

*Archæology.* The current number of the *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* contains two important articles, one on the new excavations at Jericho; the other on the Dead Sea Scrolls. On the latter subject we publish in this issue a comprehensive and up-to-date account by Fr Graystone which we hope will be of general interest to our readers. It is now clear that the name 'Dead Sea Scrolls' may have to be emended, because of the many subsequent discoveries of manuscripts or parts of manuscripts, in that area.

The *Revised Standard Version* of the Bible has at last been published by Messrs T. Nelson and Sons. It is the fruit of twenty-two years labour by no less than ninety-one scholars and has been described as the biggest book-publishing project in history. A million copies have been sold and another 800,000 ordered; which would seem to suggest that interest in the Bible is far from dead. The book is finely printed and produced, and is easy to handle. Though of interest mainly to Americans, it is also of interest and importance to us in this country and a review of it will appear in these pages in due course.

*Australian News.* We hear that a Catholic Biblical Association has recently been founded in Australia though so far no details have come to hand. We offer them our sincerest congratulations and best wishes for the future and hope to be able to publish details of their society in the near future.

## OBITUARY

SIR FREDERIC GEORGE KENYON, G.B.E., K.C.B.

Sir Frederic Kenyon, who recently died in his ninetieth year, was born in 1863, was educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford, and, after taking high honours in classical scholarship, became an outstanding authority on the text and interpretations of Greek manuscripts, more particularly those of the Greek Bible. His earlier publications such as *Aristotle on the Constitution of Athens* and an edition of the *Poems of Bacchylides* were, in a sense, a preparation for his main life work. He was for many years Director and Principal Librarian of the British Museum, and secretary of the British Academy. He was also an honorary Vice-President of the Society of Antiquaries, of which he was President from 1934 to 1939.

Among his more important works on subjects related to the Bible are his *Handbook to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament* (2nd ed., 1912); his extremely useful and popular book on *Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts*, first published in 1895 and reissued in a fourth edition, revised, rewritten and enlarged, in 1939; his excellent introduction to a wide field of study, entitled *The Bible and Archæology* (1940); and *The Text of the Greek Bible* (1937). This last is perhaps the most rewarding of all the smaller works on the texts of the Septuagint and of the Greek New Testament. It is, however, to be regretted that Kenyon was unable to make any use of the principles and findings of Père M. J. Lagrange's vast *Introduction d'étude du Nouveau Testament*, which so far surpasses anything previously written on the same scale.

The discovery of the Chester-Beatty biblical papyri was explained to the general public in the *Times* of November, 1931, by Sir Frederic, who in due course edited *The Chester Beatty Biblical Papyri* (1933 ff.).

One of his latest works, published as recently as 1948, was *The Bible and Modern Scholarship* (John Murray, 3s. 6d.) which is in some part a reply to the unscholarly and out-of-date book of the Anglican Bishop Barnes of Birmingham, entitled *The Rise of Christianity*. Sir Frederic was easily able to show that Dr Barnes had been depending largely on the now discredited Tübingen school of New Testament studies, a school already in great measure demolished by the work of the Cambridge triad (Westcott, Hort and Lightfoot) in the latter years of last century. It seems quite certain that this readable little book, dedicated *In Memoriam H.H.H. fautoris huius opusculi*, was written at the request of Dr Herbert Hensley Henson, formerly Anglican Bishop of Durham. In the last entry in the volume of his *Letters*, published in 1950, a letter dictated but not signed on the day of his death (27th September 1947), Dr Henson refers to his great distress at the publication of Dr Barnes's 'really scandalous production', and adds: 'I want Sir Frederic Kenyon to address to him an "Open Letter from an Anglican Layman", placing his own name in brackets under the description. As the late head of the British Museum he will carry weight with the general multitude, and he is disgusted with the book.' Fortunately, Sir Frederic was spared to make this last and not least valuable contribution to his defence of the Christian biblical tradition.

J.M.T.B.