

# D E N D E R E H .

## INTRODUCTION.

1. DENDEREH is to most persons only the name of a temple; one of the largest, best preserved, and most popular examples of Egyptian architecture, visited and admired by every tourist, a stopping-place of every steamer. The large volumes in which Mariette published the inscriptions, which had been uncovered by his direction, might be thought to exhaust what was to be done for Denderah. But beside the temple there was a town, which is yet untouched, except by native diggers. And the inhabitants of this town were buried in a large cemetery on the desert behind the town, which had never been touched by scientific work. With the usual reckless wastefulness, dealers were allowed in the last few years to try plundering there; but happily their ventures were not fruitful, as they reopened already rifled tombs, and did not search for the external sculptures.

A cemetery of a nome capital, as yet unopened in modern times, was therefore a promising site for historical study. The town was known to be ancient, and there was the possibility of its proving to be prehistoric; there were many questions to be solved, and a fair prospect of results. I therefore applied, on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Fund, for permission to excavate at Denderah, and west-

ward as far as Hu. The first year our time was fully occupied at Denderah itself, and the second year we extended our work along the desert to Hu.

Our party was happily composed. I had the advantage of the help of Mr. Arthur Mace, who was keenly interested in the work, and most painstaking and thorough in all that he did. In the latter half of our time we were joined by Mr. David MacIver, who came to Egypt mainly for anthropometric work, but had been well fitted for archaeology by working with Mr. Alfred Maudslay on Central American remains, and by familiarity with continental museums. These gentlemen, who were both Oxford men, have continued their work in the following year with good success. We were also joined by Mr. N. de G. Davies, who came mainly to practise on copying, and who did several large pieces of such work with accuracy; beside which he gave much time to clearing the cemetery of Ptolemaic times, and all the steles, labels, and amulets of that age come from his ground; while later on he excavated many of the eastern-most mastabas. My wife was with me all the time, helping in the surveying, cataloguing, and marking of the objects, and also drawing all the tomb plans here published. And at the last, Mr. Chas. Rosher was on the

ground a week or two before I left, and continued work there afterwards for the American Exploration Society, during which he found some more tombs.

2. The cemetery extends from the back of the temple enclosure, up a gentle slope of desert for about a third of a mile, to a boundary bank which encloses it (see map, pl. xxvii.). Its length is undefined, but covers about two-thirds of a mile. Within that area of about a hundred acres there are six or eight large mastabas of brick still standing as high mounds, eighteen or twenty large mastabas denuded down to the ground, about fifty small mastabas, and many dozens of tomb-pits without remains of building around; all of the IVth to the XIth Dynasty. Toward the west end is a Ptolemaic cemetery with hundreds of burials; and some others of that age as secondary burials in the older mastabas. And all over the site, especially near the back of the temple enclosure, are great numbers of shallow graves of Roman age.

Thus the main periods of activity at Denderah seem to have been from the VIth to the XIth Dynasty, and the Ptolemaic and early Roman age. Of the prehistoric there is nothing; of the flourishing XIIth Dynasty scarcely a single tomb, and none of importance; of the brilliant XVIIIth and busy XIXth Dynasty only two or three re-used tombs; of the XXVIth Dynasty two or three steles; and of the prolific age of Christian and Coptic remains scarcely a trace.

3. We had therefore here a good opportunity of lighting one of the dark periods of Egyptian history, the period of which scarcely any remains were yet known, from the fall of the VIth Dynasty to the rise of the XIIth. In this cemetery we have many noble buildings of the age of the Pepys, a great mass of sculpture leading on from that style until we meet with the names of Antef and Mentuhotep, and then not a single chip of working, nor a single name, of the already well-known ages that followed. For the first time we can trace that

dark age through both in sculpture and pottery; and the value of this present work is essentially the clearing up of a period which has been as yet practically unknown.

