

Inscriptions (one a grafitto) uncovered in the excavations helped to demonstrate that the pool system dated back to the New Testament period. Moreover, in the newly discovered Copper Scroll, one of the Dead Sea Scrolls found in Cave III just north of Qumran, the expression "Beth Esdatain" occurs as the spelling for Bethesda.

This is important for several reasons. It shows that the identification of the St. Anne excavations with Bethesda is absolutely right. The Hebrew name for Bethesda, given above, is a dual which shows that double pools were located at Bethesda! If the Copper document dates from around A.D. 100 as the most reliable authorities suggest, the Pool of Bethesda could have survived the destruction of Jerusalem and this would explain the present tense in John 5:2, "there is at Jerusalem."² Furthermore, the location of these two pools just north of the Temple area, helps us to understand how John 5:14 reflects accurate history when Jesus again encounters the man who was healed, this time in the Temple which would be nearby.

Moreover, there is every reason to believe that "Bethesda," as given in many of the most reliable ancient manuscripts, and followed by King James Version, was the correct reading. In this respect, the Revised Standard Version editors have followed a less reliable reading in preferring "Bethzatha" instead of the more accurate "Bethesda." Accordingly, *The New English Bible* goes back to "Bethesda" as the preferred reading here.

JABALPUR TRANSLATORS' CONFERENCE

In connection with the report of the Jabalpur Translators' Conference which was published in the April 1962 number of *The Bible Translator*, Mr. G. E. Marrison who serves as linguistic adviser with the Bible Society of India and Ceylon, has prepared an "Index of Sanskrit and other Indian Terms" to that report. This index should be of great help to those who wish to make a more detailed use of some of the articles in that number. The British and Foreign Bible Society has had this index mimeographed and will make it available to any *TBT* readers who apply for it. It can be obtained from the Translations Department of the BFBS, 146, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C. 4.

²Opinion differs on the exact date for the composition of John's Gospel. Most students date this Gospel in the closing decade of the First Century A.D.