(*O. Strassb.*, 326); Joseph (*W. O.*, 1513/1514; *O. Bodl.*, 233), and possibly Simon, son of Dexiphanes (*O. Bodl.*, 234) and Jason (*W. O.*, 1513/1514).

In the Roman age there are very few instances of Jews in Government service; cf., p. ex., *O. E.*, 30; *B. G. U.*, 715. For the Byzantine age see *P. Oxy.*, 1429.

Our survey of Jewish officials in Egypt reveals that Jews were particularly employed as tax-collectors; yet it is a well-known fact that tax-collectors were detested by the population. What, then, was the reason that made Jews choose this particular office? It is doubtful whether tax-collection was particularly lucrative, considering the fact that it was subject to very severe control on the part of the Government, so that illegal enrichment was almost impossible. Such enrichment was even less possible in the Roman age, when the office of tax-collector became a liturgy, *i. e.* a duty forced by the Government on a private person. It is, therefore, doubtful whether the Jews really tried hard to secure this office; it is more likely that they were driven to it, owing to the fact that all other offices had long since been in the hand of the Greeks. The Ptolemaic administration was from the first based on Greek officials; it was a hard task for Jews to compete with them and to try to get them out of their offices, even if we suppose that the Government did not prevent them from so doing. It is no wonder, therefore, that the Jews did not secure the important offices of strategi, toparchs, etc., and that they were obliged to content themselves with the very difficult and unpleasant task of tax-collecting.

4. *Peasants.*—The papyri give evidence of the existence of Jewish peasantry from the beginning of the Hellenistic period to the vith century A. D. Jewish peasants were scattered all over the country and lived in various economic and social conditions as military settlers, landowners, lease-holders, farmers, vine-dressers, hired labourers, etc. Their agricultural proclivities are sufficiently explained by the fact that the Jews, trained as they were in agriculture in Palestine, were inclined to adopt the same work in the foreign country as well. A second cause may be seen in the role played by Jews in the Ptolemaic army. Soldiers of