4. Some mention should be made of the form in which the present results are published. It has been the excellent custom of the Exploration Fund to publish every inscription discovered during its work. It would be a misfortune were this custom to be dropped, as may be seen by the lack of information about discoveries made by the other nationalities working in Egypt, from whom the student is thankful to get some fragments of their results issued from various sources some years after discovery. He who gives quickly gives twice, and he who publishes fully and soon discovers double. Yet, with the best intention, the Fund was faced with a difficulty in the great quantity of inscriptions from Denderah, of which most were formulae and repetitions; in fact, the sort of material which has lain for a generation past in museum magazines undescribed and uncatalogued. Coming from a locality exactly known, and forming part of a long series, it was of much value for comparison; yet of interest only to original students, and not to the public in general. To spend as much as would have issued the whole of this material in an edition of 2000 copies would have crippled the Fund for further research; and, as probably not fifty people would ever want or use the whole material, it would have been mere waste to issue so large an edition.

The course which has therefore been followed is to publish in the usual edition, issued to all subscribers, all material which can be of general interest; and to publish this in the best form, with photographic plates freely used, so as to show the important subject of style fully and unquestionably. And then to complete the issue of all the minor material in a smaller edition of 250 copies. These additional plates are all marked by letters, such as ii.A, vii.A,

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xi.A, xi.B, xi.C, &c. Hence it is clear when reference is made in the text, whether it be to plates in the volume, or to additional plates. Those who wish for the additional plates can have them on application at a small cost, just to cover the expense of printing. And they can be had either separately, or else bound interleaved with the plates of the volume, as desired. To any ordinary reader the half will be greater than the whole, as comparison can be more readily made between the striking and best

examples of each style, when not mixed with inferior fragments. And to the student who desires to be exhaustive, every morsel of inscription is accessible. This course has saved some two hundred pounds in cost, without—it is hoped—sacrificing any of the usefulness of the publication.

The plates in the present volume are 14 photographic, and 24 lithographic. The additional plates, with lettered numbers, are 12 photographic, and 28 lithographic.

## CHAPTER I.

## TOMBS OF THE OLD KINGDOM.

5. The earliest tombs found in the cemetery form a small group, almost exactly behind the temple, in the centre of the cemetery (see map, pl. xxvii., "Abu-suten," or more correctly to be read as Suten'en'abu). The arrangement of the group can be followed in the plan on pl. xxviii., "Group of mastabas of III. or IV. Dyn." These tombs have, it will be observed, the old square wells leading to the sepulchre, such as belong to the IVth Dynasty; later the wells lengthen out north to south, to allow of long sarcophagi being lowered; and later still, toward the Middle Kingdom, they are lengthened from east to west. Each mastaba has one or two panelled imitation doorways, commonly called "false doors," on the east face; the whole of these tomb plans are here drawn with west side upwards. The well in each tomb leads down to a short passage turning southward—to left hand—so as to reach the sepulchral chamber, which was placed behind the stone false door, where the offerings were made for the deceased. In these, and all the plans here, the solid black is brickwork, the broken shade is gravel filling, and the chambers and wells are left white.

The earliest tomb is either the top one, that of Suten'en'abu, or the right-hand one. Probably Suten'en'abu is the earlier, as it is of a simpler type; the right-hand one having an enclosed chamber before the stone false door, which is divided from the enclosure by a front wall.

Starting therefore with the mastaba of Suten'en'abu (top one on pl. xxviii.), we see that it is formed by massive brick walls, filled in with

gravel, forming a block of about 65 × 28 feet. There are two wells cut in the rock, which is of limestone, covered with ten to twenty feet of coarse rolled gravel from the Hammamat valley. The larger well is lined by a brick wall down the south side. Neither of the chambers below contained anything, except masses of bones of cows from late burials of the sacred cattle of Hathor. On the east face of the mastaba is a small false door of brick at the north end, which is usually the wife's doorway; and a large false door of stone at the south end, which was for Suten'en'abu himself. The plan of the stonework is shown by line shading. It was plain, with finely worked surfaces, bearing some traces of outline drawing, showing that there was an intention of sculpturing it. For this see view at base of pl. ii. At the back, filling the door space, was a figure of Suten'en'abu, and an elaborate carving of a doorway below it, shown at the top of pl. ii. Lastly, in front of the east face a wall has been built to enclose and protect it, with a doorway in front, a doorway at each end, and a narrowing of the space, which formed a small chamber just before the stone false door. The front doorway has been narrowed by a block on the south side, which is here left with a white space between it and the earlier side. This system of building a front wall to enclose the eastern panelled face of the mastaba is common here on all scales. Such a wall we usually termed the "fender," as it fended off visitors from approaching the tomb. Only one piece of pottery remained in this tomb, a large ring-stand, pl. xvi. 1.

