Private, notfor publication. LAHUN. FAYUM.

LAHUN is on the western desert edge of the well-cultivated and well-watered Fagum. It is reached by an hour's rue workward from Wasta or Beny Suwef, which lie 2 hours or more, S. of Cairo. Very mall releges lie towards the desert edge, and there is no post- office in our district, but letters are dropt out of the train. The chips come to an end 1 near Latian, and the Faying windows before us. At the edge stands the big brick pyramid of Latin, darkest brown row that it is stripped of its himstone casing. It dates from the XII to dynasty, 3500 B.c. and is the monument of King Senusert 11. Profosor Petrie explored parts of this pyramin field, some 25 years ago, formed the sloping passage, and, down it, the great polished granite sarrophagus without lid. The burial still rmains a problem, and the parrages already known, wicheding one in course of discovery, are not any of them the way by which the sarcophague was brought in, as its with is too great

[Pages 1 to 14 are by Hilda Petrie.] [Page also numbered 1.]

British School of Archaeology in Egypt.
Private, not for publication.

24 Feb. 1914.

LAHŪN.
FAYUM.

LAHŪN is on the western desert edge of the well-cultivated and well-watered Fayūm. It is reached by an hour's run westward from Wăsta or Beny.Suwēf, which lie 2 hours or more, S. of Cairo. Very small villages lie towards the desert edge, and there is no post-office in our district, but letters are dropt out of the trains. The cliffs come to an end near Lahūn, and the Fayūm widens before us. At the edge stands the big brick pyramid of Lahūn, darkest brown now that it is stripped of its limestone casing. It dates from the XIIth dynasty, 3500 B.C. and is the monument of King Senusert II.

Professor Petrie explored parts of this pyramid field, some 25 years ago, found the sloping passage, and, down it, the great polished granite sarcophagus without lid. The burial still remains a problem, and the passages already known, including one in course of discovery, are not any of them the way by which the sarcophagus was brought in, as its width is too great

for any of them. Many new features have been brought to light in the excarations of the last month or more. There is a rang precisely

cut line in the rock surroundings of the

measured with greatern and accuracy, with

a chain of straight-drawn steel. Immediately outside of it his a rock-cut trench of gentle

slope, which was filled up with clean sand,

probably to set as a sponge, and drain all

region of this sandows, the rutione to the

pyramid is found, in the S. face. Next to

this runs a brick wall, panelled with himselvestone on its oriter face, and buttossed at witer als. This is the winer boundary

of a wide comdor, whose outer boundary

is the temenos. wall, which west have

the seconstructions of have mentioned is farmed on

all four sides of the pryramid. The cheef

differences on the various sedes are due to the fact that the rock rises high on

the N. and W. sides, and the desert

[Page also numbered ia and 22.]

for any of them. Many new features have been brought to light in the excavations of the last month or more. There is a very precisely cut line in the rock surroundings of the pyramid, to the edge of which the limestone casing-blocks were laid. This will be measured with great care and accuracy, with a chain of straight-drawn steel. Immediately outside of it lies a rock-cut trench of gentle slope, which was filled up with clean sand, probably to act as a sponge, and drain all the <rain> water descending down the casing. In the region of this sandbed, the entrance to the pyramid is found, in the S. face. Next to this runs a brick-wall, panelled with limestone on its outer face, and buttressed at intervals. This is the inner boundary of a wide corridor, whose outer boundary is the temenos-wall, which must have been more than 30 ft high. Each of these constructions <which> I have mentioned is found on all four sides of the pyramid. < On 3 sides was a row of 42 trees planted; > The

differences on the various sides are due to the fact that the rock rises high on the N. and W. sides, and the desert

chief

PAGE

[Page also numbered ib and 23.]

recedes away, sloping to low ground on the S. and E. sides. The core of the pyramid is a mountainous mass of rock, and much construction has been saved by choosing a hills knoll to place it on. The height of rock to the N. has necessitated leaving a rock-wall for the temenos boundary, & W. also. It is only on the S. and E. sides that this has a brick wall substituted for it.

