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SCRIPTURE

THE QUARTERLY OF THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION

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EDITORIAL

Annual General Meeting. The January number of *SCRIPTURE* went to press before we could give particulars of the Meeting held at the Newman Centre, 31 Portman Square, London, W.1, on 19th December 1950. We accordingly add a few details here.

In his report the Secretary described the progress made on the Bible Commentary and other proposed publications. Lectures at the Newman Centre were also reported on. He further announced that the Lending Library had at last found a home at the Newman Centre. The Treasurer gave a comprehensive survey of the financial state of the Association. The gist of this was that, in spite of all the work done gratuitously, our expenses exceeded receipts for the year by £8 5s. 9d. A draft of the proposed Rules of the Association was then read out and each rule was commented on individually. Several additions and emendations were suggested. (The revised draft is enclosed with this number.) After hearing further details of the work on the Bible Commentary, the Meeting desired that its thanks be conveyed to the members of the Editorial Committee for their part in the undertaking. A member put forward the suggestion that the Association would become more widely known if a panel of speakers were compiled and this fact made known, especially to members, who might be instrumental in arranging for such speakers to give talks in their own parishes to local meetings. Various suggestions were also made for new publications: a Scripture manual, different kinds of Scriptural pamphlets, Bible Reading leaflets. The continuance of the Bibliographical notices in the Quarterly was also recommended.

Lectures. Beginning in the autumn, a course of weekly lectures on the New Testament will be given at the Newman Centre, 31 Portman Square, London, W.1. Members of the C.B.A. are entitled to the same reduction in fee as Newman members. It is hoped that the number of C.B.A. members attending the lectures will be much larger than at the present course of Scripture lectures. A great deal of time, trouble and expense is involved in organizing these lectures and it is not encouraging to see the facilities scarcely used at all by our members. Further details of the lecture course will appear in the next number of *SCRIPTURE*.

The Society for Old Testament Study. For the second time within a very few years the Society has elected a Catholic, as its President. Father C. Lattey, S.J., was the first Catholic to hold this distinguished position (in 1947) and now the Very Reverend Monsignor John M. T. Barton, D.D., L.S.S., F.S.A., Consultor of the Pontifical Biblical Commission has been elected President for 1952. It is also an honour in particular for our own Association of which Mgr Barton is Chairman. We offer him our hearty congratulations.

Archæological Excavation. Numerous interesting sites are yielding up their secrets to the spade of the archæologist. At Corinth, the American School of Classical Studies has brought to light many illuminating details of the ancient city destroyed by the Romans in 146 B.C., which would seem to confirm its reputation for licentiousness. The part mainly excavated is an open colonnade, 500 ft long and 80 ft wide at the southern end of the market place; behind the colonnade were rows of taverns and other buildings. In Palestine, the French are excavating at Abu Gosh, the reputed site of Qiryath-Yearim, the place where the Ark of the Covenant rested for twenty years. Even more interesting than this is the excavation by the American School of Oriental Research at the site of the New Testament Jericho. We quote from the *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*: 'Herod's city which was built along the banks of the Wadi El Qelt, was truly magnificent. Along the river bank was a sunken garden with a great façade two blocks long in which there were fifty statuary niches three feet wide and eight feet high. At its centre the façade was broken by a large circular theatre, which also served as a terraced garden. Flower pots were found still in place. A grand stairway leading up from the river bank to the façade gave entrance to a large Government building. On the opposite side of the Wadi there are remains of two government buildings. The entire area is surrounded by ruins of lesser edifices and villas. The northern part of the city is guarded by another great fortress. The excavated city seems to have been built about the time of Christ's Nativity and flourished for three centuries, when it began to decline. Eventually it practically disappeared, until about the eighth century, when it was used by the Arabs as a military outpost. The architecture of Herod's city was modelled on that of the wealthy areas of Rome. The buildings are of concrete, faced with diamond-shaped stones and painted plaster. The colours are still as bright as when they were first applied. Further details concerning this excavation will be awaited with intense interest.'