Looking now at this sculpture of Seten en abu (pl. ii.), we see that it is undoubtedly of very early style. Hitherto we have had no figure sculpture of the IVth Dynasty except from Memphis, so that the style of Upper Egypt is unknown. But here we see such resemblance to the earliest Memphite sculptures known that we can hardly date it to any other period. The elaborately carved hieroglyphs, awkwardly sized and spaced, remind us of the panels of Hesy, or the tomb of Sokarkhabau. The elaboration of the false door pattern, with its band of diagonal work, is like the earliest tombs in the Louvre. The stiffness and clumsy pose of the figure is like that of the earliest mastabas; and the general air of un-mannered largeness and boldness belong to the oldest works from Saqqara. It is therefore akin to the work generally attributed to the IIIrd Dynasty (or even to the IInd Dynasty by some) rather than to the age of Khufu. This precious example of the art of Upper Egypt is now in the British Museum.

Next after this mastaba there seems to have been built the northern one, to the right hand, joining on to the end of the fender wall. Next, the one in front of Suten'en'abu, below it on the plan, which was shifted to one side, in order to leave a passage-way between it and the previous mastaba. Next, the smaller mastaba southward, to the left hand (No. 470), the face of which is in line with that last named. A flight of steps leads down before it to a small chamber under it; but this may more probably belong to an older tomb, over which No. 470 was built. Then No. 327 was built in front of this; and probably No. 472 was about the same age.

The northern mastaba contained no sculpture, although it is in good condition, and is still preserved some six feet high at the chamber. Only a slab, with a hollow for offerings, was in the chamber. The surfaces are all well finished, with fine smooth plastering. In the middle mastaba, before Suten'en'abu, nothing was

found; both the front and the walls proving quite barren.

The chamber below No. 470 contained two of the usual very thick offering-cups, known in the early IVth Dynasty, as at Medum, see pl. xvi. 14, 15, and a small vase, xvi. 29. The pit 327, outside the small mastaba before No. 470, contained a contracted burial; and from other burials since discovered, it seems likely that this was that of a low-caste servant of the man who was buried in the small mastaba to which it belongs. The smallest square mastaba, No. 472, belongs also to this age, as shown by the pottery, pl. xvi. 15, 21, 26.

Before leaving this group we should notice a very interesting bowl which is photographed in pl. xxi., marked as "III. Dyn." It lay on the ground between the middle mastaba and No. 470, a narrow space only two feet wide, which was filled with clean, blown sand. Such a space must have been filled up within a year or two of the building, by the sand-laden winds; and it appeared never to have been disturbed. Hence this bowl is certainly as old as the mastabas, which seem to belong to the end of the IIIrd or early IVth Dynasty. It is much like the pieces found by M. de Morgan in a mastaba of the same age (*Recherches sur les Origines*, i., pl. xi.). It differs entirely from usual Egyptian pottery, and is evidently imitated from basket-work. Its source is probably Libyan, being akin to the prehistoric black incised pottery, and also to the incised bowls of the invaders of the XIIth Dynasty.

6. The next important tomb is the mastaba of Prince Mena, nearly a quarter of a mile west of Suten'en'abu (see map, pl. xxvii.; plan, pl. xxviii.). This is far more elaborate in plan than the earlier mastabas just described; and we learn from the inscriptions that it is as late as Pepy II. The stone false door is here in a chamber, which is entered from the east front. The large stone stele was found fallen forward in the chamber from its niche in the brickwork.

