

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

British School of Archaeology in Egypt.
Private, not for publication. LAHŪN.
24 Feb. 1914. 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 Wāsta 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

British School of Archaeology in Egypt. 24.

Private, not for publication.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 Wāsta 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

[Page also numbered ia and 22.]

22 ② 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~~ ^{fall} 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 chief differences on the various sides are due to the fact that the rock rises high on the N. and W. sides, and the desert

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

[Page also numbered ib and 23.]

16 (3) 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 hilly 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, 20 ft 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 ~~thru~~ the brick linings of the temenos wall into the rock itself, but they appear not to have effected any entrance, and we have

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~~ <thro'> the brick linings of the temenos wall into the rock itself, but they appear not to have effected any entrance, and we have

[Page also numbered ic and 24.]

24. (4) 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

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 also numbered ii and 25.]

ii
 (5) 25
 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 Harāgeh, is rich in XIIth 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.

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 Harāgeh, is rich in XIIth 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.]

P.S. The defective print enclosed will show some of the alabasters we are getting.

Please forward the same day to

- 1 Miss Crompton, University, Manchester,
- 2 Miss C. Herford " "
- 3 Mrs Haworth, Woodside, Bowdon, Altrincham
- 4 Mrs C. Nash, Tovil, Maidstone.
- 5 Mrs E. T. Day, Broadmark, Rustington ^{. Worthing}
- 6 Mrs Eustace, Arundel
- 7 Mrs Hope Pinker, 22 Avonmore Rd, Kensington
- 8 Miss C. Brooke, ^{10 Rutland House Cheniston} ~~50 Wynnstay Gdns, Kensington~~
- 9 Miss A. Umlin. 53 Scarsdale Villas Kensington
- 10 Miss Eckenstein 34 Greencroft Gardens. N.W.
- 11 Miss Murray, University College, Gower St.
- 12 Miss Hilliar " " " "
- 15 A. L. Lewis Esq 35 Beddington Gardens
Wallington, Surrey.
- 13 Mrs Benet { for address, see list of
"Ancient Egypt" subscribers. }
- 14 Dr. J. H. Walker, 55 Fitzroy Road, Regents Park, NW.
- 15 A. L. Lewis, see address 3 lines higher.

Please put "To be forwarded" on envelope.

P.S. The defective print enclosed will show some of the alabasters we are getting.

Please forward the same day to

- 1 Miss Compton, University, Manchester.
- 2 Miss C. Herford " "
- 3 Mrs Haworth, Woodside, Bowdon, Altrincham
- 4 Mrs C. Nash, Tovil, Maidstone.
- 3 Mrs E. T. Day, Broadmark, Rustington < Worthing >
- 6 Mrs Eustace, Arundel
- 7 Mrs Hope Pinker, 22 Avonmore Rd, Kensington
- 8 Miss C. Brooke, ^{10 Rutland House Cheniston} ~~50 Wynnstay Gdns, Kensington~~
- 9 Miss A. Umlin. 53 Scarsdale Villas, Kensington
- 10 Miss Eckenstein 34 Greencroft Gardens. N.W.
- 11 Miss Murray, University College, Gower St.
- 12 Miss Hilliar " " " "
- 15 A. L. Lewis Esq 35 Beddington Gardens
Wallington, Surrey.
- 13 Mrs Benet for address see list of
"Ancient Egypt" subscribers.
- 14 Dr. J. H. Walker, 55 Fitzroy Road, Regents Park, NW.
- 15 A. L. Lewis, see address 3 lines higher.

Please put "To be forwarded" on envelope.

3rd letter.

(1) LAHUN, 26
4 Mar. 1914. Fayum. (4)

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
pyramid
from N.W.

huts

[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) [R]

Illahun huts
pyramid
from N.W.

[Page also numbered ia and 27.]

27 (8) MUHAS (ia)
R. side of photo 1). These later XII dyn.

pyramids are different in plan to the IV dyn. ones, and their construction is of mud bricks. The pyramid of Illahūn is built ~~that~~ 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 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

R. side of photo 1). These later XII dyn. 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 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 also numbered ib and 28.]

(2) [२]

[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

(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

[Page also numbered ic and 29.]

2) 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 $\frac{1}{1000}$ 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,

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 $\frac{1}{1000}$ 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.]

(ii) 30
we started again, west I think, and
stooped along in wet mud ~~along~~ to a
place where a tall lamp-stand of lime-
stone 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. Then we crawled back to dim

we started again, west I think, and
stooped along in wet mud ~~along~~ to a
place where a tall lamp-stand of lime-
stone 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. Then we crawled back to dim

(3) [R]

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 [R] point.

(3)



line of
corridor wall
edge of
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.

[Page also numbered iia and 31.]

