London ms. The comments are subdivided under four rubrics: Scripture references, textual, linguistic, and explanatory comments. References to the bibliography are given with a numerically keyed system, telling the reader nothing about date or author without his searching in the bibliography itself.

Finkelstein's edition of Sifre Deuteronomy has been severely criticised from its first publication for the arbitrary way in which the text has been chosen, in many cases one could better use the word invented. As a result of preliminary studies of the manuscripts, the special value of ms Vatican Ebr. 32 is generally accepted and therefore this was published in Facsimile in 1972. Basser is aware of the criticism against Finkelstein's edition, but he has chosen to include translations of London BL Add. 16.406 rather than Vatican 32. Yet apparently he limits himself to Finkelstein's text, avoiding Finkelstein's critical apparatus where a number of mss including the Vatican are cited. As well, the reader must be warned that the citation of Vatican 32 in Finkelstein's apparatus is in many places inaccurate as well as filled with typographical mistakes.

Basser's translation in some places has made things worse. In the translation of Piska 306 (p. 44), some words have been left untranslated before "and you do care...", though they are in Finkelstein's edition and the mss. Some of the comments are baffling: e.g. p. 27, comment E2: "The Rabbinic usage of the word 'wmwt is like that of the Latin gentiles. Since the English "gentile" commonly refers to non-Jewish individuals, I have adopted the title "Gentile Nations" as the proper translation of 'wmwt." Unfortunately the word in Finkelstein's edition and all the manuscripts is guym.

Even the introduction does not avoid such howlers. Basser states: "The study of midrash has been greatly aided in recent years by the appearance of English and German translations based on editions of midrashim..." Among these outstanding recent works one finds the Bibliotheca Rabbínica of August Wünsche (d. 1913). This work was published in 1880-85 and was reprinted in 1967, apparently the source of this error.

One could continue at great length listing the problems of this book. Its physical appearance does not enhance it. It is a photomechanical reproduction of a typescript which has been frequently corrected rather than retyped, leaving a number of passages quite illegible.

H. E. Gaylord

plates and drawings, hard cover $30,-- (for IES and ASOR members $23,--).

This splendid volume reports on the international congress on biblical archaeology which convened in Jerusalem in the first week of April 1984, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Jewish Palestine Exploration Society, later on called the Israel Exploration Society. It contains not only the papers read at the congress, but also the text of the comments made by respondents and a full account of the discussions. The main body of the book is divided into seven sections, according to the sessions held. They are followed by a report of the closing session which included two lectures (one by C. H. Gordon on 'The Ugaritic Texts: Half a Century of Research', and one by E. E. Urcbach on 'The Search of the Past').

In accordance with the character of JSJ we shall mainly dwell on the section which deals with the Dead Sea Scrolls, but we cannot pass the other sections altogether. In Session I on Biblical Archaeology F. M. Cross dealt with the biblical, B. Mazar with the historical, and Y. Yadin with the archaeological aspect of the subject. In Session II on Archaeology, History and Bible the settlement of Israel in Canaan was treated from different viewpoints by N. K. Gottwald, S. Herrmann, M. Kochavi and A. Mazar. In Session III on Stratigraphy, Chronology and Terminology papers were read by S. Gitin, R. Amiran, W. G. Dever, M. Dothan and D. Ussishkin. In Session IV on Israel's Neighbors in the Iron Age in the Light of Archaeological Research T. Dothan dealt with the Philistines, J. D. Muhly with the Phoenicians, D. B. Redford with the relations between Egypt and Israel from El-Amarna to the Babylonian conquest, and J. A. Saucer with Ammon, Moab and Edom. Session V was devoted to Cuneiform Archives from the Lands of the Bible with lectures by A. Malamat (Mari and early Israel), H. Cazelles (Ugarit et la Bible), D. O. Edzard (Amarna und die Archive seiner Korrespondenten zwischen Ugarit und Gaza) and H. Tadmor (Nineveh, Calah and Israel: On Assyriology and the Origins of Biblical Archaeology). In a special session at the Knesset T. Jacobsen delivered a lecture on 'The Temple in Sumerian Literature', and S. N. Kramer on 'Sumerian Mythology Reviewed and Revised'. Session VI dealt with Hebrew and Aramaic Epigraphy and paid attention to the evidence for writing in Ancient Israel (A. R. Millard), the Balaam inscription (A. Lemaire; B. A. Levine) and the Aramaic-Akkadian archives from the Gozan-Harran area (E. Lipiński). Session VIII dealt mainly with recent excavations in Jerusalem with lectures held by P. J. King, A. D. Tushingham, Y. Shiloh, B. Mazar and N. Avigad. All these lectures delivered by scholars of international repute provide the reader with a first-hand account of the status quaestionis and of recent progress in the field of biblical archaeology.