

New Books and Publications Reviewed

INDUSTRIAL PALESTINE.

By B. S. Binah. W. Spaight and Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C.4.

Mr. B. S. Binah has produced an excellent little book surveying recent industrial undertakings and the future possibilities of Palestine. Mr. Binah writes in an interesting manner, and one wishes that the booklet had been larger than it is. A large number of excellent photographs illustrate some of the more important concerns in the country. Mr. Binah does not underestimate the Jewish contributions to the industrial upbuilding of the country. He is of the opinion that there are strong grounds for holding an optimistic view of the industrial prospects of Palestine, and considers that the following factors justify his optimism:—

(1) The Rutenberg Scheme by providing cheap power will solve the question of fuel. (2) Egypt, Syria, Mesopotamia, Transjordan and Arabia offer large markets for Palestine manufactures. (3) The newly established mail transport between Haifa and Baghdad brings Palestine and Mesopotamia into close touch, while the projected road between the two countries will greatly facilitate traffic and transport of goods. (4) The construction of a harbour at Haifa will improve sea transport to and from Palestine and reduce freights. (5) The direct railway line between Palestine and Egypt enables the journey from one country to the other to be accomplished in twelve hours.

We can recommend all who are interested in the development of Eretz Israel to read Mr. Binah's booklet. We look forward to reading further publications by the same author.

D.G.

ESSAYS AND IMPROVISATIONS.

By the late Professor Kent, Messrs. Hortors Ltd., P.O. Box 393, Cape Town.

The late Professor Kent was well known to Jewish residents of Cape Town, many of whom were numbered among his friends. There was a gay philosophy about the man which drew admiration from all. He was one of those nature's gentlemen who saw the "man" first and then the Englishman, the Jew, the Scotsman, the Frenchman, etc.

Messrs. Hortors Limited have published a collection of his Press articles which have been prepared by Professor John Clark. It appears from these that the Professor of Mathematics of the Cape Town University had a fine gift of observation and human insight. His many Jewish friends would do well to purchase this little volume full of bright sarcasm and kindly humour.

D.

JEWISH FOLK SONGS.

The Bloch Publishing Co., 26, East, 22nd Street, New York.

The Jewish Book Concern has just published an interesting volume of fifty Yiddish folk songs, complete with music, and words in Jargon and in English-Yiddish. The selection is an excellent one, and ranges from a lullaby to a pean of a worshipful *Rabbe*. The piano accompaniments are arranged in a simple manner for the amateur as well as for the professional. The edition is delightfully printed, and lovers of folk song are strongly advised to secure the edition.

D.

ALTHEBRAEISCHE INSCRIFTEN VOM SINAI

Alphabet, Textliches, Sprachliches mit Folgerungen mit zahlreichen Textabbildungen, sowie 24 Tafeln von Professor Hubert Grimme.

(Hannover, 1923. Orient-Buchhandlung Heinz Lafaire.)

The leading orientalists of the nineteenth century since Georg Friedrich Grotefend, were engaged in the then most difficult, but eminently interesting, task of deciphering Cuneiform inscriptions, which have proved to be the key to the ancient Orient, and which has since then revolutionised the study of ancient Babylonian history and literature. The readers of this journal will still remember the passionate controversy which arose in consequence of Friedrich Delitzsch's lectures on "Bibel and Babel." The Orientalists of the modern age have now been placed before another task of absorbing interest, which, from a Biblical point of view, may prove even more momentous.

An English expedition discovered only 20 years ago on the Sinai peninsula a number of stones covered with inscriptions, which no living scholar could read. It was Allen Gardiner who, as recently as the recent war, suggested that the signs forming those inscriptions were semitic letters of Egyptian origin. Since then various scholars attempted to decipher those letters and succeeded in solving part of the riddle. After fixing a few characters of that strange alphabet. And how great was their surprise when they found in those ancient inscriptions Biblical names such as Joseph and Menassa.

Professor Grimme, in the book under review, gives full illustrations of those monuments and tries to give his explanation of the inscriptions, which, needless to say, deserve the serious attention and careful study of every cultured Jew who must be keenly interested in that ancient period of his people's history. The final and definite results of these recently discovered inscriptions may have very far-reaching consequences.

KIRJATH SEFER.

A Quarterly Bibliographical Review of the University Library of Jerusalem.

Edited by Hugo Bergmann and Herman Pick (with a number of collaborators), Jerusalem, 1924.

The first two numbers of this useful quarterly have now appeared. Accounts are given of many of the valuable gifts that are constantly being made to the library. In this connection we note that the Goldziher library is said to be given by the Zionist Organisation, whereas a third part of the cost of the collection was defrayed by the Jewish ladies of Rhodesia. This should have been mentioned. But we fear those ladies have been rather too modest about their achievement in raising a thousand pounds for the University. Apart from the bibliography proper there are in each issue a number of scholarly articles about various books, manuscripts and topics of literary importance. The annual subscription is only ten shillings, and Dr. Bergmann hopes that South Africa will furnish a goodly number of subscribers. It is important that this learned production should be encouraged in every way.

M.I.C.