Then on the N. or rocky side, the tombs of the royal family are all rock cut masses, 20ft high, eight of them, each isolated from the next by rock cut away between them. Plunderers, possibly 100 years after the place fell into decay at the end of the XIIth or beginning of the XIIIth dynasty, searched all the ground hereabouts, for entrance to these tombs; they tunnelled through the very rock mastabas themselves, they sought below, they burrowed into the rock itself, but they appear not to have effected any entrance, and we have

(3) 23 recedes away, sloping to low fround on the S. and E. sides. The core of the pyramid is a mountamous mass of rock, and much construction has been saved by choosing a hilly knot to place it on. The height of rock to the N. has necessitated learning a rock wall for the temenor boundary, + W. also. It is only on the S. and E. sides that this has a brick wall rubstituted for it. They on the N. or rocky side, the timbs of the royal family are all rock-cut manes , 20 ft high , eight of them, each isolated from the next by rock cut away between them. Plumberess, possibly 100 years after the place fell into decay atthe sud of the XII is or beginning of line XIII is aguasty, searched all the your hereabouts, for cultiques & tuise tombo; they turnelled herough the very rock martabas themselves, they sought below, they burrowed that the brick livings of the liveurs wall into the rock itself, but they appear not to have expected any entrance, and we have

[Page also numbered ic and 24.]

managed nothing there, so for, but our search is going to be more thorough than theirs, we hope. We are also examining the rocky pour of the soudbed wich dry inch, and sweeping it bare with brushes, and if this is Rept up for some weeks, we shall begin to expect the unexpected, which may come very suddenly, and add much to out

Rundedge of this period. Next buyond the 8 noch-cut mestatas, on the N. side, stands the lower part of asmall pyramin at the N.E comes, probably the Queen's. Formation deposits have been discovered have, two of them 25 years alo, and two more, recently, but they had little beside call bones and were potting. On the E. side lay the temple of the payamid. The foundations main, and masses of chips, I fraquents of marony with scraps of brighty coloured remes on them. On the S. side hie some of the princesses tombs, in the his of the constar. These are large constructions, with deep shafts. The one ! au sugaçed on planning now, has a

managed nothing there, so far, but our search is going to be more thorough than theirs, we hope. We are also examining the rocky floor of the sandbed inch by inch, and sweeping it bare with brushes, and if this is kept up for some weeks, we shall begin to expect the unexpected, which may come very suddenly, and add much to our knowledge of this period.

Next beyond the 8 rock-cut mastabas, on the N. side, stands the lower part of a small pyramid at the N.E corner, probably the Queen's. Foundation deposits have been discovered here, two of them 25 years ago, and two more, recently, but they had little beside calf-bones and some pottery. On the E. side lay the temple of the pyramid. The foundations remain, and masses of chips, & fragments of masonry with scraps of brightly coloured scenes on them. On the S. side lie some of the princesses' tombs, in the line of the corridor. These are large constructions, with deep shafts. The one I am engaged on planning now, has a

PAGE

[Page also numbered ii and 25.]

shallow stauriage of 45 stairs numming down E. there a parage, with chamber and riche running N; there, at a lower level alongside, a long parage N. deep down, ending in a square chamber of fine himestone masony, with roof cut on guille slopes all out of layer of tooping-blocks. A small chamber, rock. cut news E. and a resers her 6 the S. Water level is room reached below the smarked parement of this chamber. The other tombo and hair contents much be described later on. In plans + octails of constructions alone, this season's usults are aughty remarking us. In finds we are doing very well also, + it is well that we came to Lakun. The other camp, 4 miles of , at Haragel is not in XII! dynasty runains also. IX/ E are altogether a party or 9 or

10 workers, and some are obing

reason to be satisfied with this season.

H.F.P.

shallow staircase of 45 stairs running down E. then a passage, with chamber and niche running N; then, at a lower level alongside, a long passage N. deep down, ending in a square chamber of fine limestone masonry, with roof cut on gentle slopes all out of layer of roofing-blocks. A small chamber, rock-cut, runs E. and a recess lies to the S. Water-level is soon reached below the smashed pavement of this chamber.

The other tombs and their contents must be described later on.

In plans & details of construction alone, this season's results are amply rewarding us. In finds we are doing very well also, & it is well that we came to Lahun.

The other camp, 4 miles off, at <u>Har</u>ăgeh, is rich in XII<u>th</u> dynasty remains also.

We are altogether a party of 9 or 10 workers, and some are doing extremely good work. We have every reason to be satisfied with this season.

H.F.P.

[Page also numbered iia.]

11a

P.S. The Defective print enclosed will show some of

the alabacters we are getting.

Please forward the same day to

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3 letter. 1 LAHUN, 26 How. 1914. Fayum, To Illalum is a most intensting site to work.

