

guarded day and night until it is cleared out. For the first night our workmen were frightened to sleep down in the tomb itself (i.e., in one of the emptied tomb chambers) unless two of the staff were there, as they thought that the spirits of the dead would rise up and harm them by throwing stones or bones at them. Needless to say the men never slept at all the first night, and they passed the long hours away by telling various ghost stories. They certainly had the right setting in which to relate their experiences!

A recent cable from Mr. Rowe gives a few of the details of the quality of the finds: "Nearly thirty coffins and mummies from the new tomb mostly dating new Empire, one coffin contains mummy covered with bead network over which are golden flying scarab and gilded mask, another coffin dates twelfth dynasty and covered with texts, biggest find ever made here, now opening other tombs."

The first season at Meydum in short gives many indications of the undertaking being increasingly prosperous, more so, perhaps, than any of us expected at the start.

3. Important Finds at Kirkuk

THE excavations at Kirkuk, Iraq, have reached a particularly interesting stage, according to the latest report received from Mr. Charles Bache, the Museum's representative at the site, and the report for the first half of January from the leader of the Expedition, Mr. Richard F. S. Starr, says: "As yet I can make no promises, but it looks

as though at last we had found the temple for which we have been searching so long. 'Temple' is a name so often given to any building that I hesitate in using it until I have further proof, but from the little we have uncovered it looks quite possible. Of the five rooms worked in so far none have yet been cleaned to the pavements, but from one came the unbaked clay censer of which I have spoken, from another glazed wall-nails of the finest palace type, from the third a remarkable votive pottery vessel in the form of a dog (or pig) and from the fourth the lion about which I cabled you. Although less than a quarter of this room has been cleared we have from it: a few tablets; glass beads (formerly called composition) in such profusion that it seems as though they might have been strung about the room as decoration; a bone Ishtar figurine in the round, the most elaborate and finest I have seen from this country; a glass Ishtar pendant; wall painting fragments in the debris; circular and elliptical large glass beads set into the mud brick as decoration; and the lion.

"The lion is couchant and made without legs, of pottery, and glazed with that same blue green glaze that is on the wall-nails of the palace. It is forty-five centimeters in length, the mouth is open, and the tail curves up on the back. Its condition is perfect except for a few minor scratches and the glaze though very rotten and iridescent is perfectly firm after treatment with celluloid in solution. Artistically it is a magnificent

thing. Throughout it is done with the utmost simplicity, showing neither the decadent elaboration of some of the Assyrian things nor the grotesqueness of the more primitive Sumerian. It is conventionalized and yet is not a convention, life-like yet not studied.

“As you know I have worked this year with a small crew, one hundred thirty-five as an average. The cost for labor has not been great, yet by the end of the season I expect we shall have uncovered a larger area than we have ever done before. I hope at least to work through March and possibly into April.”

*4. Proposed Work in
Czechoslovakia*

THE University Museum and the Peabody Museum of Cambridge, Massachusetts, are sending out their Second Joint Archæological Expedition to central Europe early in June. Fourteen weeks will be devoted to excavations in the several provinces of Czechoslovakia. Headed by V. J. Fewkes, the staff will consist of six men, equally representing the two institutions. The purpose of the Expedition is threefold: further excavations will be carried out in three of the nineteen sites explored last summer, in order to pursue definite problems and to seek their solution; all efforts will be made to secure material from culture levels not discovered during the last season; reconnaissance work will be carried on in Yugoslavia in order to make preliminary preparations for systematic exploration in the Balkan states next year.

The work in Czechoslovakia will be done in cooperation with the State Archæological Institute in Prague,