

plained if we suppose that he held his classes in the court-yard and reception room and had these walled off so as to secure privacy for his domestic quarters. The study of so numerous and so well associated a collection of tablets is likely to yield a fairly clear and detailed record of the educational methods and curriculum used in a Sumerian school in the second half of the twentieth century B.C.

Of considerable interest is a much broken and fragmentary tablet found in another house; it was quite large and much of the text remains. The tablet elucidates the conjugation of the Sumerian verb, which is set forth in parallel columns with the equivalent in the Semitic language of Babylon; paradigms are given for five different classes of verbal stems with their prefixes, suffixes, and so on, all duly explained. Undoubtedly many of the difficulties which have hitherto baffled scholars in the interpretation of the Sumerian verbal elements will find their solution in this unique tablet, which is of far greater value than any other bilingual text that we possess.

*The Expedition
at Fara*

AS announced in a recent issue of the *Bulletin*, work at Fara, in Mesopotamia, was started on February 15th under the direction of Dr. Erich Schmidt. It will be remembered that the mound of Fara has been identified as the site of the ancient Sumerian city of Shuruppak, the native town of Uta Napishtim, the Sumerian coun-



THE SITE AT TELL FARA, IRAQ

terpart of Noah in the Flood stories. It has long been recognized as one of the oldest sites in Babylonia and gives promise of yielding interesting objects and important scientific data.

The first report from Dr. Schmidt, written after less than a fortnight's work at the site [Plate V], states that already a rich find of tablets has been made in the first square investigated by the excavators, and that burials have been found with alabaster and pottery vessels apparently dating from the first half of the third millennium B.C. Since the present issue of the *Bulletin* is the last until the autumn, it is gratifying to be able to report the initial success of this new and interesting project.

*Developments
at Kirkuk*

THE most interesting inscription yet found at Kirkuk has recently been reported by Mr. R. F. S. Starr, the expedition's director. It came from the area which is being dug straight down for the purpose of obtaining a cross-section of all periods in the mound's history. This 'deep room' is now down to the eleventh level and virgin soil may be expected very soon. From one of the lower levels came a tablet on which is inscribed a map showing two mountain ranges between which flow two rivers, the larger of which has three mouths flowing into the sea or some other large body of water. The directions, north, south, and so forth, are marked on the edges of the tablet, and many place names,