Ocographically this well placed, bring at the entrance to the Fayum, and yet still in the orlich of Egypt proper. We have a rolling sandy desert here, with cliffs up to here, and then tailing off. There are Ruots of rock upstanding in the father parts; one contains a large troots, and on auritus hillock of rock standing high, togalty of the XII dynasty has chosen to truit its pyramid. Our huts are almost in the schadow of the great spare dark brick perand. Our huts are



[Page also numbered i and 26.]

3rd letter. 4 Mar. 1914. LAHUN, Fayum.

Illahun is a most interesting site to work. Geographically it is well placed, being at the entrance to the Fayum, and yet still in the ditch of Egypt proper. We have a rolling sandy desert here, with cliffs up to here, and then tailing off. There are knolls of rock upstanding in the flatter parts; one contains a large tomb, and on another hillock of rock standing high, royalty of the XII dynasty has chosen to build its pyramid. Our huts are almost in the shadow of the great square dark brick pyramid of Illahun. [see

(1) [🕅]

Illahun huts pyramid from N.W.

R. side of photo 1). These later XII dyn.

V BHOHAD R. swe of photo). These later XII dry. peranuls are offerent in plan that of mud bricks, 17 x 8 x 5 inches Kept together by a cross-masony of lines of briches placed diagonally upon a cross - structure of buestine blocks, which along the outer foce. The pyramid had originally a mooth outer casual of white limestone, and the fine edge cut in the work, wito which this ran , is now mible all would the base. An insignificant winding way worn out in the Cricks leads to the top of it, however, are the most interesting parts of it. At the south side, in the said trench first outside the ledge of alignment, a narrow shaft discuids wit danness. We have put plants arrows, and a man and

a boy stand on coch, to pass a full and on empty bucket of wet much each. Believed the plants a rope ladder

[Page also numbered ia and 27.]

pyramids are different in plan to the IV dyn. ones, and their construction is of that < mud bricks. The pyramid of Illahūn is built> of mud bricks, 17 x 8 x 5 inches. kept together by a cross-masonry of lines of bricks placed diagonally upon a cross-structure of limestone blocks, which also form the lowest course of construction along <what is now> the outer face. The pyramid had originally a smooth outer casing of white limestone, and the fine edge cut in the rock, into which this ran, is now visible all round the base. An insignificant winding way worn out in the bricks leads to to the top of the pyramid. The innermost depths of it, however, are the most interesting parts of it. At the south side, in the sand trench just outside the ledge of alignment, a narrow shaft descends into darkness. We have put planks across, and a man and a boy stand on each, to pass a full and an empty bucket of wet mud each.

Behind the planks a rope ladder

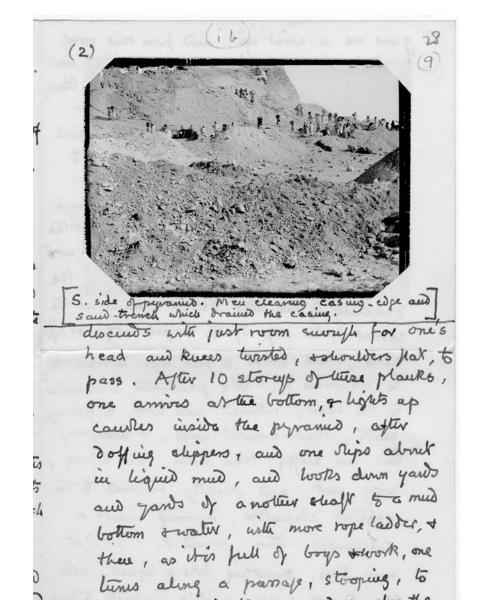
PAGE

[Page also numbered ib and 28.]

(2)[🕅]

[S. side of pyramid. Men clearing casing-edge and sand-trench which drained the casing.]

descends with just room enough for one's head and knees twisted, & shoulders flat, to pass. After 10 storeys of these planks, one arrives at the bottom, & lights up candles inside the pyramid, after doffing slippers, and one slips about in liquid mud, and looks down yards and yards of another shaft to a mud bottom & water, with more rope ladder, & there, as it's full of boys & work, one turns along a passage, stooping, to N. and again to W. and reaches the limestone chamber. My companion swarmed up 6 ft of limestone wall, and



swarmed up 6 W of winstone wall, and

PETRIE MSS 1.32 - PETRIE JOURNAL 1914

[Page also numbered ic and 29.]