It is kept in Cairo, and photographed here in pl. i. Down each side was a narrow band of inscription, one given here at the base of pl. ii.A, and over the large stele was a round drum or roller, shown at the top of pl. ii. The eastern front had twelve small false doors along it: three south of the chamber door, and nine north of that, fenced by a fender wall in front, thus forming a corridor. Each of these false doors had a roller or drum over it, two of which are shown in the middle of pl. ii.A, with the inscription "Prince Mena." And over each drum was a large panel of sculptured stone in each doorway with a figure of Mena; of these five were recovered, three given in pl. ii., and two in pl. ii.A. These stones had all fallen down when the brickwork had decayed, and were found lying face down in the dust which filled the corridor. Above all these twelve false doors the mastaba had a stone cornice, the blocks of which had likewise fallen into the corridor. The inscription on these blocks is shown, rearranged by Mr. Griffith, in the upper half of pl. ii.A. Beside these sculptures there was found in the corridor a slab of a man with his wife Nebt-atef, with incised inscription, and therefore not from a portal panel. Probably this showed Mena with his wife, and was let into the wall. Also in the corridor was an effaced inscription, reading both ways from a middle line, probably from the inscription over the entrance door, shown next below the small drums, pl. ii.A. Another block from a long incised inscription (shown at the left base of pl. ii.A.) was found outside the north end of Mena's mastaba, and may belong either to that or to Meru. This completes the external stonework.

Of the form of the mastaba, an unusual feature is the open court at the north—right hand—end, the walls of which have a slope of about 1 in 5. It was entered from a western arched door, and had a bench running along the north and east sides, 23 to 24 inches wide and

30 to 34 inches high. From this court a flight of steps led up to the roof of the mastaba, of which ten still remained, and a continuation of the space which would have held sixteen more steps; as eight steps rise 58 inches, the twenty-six steps would rise 188 inches. This suggests that the mastaba was about 16 feet high, which seems very suitable to its length of 83 feet and width of 52 feet. The bulk of the mastaba was divided by cross walls, and filled in with gravel. The northern courtyard was also entirely filled with clean gravel, and seems therefore to have been intentionally filled up, and not merely choked with *débris* like the corridor.

Two wells, with their length from north to south, descended to two chambers on the south of them. One is here called the "well of offerings," as several large jars were found in it, but no sign of burial. The other is marked "sepulchre," as a short passage led to a chamber lined with stone slabs, which might rather be called a built sarcophagus. The sides were all painted, and are copied on pl. iii. by Mr. Davies, who spent some weeks mainly in recovering the design from the remaining traces, much having perished by efflorescence. The north, or entrance end, of the chamber was closed by two slabs, painted as doors (top right hand, pl. iii.), with the sacred eyes, one on each side. Around are the titles of Mena, who was director of the temples of the pyramids of Meryra (Pepy I.) and of Merenra. Along each side is a painting of a doorway highly decorated, a list of offerings, and drawings of offerings; and at the south end are other drawings of offerings, mostly perished. The long list of 8 × 17 offerings is repeated on a larger scale in pl. iv. Most of the stones were too much scaled and injured to be worth removal; but the two door slabs were brought away, and are now at Chicago. For the small copper objects found here, see the account of the tomb of Meru, sect. 7.

The access provided to the top of the mastaba by a staircase is curious. Similar access remains

in the other large mastabas of Adu I. and Merra, and probably in that of Adu III. On the top of the rounded weathered mound of Adu I. there were, when I first went up it, many pieces of offering vessels of the Old Kingdom; these had been left there since the last offerings were made over five thousand years ago, disregarded by man, and too heavy to be removed by wind and weather. It seems then that offerings were made on the tops of mastabas, like the custom at Memphis in the same age. Perhaps there was access to the well of offerings to renew the food and drink there. Yet any way, this access to the top was not left unchecked later on, but was definitely closed by filling up the courtyard with gravel, and so completing the solid block of the mastaba.

