

plaster wall decorated with a fresco frieze of spiral ornaments in black, grey, and red. "This room has been the richest so far. Besides the indications we have of its ancient splendour it has given us about eighty tablets in more or less good condition and what appears to be the most valuable find so far. This is a bronze tablet about five inches long by two and three-quarters wide and one-eighth of an inch thick. It is perfectly sound apparently, but unfortunately over half of the inscribed area is covered with patination which will require careful cleaning. That which can be seen refers to land or fields and according to Dr. Lutz may well be connected with the rights and vast property holdings of feudal overlordship."

4. *The Museum's Egyptian Expedition*

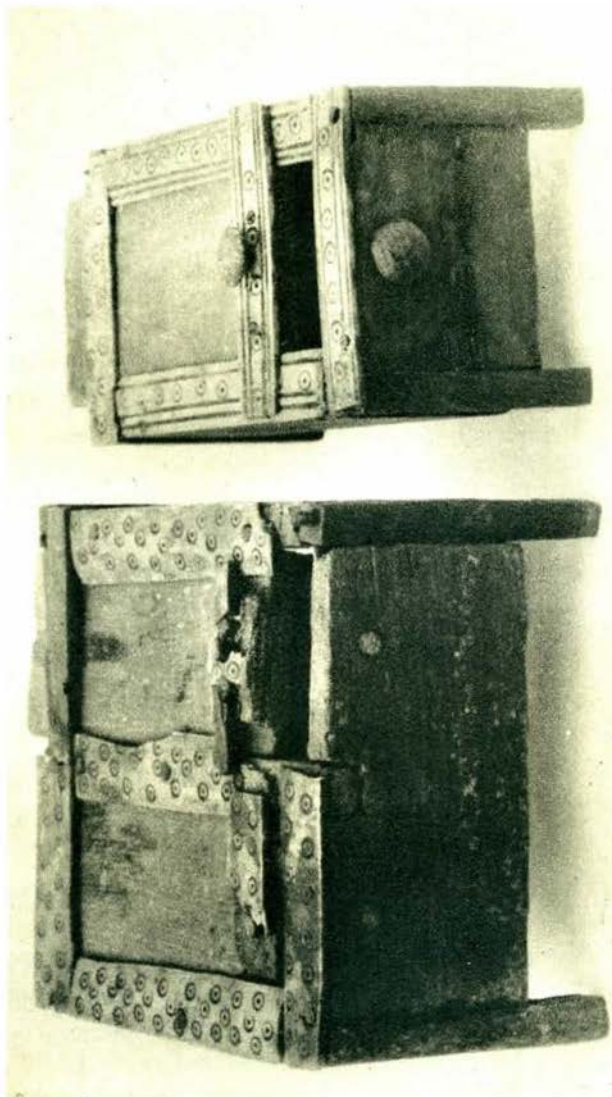
MR. ROWE'S report for December states that he devoted the month chiefly to work on the large mastabah mentioned in the February *Bulletin*. He found that the tomb originally had been, unlike the majority of known mastabahs which are simple trapezoids in elevation, apparently very like the elongated Third Dynasty step pyramid of King Zozer at Sakkara, which is commonly assumed to be the earliest existing pyramid. At a later period of its history the upper part of the mastabah was filled in with rubble, and a casing was added to give the tomb the appearance of an ordinary mastabah. Its construction bears a close analogy to that of the Meydum pyramid itself, for in each case the nucleus was stepped and later covered with a single smooth casing. The

only known parallel to this mastabah is the tomb of King Sa-nekht of the Third Dynasty, discovered by Professor Garstang at Bet Khallaf. Both seem to be links in the chain of development from mastabah to pyramid.

In clearing the outer brick retaining wall Mr. Rowe continued to find many intrusive burials of the New Empire and of later periods. Of about forty tombs opened the majority had been disturbed and were of a poor sort, one only yielding a perfect coffin, beautifully decorated and inscribed. It belonged to a man named Ka-Gemesh or Gemesh and is described by Mr. Rowe as the finest of its type ever to have been found at Meydum. With it were pottery jars, amulets, scarabs, a basket, a head-rest, and a walking stick evidently used by the deceased during his life.

A little to the east of the great mastabah Mr. Rowe found a second, which had been anciently robbed. In a pit near its northeast corner, however, he found three contracted burials of the early Fourth Dynasty, with some tomb furnishings.

5. *Archaeological Work in Alaska* **T**EN years ago, in 1919, Mr. W. B. Van Valin was engaged to make an Eskimo collection for the Museum at Point Barrow, the northernmost point of Alaska. His helpers one day observed human bones protruding from a mound which had always been supposed by Eskimo and white men to be of natural origin. Excavation, however, revealed a charnel house in which members of a former people had been buried together with their personal be-



WOODEN TRINKET BOXES
FROM THE MUSEUM'S EXCAVATIONS, MEYDUM, EGYPT