top, the great wedge. It apped rooking black place of the sarrophasus. On another certing ledge we saw a 60-inch measuring now of F. P's, left there 25 years ago! The great red grante sarroghapus is carried so true, though in that have grante of Aswan, that the errors on some of the measurements are about 1000 inch, and certainly delicacy of the little Genels meeting at the comes of the cope of the upper leage or up Sfir, were worth a far more tedrous clinis to examine it. We puetrated a chambre to the south, returned and took a passage noth, they crawled west, it was very tow and stuffy, then south, then a long way east, and frielly returned to the central chaentow, haven made a

gave me a wrist up, and from this roof level, one could see, along a wall top, the great wedge-shaped roofing blocks over the place of the sarcophagus. On another ceiling ledge we saw a 60-inch measuring rod of F. P's, left there 25 years ago! The great red granite sarcophagus is carved so true, though in that hard granite of Aswan, that the errors on some of the measurements are about 1/1000 inch, and certainly the delicacy of the little bevels meeting at the corner of the edge of the upper ledge or lip of it, were worth a far more tedious climb to examine it. We penetrated a chamber to the south, returned and took a passage north, then crawled west, it was very low and stuffy, then south, then a long way east, and finally returned to the central chamber, having made a continuous tour round it. Part of it was done, crawling like a lizard, and the sharp, jaggy ceiling inclined to fall in lumps where one's back touched it by mistake. Then on returning to the S. shaft,

[Page also numbered ii and 30.]

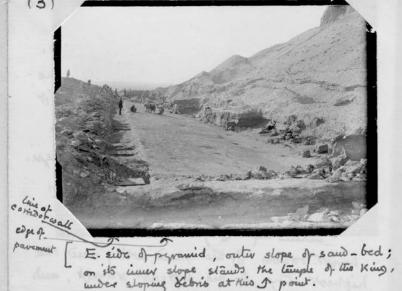
we started again, west I think, and stooped along in wet mud along to a place where a tall lamp-stand of limestone had just been found. We now came upon 2 large flat limestone lamps lying in the earth in this passage. Thence clambering with much squeezing over the mound of chips, we saw right up into an upcast shaft, huge & with an impending block, and this is the place next to clear. No-one knows where it goes. The we crawled back to dim

(3) [₹]

line of edge of corridor wall pavement

[E. side of pyramid, outer slope of sand-bed; on its inner slope stands the temple of the king, under sloping débris at this [₹] point.

we started again, west I Hunk, and stroped along in wet much along to a place where a tall lamp-dand of line-stone had just been jourd. We now cause upon 2 large flat livestone lamps lying in the earth in this passage. There clambering with much squeezing over the nound of chips, we saw right an into an up cast shaft, huge tails an impending block, and this is the place next to clear. No one trumo where it goes. Then we crowled back to dim (3)



[Page also numbered iia and 31.]

day light in the S. shaft, put andles and shows on, and proceeded to climb the rope laddes believed the locals. perched on Maules all the way up. It is towards the lop that rome of our friends, inspectors etc. nearly get stuck in the namounes, and as several have forend it a strain on them, we so not encourage people to make this perspiring series Spercursions which I have described. The first laste of Heaven- zent air, subducingswoten areas and A rab smells was a curious sursation, and the intense hear of the rungs that as hung in sunstine was a great contrast to the legicia mud below. We combat daily at orducing the natur level and have diminished it already 22 ft evice we bre are the buck eting. Some beautiful XII degu. beads are the only offices fuel from within the prepared, but we are witerding to purch to The home bottom of ties meed well, and the

highest top of the opeast shall, and

daylight in the S. shaft, put candles out an shoes on, and proceeded to climb the rope ladder behind the "locals" perched on planks all the way up. It is towards the top that some of our friends, inspectors etc. nearly get stuck in the narrowness, and as several have found it a strain on them, we do not encourage people to make this perspiring series of excursions which I have described. The first taste of Heaven-sent air, subduing subterranean and Arab smells was a curious sensation, and the intense heat of the rungs that had hung in sunshine was a great contrast to the liquid mud below.

We combat daily at reducing the water level and have diminished it already 22 ft since we began the bucketing. Some beautiful XII dyn. beads are the only other find from within the pyramid, but we are intending to finish to the lowest bottom of the mud wall, and the highest top of the upcast shaft, and



get to the ends of the construction at all the promits still to be tackled. A bath and two afternoon teas, and a long evening plan-drawing prinched that day of the pirt obsault of the personned. I would down again yesterday afternoon again, with longer time to spare for all the octails of rock-cutting and measonry, as I had to show an impation inspective and 2 conversions all round he interior. One of them bround it rong had work, as both the clumbing and the crawling are rong heating operations, the first time one goes down.