7. Adjoining the mastaba of Mena on the north was a slightly smaller and less elaborate mastaba of Meru. The name was only found by occurring on a roller drum from a doorway. The plan is in externals much the same as that of Mena, with nine doorways north of the entrance, and probably three to the south. The principal interest was the group of funeral models in copper, and the beads, found lying on the floor of the sepulchre (see pl. xxii.), together with a vase (xvi. 31). These models are, apparently, the implements for the funeral ceremonies; the *hotep* altar on a framework, four vases to stand upon it, a hoe, and an axe, and a large fan-shaped cutting-tool at the top of the group. The head of the body had been to the north, but only the legs and a few vertebrae remained. The *hotep* and vases were together in the N.E. corner, with a small jar like xvi. 31; at the N.W. was a large jar of the type xvi. 30; the small jar xvi. 31 was near the knees; the axe on the shins; and the hoe and fan cutter together at the feet. As the body had been plundered, this may not have been the original distribution. A similar cutting-tool, axe, and hoe, together with a long

piece of jointed wire, were found just outside the N.E. corner of the sarcophagus of Mena, under a pan inverted on the sand. Scattered with the tools of Meru were glazed beads, white (decomposed green?), and brown-black, imitating flies; these, with the end piece of a collar, are strung together in this group, pl. xxii.

Immediately in front of Meru is another mastaba of Zauta-Resa, from which some tablets and door drums are shown in pl. vii. His wife's inscription (which continued on a weathered chip) was "his wife, his beloved, the royal relative, priestess of Hathor Lady of Denderah, Mer-rta." The form of the mastaba is evidently a copy of that of Meru.

At the north of Zauta-Resa another mastaba joined it, also of a Zauta. This was found by Mr. Rosher after I left. All of these mastabas are denuded to only about a foot high, and are covered with sand. In general I use here letters to distinguish between persons of the same name when their order is uncertain; but when the relative order is known, Roman numerals are used, as Adu I, II., III., IV.

In front of Zauta-Resa is a group of three joined mastabas, only one of which has a name, Zauta (B); see base of pl. xxviii. The mastaba is of the same type as Zauta-Resa; only a mirror was found in the tomb (pl. xx. 3); but a little tomb has been built into it later, the smaller well behind the chamber being only 20 inches deep, with brickwork doming over it, and a little false door niche being built just behind it. From a scarab found in this tomb it is probably of the XIIth Dynasty. To the north of this mastaba is part of the foundation of an unfinished tomb. The bases of the walls are laid out, but it has never been completed, as the long sloping trench cut in the rock to contain the built passage had no brickwork in it, but only rubbish. This trench is shown in outline on the plan, sloping down from the north to about fifteen feet deep at the south. A wall was built across it, to convert the south

end into a well leading to the chamber, which opens from the south end. This was all plundered; but a small side chamber on the west of the trench (dotted in the plan) contained an untouched burial of a woman, with the group of stone vases and mirror photographed at the top of pl. xxi., marked VI. Dyn. At the upper left hand is a carved shell of translucent diorite, an alabaster vase in the middle, and a porphyry vase on the right. Below the diorite shell is a small bowl of diorite, a copper mirror in the middle, and a hard limestone cup with spout on the right. At the base are five small vases of alabaster and hard limestone. The form of the mirror is compared with others on pl. xx., marked "Group xxi. 2." These vases being well dated to the VIth Dynasty, serve as fixed points for comparing others.

Another early tomb is a square pit with traces of mastaba walls, far out by the telegraph poles; the plan is given on pl. xxviii., marked Tomb 524. From this pit come the large mirror in pl. xx., and an alabaster vase to the left of it. The burial was normal, at full length head north; the mirror by the head, the vase at the feet.

8. The mastaba of Adu I. is the largest and most elaborate in the cemetery. The plan and section are given on pl. xxix.; the entrance door in pl. ii.; the view of the entrance passage in frontispiece; the fresco on pl. v.; the cornice and a slab in pl. vi. The form differs from that of Mena and others in having a long sloping tunnel of entrance from the north, copied from the early mastaba and pyramid type. The east face has four portals south of the entrance, and nine to the north. In the first chamber is a fresco of Adu and his family fishing; from this we learn that he was director of the pyramid temples of Pepy I. and Pepy II. Two other chambers connect with this on the north, but contained nothing, except the tablet of Sekhet-hotep, pl. vi. On the south is the chamber of

