

writing on the wall conform to the interpretation rather than that there should be, as at present, a divergence between them. There is a double play on words here, since the three words in their unpointed form are not only capable of being interpreted as passive participles, 'counted, weighed, divided', but also as units of money, 'a mina, a shekel, a half-mina'. This order is peculiar, however, and I do not know what significance is supposed to be attached to this particular sum of money. Whether one follows the Aramaic form of the text or the form which underlies the Greek translation, reasonable sense can be obtained and it is therefore perhaps better to stick to the Aramaic as in RSV rather than to follow the Greek. It is, incidentally, rather odd that this cryptic message should make a veiled reference to the Persians in the last of the three words, whereas the last verse of the chapter speaks of 'Darius the Mede' as the conqueror of Babylon.

Hosea 4: 13f.

Q. 'Your brides.' Should this be 'your wives', 'your sons' wives' (S-G), or perhaps 'your newly-married women'? This is tricky in Motu owing to there being two different forms of the possessive.

A. I take this to refer to the daughters in law (RV margin) of Hosea's contemporaries. The word means this more often than 'bride' in the OT. It could mean 'newly-married women' (cf. 2 Sam. 17: 3 RSV). I think the parallel with 'daughters' suggests the meaning 'daughters in law' rather than the other alternatives. The unfaithfulness of the women is seen to be a just reward for the similar escapades of the men. 'Hosea places adultery and unchastity of single women, which counted as capital crimes, on the same level as associating with professional temple-prostitutes, which counted as a religious act'—MMM, Vol. 3, p. 578.

CONTRIBUTORS

Willard A. Burce has been translating the Gospel of Mark into Enga, a language of the Western Highlands of New Guinea.

Donald S. Deer is a missionary translator engaged in the Kituba Bible translation in the Republic of Congo (Leopoldville).

George D. Kilpatrick is Dean Ireland's Professor of Exegesis of Holy Scripture in the University of Oxford.

Theophile J. Meek is a Professor at the University of Toronto.

Brynmor F. Price is Old Testament Adviser in the Translations Department of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

J. N. Schofield is a Lecturer in Hebrew and Old Testament Studies in the University of Cambridge.

William A. Smalley is American Bible Society Translations Consultant in South East Asia.