[Page also numbered iib and 32.]

(4)[₹]

trees row of 42 trees

[S.E corner of pyramid-enclosure, seen from pyramid

get to the ends of the construction at all the points still to be tackled. A bath and two afternoon teas, and a long evening's plan-drawing finished that day of the first descent of the pyramid. I went down again yesterday afternoon again, and did all the round again, with longer time to spare for all the details of rock-cutting and masonry, as I had to show an irrigation inspector and 2 Americans all round the interior. One of them found it very hard work, as both the climbing and the crawling are very heating operations, the first time one goes down.

The photographs are taken by Mr. Campion.

[Page also numbered iic.]

the first time one goes down.

Please forward to Miss Compton, University (Museum) Manchester

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M^{IS} Downes, Kynnersley Rectory Wallington, Sap/<l>op

work at Lahun When harted the plan 25 years ago atting was known don't praint of the XIIt greaty. Since the the primits A Dahshur & Lisht have been expland, & the explanation of them has been planned. When working have a secondary promise month east of the main one was found, but us cutimer could be discovered. In perpose quarking her again was to find the atecomb plies to Before beginning to by I mengines on the grows secured the rock promis along the north of the longe prome side constables, altogether 8 beinde the secondary byrain of the green. Thee 8 rollier are over the bricks of the orgal family: portly reached by a long calcount penger maning post the row of buriel doubers, sup in the rock, such a now Many bank is more with other payments of the XII the spect. In on the one on the large constitutes remain dutop for stow. Here the popular court was cut out of the shi rod, the constights were left out at After rock; here they have not been hestroys. Hey are each about 30 x 45 feet, and the light 20 feet light. They form an about in in a secretary, where planning the character of an of leave them yet bare at the End. Being for they will not be with the attacked for store.

[Page also numbered 1 and 33.]

Work at Lahun

When I worked this place 25 years ago nothing was known about pyramids of the XIIth dynasty. Since then the pyramids of Dahshur & Lisht have been explored, & the system of catacombs attached to them has been planned. When working here a secondary pyramid north east of the main one was found, but no entrance could be discovered. The purpose of working here again was to find the catacomb believed to exist beneath the secondary pyramid.

Before beginning to dig I recognised on the ground several other rock pyramids along the north of the large pyramid of Senusert II. On digging we soon found a row of small cenotaphs, altogether 8 beside the secondary pyramid of the queen. These 8 doubtless are over the burials of the royal family: probably reached by a long catacomb passage running past the row of burial chambers deep in the rock. Such a row of family burials is known at the other pyramids of the XIIth dynasty. In no other case are there large cenotaphs remaining, as they have been constructed, & therefore all subsequently destroyed for stone. Here the pyramid court was cut out of the solid rock, & the cenotaphs were left cut out of the rock; hence they have not been destroyed. They are each about 30 x 45 feet, and the h[e]ight about 20 feet high. They form an absolutely unique cemetery, & we are planning the clearance so as to leave them quite bare at the end. Being of rock they will not be liable to be attacked for stone.

Even if nothing more is I were true the actual brisks, yet the character will be one of the most interesting.

[Page also numbered 2 and 34.]

Even if nothing more is done toward the actual burials, yet the clearance will be one of the most interesting pieces of work yet known. There is the very peculiar pyramid of Senusert II; the lesser pyramid probably of his queen; the 8 rock cenotaphs; a sunk fence, or ditch, lined with brickwork, to bound the reserved site, & a surrounding square of trees, 42 on each side of the whole place.

To find the entrance to the burials, the ancient hunters have tunnelled through one <rock> cenotaph, & dug holes & trenches all over the great brick lining wall <of the enclosure>, evidently the entrance was not known to

them. We are completely clearing every scrap of chips, & of original sand bed within the enclosure, down to the solid rock, & sweeping that, foot by foot, with brushes, to search for any inlet stones which may cover a pit. There is no chance of any entrance escaping our search. It will take a couple of months, or so. If we can find even one untouched burial it will amply repay us. I have never seen a more interesting site above ground architecturally, nor a more promising site for the chances of what may be below.

Four miles away, on the island of desert in the cultivation $M^{\underline{r}}$ Engelbach is finding cemeteries of prehistorii, XIIth and XVIIIth dynasty. He has several fine tomb groups & figures already, & is steadily going on there.

W M F. Petrie