31 (12) daylight in the S. shaft, put candles out and shoes on, and proceeded to climb the rope ladders 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

daylight in the S. shaft, put candles out and 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

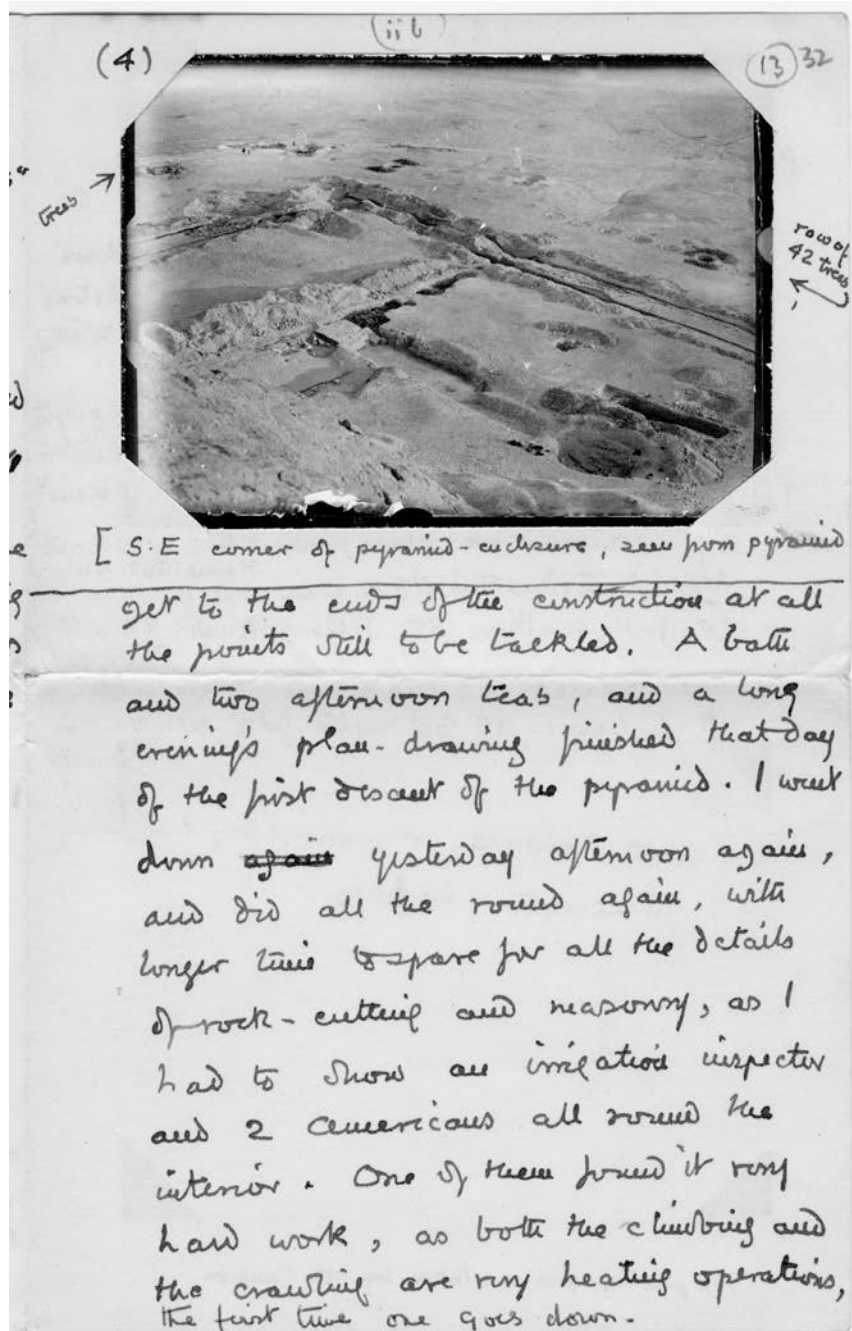
[Page also numbered iib and 32.]

(4) [𓆎]

 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.



[Page also numbered iic.]

(14)

The first time one goes down.

Please forward to Miss Compton, University
(Museum) Manchester

Mrs Haworth, Woodside, Bowdon, Altrincham

Mrs C. Nash, Dean Farm, Tovil, Maidstone

Mrs E. T. Day Broadmark, Rustington Worthing

Mrs Eustace, Arundel, Sussex

Mrs Hope-Pinker 22 Avonmore Road Kensington

Miss C. Brooke ~~55~~ 10 Rutland House Cheniston Gds

Miss A. Umlin 53 Scarsdale Villas Kensington

If not known there, please forward to 8 Well Road
Hampstead NW.

Miss L. Eckenstein, 34 Greencroft Gardens NW.

Dr. J. H. Walker, 55 Fitzroy Road, Regents
Park NW.

Mrs Benest, 32 Tierney Road, Streatham Hill SW.

A. L. Lewis 35 Beddington Gds Wallington
Surrey

Mr Downes, Kynnersley Rectory

Wallington, Surrey

The photographs are taken by Mr. Campion.

the first time one goes down.

Please forward to Miss Compton, University
(Museum) Manchester

Mrs Haworth, Woodside, Bowdon, Altrincham

Mrs C. Nash, Dean Farm, Tovil, Maidstone

Mrs E. T. Day Broadmark, Rustington Worthing

Mrs Eustace, Arundel, Sussex

Mrs Hope-Pinker 22 Avonmore Road, Kensington

Miss C. Brooke, 65 Wynnstay Gardens <50 10 Rutland House Cheniston
Gds

Kensington>

Miss A. Umlin 53 Scarsdale Villas Kens^a

[if not known there, please forward to 8 Well Road
Hampstead NW.

Miss L. Eckenstein, 34 Greencroft Gardens NW.

Dr. J. H. Walker, 55 Fitzroy Road, Regents
Park NW.

Mrs Benest, 32 Tierney Road, Streatham Hill. SW.

A. L. Lewis 35 Beddington Gds Wallington
Surrey

Mrs Downes, Kynnersley Rectory
Wallington, Surrey

[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 height 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.

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 height 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.

[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 Mr. Engelbach is finding cemeteries of prehistorii, XIIth and XVIIIth dynasty. He has several fine tomb groups & figures already, & is steadily going on there.

Wm F. Petrie

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 Mr. 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