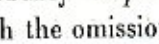
(about 20 km NNW of Beersheba)—as that of Alt[1], who considers it to be Tell es-Saba' (probably the old Beersheba). In my opinion the identification with Tell el-Milḥ (about 25 kms. east of Beersheba and south west of Tell 'Arâd) is most plausible. This identification was considered by Garstang[2] and accepted by me[3]. The *Tell* is situated in a strongly defensible location and contains pottery characteristic of the Bronze and the Iron Ages.

E 2 :  *'Isq'.*—

Probably *'Isq'nw* = *'Ašqalânu*, *Ashkelon* of the Berlin texts (f 15), though the omission of the suffix—*ânu* is very striking.

E 3 : *'Is'nw.*—

This place-name is mentioned in the Berlin texts (f 14) between *Y'mwt* and *'Isq'nw*, *Ashkelon*. Albright[4] supposed a Semitic root אשא and suggested the pronunciation *'Aš'ânu* = אשאן. A town of this name in Palestine, probably in Cisjordan, is unknown[5]. The suggestion may perhaps be put forward here that the town in question is *Bethshan*. This important town of antiquity which was inhabited since the late chalcolithic period[6] is called בית שאן (later form בֵּית שָׁן) in the Bible, *Bît-Sâni* (*E A* 289, 20), i. e. *Bît-Ša'âni* in the 'Amârna tablets and *Bt-Š'r* (where the *r* (= *l*) at the end in place of *n* is variously interpreted) in the Egyptian documents of the New Kingdom. It must be noted that the element בית, *bêtu* (*house, temple*) never occurs in the Syrian or Palestinian place-names known from the documents of the Middle Kingdom. Only in the Egyptian sources of the New Kingdom and in the 'Amârna

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(1) Alt, *J.P.O.S.*, XV, p. 314 ff.

(2) Garstang, *Joshna-Judges*, p. 216.

(3) Maisler, *Historical Atlas of Palestine*, Biblical Period, p. 8, 39.

(4) *J.P.O.S.*, 8, p. 245.

(5) An association with אשנה (*Jos.*, 15, 33, 43) or *Ginti-Aśna* (*EA*, 319, 5) is out of the question.

(6) Fitzgerald, *Museum Journal*, 24 (1935), p. 5 ff. The town was inhabited in the beginning of the second millennium, since stratum XI belongs to the end of th Early Bronze and the Middle Bronze I Ages.