

The emancipation of the Near East involves Great Britain in exceptional responsibilities in relation to the ancient monuments and antiquities. Palestine and Mesopotamia are not only historical areas of supreme interest about which relatively little is known, but they are filled with sacred associations and abound in sites and monuments, familiar by name to almost everyone from childhood and revered by the great bulk of civilised humanity irrespective of nationality or religious persuasion.

The future administrators are faced, then, with the imperious duty of preserving these historical places and the antiquities that will constantly be coming to light. Moreover, competent bodies will now have full opportunity of exploring systematically these ancient sites, so intimately associated with the origins of the Jewish and Christian religions. It is evident that whether for preservation or for discovery adequate precaution and preparation are indispensable. Public feeling throughout the world will no longer tolerate any neglect in this respect now that these countries are emancipated, but will rightly demand of the governments and the nations that accept the mandates an adequate provision for the protection of these remains of the past and for better and fuller information concerning them.

Yet, at the present time, Great Britain does not possess the number of trained archaeologists of the younger generation necessary for this task; and no institution exists within these areas, such as have long been established at Athens and at Rome, suitably organised to provide such training.

With a view to remedying this defect and to providing an adequate organisation on the spot to respond to our obligations and opportunities of the future, the British Academy, at the invitation of and in conjunction with the Palestine Exploration Fund, and with the concurrence of the Foreign Office, have appointed the present Committee for the purpose of establishing a permanent British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem.

While the Palestine Exploration Fund will continue its work as before the objects of the School will be :—

1. To facilitate the researches of Scholars.
2. To provide instruction and guidance for students.
3. To train Archaeological Administrators and Excavators.
4. The School will assist in every possible way the excavations and explorations of the Palestine Exploration Fund. It may from time to time undertake investigations on its own account, and such operations would be conducted in harmony with the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund.

The scope of periods and subjects of study will be unrestricted, ranging from the Stone Age and the early civilisations of Amorites and Canaanites through all the history of Palestine and Syria, and their relations with the nations around them, down through the Graeco-Roman Age to the Arab Conquest, the Crusades and the later Mohammedan period. The