life and the achievements of the ancient settlers during the suc-
cessive culture stages.

It is sincerely hoped that means will be found to publish at
an early date Dr. Schmidt's full reports on the work at Tepe Hissar.

Excavations at Tepe Gawra

The Joint Expedition of the University
Museum and the American Schools
of Oriental Research has resumed work
at Tepe Gawra and Tell Billa, Iraq, with Mr. Charles Bache as
field director. The reports so far received cover only the first month
of work, but the results already augur well for a successful season.
At Tepe Gawra, the remaining walls of Stratum VIII, which proved
so interesting last year, have been removed and Stratum IX has
been entered upon; an intermediate layer seems also to have been
present, at least in part of the site.

In Stratum IX has been found a building, almost the duplicate
of the so-called Priests' Residence of early VIII and with the same
crenelated niches, similar to the one pictured in Plate XI of the
Bulletin for March 1932. An interesting feature of the lower build-
ing is that it faces in exactly the opposite direction.

Among the outstanding objects found recently at Tepe Gawra
are an ivory comb and hair-pin; the latter is decorated in the
central portion with lapis-lazuli and green stone lozenges, and
is further ornamented by four bands of gold. Both comb and
hair-pin were found in a mud-brick grave which had originally
been covered with rushes, the mould of the oxidized rushes being
found over the body and over the top of the walls.

Excavations at Tell Billa

With only a small force at Tell Billa,
progress has been slow, but two finds
are of no little importance. One is a
crescent earring of gold similar to those found last year and now
on display at the Museum. The other is a group of four bronze
objects: two wine cups, a large and a small vase. These were heavily corroded and so fragile that they were handled with difficulty. Chemical treatment was, however, undertaken by Mrs. Immanuel Ben-Dor, who has done notable work of that nature in the Berlin Museum. The results were both unexpected and amazing: one of the wine cups was found to bear a votive inscription which has been sufficiently deciphered to reveal that the ancient name of Tell Billa was Shib-ba-ni-ba, thus corroborating the prediction of Dr. E. A. Speiser (and also one by Dr. Emil Forrer) that Tell Billa was the site of that city of Shibaniba which was mentioned by Sennacherib in his account of the rebuilding of Nineveh.

We are indebted to Dr. C. H. Gordon and Dr. A. C. Peipkorn of the Expedition staff for the decipherment of the inscription just found. It should, however, be particularly noted that the poor condition of the inscription and a hurried reading of it, so that it might be included in the first report from the field, necessitate that the transcription and translation be regarded as tentative and subject to modification. The reading of the word, Shib-ba-ni-(ba), in two places seems, however, to be quite certain.

A Seal from Tell Billa

The cylinder seal shown in Plate IV was found in the second Assyrian stratum of Tell Billa, but, as Dr. E. A. Speiser points out, it is obvious that it dates back to the third millennium B.C. (In this connection compare the Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research, volume 47, pages 4 and following.) Owing to long and constant use, it is slightly damaged at one end. The dimensions are forty-two by thirty-eight millimeters, and the material is apparently black diorite.

The seal, which depicts two naked ‘priests,’ a house and a boat, was singled out as being of unusual significance by Dr. Walter Andrae, the eminent archaeologist, who is Professor at the University of Berlin and Director of the Vorderasiatische Abteilung