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RECENT OFFICIAL EXPLORATION.—At a recent meeting of the *Académie des Inscriptions* (March 11) a Report was communicated by M. de la Blanchère, in which the researches lately undertaken by the *Service beylical des antiquités et des arts* are described up to December, 1886. They were mainly directed toward the exploration of the Christian antiquities of the country. At **LEPTIS PARVA** (modern *Lamta*) excavations were continued on the site of a Christian cemetery discovered in 1882 by MM. Cagnat and Saladin: several epitaphs were found. At **SULLEOTHUM** (modern *Arch Zara*) an entire catacomb was brought to light, whose arrangement recalled that of the Roman catacombs. Finally, at **TAPHRURA** (modern *Sfax*) the discovery was made of the remains of an important Christian necropolis, including a church, a baptistery, mosaics, etc. The Report was accompanied by a plan of the catacomb of Arch Zara and a sketch of the buildings discovered at *Sfax*.—*Revue Critique*, 1887, No. 12.

SFAX (near).—*Punic nekropolis*.—Near *Sfax*, Dr. Vercoutre has explored a Punic nekropolis, and found a Punic graffito several lines in length.—*Revue Critique*, 1887, No. 4.

SFAX.—*Nekropolis*.—The French garrison at *Sfax*, in the work of fortification, dug a trench to the north of the town, where a strange mode of native burial was brought to light. The body was placed in a large jar of rough pottery and buried just below the level of the ground. Large tiles, rudely marked with cross lines, were arranged to form a gable-covering for the jar. The open spaces at either end were then closed by flat tiles. When a jar was used for burial purposes it was broken around the centre and elongated as much as was necessary. The fractured portions were afterwards cemented, and the jar hermetically sealed. The smaller jars, containing the remains of children, needed no elongation. The jars were unornamented (one only was found marked with parallel circles) and contained only the robed bodies of the richer and unrobed bodies of the poorer inhabitants.—*Revue Arch.*, 1887, July-Aug., pp. 28-34.