foreign origin serving in the Egyptian army were settled on the soil in very good conditions, their land-shares ranging from 20 to 100 arurae [1] whereas those of native soldiers did not exceed 5-7 arurae. The land-shares granted to Jews were on the same scale as those given to all foreigners. Jewish settlers owing 80 arurae are mentioned in *P. Tebt.*, 818 (cf. for other instances *P. Tebt.*, 882 ; 856, l. 46 sqq.). Apparently these settlers did not perform all their work themselves, and resembled landowners rather than simple peasants. We know from many instances that the military settlers leased their land to native peasants, who paid a fixed rent to their new masters. In the Roman period the entire system of granting land to soldiers had discontinued ; nevertheless, the "land of the settlers" (*κατοικικὴ γῆ*) is sometimes mentioned in the documents (a family owning such land in *P. Wuerzb. inv.*, 5, is perhaps a Jewish one). Jewish peasants of the Hellenistic period are mentioned principally in ostraca from Upper Egypt ; we know of about 25 persons who may be regarded as Jews, paying land-tax to the King's granaries. It can hardly be assumed that they were real land-owners, because in the strict sense of the word the King was the sole owner of all the land in Egypt. It is, therefore, more probable, that they were holders of the King's land. Jewish vine-dressers are mentioned in *P. S. I.*, 393 and *P. C. Z.*, 59367, and Jewish hired labourers working in the fields—in *W. Chr.*, 198 (IIIrd century B. C.). In the Roman and Byzantine periods we find mentioned in the documents both Jewish land-owners (*B. G. U.*, 1129 ; 1132 ; *P. Oxy.*, 500 ; 203) and Jewish lease-holders (*P. S. I.*, 883 ; *B. G. U.*, 585 ; *St. Pal.*, 22, p. 47, No. 178 ; *S. B.*, 7196 ; *B. G. U.*, 166 ; *P. Mendes. Genev.*).

Nothing is known of the conditions of Jewish life in the villages ; it is obvious that the standard of living varied according to the general social status, but there is no reason to assume that it was in any way different from the usual mode of life of the Egyptian villagers. They suffered from the same difficult conditions of life, which comprised the usual lot of the Egyptian fellahin. The Egyptians used to flee into the desert or seek asylum in a neighbouring temple when life grew too hard even for them ;

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[1] An Egyptian *arura* = 2,756 square metres.