the great stela. Across the chamber lies a large flooring slab, with a little tank sunk in the floor for offerings, on the north of it. Above this slab stood the stele in a recess, but unhappily it had all been broken up for stone, probably in Roman times, and only a fragment served to show what fine work it had been. Another chamber opens out west of this, containing a shallow well, 40 inches deep, for offerings. Beyond this a block of brickwork had been built in, closing the connection with two other chambers. The further chamber, the S.W. one in the whole mastaba, had, however, been accessible by a stairway from the roof. In this chamber, or court, was a pit, 127 × 39 inches; this opened into a chamber on the east of it, which contained a sunk recess in the floor for a coffin. Here were found the top and base of a fine head-rest of diorite; also the limestone slab, with two model cups of obsidian, and the neck of a model vase of alabaster, shown on pl. xxi. 3. Such slabs with model vases and implements are already known in collections, but have not yet been dated, as this one is to the close of the VIth Dynasty.

The mass of the mastaba is formed of chambers, connected by narrow doorways for convenience during building, but all filled up with gravel filling to form a solid mass. A stairway led up to the top of this, as shown by steps from the side of the tunnel; and from the top other steps led down to the court at the S.W., which contained a subsidiary burial of a relative or chief man of Adu. Apparently a narrow passage had existed on each side of the tunnel, since filled up with brickwork, the joints being shown here by white lines left in the black mass. This narrow passage on the east had led into a long construction chamber; on the west it had led to two small construction chambers, one of which had a pit in the floor; nothing, however, was found in this pit.

We now turn to the sepulchre. The appearance of the mouth of the arched tunnel is shown

at the foot of pl. ii., still partly crossed by the outer wall of the mastaba. This tunnel begins at the foot of the steps (see pl. xxix.) in a sloping face; and the outer wall and filling of cross passage were solid across it. Inside the tunnel was another cross wall, just before it opened into the pit, and the whole tunnel was filled with earth and hundreds of offering jars, shown on pl. xvi. 8. The tunnel was boldly arched with four rings of brickwork, laid on the slope in the greater part, and turning level where it joins the pit. The appearance of it from the pit is shown in the frontispiece, which is from a fully-measured sketch, as it was impossible to photograph in so narrow a space. This is the oldest arching yet dated, and shows that in brickwork the Egyptian would freely and boldly use arching in early times, as we already know that he did in the XIIth and XIXth Dynasties. From the pit the tunnel goes on in the same line downward through the marl, which underlies the gravel, until it reaches the subterranean chamber. A small side chamber, on each side of the passage, contained broken pottery.

The sepulchral chamber was cruciform, lined around with sculptured slabs, roughly carved with offerings, and a long band of hieroglyphs, shown in pl. v.a. In the long stem of the cross the floor was formed by the massive lid of the sunken sarcophagus. This was found undisturbed in its place; and on clearing down to the north end of the sarcophagus—the only accessible part—that was found complete. It seemed as if the burial must yet remain untouched. We eagerly broke the lid, and looked in, only to find that some plunderer, who knew the exact plan of the place, had tunnelled from the outside straight to the sarcophagus, and had broken into it through its side under the floor, and extracted everything from it. I got into the hole, now under water, and felt over everything in the sarcophagus; brickbats and large flints showed only too plainly that the entrance

had been forced through the foundation of the mastaba. The chamber is drawn in the section roughly curved in the upper part, as that is its present condition. The very coarse gravels and marl which formed the roof and sides have entirely caved down, and forced most of the lining forward, so that the chamber was filled with *débris*. We extracted all the sculptured lining, about 200 slabs, and handed them over to the Cairo Museum to be reconstituted; the continuity of the whole is shown by the inscription around it, in pl. v.a.

9. Next beyond this is another mastaba, nearly as large, and apparently later in development. This is of Adu II. The plan is on pl. xxix.; the cornice and some slabs of inscription on pl. vi.; the statue and two steles on pl. vii.; and the pottery on pl. xvi. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 19, 20, 23, 24. The changes from the previous plan are mainly in providing a large open court at the south end for the relatives, in making the tunnel much steeper so as to get to the full depth before reaching the well, and simplifying the internal construction by not making any brick walls except where needed to be seen.

