

the tombs may be accounted for by the fact that the waters, rushing down from the nearby mountain, penetrated underground into the rather low-lying tombs, floating the large pots and knocking them together with sufficient force to break them.

More than two hundred and twenty-five fine bronze objects were found, most of them in excellent condition. Small bronze knives of thin metal had wide tangs and were generally associated with tombs of earlier date. The more developed shapes with many rivets were found in the later tombs. On some of the knives were found traces of wooden handles. The swords and daggers were particularly impressive. Several instances were found of daggers having been rendered useless by bending either the tang or the blade [Plate VI]; in either case doubtless for ceremonial or symbolical purposes. Other notable bronze objects are axe-heads, rings, pins, needles and tweezers. A lesser number of gold and silver objects and some stone implements were also found.

*Objects from
Beth Shemesh*

THROUGH the courtesy of Dr. Elihu Grant, director of the Haverford College expedition to Beth Shemesh, Palestine, we are privileged to display a number of the objects obtained by this expedition. The collection has been installed in one of the smaller rooms entered through the lower Egyptian Hall.

Beth Shemesh, which is referred to in the Bible (I Samuel, vi), was occupied about 2000 B. C. by the Canaanites; later the Philistines and then the Hebrews were masters of the city; in the days of Nebuchadnezzar it was apparently completely destroyed, but a thousand years later the Byzantines built a monastery around which a small settlement grew.

The collection of objects from Beth Shemesh dates from 2000 to 500 B. C. and suggests the wide cultural and commercial relations of southern Palestine with other parts of the world. The influence of Cyprus is to be found in some of the pottery and especially in the bronzes. Jewelry and scarabs were either imported from Egypt or copied from Egyptian designs. Even the culture of Western Asia may be detected in the small terra-cotta votive plaques.

A splendid piece is the diorite bowl shown in Plate VII. It is of early Egyptian origin and must have been a treasured antique even in the days of its Beth Shemesh owner. The Beth Shemesh objects form a most interesting companion collection to that obtained by our own Beth Shan expedition and make it possible for us to compare the culture of these two cities of ancient Palestine.

*The Joint
Expedition to
Persia*

THE second half of the season, now closed, at Damghan, Persia, was devoted to complete excavation of the Sasanian palace which we briefly



AN EGYPTIAN BOWL OF DIORITE FROM BETH SHEMESH, PALESTINE