweep through Syria and Transjordan, although it is less unexpected in Syria than it is in Transjordan. The fomented disturbances in these two countries are bringing, at least for the present, an effective halt to all archaeological activities.

March 22nd, 1939

There is as yet no further news from Transjordan. Heavy rainfall, however, last night and today have once again put the Transjordan roads out of commission. It has, I believe, been almost ten years, at least so far as my experience is concerned, ~~and~~ we have had such inclement weather so late in March. About a week ago, we had the second severe hailstorm this month. It seems that the weather is trying to keep company with the politics in this part of the world. The Arabs have again declared a strike in Jerusalem today, this time against the inconclusive results of the recent London Conference. We noticed older schoolchildren preventing the younger children from going to school.

The late rains, however, are having at least a beneficial effect upon our garden. The fruit-trees we set out last year in the ~~pr~~ part of the garden in front of the tennis-court are doing very well and are covered with white and pink blossoms. This part of the garden, by the way, is situated over a Byzantine cemetery, which Prof. Burrows excavated in 1931 when he was the Director of the Jerusalem School.