The front has twelve false doors to the south of the entrance, and eighteen to the north, thirty in all, the greatest number on any tomb found in the cemetery. The entrance on the east was by a narrow passage, leading to a chamber, which seems to have contained a large stela in a niche, now empty; and a smaller niche of brickwork to the north end of the face, which was doubtless for the wife. We see from the two tablets found in this chamber (in pl. vii.) that Adu II. had a wife named Ana; the second well in the plan was therefore for the wife, and in the chamber below it we found a female skull of high class.

The entrance to the sepulchre was similar to that of Adu I.; but the tunnel is much steeper, so that it is only by notches on the floor that it can be descended without slipping. The roof is

of brick arches, laid on a much flatter bed. In the lower part it was very difficult to distinguish the brickwork, as the ground was so damp that the pressure of the well and tunnel had united the bricks into a soft brown earth, similar to that which filled the passages. Passing the well, the chamber was reached. This was cruciform, like that of Adu I.; the walls lined with brick, and brick doming had formed the roof of the side recesses. Nearly all of this had fallen in, with much of the gravel above it, but we removed the *débris* and cleared the floor, without, however, finding any trace of a sarcophagus or of the burial. In the well was found the seated figure of Adu, shown in pl. vii. 1. Portions of the cornice inscription from the east front were found fallen below, and are shown in pl. vi. Also three slabs, and one corner-piece inscribed with titles of Adu, which are probably from an inscription of the doorway.

The minor burials about the mastaba are unusual. Just before the east face is a long pit, leading to a chamber under the wall, which is marked with shading in the solid black. This pit was untouched, and had a brick filling closing the entrance to the chamber. In the chamber was a coffin, 72 × 25 inches, plain box form, with traces of inscription on the white coating; inside it a female skeleton at full length, head north; under the head a stone block head-rest. Outside the feet of the coffin were two wooden statuettes, nearly consumed by white ants, and some small blue glazed beads with them. Along the east side of the chamber were four large jars, see pl. xvi. 20; and a pile of four bowls standing on two bricks, see xvi. 4. Two little pots were at the side of the coffin, see xvi. 2.

At the end of the stele chamber it will be seen that there is a brick blocking, which closed a doorway leading to the south court. In this court were nine separate burials. Only one was untouched, that reached by the southern

stairway. In this was a box coffin, body full length, head north, normal, hands at sides, and by the head a red bowl, as xvi. 4. Outside the head of the coffin was a jar, as xvi. 20. On the body was a small ivory button near the throat, apparently the fastening of a cloak. It was engraved with a figure of a man, almost reduced to a geometrical pattern; it will be published afterwards in connection with other buttons for comparison, as it serves to date a whole class of such things. The other pits were mostly plundered; one contained three jars, see xvi. 19, and one small vase, fig. 23, with the legs of a female, judging by their slowness; head north. Another small vase, fig. 24, was in one of these tombs. On the centre of the floor of the court, probably thrown out of a tomb, were the two vases and the censer, xvi. 5, 6, 7, with a flint knife shown in pl. xx. The northern stairway led to a chamber with several jars and bowls of the same type as before; only a leg of an ox, and a few human bones, were left.

To the north of Adu II. were two other mastabas. One small one, marked Detiat (pl. xxx.), should read Degat; fragments from it are given at base of pl. vi.: and the drum with name is repeated in the group of various small blocks, pl. vii.A. The larger mastaba was partly traced, the rest having been destroyed: it belonged to Merru. The trench in the rock for the entrance had been emptied, and re-used for late Ptolemaic or Roman burials. A large sandstone coffin, lying on the stairway, had a rudely painted red inscription with blundered address to "the great god lord of Abydos, . . . Osiris prince of gods in the midst, Osiris P'ast urt. . . ."

10. The series of Adu mastabas continues with another behind Adu II., which is probably Adu III., shown in plan and section on pl. xxx. Here further development has taken place; the tunnel is as steep as in Adu II., but the difficulty due to the sliding thrust of the roof at so steep